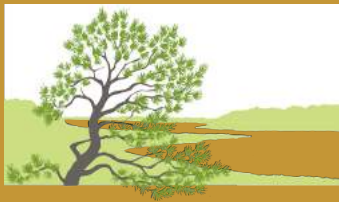


FALL/WINTER 2017-2018



Orleans  
Conservation  
Trust

**New Land for White's Lane?**  
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**Orin Tovrov's Land Ethic**  
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# Seeding Our Future

Giving, page 12



Come hear "Native Stories of Cape Cod" **Talks & Walks**, pages 8-9

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OCT is a recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

## Orleans Conservation Trust

P.O. Box 1078  
East Orleans, MA 02643  
Phone: 508-255-0183

## E-mail

oct@orleansconservationtrust.org

## Website

orleansconservationtrust.org

On the cover: Tufted titmouse, Provincelands, Cape Cod National Seashore. Photo © Hardie Truesdale. G.Love photo by Greg DeLory.

## from the president

Dear OCT members and supporters,

Have you ever wondered, while out walking a trail, whose footsteps came before yours? Or walking on the beach, when the tracks in the sand are so fresh you can follow them? In just one year as your president, I've often thought about the conservation-minded people who came before us and our obligations to our donors—especially when signing important documents, such as the purchase agreements for new acquisitions in Nauset Heights and Tom's Hollow. Other key names appear on deeds and plans gifting land in perpetuity to the Orleans Conservation Trust.

The founders of the Trust, who crafted our origins in 1970, include such family names as Dickinson, Earle, Higgins, Hobbs, Nichols, Peterson, and Tovrov. I think all of them, were they here today, would be proud to see the great accomplishments over the years since then to acquire and hold land in its natural state for conservation. I know you'll enjoy reading in this issue about the history of the Tovrov family and their work with OCT to preserve land in Mill Pond Valley (see *Exploring Our Heritage*).

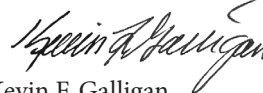
New names join these earlier ones as we continue to pursue important land, such as the hoped-for Braddock purchase: 1.7 acres of wooded upland that adjoins our 16-acre White's Lane Conservation Area with its terrapin gardens (see page 4). For me, a highlight of the summer was the sold-out concert given by G.Love (aka Garrett Dutton) to benefit this campaign. *Love for the Land*, held on August 7, 2017 at the Academy Playhouse, not only helped

OCT raise funds but brought the community together to rock out and dance in support of our natural treasures.

My deepest thanks go to Garrett and his family, the event sponsors and donors, the fundraising committee who worked so hard, and everyone who supported us by attending.

As Treasurer Steve Koehler points out on page 13, we rely increasingly on gifts even more than membership dues to support our work. So we are endlessly grateful to the donors listed in the Giving section of this issue. Our ongoing operation and success are due to each of you. Thanks also to our professional and creative staff: Director Liz Migliore, Land Manager Andrew Bagnara, Office Assistant Pam Schultz, and AmeriCorps Cape Cod member Rob Bennett, who bring a wonderful team spirit to getting the job done every day.

On behalf of the Trustees, I wish Liz all the best in her new position with the Town of Dennis (see next page). We thank her for all her contributions to OCT, and for helping ensure a smooth transition as we begin the search for a new director. I am grateful for the commitment, intellect, and guidance of our trustees, who keep the Trust on mission and responsive to the greater Orleans community.



Kevin F. Galligan  
President



## Check Your Mailbox ... or Just Check the Box!

Don't let our year-end appeal letter get lost amid the junk mail! Or you can save a stamp and deliver your gift with a click; visit [orleansconservation](http://orleansconservationtrust.org/unrestricted-gifts/)

[trust.org/unrestricted-gifts/](http://orleansconservationtrust.org/unrestricted-gifts/). Your gifts are vital to OCT's land-saving work.

**Remember, November 28 is Giving Tuesday!**



# Annual Meeting Welcomes the Compact

In late August, as usual, members of the Trust gathered for our Annual Meeting at the Orleans Yacht Club. This year our ranks were swelled by the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, which held its own annual meeting jointly with ours. The result was an impressive and lively turnout of Cape conservationists and officials, including our state senator, Julian Cyr, and Representative Sarah Peake. We also welcomed as special guests a gaggle of recently hatched Northern diamondback terrapins from the White's Lane Conservation Area!

At the event on August 28, OCT Director Liz Migliore updated members on the spate of recent land acquisitions and our latest challenge: adding new land to White's Lane. After a report from Land Manager Andrew Bagnara, Treasurer Steve Koehler sketched the Trust's financial picture, emphasizing our need to expand fundraising beyond membership dues (see sidebar on page 13). With a quorum in attendance, members voted to approve the slate of trustees put forward, as well as the next Nominating Committee.

As the business portion of the meeting wound down, board president Kevin Galligan recognized Mon Cochran for his years of service as a trustee



and his generosity as a land donor. "We look forward to continuing to collaborate with Mon in his new role as president of Friends of Pleasant Bay," Kevin said. Mon says about his service, "I have loved being an OCT trustee! I'm leaving the board only because providing regional leadership at Friends of Pleasant Bay and the Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative forces me to limit other activities."

When the Compact took the floor, the group recognized R. Dennis (Denny) O'Connell of the Wellfleet Conservation Trust with its Ansel Chaplin Award for Excellence in Open Space Protection on Cape Cod. A keynote speech by Mark Robinson, the Compact's executive director, focused on "the conservation challenges that keep me up at night."



Above: Treasurer Steve Koehler addresses the Annual Meeting. Left: Kevin Galligan and Hal Minis, president of the Brewster Conservation Trust. Below: Departing director Liz Migliore.

## Comings and Goings at the Trust

With regret and gratitude for her service to OCT, we share the news that our director, Liz Migliore, has resigned to take a position in the Natural Resources Department of the Town of Dennis, effective this November. In the past two and a half years, Liz has taken on the many responsibilities of directing the Trust, highlighted by facilitating the move to our new office, negotiating multiple land purchases, and implementing actions derived from a strategic planning process.

Her work also has strongly supported the growth of OCT's mission of habitat protection and education. The board has begun the search for a new director to help lead the Trust into an even more productive future of conserving land for our community. A complete



job description is posted on the OCT website.

When the board of trustees met in September, after the annual meeting, it unanimously voted to name Jamie Demas

**Continued on page 10**

# A New Jewel for Our Crown?

## Promising Start for White's Lane Acquisition

All the lands protected by OCT are special, but many consider the “crown jewel” of our properties to be White's Lane Conservation Area—for its lovely open landscape circling Henson's Cove on The River, its appeal to walkers and birders and kayakers, and its vital habitat for nesting Northern diamondback terrapins.

So when we learned of an opportunity to purchase and preserve a 1.7-acre lot adjoining the current 11 acres of White's Lane, it immediately went to the top of our priority list. OCT has had great success over the past two years in raising funds to acquire valuable properties in Nauset Heights and in South Orleans. Even so, this looked like a big challenge: we have only until this January to raise \$350,000 to complete the purchase.



Above: Henson's Cove on The River, © Hardie Truesdale. Top: Cleaning a baby terrapin, © Don Krohn.

### The Fate of Lot 13

White's Lane Conservation Area lies at the end of Henson's Way, off Monument Road. The preserve comprises four separate gifts dating from the mid- '80s to mid- '90s, and more than 1,000 feet of waterfront wetlands along The River. In 2009, OCT received a state-funded grant to restore the natural flora to a meadow habitat—in tandem with creating terrapin “turtle gardens” (nesting sites) that we manage

together with Mass Audubon. Paths through the native grasses take you around the property. Aside from its year-round attractions, one of our most popular events is the annual release of baby terrapins, hatched earlier and cared for by volunteers to maximize their chance for survival.

The land on offer, a pine-oak woodland known as Lot 13, is surrounded by OCT land, like the “hole” in a doughnut—so obviously it should be protected too (see map). By acquiring this lot, OCT will be able to connect its wooded land to the south with the grasslands on White's Lane, and expand walking trails. Much of the lot falls within a state-recognized Critical Natural Landscape; it provides excellent habitat for mammals, birds, and turtles.

However, the Orleans

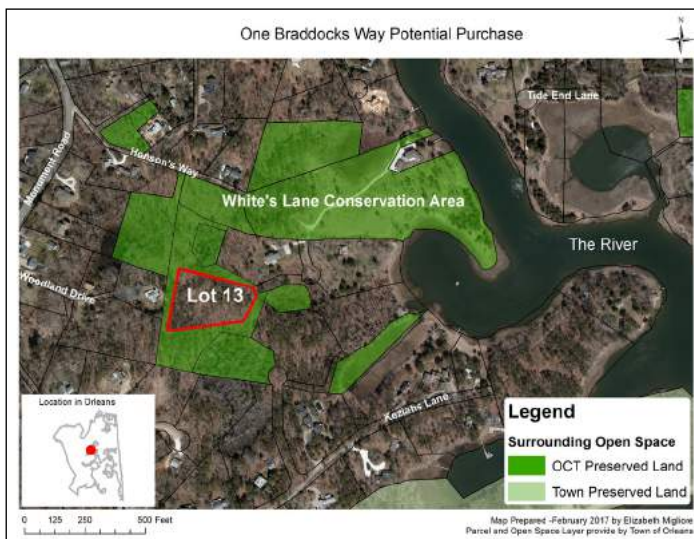


Planning Board has already approved a subdivision plan for Lot 13, and the lot will be sold for development if OCT does not purchase it. Needless to say, constructing a home in the middle of conservation lands would be disastrous. Tree removal and other disturbance will drive wildlife off, disrupt turtle nesting, and destroy the wildlife corridor. Scenic views will be lost. Most likely the new home's septic system and stormwater runoff will impact water quality in The River.

To prevent all this, OCT has been raising funds from residents who live near White's Lane and from other generous donors. The campaign was kicked off by a benefit concert given by well-known recording artist and part-time Orleans resident G. Love (see next page), along with a silent auction and raffle. And we recently learned that this OCT project will receive a state Conservation Partnership Grant.

“With the support received so far, we're cautiously optimistic that we will meet the deadline for raising funds,” says OCT president Kevin Galligan. “But we can't count on the acquisition until the total amount is in hand, and January is just around the corner.”

**Please contribute to help OCT purchase this land!**





# Orleans Shows LOVE for the Land

by Jamie Demas

On August 7, OCT brought the cool to Orleans with *LOVE for the Land*—a sold-out benefit performance by G. Love at the Academy Playhouse. The evening was stormy, threatening to wash out the pre-concert events outdoors. But the rain held off, and the silent auction items stayed dry while patrons enjoyed delectable shrimp cocktail, sliders, and other treats generously donated by the Land Ho!. Meanwhile, the Hog Island beer and David Bowler wine (both also donated) were flowing at the cash bar. Everyone moved inside for the concert just before the rains came.

G. Love (Garrett Dutton) did not disappoint. Back in 1993, when he was just getting started, he had a Monday night residency at the Plough and Stars in Cambridge, and I became a fan. His raw authenticity, originality, and clever songwriting were wildly popular, and G. hasn't lost any of those charms. He impressed the crowd with a mix of old and new songs, playing harmonica on hits like "Back to Boston" from his 2015 release *Love Saves the Day*.

For the second set, G. was joined by the accomplished bassist Jon Evans and drummer Mattias Bossi in a blues set that rocked the Playhouse. By the end of the



Top: G. Love and his local band, Tartar Sauce. Photo by Paul Davis.

show, patrons were dancing in the aisles and on stage.

G. Love was inspired to perform to aid OCT's purchase of new land for White's Lane Conservation Area, near his Orleans home; the event raised over \$15,000 toward that effort. G. told the *Falmouth Enterprise's* Luke Vose that he plans to spend more time in Orleans. "It's a special place, a real gem," he says. And he looks forward to future collaborations with OCT.

Mike McNamara of Hog Island Beer, who attended the concert, said, "Garrett and I both value and understand the importance of protecting the resources we are so fortunate to have. OCT is a critical component in helping preserve Cape Cod for our generation and the ones to come."

## State Awards Conservation Partnership Grant to OCT

Orleans Conservation Trust is one of just eight land trusts statewide to receive Conservation Partnership Grants from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts this year, for projects that will conserve vital natural resources and recreational open space across the state. The Baker-Polito administration announced the grants on October 19. "To protect the Commonwealth's land for future generations, it is vital that we support the great work local land trusts are doing

to conserve land in their communities," said Governor Charlie Baker.

OCT will receive the maximum grant awarded under this program: \$85,000 toward the acquisition of Lot 13 to expand the Trust's White's Lane Conservation Area. As OCT Director Liz Migliore notes, "There's a lot of competition for these grants, so we were happy to be among the recipients. It will really make a difference."

## OCT Returns the Love

We gratefully thank the generous sponsors and donors who helped make the benefit such a success.

### SPONSORS

The Land Ho!  
Hog Island Beer Company  
David Bowler Wines

### SILENT AUCTION DONORS

ABBA Restaurant  
Atlantic White Shark Conservancy  
Marcelle Desrochers Landscaping  
Garden Gate Design  
G. Love  
Lake Farm Gardens  
Local Scoop  
Orleans Cycle  
Sailsco  
Bob Yaps

Special thanks to Hardie Truesdale for donating his framed photography of Nauset Marsh for the raffle, to Michael Hannigan and Philadelphonic Management, to all our members and guests who attended the concert, to OCT staff and volunteers, and above all to Garrett and his family!

# Orin Tovrov's Land Ethic and the Conservation of Mill Pond Valley

by Vince Ollivier

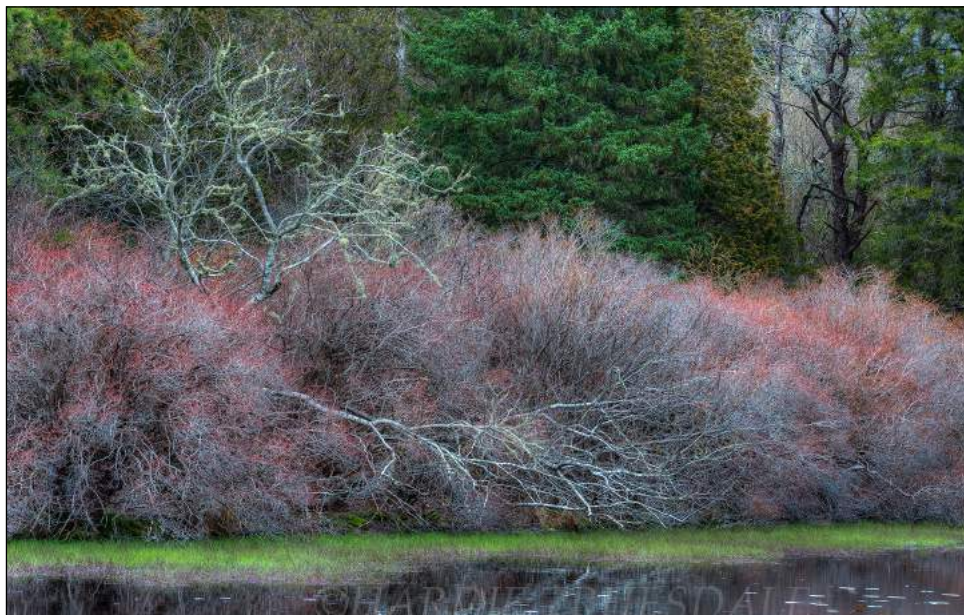
I was ten or eleven when I first explored the woods and marshes around the Mill Pond in East Orleans. At that age, it didn't take much curiosity to follow a wooded road or a footpath off the shoreline. My imagination quickly claimed this domain, with its bridges, trails, and water features, for my own.

That's how I came to know Orin Tovrov, a man I encountered on my explorations. He too followed his curiosity, finding inspiration and perhaps distraction from his busy life on those paths in the woods. Of course, unknown to me at the time, they were his woods!

At supper one night, my folks told me about Mr. Tovrov. He lived up on the hill up from Stumpy's Cove, in a white house at the corner of Mill Pond and Champlain Roads. That was within biking distance, and my school bus turned around at the very place. They said he had a boy and a girl, and his wife rode horses. He was a writer ... radio or TV... oh, my gosh! Horses! TV! Thereafter, anything about Orin and his woods had my attention.

That was in 1961. Many years later, after becoming involved with Orleans Conservation Trust, I discovered some of the background on Mr. Tovrov and the woods and shorelines he entrusted to OCT.

Orin Tovrov was indeed a writer—a newspaperman and then a scriptwriter for radio soap operas of the thirties and forties, among the best at his trade. He was the first president of the Radio Writers Guild, organized broadcasting's first strike, and was a decorated flier in World War II—so



Fall foliage at the Duck Pond, © Hardie Truesdale. Below: Orin Tovrov, undated photo courtesy University of Chicago Photographic Archive, apf1-08322, Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library.

he wasn't afraid of a fight. Born in Boston, he began bringing his family to the Cape for vacations in the 1940s and buying land in East Orleans, very affordable back then.

As his son John Tovrov tells it, "I think Father's interest [in conservation] came from seeing some great areas, and some great views, fall to developers." That experience started early during the Tovrovs' time in Orleans. Orin had bought land along what is now Mill Pond Road, then a dirt lane down to Mill Pond. The winter of 1947 was their first in Orleans and a wet one, turning the rutted dirt byway into a muddy impasse. With a wife and two little children to consider—what if someone had to get to a doctor?—Orin gave the road to the town, which promptly paved it. After that, "all the lots Father did not own were quickly sold and built on," John recalls. "Despite having some good neighbors over



the years, he regretted that decision for the rest of his life."

In the early 1950s, Orin set about purchasing properties around his home from developers of Tonset Heights and Tonset Bluff, and from old families such





as the Freemans, Darlings, and Snows. Another inspiration, John believes, was the valley across Mill Pond Road from their house, once slated for development. “He loved the view, and was horrified by the idea that all the little house lots—Quarter Acre Estates, he called them—would be built on.” That view is now protected within OCT’s Mill Pond Valley Conservation Area. But I’m getting ahead of the story.

### Orin and OCT

Orin realized he couldn’t do it all himself, and he worked long and diligently with the other founders—Bill Payson, Arthur Nichols, Paul Donham, Mal Hobbs, and Malcolm Dickinson, among them—to establish OCT in 1970. He engaged a young lawyer, Peter Dow Campbell, to ensure that the organization was set up to endure; Campbell later served as OCT’s president from 1975 to 1985. Throughout the Trust’s early years, Orin was in the thick of it as a trustee. One motive certainly was his desire to protect his piece of nature. By July 1975, he had placed a Conservation Restriction on 12 acres in Mill Pond Valley—the first time this method was used in Orleans to conserve land in perpetuity.

Orin also put his powers of persuasion to use for conservation. Once the Trust was organized, he approached other large landowners in town, asking them to donate all or some of their undeveloped land to the Trust. “I think it is a testament to the quality of the idea (and maybe his



Land around the Mill Pond in 1953. Photo by Samuel Chamberlain, Orleans Historical Society.

salesmanship) that many did,” says John.

Orin’s first outright gift of land to OCT was in 1977: 1.3 acres of shoreline along Mill Pond Road, down to the Town Landing. (Two adjoining shorefront parcels were protected by a CR placed on their private point by the Martin family in 1995.) Orin’s last gift was the 4.8-acre Duck Pond lot, which lay within the Valley’s trail system, in 1978.

It’s clear that Orin’s children, John and Jessica, learned and respected their father’s conservation ethic. After his passing, they gifted Mill Pond Valley to the Trust in his memory in 1996, ensuring its permanent protection. And in 1999, they sold two lots on the north side of Champlain Road to OCT, raising funds for the purchase in the neighborhood. A generation of neighbors and visitors have enjoyed walking the mile-long Valley trail from Champlain Road to the shores of Mill Pond. Along the way, they enjoy the features that caught my eye as a young explorer: historic stone walls, a vernal pool, and the Duck Pond: a coastal

plain pond and a prime spot for seeing migrating waterfowl.

### Conservation and Community

When you look at a property’s history and lineage from a social perspective, its significance goes far beyond the permanence of a land conservation gift. It speaks to the example set by the land donor. Preserved land creates a known heritage. It fastens open space as a permanent natural fixture in a community. Conserved land and its habitat and natural systems contribute to the well-being of all, inspiring people and feeding their curiosity. The protected land creates a set of ethics around itself—ethics that can extend to all manner of human behavior.

A conservation ethic sets a tone for families and friends over generations, and has a similar effect on the community, I believe. While not every family owns an estate or a pondfront lot to give to conservation, participating in saving land is available to all. Programs like those OCT offers—for learning about a property, using trails, admiring views, and caring for the land—develop conservation ethics and a sense of personal stewardship, which are as valuable as the land itself. A sense of being connected to the land is what matters.

I’ll let John Tovrov have the last word: “The fact that the Trust is strong and healthy today is a good indication of the importance of saving that which so many people came to Orleans for—a place that still has room for undisturbed nature.”

---

**Vince Ollivier** is a lifelong Orleans resident and a small farmer. He was the first manager of Orleans Conservation Trust and served for many years on the town’s Open Space Committee, inventorying and mapping protected and potential conservation lands.

# Winter/Spring 2018 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 free (cash bar); doors open 30 minutes before the start time.



## Conservation in the 21st Century

**Mark Robinson**

*Executive Director, Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts*

Cape Cod has been a “petri dish” for innovation in land use planning and environmental protection, says Mark Robinson, who has served as executive director of the Compact since its founding in 1986. Mark will review the past 30 years of open space protection on the Cape and analyze the complex challenges ahead of us.

**Thursday, January 4, 2018**



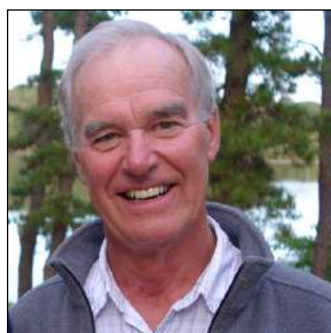
## Stewardship with Native Plants

**Kristin Andres**

*Director of Education & Outreach, Association to Preserve Cape Cod*

Learn how to integrate more native plants into your landscaping by creating pollinator gardens, rain gardens, and vegetated buffers. These are some of the easiest ways to help steward our own piece of Cape Cod. Kristin Andres oversees APCC’s native plant initiative, which promotes ecological land care.

**Thursday, February 1, 2018**



## Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative

**Mon Cochran**

*Interim Director, Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative*

Land trusts like OCT can help mitigate the effects of climate change by protecting forestland, among other things. Mon will talk about the work of the recently formed Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative, and about how individuals and organizations can reduce their carbon footprint.

**Thursday, March 1, 2018**



## Native Stories of Cape Cod

**Todd Morgan Kelley**

*Naturalist educator, Kelley Trailblazer*

**Marcus Hendricks**

*Member of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe*

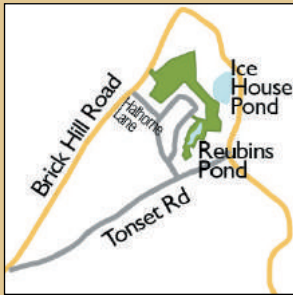
Todd created Kelley Trailblazer, offering personalized day hikes to explore the natural history of Cape Cod; he also serves as park interpreter at Nickerson State Park. Todd and Marcus have partnered to lead educational walks on the native history of Cape Cod. Join us for this slide show presenting their remarkable series of three walks: *The Native Lands of Monomoyick Territory*; *The First People: Before and After First Encounter*; and *Spring Thaw: The First People’s Journey Following the Water*.

**Thursday, April 5, 2018**



# Winter/Spring 2017–2018 Walks

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

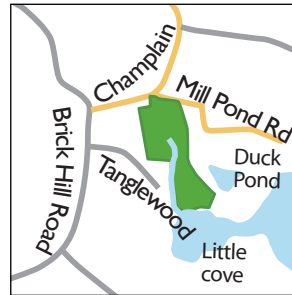


## Ice House/Reuben's Pond Conservation Area

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

Meet at 245 Tonset Road, Orleans

**Sunday, December 3**  
1:30 – 3:30 pm



## Mill Pond Valley Conservation Area

1-mile walk with unique topography, kettle ponds, vernal pools, and much more (see pages 6–7)

Meet at 13 Champlain Road, Orleans

**Tuesday, March 13**  
10:00 – 11:30 am



## Hosea's Swamp

Up-close look at a globally rare Atlantic white cedar swamp

Meet at 70 Quanset Road, South Orleans

**Thursday, January 18**  
10:00 – 11:00 am



## Putnam Farm Conservation Area

Short walk through a former working farm, now being managed as an early-succession field habitat and a new community garden

Meet at 50 Bridge Road, Orleans (behind the courthouse)

**Saturday, April 7**  
9:00 – 10:00 am



## Three Ponds Walk (Meadow Bog, Sarah's Pond, Twinings Pond)

A 2-hour historical walk and talk through more than 80 acres of OCT-owned conservation land. Be prepared for steep slopes, loose stones, and perhaps some bushwhacking.

Meet at 135 Quanset Road, South Orleans

**Saturday, February 10**  
10:00 am – 12:00 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

**Friday, May 4**  
3:00 – 4:30 pm

Photo © Hardie Truesdale



## Help Count the Ducks!

Our December 3 walk around the East Orleans ponds will coincide with the Cape Cod Lake and Pond Waterfowl Survey. Since 1984, the Cape Cod Bird Club has conducted an annual census of waterfowl on more than 300 Cape ponds and lakes during the first weekend in December. Join Bob Prescott and other birders for a fun and informative outing.

Get a preview of each walk on our website, <http://orleansconservationtrust.org/walks/>. And find trail maps here, <http://orleansconservationtrust.org/trail-maps/>

### From page 3

as trustee for the remainder of Mon Cochran's term.

Jamie brings the Trust her two



decades of experience in managing finance, administration, real estate, and operations

for the educational publisher Macmillan Learning, in Boston and New York. Among her avocations is learning about native and invasive plants. We also welcome Jamie as a member of our Communications team

and a newsletter contributor: she reports in this issue on the "Love for the Land" benefit concert (see page 5).

Every year we welcome a new Individual Placement volunteer from AmeriCorps Cape Cod. This October, Rob Bennett of Weston joins their ranks and will work with OCT through next July. Rob is a second-year member of ACC, last year serving under Kalliope Egloff within Barnstable County's Cooperative Extension. In that role he coordinated AmeriCorps' environmental education events at elementary schools throughout the Cape.



AmeriCorps Individual Placement Rob Bennett. Left: Jamie Demas.

Rob, who graduated from St. Lawrence University in upstate New York with a degree in political science, says, "I'm ex-

cited to learn more about land management practices and to spend more time in Orleans!"

## Neighbors Save Vernal Pool for Frogs and Toads

Last spring, we wrote about a prospective acquisition on Tom's Hollow Lane in South Orleans. The 1.4-acre lot was close to being sold for development, but OCT joined with nearby residents to preserve the land, largely because it contains a valuable vernal pool where amphibians breed and turtles are found.

We're delighted to report that the purchase closed in June, thanks to some very generous lead gifts by neighbors. Throughout the spring and summer, the usual parade of frog species were heard singing in the pool: spring peepers, woodfrogs, gray treefrogs, green frogs, and the deep notes of the American bullfrog later in the summer.

This and another Trust-protected vernal pool—on the Hanvey Gift off Great Oak Road—welcomed a rare visitor this summer. On August 18–19, in what had been a dry month, the Cape and Islands were unexpectedly deluged with rain, over 7 inches in some places. On the evening of



August 19, muffled quacking calls were recorded and reported to the state's Natural Heritage & Endangered Species program (NHESP). Bob Prescott (past OCT president and Wellfleet Audubon Director) confirmed that it was the call of the **Eastern spadefoot toad** (*Scaphiopus*

*holbrookii*). Part of a primitive amphibian family and named for the horny digging structure on its hind foot, this threatened species is apparently neither a true toad nor a frog. Like wood frogs, mole salamanders and fairy shrimp, it travels to vernal pools to lay eggs. And it breeds only when stimulated by heavy rainfall—a brief phenomenon that experts describe as an "orgy of

raucous squawks and frantic courtship."

How great is it that OCT's land preservation efforts are helping these protected toads? For more information, visit [www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dfg/nhESP/species-and-conservation/nhfacts/scaphiopus-holbrookii.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dfg/nhESP/species-and-conservation/nhfacts/scaphiopus-holbrookii.pdf)



# Know Your Terrapins

The Trust's White's Lane Conservation Area is truly a special place—and not just to us but to a beloved creature that calls this landscape home: the Northern diamondback terrapin. These salt marsh turtles are classified as “threatened” by the state. They have a fairly healthy presence on Cape Cod, but pressures from recreation and habitat loss make their long-term survival here uncertain.

OCT is doing its part to maximize the survival of baby turtles by creating and managing nesting-habitat “gardens” at White's Lane, in partnership with Mass Audubon's Wellfleet



Bay Sanctuary. Now known as the Bob Prescott Turtle Gardens, these sites are flat, plant-free ovals along the trails and away from roads and houses, with full southern exposure and clear paths to The River. In this ideal habitat—protected from predators, recreation, and development—female terrapins lay eggs in summer and then return to the water. After incubating for at least 70 days, the eggs hatch. “Without these convenient nesting areas,” says field research coordinator Olivia Bourque, “a gravid female is more likely to travel longer



distances on land and nest in locations like a shell driveway or dirt road, increasing her chances of getting hit by a car during the busy summer months on Cape Cod.”

This year, seven nests were protected on the property, and an equal number of “wild nests” were discovered after their occupants had hatched. The result: a record total of 136 healthy terrapin hatchlings!



Above left: “Planting” a baby terrapin in the grass. Photo © Don Krohn. Young naturalists love to meet the tiny terrapins firsthand.

## Mill Pond Valley Makeover

Teams of OCT land stewards and volunteers joined forces with AmeriCorps Cape Cod this summer to improve our Mill Pond Valley Conservation Area. Thanks to their generous donations of time and labor, we repainted the bridge that crosses over the small creek, about halfway down the trail. AmeriCorps members also helped construct and install a “bog bridge” to mitigate flooding on the trail and prevent further erosion from foot traffic. Everyone pitched in to continue the ongoing



removal of invasive plants, and made great strides. We invite members and the public to enjoy the lovely one-mile trail through the valley that leads to shores of beautiful Mill Pond. (And be sure to read about the history of this land's



OCT and AmeriCorps volunteers at work in Mill Pond Valley.

preservation on page 6 of this issue.)

# Gifts and Donations

## Membership Year 2016–2017

July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, 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” recognize a family member, loved one, or friend, sometimes to

mark a special occasion or a milestone or to honor their 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—to preserve land and educate the public in order to sustain our natural resources and the character of our community.

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## Your Gifts Are Key to Our Mission

As is true of most nonprofits, membership dues alone cannot provide enough income to enable OCT to flourish and grow. Dues currently cover less than 20 percent of our operating expenses. We draw on our savings at a sustainable rate of 4 percent annually—again, as many organizations do—but we'll be stronger if this revenue can come from other sources.

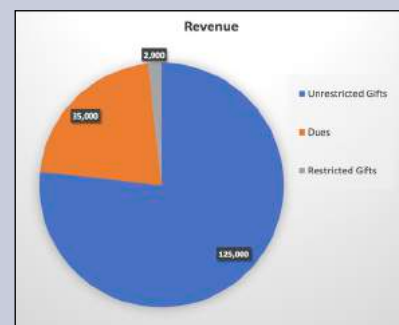
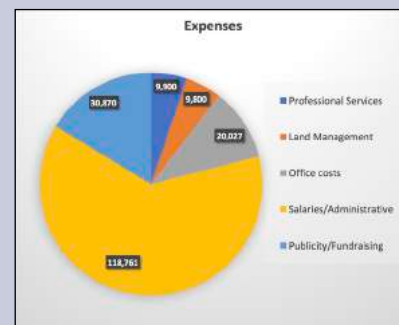
Please make an additional gift in support of OCT's operating costs. Your gift will enable us to:

- Manage the lands we hold for their highest natural values and the benefit of all.

- Develop a professional organization that can act quickly when opportunities arise.
- Build volunteer programs, educate the community, and communicate what we do.

The board has made it a goal to reserve our savings and endowment to acquire and protect land, rather than for operating expenses. We want to fund our operations with unrestricted gifts and donations. Your generosity with these gifts makes all the difference. Please help us take the next steps down this path.

*Steve Koehler, OCT Treasurer*



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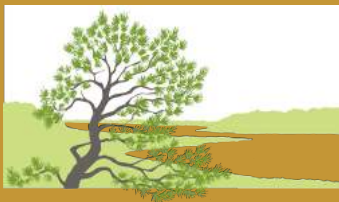
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## Orleans Conservation Trust

***There is only so much land, water, and time.***

To speak with us about making a gift of land, or about how you can benefit from placing a conservation restriction on your land, please contact the OCT office.

**508-255-0183**

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