

ORLEANS
CONSERVATION TRUST



More Land for Portanimicut
Greenbelt

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Visit the community agriculture plots at Putnam Farm **Walks & Talks**, pages 6–7

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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: Spring woodland above Sarah's Pond, adjoining the Cochran Gift, OCT's largest gift of land and among the earliest (1973). Photo © Hardie Truesdale. Inset: American kestrel, photo © Hans Spiecker.

from the president

Dear OCT members and supporters,

"Live in each season as it passes; breathe the air, drink the drink, taste the fruit, and resign yourself to the influence of the earth."

— Henry David Thoreau

Thoreau's passage speaks volumes today, as we learn to resign ourselves *to the influence of the earth* and of natural forces like the COVID-19 pandemic. We look forward hopefully to entering the recovery phase. Orleans Conservation Trust staff and trustees are well, I'm pleased to report, and continue to advance our mission during this stay-home time.

"Living in this season" has given many of us more time outdoors. The 630-plus acres of natural lands protected and managed by OCT offer endless opportunities to "breathe the air," connect with nature, and maintain social distance. In just one April evening, I listened to peepers in the bog, a screech-owl calling, and a coyote chorus—with no competition from jet engines or road noise echoing over Town Cove. In this issue, we note the positive health benefits of interacting with the natural world, and our members have shared such experiences (page 9).

Thanks to the generosity of so many members over the years, this April marked OCT's 50th anniversary as a vital part of life in Orleans. We've postponed most of the celebrating for now, while pausing to commemorate the passion and dedication that drove our founders. April 1970 also

saw the first Earth Day, which led to great progress in protecting our lands, water, and air. I hope and believe that our present challenging times will also lead to positive change.

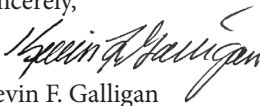
One way that members can support OCT, at a time when short-term giving may be difficult, is by taking part in our newly launched planned-giving initiative. The White Cedar Society (page 11) will provide ways for us to honor folks who may wish to show their love for the land through a bequest to the Trust.

In the year just past, more than 125 donors stepped up to help us preserve a crucial linking property in South Orleans. Director Steve O'Grady reports on that success and OCT's plans to expand the network of natural lands we're calling the "Portanimitic Greenbelt" (see page 4).

Spring is the time when we are planning and planting gardens—which also fosters health and well-being. I know you'll enjoy hearing from "restoration agriculture" expert Rand Burkert about the revival of "Victory Gardens" and the traditions that inform vegetable gardening on Cape Cod.

As always, I end with thanks: first to supporter Joanna Buffington, who recently donated solar panels that are already producing green energy to power the OCT office. I continue to be amazed by our hard-working professional staff, and the care and commitment of our trustees. And I'm more than ever grateful for you, the members and supporters who make all of the Trust's work happen. Stay well, and try to get your daily dose of nature!

Sincerely,


Kevin F. Galligan
President



Bird Boxes Work!

This spring, thanks to support from the Orleans Community Preservation Committee, OCT staff and volunteers installed nearly two dozen new nesting boxes intended for bluebirds, wood ducks, and American kestrels. Wood duck numbers



have risen in recent years, a success story partly due to the provision of nesting boxes throughout our region. The kestrel, though, is declining because of habitat loss and other factors. We hope our new boxes will help turn the tide!

It's OCT's 50th Birthday

The work goes on.
Later we'll celebrate!

In 1970, residents concerned about the accelerating pace of development in our town founded Orleans Conservation Trust as a nonprofit membership organization. Nearly a year ago, staff and trustees began planning events to mark that occasion and OCT's role in helping to shape the future of Orleans as a place where people love to live.

Then a pandemic turned our lives upside-down. A festive anniversary dinner slated for mid-June was soon put on ice—along with other 50th events as well as our regular “walks and talks”: the lectures and guided hikes on OCT properties that members look forward to. Like all of you, we've learned to cope with lockdowns, isolating at home, and concern about family, friends, and front-line workers near or far. For OCT that extends to our family of members: we hope you're all staying healthy and sane!

But OCT's land-saving work carries on. And at a time when folks are eager for good news, you'll find plenty of it in these pages. Director Steve O'Grady and other staff coordinate from home and get out in the field; trustees convene regularly online for board and committee meetings. And, of course, all members and residents are welcome to enjoy OCT lands and trails.

We plan to resume our lectures and guided walks as soon as it's advisable (see pages 6–7). And for now, the OCT Annual Meeting is scheduled as usual on a



Monday in late August—the 24th this year. It's likely that most 50th anniversary events will take place in 2021. But like so much else, these plans must be provisional. To keep posted on developments, check the OCT website, orleansconservationtrust.org, and make sure you've subscribed to receive our emails.

OCT HQ Goes Solar

On a sunny, breezy March 11, a crew from My Generation Energy carefully removed 24 solar panels from a cottage on Samoset Road in Eastham, at the edge of the Herring River marsh. It was one step toward the planned demolition of the cottage—a conscious choice by its

owner to make way for marsh migration linked to climate change. Moreover, the owner, Joanna Buffington, had arranged to donate the lightly used panels to the Orleans Conservation Trust. “We've always intended to put solar on the roof of our building,” says Director Steve O'Grady. “So when Joanna contacted us last year we were thrilled—with the cost savings and to have the usable panels repurposed.”

Later in March, another My Generation crew installed those 24 panels on the roof of OCT headquarters at 203 South Orleans Road. Only four are visible from the street side, with the rest on the east-facing slope to maximize solar energy capture. Normally the company doesn't transfer panels between owners in this way, but wanted to help and also offered a nonprofit discount. The total cost to OCT of \$11,600 has already been offset by \$7,000 in private donations (more are welcome!).

Buffington has donated the land, along with funds for its restoration, to the Eastham Conservation Foundation, which lacks an office of its own and often meets

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Solar panels installed at 203 South Orleans Road. Photo courtesy MyGeneration Energy.

More Land for Portanimicut Greenbelt

by Stephen O'Grady

Ongoing development and rising land prices in Orleans present OCT with a strategic imperative: we must carefully target where we acquire new lands. In the past year, we've found fertile ground in the Portanimicut Road neighborhood of South Orleans, where The Trust is pursuing three special opportunities to preserve valuable open space and connect conserved lands. Among other benefits, these acquisitions create or maintain wildlife corridors; the area is a stronghold for local wildlife such as fishers, foxes, coyotes, and otters.

66 Portanimicut: Signed, Sealed and Delivered

Climaxing our largest fundraising campaign in recent history, OCT in January closed on the purchase of nearly five critically important acres. Doing so preserves a crucial wildlife corridor and secures a terrific public access point to other preserved lands nearby, including the Christian Property and the Quanset Wellfield. An amazingly large group of generous donors made this purchase possible, and the state's Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs provided a \$75,000 grant—one of only seven such grants issued statewide in 2019. In the coming months, OCT will demolish the run-down cottage on the property and explore the creation of a new trail connecting to the Christian Property. Next year we will seek a Community Preservation Act (CPA) grant from the Town for funds to repay a conservation loan and help build a parking area and trailhead on the property. Visit orleansconservationtrust.org/growing-our-lands/ for more detail on this project.



View from 109 Portanimicut over Pleasant Bay.

"Five generations of my family have enjoyed this treasure in South Orleans. It's one of the most unique properties in the area, historically and for its natural beauty, wildlife activity, and location on the marsh extending to Little Pleasant Bay. I hope others will join us in supporting this wonderful purchase."

—Bob Parry, 109 Portanimicut neighbor

109 Portanimicut: "Undeveloping" a Marshside Treasure

Just a quarter mile down the road is a beautiful property that borders a critical saltmarsh called Deacon Rogers Meadow and a tidal creek flowing into Pleasant Bay, with lovely views over the water to Hog Island, Sampson Island, and the barrier beach beyond.

OCT is committed to purchasing this rare gem and "undeveloping" the land: we will remove two old cottages and a garage and restore this sensitive area to a natural state. As protected open space, the land will benefit wildlife and human visitors, serve as a buffer to the saltmarsh and the water quality of Pleasant Bay, and preserve a scenic viewshed that remains much as it was centuries ago. Further, this land adjoins more than 20 acres—most of it undeveloped—that neighbor Rachia Heyelman will leave to OCT in her estate.

The land's assessed value exceeds \$1.5 million, but OCT has a time-limited opportunity to purchase both lots for \$760,000. Fundraising is under way, with \$625,000 left to raise.

This project meets so many criteria for OCT: protecting scenic



The three acquisitions discussed in this article, plus the future Heyelman land bequest.

beauty, water quality, and a valuable saltmarsh ecosystem while preventing redevelopment. Members are welcome to discover this special property for themselves; just look for our sign on the southern side of Portanimicut Road. We think you'll see why we made it a priority and hope you'll join our campaign with a personal gift.

22 Richwood Farm Lane: Next Door to the Quanset Wellfield

Sometimes an opportunity lands on your desk—as happened with yet another property OCT hopes to fold into the Portanimicut Greenbelt. Enclosed with a generous donation toward our 66 Portanimicut campaign was a letter from neighbors Terry and Julie Martin. They owned a vacant property on nearby Richwood Farm Lane and wanted to work with OCT to conserve it. Their 2+ acres, which OCT put under contract in April, abuts the Quanset Wellfield: more than 20 acres of preserved land between Quanset and Portanimicut Roads. The land at 22 Richwood falls largely within the Zone 2 Wellhead Protection Area, indicating its importance in preserving groundwater quality. It contains a small but vibrant



Part of the informal trail over 22 Richwood Farm Lane. Right: Mayflower blooms on the trail.

wetland, loud with spring peepers as I write.

The property offers excellent access to trails in the Quanset Wellfield. In fact, an informal trail over 22 Richwood already exists, which OCT looks forward to formalizing. This would enable visitors to park at 66 Portanimicut and take a short stroll down Richwood Farm Lane to enter the wellfield. We plan to close on the property in January of 2022 (to take advantage of a state tax credit not available until that year). Our thanks to the sellers, who provided a very substantial discount



You can make a contribution

to help expand the Portanimicut Greenbelt on our website (orleansconservationtrust.org/give-to-oct) or by check, made out to Orleans Conservation Trust and mailed to 203 South Orleans Rd., Orleans, MA 02653. Either way, please specify that the funds are for the "109 Portanimicut Purchase" or the "22 Richwood Farm Purchase." Thank you for your support!

on the price, for the opportunity to preserve their treasured woods and wetland in perpetuity.

Sipson Island Update

Among the most exciting conservation projects on the Cape in recent years is the purchase and preservation of Sipson Island in Pleasant Bay. Thanks to the unrelenting efforts of several conservation groups, the 24-acre island—privately owned since Colonial times—will be purchased later this spring by the newly formed Sipson Island Trust (SIT) and a private backer, working closely with the Friends of Pleasant Bay and the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts over a 15-month campaign.

Recognizing the regional significance

of this rare opportunity, OCT embraced the collaborative effort; the Trust and our members contributed nearly \$220,000 toward the project. Under a phased acquisition, fundraising to bring the last two lots under SIT ownership will continue—but the outpouring of support, coming from hundreds of donors all over the region, suggests that the island's protected future is quickly materializing. For more information, visit sipsonisland.org.

Sipson Island from the east,
photo © Hardie Truesdale.



Spring/Summer 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.

All program dates provisional due to pandemic restrictions; please check the OCT website or call to confirm, (508) 255-0183.



50 Years of Saving Land

Mark Robinson

Director, Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts

As the Orleans Conservation Trust celebrates 50 years of protecting land and water, Mark will speak about his 30+ years of land conservation work on the Cape and how Orleans has often led the way.

Monday, August 24

(5:00 pm start, immediately following OCT's Annual Meeting)



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. (See Rand's article on page 8.)

Tuesday, September 1 *(postponed from April 2)*



Coyotes on Cape Cod

Jonathan Way

Author, coyote researcher

Dr. Jonathan Way, a native and resident of Cape Cod, has spent the better part of his professional life working with coyotes in suburban and urban settings around eastern Massachusetts. Dr. Way will discuss his research and provide insight into the lives of these highly adaptable neighbors.

Tuesday, October 20



Sea Level Rise and Cape Cod's Coastal Geology

Graham Giese

Co-founder, Center for Coastal Studies, Director of its Land & Sea Interaction Program

The glacial deposit that Cape Codders live on is under increasing threat from rising seas and intensifying storms. Following up on Rich Delaney's presentation to OCT members in February 2020, Dr. Giese will talk about the stressors we can anticipate with climate change and how the ever-shifting sands of the Cape's dunes and beaches may be affected.

Tuesday, November 10

Spring/Summer 2020 Walks

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



Young/Flint Conservation Area

Come see OCT's habitat restoration efforts at a small grassland property and learn about the importance of such "habitat islands." Then we'll walk through the Grassy Knoll Conservation Area and along the shores of Nauset Harbor.

Meet at 61 Champlain Road, Orleans.

Wednesday, June 24
9:00–10:30 am

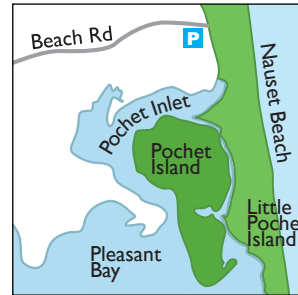


Putnam Farm Conservation Area

Take a short stroll through early successional habitat, learn about OCT's nesting box program, and see the working agricultural plots that honor Putnam Farm's history.

Meet at Putnam Farm, accessed by dirt drive next to County Courthouse on Rock Harbor Road.

Thursday, July 16
10:00–11:30 am

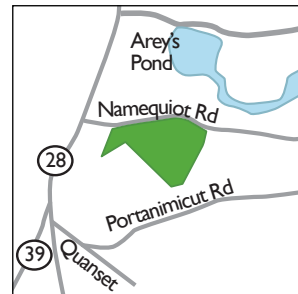


Hike to Pochet Island

Enjoy a guided tour of this privately owned island within the National Seashore. Walk about 5 miles, including strenuous portions over soft sand; view historic homes set amid acres of meadows and woodlands. **Advance registration required**; see website for details.

Meet at Nauset Beach, the southern ORV trailhead.

Sunday, September 20
9:00 am–1:00 pm



John Kenrick Woods Conservation Area

Walk about 1 mile through stands of large white pines in a historic area important to the Monomoyck people; see specimens of the rare American chestnut.

Meet at 35 Namequoit Road.

Saturday, October 17
9:30–11:00 am



Kayak to Little Sipson Island

Paddle a total of about 3 miles to and from Little Sipson Island Conservation Area, with views of the newly preserved "big" Sipson Island. Trip co-led by Mass Audubon staff. Pack water and snacks or a small lunch. Please bring your own watercraft; a few loaners available. **Advance registration required.**

Meet at the Route 28 Town Landing, South Orleans.

August, date TBD
9:00–11:30 am

Explore the Putnam Farm Gardens



The Town of Orleans is managing this land for conservation and recreation, while honoring its historical use for agriculture. We'll check out what's growing in the 50-by-50-foot plots. Organic gardening and restoration agriculture expert Rand Burkert will co-lead the walk and share ways to successfully produce food on the Cape (see page 8).

All dates provisional due to pandemic restrictions; please check the OCT website or call to confirm, (508) 255-0183.

For walks requiring advance registration, go to orleansconservationtrust.org/walks. You can also preview walks and find trail maps on our website.

Seeds of the Future, Wisdom of the Past

by Rand Burkert

Seed *want to grow.*” This is the simplest truth I ever heard from a farmer. And Henry David Thoreau wrote, “I have great faith in a seed. Convince me that you have a seed there, and I am prepared to expect wonders.” As a farmer, I have great faith in anyone willing to touch a seed. Whether you are coaxing food from a small kitchen garden at home or aspiring to sell produce at the Orleans farmers market, you are part of a deep, infallible tradition.

Toward the end of World War II, Americans were encouraged to start Victory Gardens; by 1944, these small plots were producing around 8 million tons of food—nearly half of the fruits and vegetables consumed in the U.S. at that time. Today, in response to the challenge of COVID-19, many Cape Codders are starting food gardens, some for the first time. They will likely face difficulties, such as underground networks of black locust or bittersweet roots (a pickaxe may be helpful) and scarce organic matter; when homes were built, it was common practice to scrape off and market existing topsoil.

Our sandy and often depleted soils can dry out easily. Lacking organic matter, they may not hold nutrients. For Cape farmers of the past, the obvious solution was to



choose crops that could thrive well enough in such soils—the Eastham turnip, asparagus, raspberries, blueberries—or to modify bogs for cranberry production.

To grow a wider range of vegetables, Cape Codders need ingenuity. Raised beds filled with compost are one solution. Potatoes can be grown vertically in 5-gallon buckets with the bottoms cut out, placed on the soil. “Lasagna gardens”—built atop existing soil with layers of cardboard, compost, dead leaves, and other organic matter—can become effective “no-dig” garden plots after a

season or two of rotting down.

More sustainable approaches to soil-building take more patience, as we can learn from studying our Native American agricultural heritage. Cape soils were not always poor. We know from Pilgrim accounts that the wild landscape they had “discovered” was actually a vast garden tended by the Wampanoag and other eastern tribes. Using judicious fire management, they renewed the forest understories and soils. They cleared agricultural sites to grow corn, squash, and beans, then abandoned them sequentially. In these “edge” areas, pio-

Clockwise from top left: Tyler Harwood and purple amaranth (an heirloom grain) at NRHS garden. Agricultural plots at Putnam Farm. Three Sisters: corn, beans, and squash, growing with sunflowers.

neer species would recommence the upward curve of carbon sequestration, diversifying and renewing patches of forest. The corn/squash/beans polyculture was known to some tribes as the “Three Sisters”: three plants well-adapted for sharing the soil, water, and air, each helping the other to grow. It remains a superb example of wise gardening and an excellent use of space in your garden. Try it!

How can we honor and learn from these practices, both scientific and ethical, that once improved and maintained soils on Cape Cod? Each of us in our gardens can rediscover our essential relationship with the elements and with natural organisms: worms and mushroom mycelia underground, the beneficial pollinating insects, and even marauding voles, turkeys, and rabbits. Anything that helps us to see the web of life—even, at times, to struggle and become entangled with it—renews love of the world.

Start by getting to know soil, as if it is a partner, a friend. At first its sandy poverty may depress you a little; it helps to imagine what it can be in a few years. Imagine that someday you'll be able to squeeze it in your hand, and it will adhere in a happy clump; because of the organic matter you have added, it will feel humid and alive. To achieve this, you could deploy a multiplicity of practices. You might make compost or grow a "cover crop" with deep roots: a mixture of legumes sown for a season or two to build humus and nitrogen. To



hold moisture and build worm habitat, you could mulch your soil with available, natural materials: grass clippings, chopped leaves, or wood chips. You will come to love soil so much that you avoid stepping on it; you may abandon your trowel and plant with your bare hands, for the pleasure of touching something rich, dark, and fertile

that you have helped make. This is the farmer's deepest pleasure; you are now a farmer.

Orleans has a wealth of gardens where you can see people at work within nature, such as Sea Call Farm and the Community Garden on Hopkins Lane. In the Nauset Food and Research Garden at the high school, students and their advisors (Gretel Norgeot and I) experiment with many varieties for seed saving. Orleans residents can develop farming skills in garden plots created and managed by the Town of Orleans at Putnam Farm. In the near future, I look forward to a mosaic of food gardens sprouting in former lawns, more land used to grow food, much spreading of knowledge and seeds—and young people at work growing and harvesting nutritious food for everyone.

Rand Burkert is a children's book author, folksinger, organic farming teacher, and parent of two sons. He's a founding member of the Food Forest Initiative of Cape Cod.

Your Daily Dose of Nature

By the time this issue reaches you, we will have been living in pandemic time for just about two months—even if it seems much longer! For many, a silver lining is being able to spend more time outdoors.

"Go play outside!" our mothers used to order. Now we have the science to affirm their wisdom. A growing body of research is proving the benefits of exposure to nature (especially when combined with exercise) for health, reducing stress, and promoting healing. More and more, policymakers, employers, and healthcare providers are considering the human need for nature in how they plan and operate,

"When we were looking to relocate in Orleans, one of our 'must haves' was a walkable neighborhood, preferably near OCT properties. Within a minute from our driveway, we can be on a trail into the woods. Our access to the Three Ponds trails has never been more welcome than during these past weeks of quarantine and social distancing."

— Marcie Truesdale

says a recent report from Yale's School of Forestry & Environmental Studies. One study has even quantified this benefit, finding that people who spent two hours a week in parks or other green spaces—whether in one chunk or several visits—were "substantially more likely to report good health and psychological well-being than those who don't." That works out to just 17 minutes a day!

Anecdotal evidence suggests we're beating that by miles, literally. Here in Orleans, blessed with abundant shorelines, back roads, and trails, folks seem to be out

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Good Boundaries Make Good Neighbors

by Alex Bates

If you've walked some of the Orleans Conservation Trust trails recently, you may have come across a triangular yellow "Property Boundary" sign attached to a wooden post. OCT has developed a long-term boundary marking project with the assistance of AmeriCorps Cape Cod member Kendall Pargot. Marking our boundaries ensures that OCT can properly steward the land we're entrusted with protecting.



Equipped with GPS units, a magnetic locator, and various hand and power tools, we use a survey plan and maps to locate property bounds. Bounds can exist as drill holes in rocks, concrete markers, or rebar pins. Once we locate a bound, we install either a wooden post or PVC pipe with OCT identification. Using the GPS unit, we collect coordinates and enter the data into our database, where it's used to create boundary maps.

Twinings Pond Boundary Markers



A well-established and readily visible property line is essential in monitoring the Trust's properties. With boundary maps as a guide, staff and volunteers can walk a property line and check for encroachment. Although encroachment is often an honest mistake, it's a significant issue land trusts face. With many miles of property lines and several hundred neighbors, OCT lands present numerous opportunities for encroachment, and the effects can add up.

Encroachment can take different forms. Most commonly we encounter the dumping of brush and yard waste by homeowners or landscapers. Dumping may not seem like a big deal, but it can smother valuable habitat and promote the spread of aggressive invasive plant species such as oriental bittersweet and Japanese knotweed. In more severe cases, lawns, structures (e.g., sheds and fences), and stored lumber or debris may encroach on natural lands. To reestablish the property line with an



Kendall Pargot at work on a boundary marking project.

abutter, it is crucial that OCT knows the correct location of property bounds.

So far, OCT has installed boundary markers at our Woods Cove, Ice House and Reuben's Pond, and Twinings Pond Conservation Areas. The long-term goal is to accurately mark all of OCT's property boundaries.

DAILY DOSE, *continued from page 9*

from dawn to dusk, walking our dogs, our spouses, ourselves. Or meeting up at a safe social distance.

An informal poll of OCT members confirmed how much we love our local open spaces, now more than ever. A sampling: "Daily long walks help me mentally, spiritually, and physically. I can traverse streets, lanes, paths, woodlands, saltwater and freshwater shores, while listening to birds migrating from faraway places." (Kris Nasinnyk) "Living in South Orleans, we get to easily experience the open space under conservation . . . changing from season to season." (Steven Suchecki) "It's the views I love as I explore the conservation lands around my home—a pine needle path that beckons or the expanse of light that appears as I reach a pond's edge." (Fran McClellenn) "Today, while the good weather held, I saw more people on the Twining Pond trails than I normally see even in summer. Everyone understood to stay safe distances apart. And I notice more on these familiar trails, thanks to a sense of unhurried time during this big pause from (the old) normal." (Ann Fleck-Henderson)

Now and always, it's OCT's work and pleasure to provide places for people to get outdoors. So keep on getting your daily dose of nature!

Continued from page 3

at OCT headquarters. She says, “This is all part of an evolving big picture for me. When these marshside dwellings were built around 1960—even when I bought mine in 1993—we didn’t know much about the critical role of wetlands in sustaining local ecosystems and sequestering carbon. I hope others will take advantage of chances to ‘undevelop’ these lands if they can.” She adds, “I’m trying to recycle as much as possible

from the house, so I’m happy that OCT can benefit from the solar panels.”

Meet OCT’s Summer Intern

Regulations permitting,

Cameron Bonnell will serve as OCT’s Land Stewardship Intern this summer, working on a wide array of duties: clearing trails, removing invasive species to restore habitat, marking boundaries, and



Cameron Bonnell, OCT’s 2020 new Land Stewardship Intern.

more, as well as helping in the office. OCT will adhere to all federal, state, and local directives pertaining to his



GREG DELORY PHOTO

Solar panels coming off the roof of Joanna Buffington’s Eastham cottage.

engagement. Cameron, a rising senior at UMass Amherst, spent childhood summers on the Cape and hopes to pursue a career in environmental law. “I look forward to improving my understanding of nonprofit

conservation under the guidance of the Trust,” says Cam. “I could not be more proud to join such a storied initiative in their enduring efforts to safeguard our land for future generations.”

OCT Launches White Cedar Society

Helping Members Plan for the Future

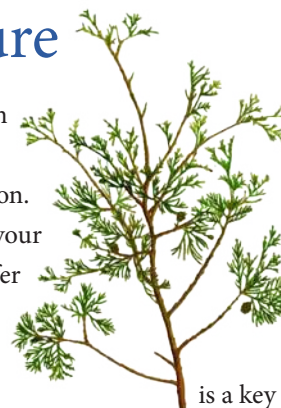
As we reported some issues back, we are occasionally surprised to learn that someone has remembered OCT in their estate. This leaves us with mixed feelings: we’re happy to be honored this way, of course, yet sad that we can’t thank the giver. For this and other reasons we decided, in OCT’s 50th year, to create a new initiative that will better enable us to keep in touch with and honor those who may wish to show their love of the land with a bequest.

In the months to come, members will learn more about our legacy program, the White Cedar Society. We’ll convey more about why it’s so helpful for a nonprofit like the Trust to know in advance about a planned bequest . . . about why OCT is a sound and trustworthy beneficiary . . .

about the various forms such a gift can take . . . and about the simple steps you can take to set your plans in motion. Including, of course, consulting with your attorney or estate planner. We may offer opportunities to hear an accredited expert explain the benefits to your family and your estate of these gifts.

To a land trust like OCT, bequests are deeply meaningful. Not only does your financial contribution help us safeguard and restore more land and provide education programs, but it also signifies a relationship built over a lifetime: between an individual who places a high value on natural land and “the Trust,” as stewards of the land. That relationship lies at the core of all land preservation work.

Why “White Cedar”? The Atlantic



white cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*) is a tree with strong local significance. Native to the Atlantic coast, this long-lived species is a key food source for deer, songbirds, and the threatened

Hessel’s hairstreak butterfly. Its wood is of great value, straight-growing and rot-resistant, preferred by the region’s Native Americans for their wetus and longhouses, and for building canoes. It was one of the first exports from the colonies. Coastal development has made white cedars rarer, though they can be found in several kettle holes and wetlands in Orleans. The big old ones have a venerable dignity.

Orleans Conservation Trust

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Remember to renew!

Annual membership dues are more important to OCT than ever right now. They support our land-saving work and ensure that you, and all who live in Orleans, continue to benefit from it. Please help the Trust, yourself, and your neighbors by renewing your membership when you receive our spring mailing. And mark your calendar (provisionally) for the OCT Annual Meeting on Monday, August 24!

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