



Director's Report
April 18, 2013
Kris Ramsay

Administrative

***Annual Meeting:** The Annual Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, August 27th, 2013 from 4:00 – 7:00pm (business meeting from 5:00 – 6:30pm). The Orleans Yacht Club voted their approval of this date and Dick Ryder, local historian, is planning to speak about his personal connection with the CG 36,500.

***Summer 2013 Internship:** After receiving job applications, resumes, and conducting phone interviews with three prospective land management interns, I met with Beth and Lynn to review and discuss each applicant individually. As suggested at our last Board meeting, we decided that we would “hire” two interns this summer. The candidates selected are Stephen O’Grady of Colby College and Ben Lyttle of Lesley University. Each has local housing, transportation, and is majoring in environmental studies. Each intern will work two days a week, with varying schedules. “Offer letters” were sent to O’Grady and Lyttle last week, as well as a letter of regret to the third candidate. The summer interns are volunteers; however, they will be reimbursed for mileage at a standard rate when using their own vehicles for OCT activities.

***Part-time Secretarial Position:** As discussed and voted on at our March 2013 Board Meeting, Pam Schultz has been hired part time for an administrative support role, which will begin immediately with no set expiration date. Pam is expected to attend OCT’s monthly Board meetings and draft the Board meeting minutes. We may also ask Pam to help pick up the mail on a weekly basis, document incoming checks, and make out gift acknowledgments during our yearly membership campaigns and year-end appeals.

***Green Week in Orleans 4/22/13 through 4/26/13:** As discussed in past months, Orleans Green Week (OGW) is a week of collaborative service-learning projects commemorating Earth Day and Arbor Day 2013, which will run from Monday, April 22nd through Friday, April 26th. OGW was organized and managed by Meg Quirk and Sebastian Wheeler, ACC members working with the Trust and Town of Orleans Tree Warden Department, respectively, and will take place on properties owned by OCT as well as on the grounds of Orleans Elementary School and the Nauset Regional Middle School. Orleans Green Week includes:

- \$15,500 in grant and matching funding
- Donations from 11+ local businesses
- Partnership with 15+ local nonprofit organizations and town, county, and state departments
- Engagement of over 200 students and 50 members of the general public
- Distribution of 300 White Spruce Seedlings
- Planting of over 700 Native Plants and Trees

Schedule of Events:

Earth Day, Monday, April 22

AmeriCorps Cape Cod (ACC), OCT, Orleans Tree and Highway Departments join River School students planting native plants, removing invasive species and will be given a tree seedling at White’s Lane Conservation Area.

Tuesday, April 23

Everyone is invited to join members of the OCT and ACC in performing maintenance at Ice House-Reuben’s Pond Conservation Area 9:30-11:30am and Mill Pond Valley Conservation Area, 1:30-3:30pm. Receive a

seedling to plant at home.

Wednesday, April 24

Harwich Technical High School students will work with OCT and ACC members at the Mauch Gift to plant native plants and remove invasive species at this OCT site.

Thursday, April 25

ACC members visit Nauset Regional Middle School 6th grade classrooms to talk about native ecology and the science of arboriculture.

Arbor Day, Friday, April 26

ACC and NRMS students will plant 631 trees and shrubs on the NRMS Front Green, followed by an Arbor Day program at Orleans Elementary School.

Land Acquisition

*Land Acquisition Planning: Customized letters have been sent to the owners of our top three land acquisition priorities. I have requested a meeting with Alan McClennen to discuss land priorities 3-6, as he has specific information on each property owner and has a working relationship with another. The property owners identified within our land acquisition strategic plan were all invited to the up-coming tax workshop in Harwich.

I have followed up with both the Town's Open Space Committee and Town Planner to see about moving ahead with the update of the Town's Conservation, Recreation and Open Space Plan. While we have not formally started to update the document, I was able to provide the Town with an updated excel file containing all of the land we own or hold CR's over.

*Twinings and Winslow Land Acquisition Property Taxes: This past month I received the tax bills for the second half of the year for 10 & 18 Twinings Lane as well as 176 Quanset Road. Typically when we acquire land (whether through gift or purchase) we request that the taxes be paid through the fiscal year, but since the Flecks already were selling the land for approximately half the appraised value and the Winslow's land had such a low assessed value, we did not make this request. I met with Ken Hull, Town Assessor, to see about getting the value of the land reduced, since it was undevelopable as of December 2012, but I was informed that we were too late to file an abatement and he could not legally change the value of the land half way through the FY. The fees for the taxes went as follows:

- 10 Twinings Lane: \$1,519.54
- 18 Twinings Lane: \$1,470.85
- 176 Quanset Road: \$36.44

TOTAL: \$3,026.83

I plan to inform each property owner that the taxes have been paid, with the hope that they might make a gift to help offset these costs associated now that they have filed their taxes and will receive the State tax credit in the coming month.

Land Management

*Hopkins Island Osprey Pole Installation: OCT worked in conjunction with MA Audubon Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary on Saturday, March 30th to re-install an osprey pole on Hopkins Island that fell during the storms this past February. MA Audubon was a great help getting the water-logged pole back to the island from its post-storm habitat on the shoreline near the Wind Mill. Once on the island, volunteers helped hoist the pole up the steep hillside, dig a large 3-foot hole, and then lift the pole into the hole. To our amazement, before the pole was fully erect, an osprey was spotted circling the island, impatiently waiting for his summer home to be finished. Once the pole was up, the volunteer crew quickly worked to stabilize the pole, ensuring it would not come toppling back down. Less than 24 hours after the installation, Bob reported that a pair of ospreys was on the pole and the male was seen going through his courtship flights. Pictures below.



Hoisting pole up hillside



Stabilizing pole once up



View of pole from Town Cove

***Namequoit Bog:** Billingsgate has been informed that they will be hired to conduct Phase 1 of the land management work for \$4,420. Billingsgate expects to be in the bog during the second or third week of April. This month we also continued to allow the bog to dry out and Mosquito Control dug out a portion of one of the main ditches running through the property. Now that the water level is lower, it is very clear to see that the ditches are not functioning property due to the amount of debris and detritus within them. I will research whether or not we should be cleaning out these ditches mechanically and what resources of funding is available to do so, if deemed appropriate.



Ditch clearing



Historic ditches filled in



Die off surrounding the slough and within the interior of the property

Blue Bird Box Program: Pam Schultz, Meg and I installed eight Blue Bird nest boxes at White's Lane. We have checked the boxes each week, but have not seen any major activity to date. The fluctuations between cold and warm weather might push the height if the nesting season back a few weeks.

Pleasant Bay Narrows Trust Encroachment Issue: Ryder & Wilcox and Wilkinson Ecological Design have sent us a letter admitting that work conducted at 26 Horseshoe Lane inadvertently encroached upon the Pleasant Bay Narrows Trust (PBNT) property at 30 Horseshoe Lane, which the Trust holds a Conservation Restriction over.

They are hoping to reuse the same access point to extend the soft revetment at 26 Horseshoe Lane 80 feet farther to the north. After conducting a site visit, it is apparent that the reuse of this access point, over PBNT land, is in the best interest of the surrounding Resource Areas, versus creating a new access point over the existing fiber rolls. This proposal does enter upon portions of Section I-*Prohibited Uses* within the Conservation Restriction (CR). However, members of the LM committee agreed that the work being proposed is in the best interest of the Coastal Banks long-term protection and will enhance the ecological integrity of the property. All work on the PBNT CR will be overseen by the OCT and must meet Town Conservation Commission filing requirements and recommendations. Pictures can be provided for those interested in seeing the encroachment.

Fundraising/ PR/ Branding

*Board Alumni and Advisors Meeting: I have met with Sharon and Paul multiple times to work towards finalizing the slides associated with the presentation. I have also started to put together some of the handouts for the gathering. While RSVP's were a bit slow to start, Trustees have helped follow-up with those invited, and it looks like we will have 40-50 attendees, which is what we hoped for.

Newsletter: The layout of the newsletter is complete. All the stories have been drafted and pictures are being finalized. The remittance envelope that will be enclosed within the newsletter has been modified to allow for credit card submissions. We are now working on the final details and hope to have the newsletter out the first of May.

*Spring 2013 Membership Mailing: A membership mailing letter will be drafted in the coming week(s). In the meantime I am running a list of membership gifts from 2012 to evaluate the levels of giving. The Fundraising Committee is discussing asking for specific gift amounts, one level higher than the donor's membership level the year before. This is very similar to what we did as part of the 2012 year-end appeal.

*Summer Cocktail Parties: A tentative schedule for the summer cocktail parties has been established. The first cocktail party will be hosted by Ad Vos and is scheduled for Friday, June 21 from 5:00 – 7:30pm. Other potential dates are July 26th, August 23rd, and September 20th. A list of potential hosts for these subsequent events has been formulated and is being reviewed.

Summer/Fall 2013 Educational Lectures: The Orleans Yacht Club has approved our using their facilities on the following dates for our fall educational lectures: Tuesday, September 17th, October 15th, and November 19th.

Educational Meetings/ Programs

Recent Third Tuesday lecture: On March 19th we hosted a lecture entitled, "Seals: Making a Comeback," as part of our Third Tuesday Winter Lecture Series. Guest speaker, Jesse Mechling, the Marine Education Director at the Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies, gave his talk about the recent resurgence in the seal populations on Cape Cod. Just under 60 people were gathered at the Orleans Yacht Club to absorb Jesse's knowledge about the seals that share our beaches.

Up-coming Third Tuesday Winter Lecture Talk: On Tuesday, April 16th we will host a lecture entitled "Great White Sharks, Our New Neighbors." The presentation will feature Dr. Greg Skomal, an accomplished marine biologist, underwater explorer, photographer, and author who will share his shark research, which has spanned multiple fish habitats around the globe.

Up-coming Walks: Our next walk is scheduled for Thursday, April 18th from 3:00 – 4:30pm at the Town's Kenrick Woods Conservation Area. Rufin Van Bossuyt of the American Chestnut Foundation will be leading the walk.