

Orleans  
Conservation  
Trust

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## from the president

Dear OCT members and supporters,

Let's welcome spring and look forward to another wonderful summer on Cape Cod! It's time to get back outdoors, on the land and water: gardening, hiking, tending to those maintenance chores that have been waiting for the ground to thaw and the wind to abate. And most of all, enjoying the protected open space all around us.

Speaking of maintenance, a recent news story caught my attention, about proposed funding cuts to AmeriCorps, a national service program that has been active on Cape Cod, through Barnstable County, since 1999. (For more information, see <http://www.americorpscapedoc.org>) Orleans Conservation Trust has been a strong partner with AmeriCorps Cape Cod since the beginning. Over 18 years, our joint projects have included land management planning, trail design and construction, invasive plant removal (tough yet rewarding work), and many others. Our update on Namequoit Bog (page 13) focuses on the role of AmeriCorps volunteers.

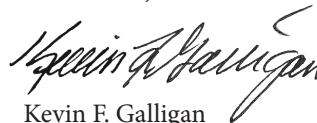
Each year I look forward to welcoming these smart, enthusiastic young people to the Trust. (See below for the value AmeriCorps Cape Cod has provided to OCT.) And did you know that our own director, Elizabeth Migliore, is an AmeriCorps alumna? Yes, these young people not only serve our community seasonally, but also some actually find full-time work, a place to live and raise a family.

We all are the better for this.

We're also excited to announce a brand-new collaboration—the first of its kind—with our neighbor, the Eastham Conservation Foundation. Together we will hire and share the services of a professional land manager, who will be based at the OCT office. This full-time staff position is possible through generous start-up funding from an ECF donor. We are most grateful for this support, and the lands owned and managed by both organizations will be healthier because of it.

I am amazed by the positive progress on our current land acquisition projects (pages 4–5) and heartily thank my fellow trustees, OCT staff, partners, contributors, and members for their hard work and support. Progress also continues on our new headquarters. We'll be kicking off the season with an Open House on Memorial Day weekend (see next page for details). Please stop by to tour the office and grounds, and pick up a trail guide and our updated brochure. We look forward to seeing you there!

All the best,



Kevin F. Galligan  
President



**On the cover:** Spring trees and service-berry flowers. Photo © Hardie Truesdale.

## Save the Date!

Our **Annual Meeting** will be held on **Monday, August 28**, from 5–7 pm. We hope you'll join us at the Orleans Yacht Club for a recap of the very productive past year, a preview of exciting prospects, and of course to elect our trustees. Hors d'oeuvres provided; cash bar.

## AmeriCorps Cape Cod

Service to OCT from  
**October 2015 – July 2016**

Hours served 1,233  
Total value \$35,700



# Progress at OCT Headquarters

Since last December, anyone driving into or out of Orleans on Route 28 has surely spotted the new sign marking the entrance to OCT's headquarters at 203 South Orleans Road. Even before we were officially open to the public, quite a few curious visitors stopped by to see what was going on.

Besides carrying on our regular work of land protection at a brisk pace, we've been busy setting up our new offices since acquiring the building last August. Ground was broken for a handicapped-access ramp in early April; soon all our members and visitors will have easy access. Meanwhile, we've completed fire code upgrades, added some furnishings, and now have functioning office space for all staff, interns, and volunteers, as well as a conference room. We're especially fortunate that noted photographer Hardie Truesdale, whose work can be seen on our cover, has provided beautiful framed prints of his images of OCT lands to decorate the space (visit [hardietruesdalephotography.com](http://hardietruesdalephotography.com)).

Once we're formally open to the public, our building and grounds will be the hub for all OCT activities: meetings of trustees, staff, donors, and other conservation groups around the region; training for our volunteers; and occasional public events. At any time during business hours, visitors will be able to come by, learn about land conservation options for their properties or OCT projects they can join; pick up copies of our trail guide, brochure, and newsletters—maybe even a sharp OCT cap!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 27, on Memorial Day weekend, when OCT welcomes one and all to an open house at the new office, from 1:00 – 4:00 pm. Join us at 203 South Orleans Road for light refreshments and a tour of the space!



OCT Director Liz Migliore meets with bookkeeper (and OCT member) Sandra Ladd in the new office. Below: New land manager Andrew Bagnara.

## Partnership with Eastham Grows Our Staff

As the challenge of properly maintaining our 650-plus acres grows, the need for more help with this work has become acute. But increasing our staff and budget isn't something we undertake lightly. So we were delighted when approached by trustees of the Eastham Conservation Foundation (ECF) with a proposal to share a professional land manager. Once the details were resolved, we hired Andrew Bagnara as our part-time Land Manager, effective May 15.

Historically the Cape Cod land trusts have been focused locally, but now we're exploring how to pool resources and staff so that we can accomplish larger projects. Currently, ECF is an all-volunteer organization managing 300 acres of land and seeking to expand its holdings. Trustee Joanna Buffington says that ECF "looks forward to supporting this shared land management position with the Orleans Conservation Trust."



Andrew Bagnara

Andrew will be responsible for the regular maintenance of walking trails, removal of invasive species and hazard trees, creating and updating land management plans, annual monitoring of conservation restrictions, and helping to coordinate our growing volunteer land steward program. Improving management of our properties is vital, especially as we continue to add new lands (see page 4).

Originally from Indiana, Andrew holds a degree in natural resources from Purdue University. He first came to Massachusetts as part of AmeriCorps Cape Cod, placed with Wellfleet Conservation Trust and the Wellfleet Conservation Department. He then served in the AmeriCorps MassLIFT program as a land stewardship coordinator for Wildlands Trust. For the past few years he worked in GPS data acquisition. "I'm excited to return to beautiful Cape Cod," says Andrew, "and I can't wait to start work with both of these land trusts."



# A Land Preserve for Nauset Heights

For more than a year, we've been reporting on the exciting prospect of protecting a large, contiguous stretch of open space in the heavily developed (and expensive) Nauset Heights area of Orleans. We're thrilled to report that our effort to acquire two more acres of land on Oliver's Way has been successful.

"Combined with adjacent OCT properties, this latest acquisition will create a wonderful six-acre preserve in an area that has experienced great development pressure," notes OCT president Kevin Galligan. "And it represents one of our largest fundraising efforts to date." Besides its obvious conservation value—with extensive red cedar, wildlife habitat, and proximity to a vernal pool as well as the Mill Pond—OCT's acquisition will preclude more home construction in a prime location.

The tale begins more than two decades ago, when John and Elizabeth Cullen donated 1.85 acres of their family land to the Trust in 1986. Over the years—both before and since their passing—the Cullens gifted several more acres to OCT. Then, in early summer of last year, the last two acres of undeveloped land were offered to OCT by the Elizabeth Cullen Trust.

Moving quickly, OCT kicked off an ambitious campaign to purchase the offered land. OCT first succeeded in negotiating a purchase price of \$600,000, well below the land's \$950,000 appraised value. We then sought contributions from residents in the Nauset Heights, Grandview, and Mill Pond neighborhoods. Eighty-six residents responded, and as of this February, OCT could report that it had raised the entire purchase price with a combination of neighborhood contributions, an expected



Trustee Charlie Carlson, chair of OCT's Land Acquisitions Committee, describes the Oliver's Way purchase opportunity to guests at the first fundraising event. The two lots are outlined in red on the map below. Opposite, top: The vernal pool at 16 Tom's Hollow Lane.

state tax credit of \$75,000 for the seller, and a \$100,000 contribution from OCT's land acquisition fund. (See timeline, page 14.)

"Because we were able to add these new parcels to land already gifted by the Cullens, all the former Cullen woods between the Mill Pond and Nauset Heights Road will now be a wildlife preserve," says OCT trustee Charlie Carlson. As chair of our Land Acquisition Committee, he led the fundraising campaign together with trustee Sharon Davis and the Oliver's Way Fundraising Committee, which included several Nauset Heights residents.

"Focusing our fundraising efforts on the nearby neighborhoods—Nauset Heights especially but Grandview and Mill Pond too—was crucial," says Carlson. "I think we're most successful when we go to people who have a personal stake in preserving open land, habitat, and historic character close to where they live."

Among the first on board were Nauset Heights residents Robert and Rigney Cunningham, who helped kick off the campaign by hosting a cocktail gathering



for interested neighbors in early August. When the Cunninghams moved to Nauset Heights in 1992, they were struck not only by the beauty of this elevated landscape—with the Atlantic on one side and the peaceful pond and marsh on the other—but also by its history, with many fourth-generation households still in residence. Says Rigney, “After living in a lot of places, I decided that this was going to be my place.”

Among the old-timers in Nauset Heights, the Cullens stood out for their love of and commitment to the land and its human and wild inhabitants. “Jack and Betty were foundational people for the neighborhood in many ways,” Rigney says. “They often hosted the neighborhood picnics, and they were really fun.” They also cared deeply about the natural qualities of their property. They loved sharing the land with wildlife: Jack was always excited when the buffleheads returned to Mill Pond, and Betty loved the swans. Patty Cullen, their daughter, has been instrumental in making sure their wishes for their land came to pass, saying, “My parents always hoped that all of their land on Oliver’s Way could be preserved.”

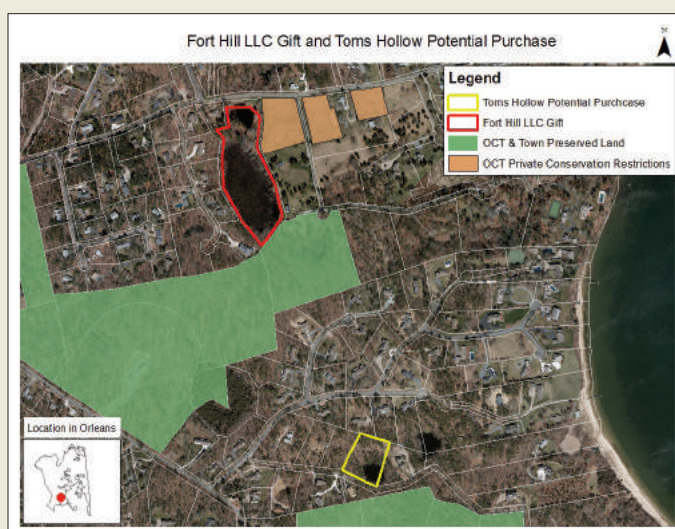
Carlson believes that the prospect of creating a large wildlife preserve—along with helping protect the Mill Pond’s water quality by avoiding

### More Open Space for South Orleans

In January of this year, OCT received an outright (and un-anticipated) gift of 4.84 acres on Portanimicut Road from the Fort Hill LLC. This generous donation includes a small, hand-dug horse pond and vegetated wetland habitat, connecting to town conservation land, the Christian Property Conservation Area. Preserving this land—part of the former Richwood Farm—creates an important wildlife corridor, protects water quality, and prevents further development. The property is a haven for ducks, which are often seen on the pond.

Farther to the south, a group of neighbors on Tom’s Hollow Lane, a private unpaved road running down to Little Pleasant Bay, asked OCT this winter to help them preserve a 1.4-acre lot that was on the verge of being sold for development. Because the steeply sloping property contains a vernal pool where amphibians breed and turtles are found, OCT trustees voted to step in and acquire the property. Fundraising is

more home construction—was very meaningful to those who supported the project. “I know that was true for me and my wife.” Now, where two large buildings might have gone up, these woodlands will remain undisturbed for the benefit and enjoyment of wildlife, water,



already off to a good start, and thanks to some very generous lead gifts, the project seems likely to succeed by the seller’s mid-May deadline, a short time frame indeed. With

any luck, we can soon report that this peaceful (except when the spring peepers are calling!) corner of South Orleans will remain pristine in perpetuity.

and walkers. OCT plans to add a discreet trail, set back from property lines, so that neighborhood residents can make their way from the Mill Pond shore through the woods in a loop.

“It also mattered in our approach that were we

able to talk about a sense of place—about how this part of Orleans has anchored people for a century or more,” adds Rigney Cunningham. At annual meetings of the Nauset Heights Association, for example,

**Continued on page 14**



# Saving Our Freshwater Ponds

## *Town and Conservation Groups Partner to Rescue Uncle Harvey's*

By Sharon Davis

When my husband and I first saw it in 1984, from a high point at the end of Sea Mist Drive in East Orleans, Uncle Harvey's Pond was a pristine blue orb surrounded by fields of grass. The site's open exposure, without trees or shrubs of any kind, harkened back to its use for more than a century as a feeding ground for pigs, cows, and horses. For the animals, the pond served as a natural boundary as well as a source of fresh drinking water.

We bought the lot on sight, and began excavating for our new house immediately. During the digging, a neighbor asked us for permission to sift through the dirt piles for arrowheads—which is how we learned that the site had been an Indian encampment for hundreds of years prior to being settled by the Sparrow family in the 1700s. The pond was named for “Uncle Harvey” Sparrow (1795–1883).

“The same conditions that attracted the Indians to Harvey's Pond are still what attract us today.”

When Native Americans lived near here, the scene looked quite different: the pond was surrounded by native shrubs like blueberry and summersweet, backed by the dense hardwood forest that covered the Cape until early settlers clear-cut the land for timber. Much earlier still, the pond was nothing but a hollow in the ground left by



Autumn view of Uncle Harvey's Pond from Sea Mist Lane in East Orleans. Photo © Paul Davis.

a glacier 15,000 years ago. It probably took many centuries for the water table to rise high enough so that the hole filled with fresh water: a classic kettle pond, 20 feet deep.

Yet, as Betsy Furtney observed in writing about Uncle Harvey's for the Orleans Pond Coalition, “the same

conditions that attracted the Indians to the pond are still what attract us today: a lovely, sheltered pond tucked into a hollow...”

More than just a beautiful view, the pond became our playground; like many others in Orleans, we fished, swam, and boated on it all summer long. Six acres of pond shoreline are designated as open space,

with Orleans Conservation Trust holding three acres and the Town of Orleans the rest. There are also 16 private properties in the watershed that feeds into the pond.

Also like many others, Paul and I were disturbed to witness the declining quality of the pond environment over the years since we took up residence there. Today, though, Uncle Harvey's is becoming a test case for an innovative public-private partnership in restoring freshwater ponds—which are just as important to Orleans as our famed saltwater resources.

It was in early August of 2013 that we first observed a persistent, slimy green film on the pond's surface. It was formed by cyanobacteria, or so-called “blue-green algae”: a kind of bacteria that photosynthesizes like plants. The cyanobacteria bloom made the pond unusable because it produces toxins that are hazardous to humans (especially children) and animals. And this wasn't the first time it had happened: the Commonwealth's Department of Health has closed the pond to human contact several times in late summer in the past decade.

We learned that such algae blooms are caused mainly by excessive levels of phosphorus in water. That phosphorus comes from fertilizers, septic systems, and stormwater running off impervious surfaces like roads and driveways. Some estimates indicate that *10 million gallons* of untreated stormwater flow into Uncle Harvey's each year. Consequently, the average level of phosphorus is twice the standard for a healthy pond on the Cape—and sometimes nearly 10 times the standard.

Uncle Harvey's is far from the only casualty of such pollution. Carolyn Kennedy, who has long monitored water quality for the town and the Orleans Pond Coalition (OPC), says, “It's important to note that *all* of the freshwater ponds and lakes in Orleans are impaired.” Both OCT and OPC have called attention to the problem over the years in public presentations and published materials. So those of us who care deeply about the ponds and their future were heartened by the Town's action in forming a Freshwater Ponds Working Group (FWPWG), composed of concerned citizens and town officials.

Based on extensive available water quality data, along with the history of cyanobacteria blooms, the group chose Uncle Harvey's as the first major Orleans pond targeted for a management and remediation plan. The effort was launched in February, with work to include surveys of aquatic vegetation, mussels, wildlife, sediments, and stormwater impacts. The School for Marine Science and Technology at UMass–Dartmouth will gather and review the collected information, along with water quality data collected by volunteers over the past 15 years, to develop appropriate steps for management and remediation. All this is contingent on Orleans



The southwestern shore of Uncle Harvey's, land owned by OCT.

citizens' approval of funding for the program at Town Meeting on May 8.

OCT Director Liz Migliore, who has been participating in the FWPWG meetings, says, “This is an incredible opportunity to rehabilitate a polluted pond that is highly visible and much used by residents and visitors. We hope that the improvement we anticipate for Uncle Harvey's can also be applied to other freshwater ponds in Orleans, to protect these vital resources for people and wildlife.”

**Sharon Davis** spent most of her career in institutional advancement at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and other educational settings. In 2005, she was certified in landscape design, which she has practiced since then. Among her extensive community service, she is a past president of the Nauset Garden Club and a trustee of the Orleans Conservation Trust.

## More About Ponds

For more background about Uncle Harvey's Pond, visit: [www.orleanspondcoalition.org/healthy-waters/freshwater/pond-portraits/uncle-harveys-pond](http://www.orleanspondcoalition.org/healthy-waters/freshwater/pond-portraits/uncle-harveys-pond)

Freshwater pond ecology is a hot topic all over the Cape. Plan to attend our **lecture** this fall, when **Sophia Fox** of the Cape Cod National Seashore will present research on how climate change is affecting the ponds of the **National Seashore**.

(See Talks & Walks, page 8.)

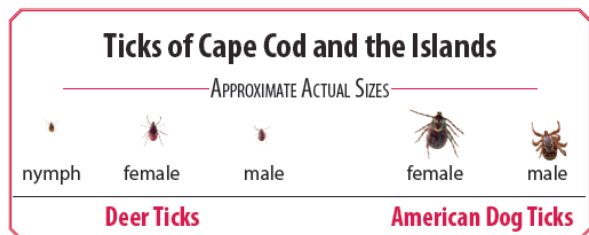


Cyanobacteria growing in Uncle Harvey's Pond.



# Summer/Fall 2017 Speakers

Join us at the **Orleans Yacht Club** for the latest in our series of entertaining and informative talks by **local and regional experts**. Time, **6:30 – 7:30 pm**. Admission is free (donations welcome, cash bar). Doors open 30 minutes before the start of each lecture.



Cape Cod Cooperative Extension

## Coping with Ticks

**Larry Dapsis**

*Entomologist, Cape Cod Cooperative Extension*



Larry will discuss recent research on tick populations and tick-borne diseases, focusing on their impact on the Cape. For more information about this research and how to get a tick tested for Lyme disease, visit [capecodextension.org/ticksinsects](http://capecodextension.org/ticksinsects). (Rescheduled from spring lecture series.)

**Tuesday, September 12, 2017**



## Climate Change and the Ponds of Cape Cod National Seashore

**Sophia Fox, PhD**

*Aquatic Ecologist, Cape Cod National Seashore*

Sophia will present recent research on changes in the fresh-water aquatic environments at the National Seashore in response to atmospheric changes. Her research uses field-collected data to understand water-quality issues and impacts on aquatic plant communities.

**Tuesday, October 10, 2017**



## Wild Encounters

**Stephanie Ellis**

*Executive Director, Wild Care of Cape Cod*

Wild Care is a nonprofit rehabilitation center that aids more than 1,200 animals each year, from injured bald eagles to deer mice. They provide advice for living with our wild neighbors and about what to do when you find animals in distress. Stephanie will give an overview of Wild Care's work.

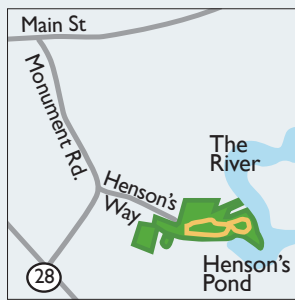
**Tuesday, November 14, 2017**

**Save your space for the lecture!**  
Visit [orleansconservationtrust.org/lectures](http://orleansconservationtrust.org/lectures) and click on the "Pre-register" link



# Spring/Summer 2017 Walks

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



## White's Lane Conservation Area

Short walk through open meadows along The River. Up-close look at the Bob Prescott Turtle Gardens. Led by Mass Audubon Wellfleet Bay Director Bob Prescott.

Meet at 33 White's Lane, Orleans

**Friday, June 2**  
9:00–10:00 am



## Grassy Knoll Conservation Area

1.5-mile walk through an early succession habitat, then along the shores of Nauset Harbor.

Meet at 60 Champlain Road, Orleans

**Saturday, September 9**  
10:00–11:30 am

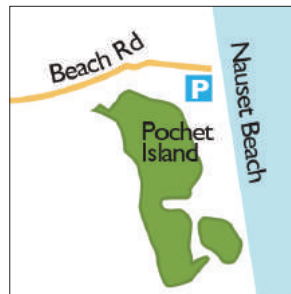


## Kent's Point Conservation Area

Beautiful walk along nearly a mile of shoreline with outstanding bay views.

Meet at the town parking lot at the end of Frost Fish Lane, Orleans.

**Thursday, July 20**  
9:00–10:30 am

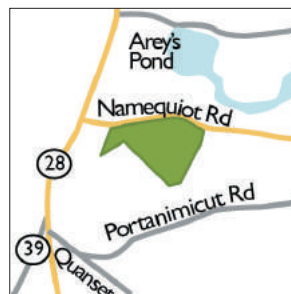


## Hike to Pochet Island

Part of Orleans Pond Coalition's "Celebrate Our Waters" Weekend, this co-sponsored walk is about 5 miles, including strenuous portions over soft sand. Registration required through OPC.

Meet at Nauset Beach, the southern ORV trailhead

**Sunday, September 17**  
9:00 am–1:00 pm



## Kenrick Woods Conservation Area

Walk about 1 mile through large stands of white pine, and see specimens of the very rare American chestnut.

Meet at 35 Namequoit Road, Orleans

**Tuesday, October 17**  
10:00–11:30 am



## Kayak to Little Sipson's Island

Paddle a total of 2 miles to and from Little Sipson's Island Conservation Area—one of our most popular outings, led by Mass Audubon staff. Pack snacks or a small lunch and water. Please bring your own watercraft if possible. Advance registration required.

Meet at Town Landing, end of Quanser Road, South Orleans

**Tuesday, August 29**  
3:00–5:30 pm



## BOB PRESCOTT TURTLE GARDENS

Protecting and nurturing the threatened  
Northern Diamondback Terrapin



For more information or to volunteer, visit [orleansconservationtrust.org/terrapin](http://orleansconservationtrust.org/terrapin)

## Learn about Terrapins with Mr. Turtle

Join our walk at White's Lane Conservation Area, which contains prime nesting habitat for the northern diamondback terrapin turtle. Mass Audubon Wellfleet Bay Director Bob Prescott (aka Mr. Turtle) will describe efforts to restore this land to a grassland ecosystem, and the volunteer monitoring program to help baby terrapins on the site.

Get a preview of each walk on our website, [orleansconservationtrust.org/walks](http://orleansconservationtrust.org/walks)  
Find trail maps here, [orleansconservationtrust.org/trail-maps](http://orleansconservationtrust.org/trail-maps)

# Boxes for Bluebirds and Other Feathered Friends

In the first half of the twentieth century, populations of the much-loved Eastern bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) declined alarmingly due to competition from non-native species.

Bluebird numbers have been rebounding since the late 1960s, thanks in part to the growing use of nesting boxes, which help the birds reproduce successfully.

OCT began installing bluebird boxes on its conservation lands back in 2013. To date, we've located nest boxes on four of our properties as well as on three town properties. Though our partnership with AmeriCorps Cape Cod and Nauset Middle School, OCT also has helped build and install birdboxes at the school.

Eastern bluebirds aren't the only birds to take advantage of these homes. Monitors have discovered nests constructed by tree swallows, house wrens, tufted titmouse, black-capped chickadees, and house sparrow. Each species uses a unique nest design.

Since 2014, we have regularly monitored these boxes from spring through fall. Longtime OCT volunteer (and now office assistant) Pam Schultz has been involved with this work from the beginning,

## Nesting by the Numbers

Volunteer monitors for OCT have documented:

### In 2014:

3 tree swallow hatchlings  
6 black-capped chickadee hatchlings  
4 Eastern bluebird hatchlings  
(All presumed to have successfully fledged.)

### Numbers rose in 2015:

5 tree swallow fledglings  
13 black-capped chickadee fledglings  
6 house wren fledglings  
5 Eastern bluebird fledglings

### And again in 2016:

41 tree swallow fledglings  
18 black-capped chickadee fledglings  
2 tufted titmouse fledglings  
28 house wren fledglings  
6 Eastern bluebird fledglings

and always looks forward to the weekly excursions. "As someone fairly new to birding, I find it rewarding to contribute this data to science, and especially to watch as empty nests are filled with eggs and then hatchlings," she enthuses. Pam is also indirectly responsible for many of the actual boxes, which were built and donated to OCT by her brother-in-law, Bob Neporadny.

The results of our monitoring are summarized in the sidebar. All of OCT's collected data is submitted to NestWatch, a nationwide bird nest monitoring program run through the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (visit [nestwatch.org](http://nestwatch.org)). It's part of a growing citizen science movement, which collects large quantities of data in order to track trends in the natural world. Citizen science is particularly useful in tracking population changes



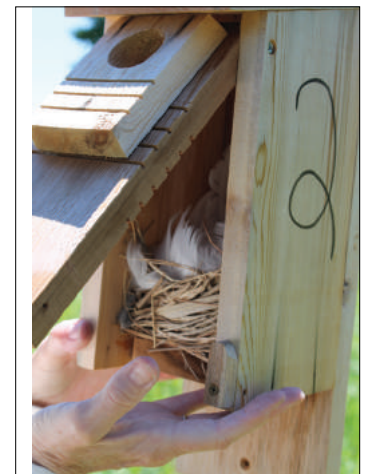
Photo © Judith A. Davis

for threatened or endangered species, and documenting impacts of climate on ecosystems worldwide.

OCT has also installed wood duck boxes on Twinings Pond and Ice House Pond. A wood duck did attempt to nest in the Twinings Pond box in 2015.

We hope to install a bluebird box at OCT's new headquarters this spring, and continue to look for suitable locations on our conservation lands. *When you visit our properties, please do not open bird boxes, as this can cause stress to nesting birds.*

Below: Pam Schultz carefully opens a bluebird box. Right: Last season, nest box 2 housed one baby tree swallow and two eggs.





# Jonathan Moore's Legacy of Land

Cape Cod open space and the Orleans Conservation Trust lost another devoted champion with the passing this March of Jonathan Moore, of Orleans and Weston, MA, at age 84. Jonathan's distinguished career spanned government, education, and international affairs. He held posts in the administrations of several presidents, in federal agencies, and at the State Department. Jonathan also left a legacy of conserved land in Orleans, most notably adding to the Ice House Pond Conservation Area, off Tonset Road.



Among his achievements was helping to foster the legislation that created Cape Cod National Seashore, while serving on the staff of Senator Leverett Saltonstall (R-MA), in the late 1950s. "The politics were complicated, the competing interests intense," he recalled. "The Feds, the Congress, the Commonwealth, and the Lower Cape towns came together, and the Seashore was created."

Growing up in suburban Boston in the 1940s, he and his siblings spent every possible moment at their family place in Orleans. "We beat a path between our cottage on Town Cove and our grandparents' home next to Ice House Pond," he recalled in a 2015 profile by his friend Larry Minear. "We lived the Cape's beauty and bounty firsthand and treasured its magic."

"In those days the Cape was largely rural and he and his pals had the run of it," wrote Minear. "They organized outings through field and forest. They explored Nauset Marsh and the islands in Pleasant Bay. Jonathan served as assistant to the Orleans shellfish constable. Looking back, he [said], 'the Cape encourages getting

as much out of it as possible. How could you not respond?'"

In a 2014 article for OCT's newsletter, Jonathan recalled that his earliest memories included "prying ice out of the straw in the ice house, being frightened by snapping turtles, watching Canadas swish in and away during migration. The pasture next to the house swept up to the wooded hill encircling the back of the pond, and here were the excitement of encounters with native critters and shielded spaces for playing hide-and-go-seek or cops and robbers. We chased fireflies at night and listened for owls. I suppose my understanding of the raw beauty of the place and exquisite privilege of living in such an environment didn't come until later."

Jonathan's parents, Addie and Charley Moore, donated a substantial portion of their land to OCT in the early 1970s, and the Moore children later contributed parcels of wooded land to the Trust. Jonathan and his wife, Katie, also placed a conservation restriction on their remaining property.

Writing for the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Jonathan made an eloquent case for others to share his commitment to natural lands. "If you are one of the persons privileged to live in the Cape Cod National Seashore, or anywhere on our Cape, please think about what you can do," he wrote. "If you have a little extra land around your house, keep some of it in a natural condition. Keep your home in a way that reduces its footprint on the land. Donate some land or conservation restrictions (with tax rewards). Think of selling to a conservation group before offering the land on the market. The collective impact of these many small decisions will influence whether the Cape's integrity is intact as a national resource when we are gone."

The foresight of Jonathan and the Moore family has been instrumental in helping to preserve the character of Orleans, for which we are ever grateful.



# Two Towns, One Great Pond

By Elizabeth Migliore and Diana Landau

Just a short drive uphill from the ragged commercial edge where Orleans and Brewster meet lies one of the Lower Cape's prime freshwater resources, ringed by conservation land shared by both towns. At 32 acres—28 in Orleans and 4 in Brewster—and up to 60 feet deep, Baker's Pond easily surpasses the state's definition of a "great pond" (minimum 10 acres). And to walkers who use its trails, it's great in scenic and recreational values as well.

The Baker's Pond Conservation Area boasts 1,250 feet of pond shoreline. Back in the late 1980s, Orleans's Open Space Committee partnered with Brewster to acquire about 35 acres, largely to protect drinking water in the Gould Pond Well and the groundwater basins of Little Namskaket Marsh and Town Cove. Keeping nitrogen out of the groundwater ultimately benefits the salt waters of Town Cove and Cape Cod Bay.

The trail around the pond starts on Orleans town conservation land, then winds through a patchwork of land owned by the town of Brewster and Brewster Conservation Trust—which now totals more than 100 acres. The main trail was first proposed in 2010 by Mark Robinson of the Compact of Cape Cod Land Trusts; then BCT raised \$150,000 over several years to acquire the connecting land in the west. The present three-mile trail system emerged from years of cooperation among the two towns, the two private land trusts (OCT and BCT), and several private landowners.

The trails vary from wide-open sections to cartways to single-file stretches. Just steps from the parking area you come to a breathtaking overlook of Bakers Pond, where a recently repaired split-rail fence protects the unwary from a steep bank. Continuing on, you pass by a vernal pool and more overlooks, and through stands of pine, oak, and beech. The trail also features a 120-foot climb up Huckleberry Hill, the highest point in Brewster.

Bakers Pond is a classic sand plain pond with an exceptionally wide, sandy shoreline, inundated seasonally when the water table is high. This wide beach supports a robust plant community that includes the rare spatulate-leaved sundew and Plymouth gentian. Along the shoreline, wetland species such as red maple and tupelo thrive. More than 45 species of dragonflies and damselflies are found around sand plains ponds, and painted and snapping turtles are seen



Top: Overlooking Baker's Pond from Orleans. Above left: A portion of the main trail. Right: Wintergreen growing along the trail.

here. Baker's Pond is also used by migrating and wintering waterfowl.

On a recent early spring day, all this high-season activity was missing, but the mosses and groundcover plants were flourishing from the heavy rains. There was evidence of recent work done by BCT: creating new trail connections that skirt private land and placing new markers to guide hikers. Eventually an information kiosk will be installed at the Orleans town parking lot.

John Lamb of BCT has several favorite walks here. "First there's the secluded valley walk on the north side, leading to the vernal pool that is the lowest point, just 20 feet above sea level. It's so peaceful there. Second, the zigzag climb up Huckleberry, especially the isolated beech grove near the top. Third, the range of great views from different heights on either side of the pond—they change so much depending on weather, season, and time of day. Sometimes we see coyotes or turkeys or deer."

The Orleans Pond Coalition and the recently formed Brewster Ponds Coalition also represent voices from both towns with a stake in Baker's Pond. By continuing to preserve this land and expand its constituency, both towns are investing in protecting groundwater resources for generations to come. To quote Lamb, it's "the best of human nature working together to show off the best of the rest of nature!"



# Spring Burn at the Bog

Habitat restoration work continues at Namequoit Bog in South Orleans, after the Orleans Conservation Commission recently granted a three-year extension of the open Order of Conditions. During a chilly week in January, the AmeriCorps Cape Cod FireCorps helped us build piles of dead woody debris within the bog. The six-person crew then returned in March to burn the deadwood.

Removing dead trees opens up the bog for native vegetation to grow more vigorously, and also reduces wildfire risk on the 22-acre property. OCT carefully selects which dead trees are removed, leaving enough snags (standing dead trees) for wildlife habitat. This past summer, for instance, an osprey made its home in a



snag in the middle of the bog, building a large nest that lasted through the winter.

Burning in the bog requires extensive planning, as the crew is essentially working down in a bowl surrounded by dry grasses. The FireCorps crew always wear backpack water



Above and left: AmeriCorps crew members tend the planned burn at Namequoit Bog. Far left: Osprey nest in a cedar snag.

pumps and bring the Tender—a truck that holds 2,000 gallons of water—for extra safety. We also wait for the right weather conditions to burn; obviously avoiding the high winds we've been enduring.

Alex Smith, supervisor of AmeriCorps Cape Cod Fire Corps, explains that “prescribed burning is a critical part of fuel reduction toward achieving the goals of the Barnstable County Wildfire Preparedness Plan.

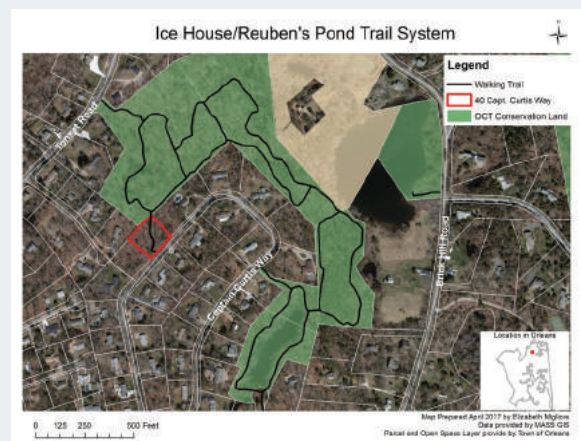
It's also a naturally occurring landscaping method to protect the globally rare flora and fauna found here on the Cape.”

OCT regularly monitors water levels in the bog, which have been relatively stable for the past two years. Also encouraging is the presence of 20 Atlantic white cedar saplings on the property. The bog continues to be a haven for woodpeckers and songbirds.

## Easier Access to Ice House Pond Trail

Thanks to the generosity of the Truesdals, OCT was able to purchase a half-acre property on Captain Curtis Way in East Orleans last year. This parcel abuts existing conservation land, close to the Ice House Pond trail system. This April, with the help of AmeriCorps Cape Cod, we built a new entry

trail that connects the neighborhood to the existing trail. This new, nearly level trail entrance provides easier access for walkers than the original steep stairwell entrance farther down the road. The short walk winds around a vernal pool, and through an oak and pine forest.





Oliver's Way runs through the Cullen woodlands in Nauset Heights.

#### from page 5

residents who have died in the past year are remembered. "Traditions are strong here."

A second fundraising event took place in the Grandview neighborhood last autumn, hosted by Joyce and Steven Davis. This event resulted in a number of contributions, adding to OCT's success in attracting both large and small donations from nearby residents. Also during the fall, OCT worked with the seller to qualify the property for a \$75,000 Conservation Land Tax Credit from the state because the seller agreed to apply this credit against the purchase price. To accommodate the timing of the state tax credit, the seller agreed to extend the closing date to January 2018.

Neighborhood donor Beth Mahaney Caldwell was a member of the Oliver's Way Fundraising Committee. She says of the successful purchase, "The Cullen parcel is such a pretty and serene piece of land with a lovely view

"The Cullen parcel is such a pretty and serene piece of land with a lovely view of the Mill Pond. It was a rare opportunity for preservation and conservation."

of the Mill Pond. It was a rare opportunity for preservation and conservation, and our good neighbors of the Heights and Town responded to the call."

"We are deeply grateful to the generous residents of Nauset Heights and the Grandview and Mill Pond communities—and of course to the Cullen family—for their support of this major acquisition," says Kevin Galligan. "They shared our vision for preserving some of this once-wild part of Orleans in its original state, as some of their ancestors found it." See page 15 for a complete list of donors to the Oliver's Way campaign.

#### Timeline: Preserving the Cullen Lands on Oliver's Way

##### December 1986

John and Elizabeth Cullen donate 11 Oliver's Way (1.85 acres).

##### December 1999

Cullens donate 7 Oliver's Way (1 acre).

**November 2014** On the death of Betty Cullen, title to 16 Oliver's Way (0.90 acres) transfers to OCT.

**July 2015** OCT meets with attorneys for the Elizabeth Cullen Trust to discuss the bequest and a potential below-market purchase of two remaining lots (3 and 10 Oliver's Way).

**November 2015 to June 2016** Terms of the offer of purchase discussed.

##### June 2016

Purchase-and-sale agreement signed; formal fundraising campaign begins.

##### July 2016

OCT Board of Trustees votes to contribute \$100,000 to the fundraising effort.

##### August 2016 to February 2017

Fundraising events in Nauset Heights and Grandview; 1:1 meetings with potential donors.

##### January 2017

Seller agrees to extend closing to January 2018 to accommodate state tax credit.

##### February 2017

Fundraising goal of \$600,000 is met!



# Gifts and Donations *Oliver's Way Campaign*

From July 1, 2016 through April 1, 2017, Orleans Conservation Trust received support from its members and the East Orleans community in the form of donations toward the purchase of two lots on Oliver's Way in the Nauset Heights neighborhood.

(See story on page 4.)

## Gifts

Anonymous (8)  
George Allen  
Angelina Anastas  
Samuel and Elizabeth Ball  
Adam and Katharine Berger  
Elizabeth Blair  
William and Nancy Brotherton  
Janet and John Bush  
Alfred and Christine Butler  
Beth Mahaney Caldwell  
Charles and Susan Carlson  
Ruth and Loring Carlson  
Christopher and Susan Conniff  
The Conroy Family  
Rigney and Robert Cunningham  
Sandra and Jim Davidson  
Steven and Joyce Davis  
Richard and Jane D'Entremont  
Ainslie G. Gage  
Jim Gage and Lynne Johnson Gage  
Kevin Galligan and Vince Ollivier  
Alan and Virginia George  
Paul and Nancy Gossling  
Carolyn Granlund  
Dick and Lucy Hersey  
Douglas and Nancy Hinman  
Jean Holden  
Stanley and Linda Holden  
Star Hopkins  
Stephen A. Hopkins  
Edward L. Hutton Foundation  
James and Allison Jackson  
Alan and Cricket Keener  
John Kelly and Elizabeth Lamalfa  
Kelly  
The Kenna Family  
John and Deborah Laurino  
Neal and Marilyn Leleiko  
Gloria and Victor Leon  
Amy Longworth  
Charles and Mary Longworth  
Tom and Betty Martin  
Catherine McGee  
Conner and Kate McGee  
Eric T. and Susan Miller  
Michael and Ellen Mulrone  
Debbie Munson and  
Andrew Schroeder  
Nancy Munson  
James and Allison Nelson  
Thomas and Patricia O'Connor  
Timothy and Susan O'Connor  
Charles and Pat Parmenter  
Robert Prescott, Jr.  
Ken and Patricia Rowell

James and Barbara Shaughnessy  
Todd and Mary Shipman  
Chad and Susan Small  
Jeffrey Smith  
Stephen and Sarah Spengler  
Gregory and Andrea Thomajan  
William and Cynthia Treene  
Christopher and Emily Trent  
Andrew and Benjye Troob  
Alice Ungethuem  
Jon and Barbara Wigren  
Frank and Nancy Wildt  
Guy and Amy Williamson  
Sheryl K. and Bruce M. Wolf Family  
Foundation  
Richard L. Jacobs and  
Carl Woodbury  
Charlie and Julie Zelle  
Kent Zelle and Jenny Villone  
Scott and Carol Zenke

## Special Gifts

### *In memory of*

**Frances and Phillip Brezina**  
The Kenna Family  
Chad and Susan Small

**Jack and Betty Cullen**  
Anonymous  
Janet and John Bush  
Robert and Rigney Cunningham  
Dick and Lucy Hersey  
Alan and Cricket Keener  
Tom and Betty Martin

**Aunt Dot**  
Ainslie G. Gage

**Reuben Hopkins**  
Stephen Hopkins

**Gainie and Ed Hutton**  
Edward L. Hutton Foundation

**Nettie and Albert Holden**  
Stanley and Linda Holden

**Bob Hopkins**  
Star Hopkins

**Jack Mahaney**  
Beth Mahaney Caldwell

**Bob Munson**  
Debbie Munson and  
Andrew Schroeder

Every gift demonstrates a commitment to conserving land and plays a vital role in helping OCT fulfill its mission—to acquire and hold land in its natural state for conservation purposes forever, for the use and benefit of the whole community.

**Harriet and Gilbert Wicke**  
Douglas and Nancy Hinman

**Ann and Louis Zelle**  
Charlie and Julie Zelle

**E. Robert Zenke**  
Samuel and Elizabeth Ball

### *In honor of*

**Charlie Carlson and Rigney Cunningham**  
Anonymous

**James and Allison Nelson**  
Kent Zelle and Jenny Villone



## Reflecting on a Year of Service

by Derek Brudahl

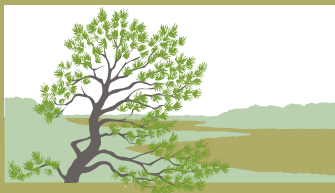
As a member of AmeriCorps Cape Cod, I've been spending a year of service with a split placement between Orleans Conservation Trust and the Orleans Tree Department. At OCT, I have gained experience in the daily operations of a conservation trust, with opportunities to conduct management work on OCT properties and receive training in writing land management plans. I also completed updates to an inventory of OCT properties and conservation restrictions. I look forward to collaborating with Nauset Elementary School and the town during Arbor Day and National Volunteer Week, as well as working with community volunteers to clean up trails on conservation properties. All of this experience will be valuable in developing my career as an environmental scientist.

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