



Director's Report
December, 2015
Elizabeth Migliore

Administrative

Orleans Water Quality Advisory Panel: I attended as the OCT liaison at the Orleans Water Quality Advisory Panel meeting on Wednesday, December 2, at town hall. The next meeting will be held in January, and will resume to being held monthly. For all the meeting materials, go to <http://www.town.orleans.ma.us/water-quality-advisory-panel/pages/workshop-materials>.

Part-time Office Assistant: I am happy to announce that we have decided to hire long-time volunteer Pam Schultz as a part-time office assistant. Pam will begin working for OCT in January, assisting with administrative work including the spring and year-end appeals, updating the membership database, documentation and organization of files, grant research, and regular communications with the membership.

Land Management

An AmeriCorps Cape Cod Community Outreach and Development project was held the morning of December 1 to remove invasive species at Kaitz Gift and Ewald Gift. Five members helped to remove autumn olive, black locust, bittersweet, and porcelain berry from these properties.

On December 28, ten AmeriCorps Cape Cod members for the Wellfleet house assisted with invasive species removal at Sarah's Pond and Twining's Pond. Mainly bitterstweet and privet were targeted, in order to prevent any further spread and competition with native plants.



AmeriCorps Cape Cod members pose in front of a pile of invasive privet after a workday at Sarah's Pond and Twining's Pond.

Land Acquisition

The Orleans Conservation Trust is exploring the feasibility of fundraising and applying for grants to acquire two undeveloped parcels on Olivers Way in East Orleans. OCT has been given until December 2016 to raise the funds for this purchase, and is currently waiting to hear back about a proposal to the landowner.

Strategic Planning

The strategic planning committee has been busy interviewing other land trusts in order to gain insight about the strategic planning process, and to consider new perspectives to bring back to more effectively run OCT. I was able to participate in a few of these interviews. Land Trusts included in this survey are Barnstable Land Trust, Brewster Conservation Trust, Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust, Essex County Greenbelt, Falmouth 300 Committee, Harwich Conservation Trust, and Wildlands Trust. A facilitator has been selected for the process, Hal Minis of Brewster Conservation Trust. The committee will be sending out letters to the membership in January outlining the process, as well as conducting a community survey.

Fundraising Committee

The fundraising committee has been meeting regularly to begin planning for next year's fundraising events. The end-of year appeal mailing has been sent out, and the donation level so far is above average. Appeal donations are expected to keep arriving into January.

Communications/Marketing

Newsletter: The fall newsletter is complete and has been mailed out!

Pamphlet: AmeriCorps Cape Cod placement Leah Mould has been working on updating the OCT brochure, which was last edited in 2010. This pamphlet contains general information about the organization in an effort to recruit new members.

Educational Meetings/ Programs

Recent Walks:

Ice House Pond/Reuben's Pond Walk Recap: Over twenty Trust members took advantage of the beautiful weather for our final walk of 2015 on December 5th, led by our own Trust President Bob Prescott. The walk was held at OCT's Ice House and Reuben Pond Conservation Area, and was part of the Cape's annual pond waterfowl census. The walk began at the trail head of the Ice House path network, where Bob explained the history and ecology of the area. Once the walk reached Ice House Pond, birders were not disappointed. While there were some Canadian geese, the pond also hosted a small flock of buffleheads, American black ducks, hooded mergansers, some mallards and a few American widgeon. The walk then continued on around Reuben Pond.





Upcoming Walks:

○ **Hosea's Swamp**

Thursday, January 28, 2016 from 10:00 am – 11:00 am

Meet at 70 Quanset Road, South Orleans

Upcoming Fall Lectures: (held at Orleans Yacht Club from 6:45pm -7:45pm; doors open at 6:15 pm – cash bar)

○ ***The Gray Curtain***

Monday, January 4 at 6:45 pm

Speaker – Peter Trull

Peter Trull's latest book is *The Gray Curtain: The Impact of Seals, Sharks, and Commercial Fishing on the Northeast Coast* — a topic of great interest here. Peter's talks are always highly informed and entertaining. A short book signing will follow the presentation.