



Orleans  
Conservation  
Trust

**The Land Tells Our Story**

page 4

**Growing the Portanimicut  
Greenbelt**

page 6

■ **ON THE COVER:**

**New Faces at OCT**

pages 2–3



# Preserving Our Heritage



Walk the Orleans Town Watershed with OCT! **Walks & Talks**, pages 8–9

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Alex Bates, *Land Stewardship Coordinator*  
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OCT is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

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On the cover: Greater yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*) in salt marsh. These shorebirds can linger in the area until late fall. Photo © by Hardie Truesdale.  
Inset photo: OCT Land Stewardship Coordinator Alex Bates.

## from the president

Dear OCT members and supporters,

I'm just back from an inspiring visit to our nation's capital, where I saw a terrific exhibition at the Library of Congress. *Exploring the Early Americas* collected more than 3,000 rare maps, books, documents, and artworks depicting often brutal encounters between cultures—but also the tremendous leap of knowledge about geography and natural history those encounters generated. I was grateful for such insights into our past and for the incredible generosity of donors and collectors who made resources available for the public to study and enjoy. As members and supporters, you likewise provide indispensable resources that sustain the Trust and the lands we steward.

Speaking of history, Orleans Conservation Trust turns 50 next year! Take a peek at our commemorative logo on the back of this issue and stay tuned for news on our plans to celebrate this milestone. Our past informs our lives today, as historian Ron Peterson brings home in his article “The Land Tells Our Story.” Everywhere in Orleans we find strong links between history and land—as in South Orleans, where we're raising funds under deadline to acquire parcels on Portanimicut Road. (See Green Acres, page 6.) From Native habitation to farming to cranberry growing to conservation lands, we're preserving a rich heritage along with forests, wetlands, and wildlife corridors in this part of town. On Sipson Island

in Pleasant Bay, privately owned since colonists bought it from the Monomoyicks 300-plus years ago, the Trust is supporting an “all hands” local effort to acquire 22 acres for conservation and public use.

I enjoyed seeing many of you at our Annual Meeting in August, where Bob Prescott regaled us with sea turtle tales; it wasn't so far in the past, he noted, that these amazing creatures were captured by mariners for food. Since August, the Trust has welcomed a new Land Stewardship Coordinator, Alex Bates, who is already very busy with property maintenance and coordinating our volunteers. Also on board this fall is AmeriCorps Cape Cod member Kendall Pargot. And the OCT board, which works so well together to carry out our mission, is now stronger by three gifted and dedicated new trustees (see page 3).

As always in the fall issue, we acknowledge and thank our donors (see Giving, page 7). This beautiful newsletter, the work of our outstanding staff, and everything we do is possible only because of your support. By the way, you may notice that the issue you're holding is slimmer than usual. We're experimenting with a 12-page edition (down from 16), which will help slim our operating expenses—and also, we hope, encourage more members to get news from OCT online. Director Steve O'Grady regularly (but not too often!) sends email bulletins, which keep folks informed in a more timely way than a biannual print publication can do. Please sign up on our website! [orleansconservationtrust.org](http://orleansconservationtrust.org)



*Kevin F. Galligan*

Kevin F. Galligan  
President

## Feel the Burn!

Burning brush in the early spring isn't just a time-honored local tradition—it's an important way OCT helps maintain our properties in good condition. Next year, we plan to invite volunteers to join in on these workdays. Watch for an email with date and details in early 2020.





# Talking Turtle at Annual Meeting

In one of his last appearances as director of Mass Audubon's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary (WBWS), Bob Prescott spoke to a large gathering of OCT members at our August 26 Annual Meeting. His topic was sea turtles on Cape Cod, and his visual aids included shells of the five species that visit the Cape: from the petite Kemp's Ridley to the massive leatherback, with the loggerhead, green turtle, and exceedingly rare hawksbill in between.

Although sea turtles don't nest north of the Carolinas, many juveniles spend summers in Cape Cod Bay or Nantucket Sound. Boaters sometimes catch a glimpse of them surfacing for air; if you do, says Prescott, "Please report it!" He handed out bright yellow keyring tags for that purpose. More often, hardy winter beach walkers spot sea turtles that have lost their way back to the tropics and washed up, cold-stunned. (See the sidebar for what to do if you find one.) Prescott also noted the impact of warming water on some species—leatherbacks are being found here later in the season as they expand their range northward. "September is the new August," as far as these turtles are concerned, he said.

Before Prescott's talk,

## Sea Turtle Tips

If you come across a stranded sea turtle, it may well be alive even if it doesn't appear to be. WBWS asks that you follow these simple steps:

1. Move the turtle above the high tide line. Never grab or hold the turtle by the head or flippers.
2. Cover it with dry seaweed or wrack.
3. Mark the location with an obvious piece of debris—a buoy, driftwood, or branch.
4. Call the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary hotline at 508-349-2615 x6104.

Director Stephen O'Grady, President Kevin Galligan, and Treasurer Steve Koehler reported on the Trust's busy and successful year, and trustee Charlie Carlson described our efforts to acquire important land at 66 Portanimiticut Road (see page 6). We also elected three new trustees: Rigney Cunningham, Bob Granger, and Pete Van Oot—see the OCT website for more about them. As usual, members enjoyed refreshments and late-summer views of Town Cove from the Orleans Yacht Club.

Since then, OCT staff and trustees have embarked on our hectic fall routine: working to wrap up land acquisitions and fundraising campaigns by year end, seasonal land steward-



Bob Prescott, director emeritus of WBWS and former OCT president, addresses the Annual Meeting.



OCT recognized the invaluable and ever-cheerful help of volunteer bartenders John Smith (far left) and Bob Platten (far right)) at our events. Each was gifted with a vertical-lever corkscrew.

ship tasks, and conducting our educational "walks and talks" for the public. By the time this newsletter reaches you, we'll have heard from speakers Ken Wagner on Cape Cod lakes, Brad Chase on river herring, and Ron Petersen on our local links between land and history (see page 4). Highlighting the season was the eagerly await-

ed arrival of our new Land Stewardship Coordinator. Alex Bates, who is with us four days each week, has been training with Steve to get up to speed on his many duties. You may see him in the office or the field—find his photo on the cover and his bio on the website, [orleansconservationtrust.org/staff-trustees](http://orleansconservationtrust.org/staff-trustees).

# The Land Tells Our Story

by Ron Petersen

In the year 2020, Orleans will commemorate both the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Orleans Conservation Trust and the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Mayflower* voyage leading to the founding of Plymouth Colony. With both events, we celebrate not only history but also the land we inhabit. The connections between our land and history are direct, compelling, and sometimes surprising. We often think of historic preservation in terms of buildings and structures—but no structures remain from this early era, only the land. And the land tells our story. The Orleans Historical Commission and the Orleans Conservation Trust have undertaken to preserve that story for future generations.

The turf that we now call Orleans is land the *Mayflower* Pilgrims called Nauset, after the local tribe of Native Americans. Before that, it was home to a vibrant Native civilization that existed for thousands of years before the arrival of European explorers and colonists. The first recorded observations of our land and its Native people, before the English arrived, come from the French explorer Samuel de Champlain. In the early 1600s, the French were actively searching the northeast American coast for locations to establish settlements; during one of these expeditions, on July 20, 1605, Champlain sailed into Nauset Harbor. After enduring the somewhat treacherous entrance, Champlain named the harbor Port de Mallebare (“bad bar”).

As cartographer and recorder for the expedition, Champlain created a map of the harbor and provided vivid descriptions in his journal—for example, of “the shoals and sandbanks, where we saw breakers on

every side.” He and his crew stayed for five days and extensively explored the land that would come to be called Nauset. He wrote in his journal:

*After we entered, we found the place was very spacious, being perhaps three or four leagues in circuit, entirely surrounded by little houses, around each one of which there was as much land as the occupant needed for his support. We entered a field planted with Indian corn. . . . The corn was in flower, and five and a half feet high. . . . We saw many Brazilian beans, and many squashes of various sizes very good for eating; some tobacco, and roots which they cultivate, the latter having the taste of artichoke. There were also several fields entirely uncultivated, the land being allowed to remain fallow. When they wish to plant it, they set fire to the weeds, and then work it over with their wooden spades. Their cabins were round, and covered with heavy thatch made of reeds. In the roof there is an opening of about a foot and a half, where the smoke from the fire passes out.*

There are many places in Orleans, including a few OCT properties, that provide excellent views of the harbor. Although it has undergone changes both



Plaque commemorating Reuben Hopkins's gift of land to the Trust, on the trail to Reuben's Pond.

natural and human-caused, one can get a vivid sense of the estuary as Champlain saw it more than 400 years ago.

From the bluffs of the Tonset neighborhood, where OCT leads a walk annually, another historic piece of land comes into view: the area we now call Nauset Heights. From Champlain's journal descriptions, it is almost certain that he visited this part of the estuary, as it was here that the Nauset had been growing corn for many years.

Fast-forward from 1605 to 1644. By then, the Pilgrims were established in Plymouth, but the land they called

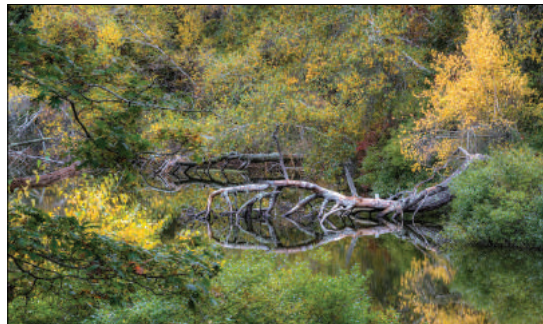
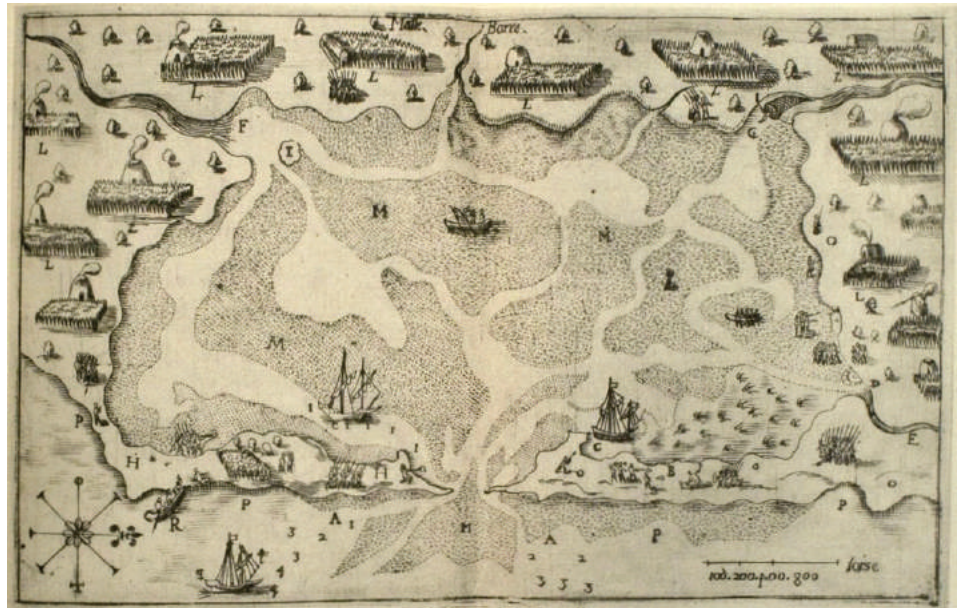


The shoreline on Nauset Harbor, taken during an OCT walk.



Nauset was very familiar to them. They had explored the area in 1620, while the *Mayflower* was still anchored in Provincetown Harbor, and the famed “First Encounter” occurred here. In 1621, they returned, made a lasting peace agreement with the Nausets, and repaid the debt of corn they had taken the previous year. When the *Sparrow-hawk* wrecked off Pleasant Bay in 1626, they came again to aid its passengers. All the while, trading parties visited on a regular basis to trade with the Nausets and other tribes. In 1644, the Plymouth General Court and the Plymouth Church gave permission to seven families—a total of 49 persons—to establish a settlement at Nauset, on land that ultimately became Eastham, Wellfleet, and Orleans. As a part of a purchase agreement with the Nauset Tribe, the Nauset Heights land was reserved for the natives to continue to grow corn and to harvest shellfish from the waters. This arrangement continued for decades, as the two cultures lived side by side in peace. Thus this part of town represents a true crossroads in the development of Cape Cod.

Nauset Heights continued to figure significantly in Orleans history. On July 21, 1918, a German U-boat appeared off the coast and began shelling a tug pulling four barges, and the shoreline as well. By then this was a summer residential community, full of people in July. When the sub's fearsome deck guns started firing, Nauset Heights residents, rather than retreat or seek safety, came out onto their porches, many unfurling American flags over their deck railings. One Dr. Taylor got the *Boston Globe* on the phone and provided an “on the scene” account of the attack. Another resident was the local commander of the State Guard, as the militia was called then. Major Clifford Harris called out his troops and deployed them in the dunes, rifles at the ready, to repel any land attack that



Above: Samuel de Champlain's 1605 map of Nauset Harbor, ringed by Nauset dwellings. Then as now, it was busy with boats and heavily shoaled (the shaded areas marked with “M”). Courtesy photo.  
Left: Reuben's Pond in autumn. Photo © Hardie Truesdale.

might follow the shelling. The character and spirit of Orleans were on full display on that day.

From the U.S. Coast Guard Lifesaving Station just south of Nauset Heights, a courageous rescue mission came to the aid of the vessels being shelled by the U-boat. In the station's lookout tower, a young coastguardsman named Reuben Hopkins had a bird's eye view of the hourlong attack. At one point, Hopkins watched the U-boat's gun turn in his direction and fire a round. Fortunately it missed, landing in a marsh just behind the station. Fifty years later, Hopkins recorded his observations in a moving piece of oral history that helps us understand our past. The Orleans Conservation Trust commemorates Hopkins by preserving some of his land surrounding Reuben's Pond.

These are but a few examples of the

symbiotic relationship between our land, our history, and our heritage. Together they have shaped the character of our community. Like the land, the tangible evidence of our history is perishable—once it's gone, it's gone. But rest assured that OCT and the Historical Commission will remain hard at work preserving the land, the history, and the heritage of our very special town.

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**Ron Petersen** is chair of the Orleans Historical Commission and a former member of the Community Preservation Committee. After a long career in corporate compliance and global security, he and his wife, Val, retired here in 2012. Ron worked with CapeCod2020 on a symposium that will recognize the Cape's role in the Plymouth 400 Commemoration and writes on this topic for the *Cape Codder*.

# Growing the Portanimicut Greenbelt

## OCT to Acquire Land in South Orleans

Last spring, when OCT heard about a chance to purchase and preserve nearly five acres at 66 Portanimicut Road in South Orleans, our collective heartbeat quickened. This wasn't just any 4.65 acres: the three lots up for sale would forge a vital link between existing conservation lands both south and north of the road. Such link-ups are a holy grail for land conservation because they provide protected corridors for wildlife—increasingly rare in developed areas. Contiguous open space also helps protect water quality and offers a greater chance for people to experience quiet and solitude away from traffic and houses.

"We worked hard to negotiate a favorable purchase agreement for the three lots when a sale for development fell through," says Director Stephen O'Grady. The downside: we couldn't obtain an

### 66 Portanimicut Road by the Numbers

*Acres to be conserved:* 4.65, includes a .54 acre wetland

*Buildable lots:* Three; two undeveloped, one with a dwelling to be demolished

*Appraised value:* \$1,020,000

*Contiguous conserved acres if these parcels preserved:* Nearly 100

*Total funds needed:* \$775,000 to purchase + about \$50,000 for demolition/restoration

*Funds raised to date:* More than \$500,000

*Deadline for contributions before closing:* January 1, 2020

Gifts of any size bring us closer to our goal. Larger gifts will ensure that we get there. OCT welcomes pledges for contributions in 2020 if more advantageous for you; or you can split your donation over two years with a pledge now.

**Thank you!**

extended closing, so we have only until the end of 2019 to raise funds for the project. The price is \$775,000—considerably under the appraised value of more than \$1 million but still a costly purchase by the Trust's standards. Demolishing a derelict house and restoring the site on one lot will cost another \$50,000.

This acquisition quickly became our top priority. Besides protecting the corridor, it will enable OCT to provide parking for easier access to the Town's Christian Property, where a peaceful trail skirts an Atlantic white cedar swamp. One of the lots contains a healthy wetland that may well be a vernal pool, a priority for protection. By contrast, developing the parcels would add to the area's septic load and further erode its rural character.

Moreover, the land offers future access to another 20+ acres, a promised bequest to the Trust by Rachia Heyelman. This gives us the chance to link up 100 acres of open space in all, and ultimately create a walking route all the way to Paw Wah Pond.

OCT's staff and board have been "all in" on this campaign. We've held fundraising events, hosted walks to introduce people to the land and its potential, and done mailings to prospective



OCT Director Steve O'Grady and Mark Robinson of the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts accept the state grant from State Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theodorides.

donors—mainly in the surrounding neighborhood. We've applied to foundations and reached out to the public with articles in local papers. In one resounding success, we were awarded a \$75,000 Conservation Partnership Grant from the state for this project, one of only seven such grants statewide this year.

We're also thinking slightly outside the conservation box. With a January 2020 close looming and a possible funding shortfall, OCT is weighing alternative options. Steve O'Grady and trustees have met with the Orleans Affordable Housing Trust to explore the potential for low-income housing on one lot, while still providing parking for trail walkers and protecting the wetland. We have been public about such fallback options but hope to avoid this with fundraising up to the deadline. Indeed, we want to assure members that conservation remains our top priority for all three lots at 66 Portanimicut.

*We need people to step up and support this purchase so we can save this land and make the Portanimicut Greenbelt a reality.* If you want more details on this major acquisition and its importance, or how you can make a donation, visit [orleansconservationtrust.org/growing-our-lands](http://orleansconservationtrust.org/growing-our-lands). Or contact Steve O'Grady at 508-255-0183, [stephen.ogrady@orleansconservationtrust.org](mailto:stephen.ogrady@orleansconservationtrust.org).

Map shows the parcels to be acquired in relation to existing OCT and Town lands, and the future Heyelman bequest.





# Gifts and Donations

## Membership Year 2018–2019

From July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019, Orleans Conservation Trust received support from its members and the community in the form of unrestricted donations and restricted gifts, which specifically support land acquisition, land management, or educational programs. The Trust also received special gifts made in honor or in memory of someone designated by the giver. Gifts

“in honor of” may mark a special occasion or a milestone, or honor a person’s service. Gifts “in memory of” celebrate the life of someone who has passed away.

Every gift, in whatever amount and for whatever purpose, demonstrates your commitment to conserving land and plays a vital role in helping OCT fulfill its mission.

### Unrestricted Donations & Restricted Gifts

#### \$100,000 and above

Anonymous (1)  
Marjorie Doane Moerschner

#### \$10,000 – \$99,999

Timothy and Eliza Earle  
Victor Paci and Jennifer Miller Paci  
Hardie and Marcie Truesdale

#### \$5,000 – \$9,999

Anonymous (1)  
Edward L. Hutton Foundation  
Steve and Anne Koehler  
Vincent and Abigail Maddi  
Susan Meisinger and John Smith  
Paul and Martha Samuelson  
William and Cynthia Treene

#### \$1,000 – \$4,999

Anonymous (4)  
The Beth and Todd Baker Fund  
Scott Biller and Christine Masi  
Stephen Brodeur  
Katherine H. Brophy  
William and Nancy Brotherton  
Thomas Byrne and  
Susan Hockfield Byrne  
Jeff and Susan Cahill  
Charlie and Susan Carlson  
Richard and Suzanne Costa  
Robert and Rigney Cunningham  
Paul and Sharon Davis  
Richard Debs and Barbara  
Knowles-Debs  
Norman and Polly Edmonson  
John and Alison Ferring  
Eric and Heidi Franzen  
Friends of Nauset Beach  
Kevin Galligan and Vince Ollivier  
Therese Galligan  
Stephanie Gaskill  
Gary and Karen Gregg  
Gerard Grenier and  
Ellen Snyder-Grenier  
Joseph and Kathryn Imler  
Mariner and Megan Kemper  
Beth Mahaney Caldwell  
Seth McClennen and Martha Wu  
Larry and Beth Minear  
Barbara Murphy  
Stephen and Kristine Nasinnyk  
Kevin and Lynn O’Connell  
Orleans Pond Coalition  
Amos and Tami Pike  
Bob and Patricia Platten  
Robert Prescott

Michael and Tracy Roberge  
Robert and Phyllis Rothberg  
Lee and Cecilia Sandwen  
Lawrence and Anne Spaulding  
Gregory and Andrea Thomajan  
Richard Walton and Susan Olsen  
The Weintz Family Harbor Lights  
Foundation  
Bruce and Sheryl Wolf

#### \$500 – \$999

Joshua Arnow and Elyse Arnow Brill  
Andrew and Sally Buffington  
Peter Buffington  
Cape Cod Coastal Realty  
Peter and Constance Deeks  
Jamie Demas  
Rick and Joan Francolini  
Alan and Virginia George  
Herbert and Anne Gullquist  
Robert Hodapp and  
Elisabeth Dykens  
Leonard and Patricia Johnson  
Kevin Kenworthy  
Jamie and Penny Ladd  
David Levesque and  
Janet Bishop-Levesque  
John and Maura McCormack  
William L. and Kathryn A. Medford  
Lori Michaelson  
Glenn and Peggy O’Grady  
Charles and Sally Proctor  
John and Patricia Reohr  
Thomas and Jean Russell  
Marsha Salett  
Christopher and Gail Scudellari  
Elfriede Silkin  
Andrew and Benjye Troob

#### \$300 – \$499

Anonymous (1)  
Fred and Barbara Ball  
William and Karen Benjamin  
Thomas and Giselle Cahalan  
The Cape Cod Foundation  
Elizabeth deLima  
Norman and Joy Deschene  
Dorothy DeSimone and  
Joseph Leghorn  
Eric Dicke  
David and Ellen Herrick  
Eugene and Mary Hornsby  
James and Susan Lawrence  
Howard and Diane Mager  
Page McMahan

Timothy and Susan O’Connor  
Leon Osterweil and Lori Clarke  
Frederick H. Roessle  
Albert and Mary Grace Rook  
Mefford Runyon and  
Bonny Campbell-Runyon  
Kenneth and Jill Trehub  
Stephen Wasby  
Robert and Judy Wilkinson  
Frank and Mary Wojciechowski

#### \$100 – \$299

Anonymous (25)  
Helen Addison  
Curtis and Beverly Akins  
Bruce and Amy Albert  
Steven and Mary Ann Allard  
George and Lynne Allen  
Eve Aspinwall  
Nicholas Athanassiou and  
Jeanne McNett  
Donald Bachman and Karen Back  
Joanne Baldauf  
Samuel and Elizabeth Ball  
Joan Barnard  
Christopher and Kathleen Barry  
Robert and Lorraine Barry  
Andrew and Iliza Bartels  
Mike and Susan Basehore  
Joseph Beals  
Charles and Marcia Bechtold  
Richard and Jeanne Berdik  
Michael Betlinski and Lisa Allen  
Elsa Bevan Johnson  
Ross Bierkan  
William and Leslie Bigoness  
George Bissell  
Andrew and Margaret Black  
Judith Blood  
Michael and Janet Brink  
Joanne Broderick  
Peter and Melissa Brown  
Judith Bruce  
Russell Bruemmer  
Lynn Bruneau  
Joanna Buffington  
Bradley Burdick and Patricia Manning  
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John and Janet Swan Bush  
Suzanne and Phyllis Calsson  
Robert and Nancy Campbell  
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Andrew and Alison Carey  
Malcolm and Jill Carlisle  
Jay Carlson  
Ruth and R. Loring Carlson

William and Dorothy Carr  
Paul and Virginia Carrington  
Joseph and Susan Catalano  
Anne Chou  
Michael and Sarah Ciampa  
Richard and Wendy Kahn Cohen  
Thomas and Janice Conklin  
Christopher and Susan Conniff  
Timothy Corcoran  
Jane and Marvin Corlette  
Sabrina Corlette  
Doug and Laurel Costa  
Robert and Sylvia Cotter  
Timothy and Carol Counihan  
Andrew and Margaret Covell  
Michael Craig  
Chris and Diana Crighton  
John and Diana Crimmins  
Richard and Elizabeth Cryer  
Berkeley and Louise Cue  
Mary Jane Curran and  
Donald Cameron  
Jane Curtis  
Stephen and Kathleen Czick  
John and Sharon DaSilva  
Emerson Davis  
Suzanne Dean  
James and Stephanie DeFilippo  
Richard and Karin Delaney  
Helen Delano and Noel Potter, Jr.  
Roger and Sandra Deromedi  
Roslyn Diamond and Michael Harnett  
Joseph and Margaret Digiovanni  
Mark Dole  
Janice Donovan  
Edward and Andrea Dorian  
Charles and Betsy Dow  
David and Pam Driscoll  
Christie Due Turner  
Lyn Duncan  
Michael and Karen Dunne  
William Duvall and  
Joanna Anderson  
Richard and Jane Eccles  
Harry and Pamela Edwards  
Caroline Edwards  
David and Cynthia Egli  
Richard and Christine Emerson  
David and Lucy Emerson  
Glenn and Debra Ephraim  
Stanley and Barbara Eskin  
Lynn Evans and Neal Carney

continued on page 10

# Winter/Spring 2020 Speakers

Join us at the Orleans Yacht Club for the latest in our series of **entertaining and informative** talks by **local and regional experts**. Admission **free** (cash bar). Doors open at 6:00 pm; talks begin at 6:30 pm.



## **How Healthy Natural Resources Support Coastal Resilience** **Tara Nye Lewis**

*Senior Coastal Ecologist, Horsley Witten Group*

As climate change heightens the risk of flooding, erosion, and sea level rise, it becomes ever more important to take account of our region's strengths and weakness, set priorities, and create actions plans to address weak points. How do our coastal natural resources—such as marshes and healthy estuaries—factor into this assessment?

**Thursday, January 16, 2020**



## **The Climate Crisis Comes Home** **Rich Delaney**

*President and CEO of the Center for Coastal Studies*

Three years ago, Rich Delaney represented CCS and Cape Cod at the Paris Climate Accords (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). Rich will update us on the big picture of how our region reflects and can influence this global catastrophe—with emphasis on actions that can be undertaken by regional conservation organizations and all Cape Codders to make a real difference.

**Thursday, February 6, 2020**



## **Sustaining Biodiversity in Our Coastal Grasslands** **Christopher Neill**

*Senior Scientist, Woods Hole Research Center*

Sandplain grasslands are upland plant communities unique to the coastal Northeast, composed of grasses interspersed with low shrubs and annual and perennial wildflowers. Similar to the Midwest prairies, these relatively flat, open habitats were once common from Long Island to Maine and are critical to regional biodiversity, but they are much diminished by development. In 2016, scientists joined with landowners and plant managers in a regional Sandplain Grassland Network to share information that will help enhance plant and animal diversity in these grasslands—on the Cape and Islands and elsewhere.

**Thursday, March 5, 2020**



## **Restoration Agriculture and the Food Forest Initiative** **Rand Burkert**

*Teacher, organic farmer, author*

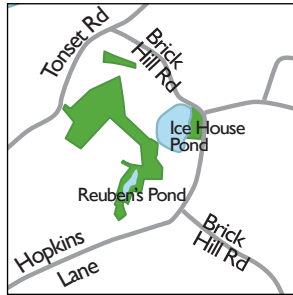
The idea behind restoration agriculture is to grow food in more sustainable ways. Most food today is produced by annual mono-cropping, requiring heavy machinery and lots of pesticides and fertilizers; these practices harm biodiversity, degrade the soil, and account for a big chunk of carbon emissions. A “food forest,” by contrast, tries to mimic natural systems. Rand will discuss this new field and his work with the Cape-wide Food Forest Initiative and the Nauset Food and Research Garden, an organic farm plot at Nauset RHS—and how home gardeners can restore disturbed land as close as our backyards.

**Thursday, April 2, 2020**



# Winter/Spring 2019-2020 Walks

Get to know the **open spaces** of Orleans on our **popular guided walks**. They're **free, fun**, and appropriate for **all ages**.



## Ice House/Reuben's Pond Conservation Area

1.5-mile walk around two freshwater ponds, as part of the Cape Cod Waterfowl Census.

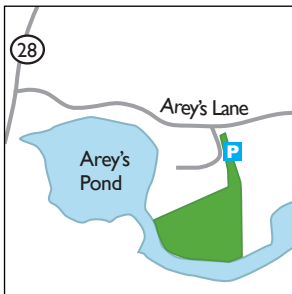
Meet at 245 Tonset Road, Orleans  
**Sunday, December 8**  
**1:30 – 3:30 pm**



## Baker's Pond Conservation Area

1.75-mile walk on adjoining conservation lands around Baker's Pond, in Orleans and Brewster.

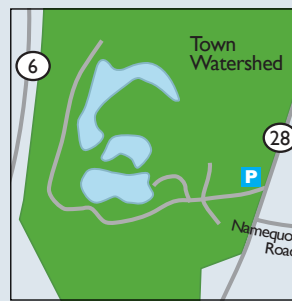
Meet at 80 Baker's Pond Road, Orleans  
**Tuesday, March 24**  
**10:00 am – 11:30 am**



## Peck Conservation Area

Short walk at the site of the last Indian meeting house in Orleans, sloping down to Arey's (Namequoit) River.

Meet at the Town parking lot at the end of Peck's Way, Orleans  
**Thursday, January 9**  
**10:00 – 11:00 am**



## Orleans Watershed

Experience some of the 450 acres that make up the Orleans Watershed on this 1.5-mile walk, mostly on the service road.

Meet at 35 South Orleans Road, Orleans  
**Wednesday, April 29**  
**10:00 am – 11:30 am**



## Kent's Point Conservation Area

Walk along nearly a mile of shoreline with outstanding views of Pleasant Bay.

Meet at the Town parking lot at the end of Frost Fish Lane, Orleans  
**Wednesday, February 12**  
**10:00 – 11:30 am**



## Mill Pond Valley Conservation Area

1-mile walk with unique topography, kettle ponds, a vernal pool, and much more.

Meet at 13 Champlain Road, Orleans  
**Saturday, May 16**  
**10:00 – 11:30 am**



## Explore the Wellfields on a New OCT Walk

Far and away the largest open space preserve in Orleans—yet maybe the least well known—the Orleans Watershed comprises 450+ acres, hidden in plain sight between Route 28 and the MidCape. The outing will introduce walkers to this incredible resource and highlight the importance of protecting water quality and wildlife corridors, in this case spanning three towns.

Get a preview of each walk and find trail maps on our website, [orleansconservationtrust.org/areas-with-trails](https://orleansconservationtrust.org/areas-with-trails)

**continued from page 7**

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