

The Paysons of Pochet Island page 4

Bugged by Light Pollution page 8

First to Volunteer page 9

Learning for All Ages page 10





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On the cover: Aerial view of Pochet Island and surrounding marshlands, flanked by the upper reaches of Pleasant Bay (left) and Nauset Beach and the Atlantic Ocean (right). Inset: Greater yellowlegs, Nauset Marsh. Both photos © Hardie Truesdale

from the executive director

Dear members and supporters,

Recently I was interviewed for a newspaper article on Orleans open space, as the Town updates its Open Space and Recreation Plan. Reviewing OCT's land protection data from recent years, I was struck by how much you've enabled us to accomplish: 15 completed projects totaling 73 acres over the seven-year term of the town plan.

All these projects represent deeply meaningful relationships with individuals and families who entrust OCT with their land or financial support. And no family has done more for land conservation in Orleans than the Paysons of Pochet Island (see page 4). I hope that the multigenerational land conservation ethic nurtured by their family inspires you, as it does me.

In this issue you'll also read about OCT's three latest land purchases. Two of them exemplify neighbors coming together to protect small parcels that hold local significance and help preserve a neighborhood's character. The third, on Cedar Pond, has town-wide significance, and Orleans voters will likely have a chance to support that effort at Town Meeting next May.

On page 3, meet OCT's new Communications & Programs Coordinator, Ashley Martin. As our landholdings grow and diversify, so too should our educational offerings and our membership. Ashley is on the case. She'll also help keep you apprised of the expanded scope of our education work (page 10). For an introduction to our newest trustees, see page 15. And I want to take a moment to acknowledge the

important work of two trustees who stepped off the board this fall. Bob Granger made invaluable contributions to OCT's nascent education outreach



to the schools and to our HR procedures. Judy Scanlon, our longest-serving trustee at 25 years on the board, helped greatly to inform our land management work, not to mention growing plants every year for our plant sale.

As always, this fall issue highlights our supporters: the hundreds of you who invest in OCT's mission and the future of our community with your incredibly generous financial contributions. We're wholly dependent on people like you—lovers of Orleans landscapes who believe in a future that includes thriving ecosystems for people and wildlife alike. Thank you for being part of OCT's success story!

Sincerely,

Stephen O'Grady

Stephen O'Grady **Executive Director**

SAVING LAND A Great Use for Your RMD

Did you know that a donation to OCT can fulfill your Required Minimum Distribution from a retirement account? Supporters aged 73 or older can meet their RMD by making a gift directly to OCT, at the same time lowering their taxable income. Please be sure to check your mail for our appeal letter and send your year-end gift, in whatever form you choose. This is the most important time of year to support our land-saving work and programs for the Orleans community. Thank you!

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The Trust in Brief

y tradition, on the last Monday in August (the 27th), scores of OCT members and supporters gathered at the Orleans Yacht Club for our Annual Meeting. After a warm welcome from President Kevin Galligan and a brisk financial report from Treasurer Deb Reuman, Executive Director Steve O'Grady walked attendees through an eventful year, touching on recent land acquisitions, our new ADA trail at Window on the Bay, and ongoing work with the Orleans schools. Director of Land Stewardship Tom Keras described a state-funded eco-restoration project for Namequoit Bog, currently in planning, and other land stewardship highlights. Trustees (see page 15) and officers were elected. Our keynote speaker was Eamon Caffrey, Mass Audubon's Turtle Research Coordinator; Eamon outlined the life cycle of the Northern diamondback terrapin and brought us up to date on the long-running partnership between OCT and Mass Audubon to foster this threatened species at our Henson's Cove Conservation Area.



Eamon Caffrey uses a terrapin shell as a prop during his talk.



Abby (right) assists naturalist Andrea Higgins and one of our young families on a Preschool Explorers outing at Paw Wah Conservation Area last spring.

Comings and Goings at OCT

This summer, the Trust said farewell to Abby Hipp, OCT's Office Manager & Outreach Coordinator since 2022. "Abby greatly professionalized our communications, expanded and improved our educational programs, and made OCT's office operations more efficient," notes Steve O'Grady. We will miss Abby's gift for storytelling and positive energy in the office and wish her happy trails on her next adventure!

This fall, Ashley Martin joined the OCT team as our new Communications & Programs Coordinator.



Ashley brings experience working in education, resource management, ocean science, and community engagement. A formative experience was garnering support for a women's and girls' health project in the rural village of Mshangai, Tanzania, as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer. "Work and life have taken me around the world, but I always feel most grounded when I'm part of the community I live in, working on issues that affect us all," says Ashley, "I feel incredibly lucky to be here in Orleans, helping to preserve the open spaces that make this place so special for future generations."

Also in October, OCT welcomed Ameri-Corps Cape Cod member Miranda Johnston, A Massachusetts native, Miranda recently



graduated from Drexel University with a major in Environmental Science and a minor in Law. Of her upcoming year of service with OCT, Miranda says, "I'm excited to learn what it really means to be a land steward. I love trees—I'm interested in learning how to take care of the land from the perspective of the trees." Something tells us that Miranda will feel right at home on OCT's trails. Miranda and her AmeriCorps cohort were sworn in for 11 months of service at the Barnstable County Courthouse in October.

Tour a Trail on Video

Ever wonder if an OCT trail is appropriate for your young grandchildren? Maybe you'd like to know some history about a favorite trail? OCT has released 3-to-5-minute "video tours" highlighting three of our popular trails: Ice House/Reuben's Pond, Mill Pond Valley (shown in photo), and Twinings Pond. Each



contains an overview of trail accessibility and great footage of the flora, fauna, and views you can experience. Access videos at "Explore Our Lands" on OCT's website and please provide feedback, as we plan to create more of them.

Island Stewards

The Payson Legacy



Pochet Island in the early 20th century, showing open fields, one of the waterfowl ponds, and the "New House."

From time to time in this newsletter we profile a family whose devotion to and care for their land has made a real difference for conservation in Orleans. For this story, OCT board member Drusy Henson interviewed members of the Payson clan and walked Pochet Island with them—not a hardship! We thank the Paysons for generously sharing their history with OCT, as well as their trove of historical photos, a few of which appear here. Not to mention sharing with us all the islands they have stewarded for nearly one-and-a-half centuries.

A nyone who has been around Orleans for a while has probably heard the name Payson. Even if not, you surely know of Pochet, Hog, or Sampson Islands. These beautiful, marsh-ringed lands in Little Pleasant Bay remain largely pristine, thanks to their long-term stewardship by the Payson family. Back in 1885, Gilbert Russell Payson and his wife Althea Train (known as "GRP" and



The old road to Pochet Island from Pochet Neck.



The "Old House," a Civil War–era gun club that was floated over from South Orleans. © Hardie Truesdale

"Ba") came upon 300-plus acres for sale in Orleans, encompassing lands now called Pochet and Little Pochet Island, Barley Neck Point, Sampson Island, and Hog Island. In search of a place to hunt birds and generally have some shoreside fun, GRP snapped them all up for a grand total of \$1,511 (about \$50,000 in today's money).

Of course, human habitation of these lands goes back much further. Artifacts suggest that Indigenous people used the Pleasant Bay estuary for as long as 12,000 years before Europeans arrived—thanks largely to its rich shellfish resources. When most of what became Orleans was purchased by 17th-century colonists from the Monomoyick and Nauset sachemships (part of the greater Wampanoag Nation), Pochet Island was reserved for Native use for some years.

Since the late 19th century, the descendants of those first Paysons have managed to preserve, and continue to enjoy, almost all the land originally purchased by GRP—an enduring investment in conservation.

How Did They Do It? And Why?

It is easiest to start with the "why." If you have ever walked around Pochet Island (pronounced *Pochey*, from the Wampanoag word *pochee*, meaning "dividing place" between the Nauset and Monomoyick tribes), you will start to understand. Much of this beautiful place remains natural and undeveloped. You can see remnants of stone walls used to divide farm parcels in colonial days. On the island are five summer "camps," used by family members during the summer but vacated in the winter (no plumbing or insulation, woodstove heat and cooking, and solar power at best). They include "Old House," a Civil War–era gun club floated over from South Orleans sometime before 1885; "New House," built shortly after GRP's acquisition (Ba was not going to live in an old duck hunting house all summer); and "Rough House," named for the rambunctious kids sent there to do just that.

exploring our heritage

These days you might encounter Paysons walking the land, swimming in the creek, rowing or sailing on the bay, perhaps even a cousin riding her horse. They have fond memories of childhoods filled with family gatherings (the fabled clambake has happened every summer for over 100 years), racing along the endless pathways, building forts in

the pine and cedar forests, or swimming from the beach. In short, idyllic summers in a glorious spot.

The "how" is a longer tale, involving lots of hard work and difficult decisions made by the extended family. In the early days, supplies were brought over to Pochet by Asa Mayo (of Mayo's Duck Farm) via a cart path from Pochet Neck, or rowed over from Barley Neck. Today, supplies still arrive by rowboat from Barley Neck, or by car via the Outer Beach ORV trail.

When the land was purchased, it was virtually treeless due to lumbering by previous owners. The family conducted burns on large portions of Pochet to keep it clear and to support bird hunting. After burning ended in 1915, the land transitioned over time into thick forests, and invasive plant species grew rampant. Since then, generations of Paysons have maintained the island's myriad pathways ("We were told as kids to never go anywhere without a pair of clippers," says Anne Payson) and worked to restore valuable grasslands. A 2006 grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, along with family funds and help from AmeriCorps Cape Cod volunteers, kickstarted a project to restore some of the island's



Family members pitch in to maintain fields and paths on Pochet Island.



"Rough House," one of five rustic camps on the island still used by the Paysons.

high-quality sandplain grassland habitat. The family also has invested in equipment to mow the pathways and restored fields. "We tried hiring someone to do the work, but it was very expensive," says Tim Payson. These days Paysons of all ages help with the work.

Enter the National Seashore

The creation of the Cape Cod National Seashore in 1961 was a watershed event for the Paysons and their lands. The Department of the Interior originally sought ownership of all of Pochet, Little Pochet, Hog, and Sampson Islands due to their proximity to the beach. Believing they were the best stewards of the land, the family negotiated several compromise arrangements. In 1962, they gifted Little Pochet (the area closest to the beach) to the Town of Orleans, which will own it for as long as Orleans owns Nauset Beach. The family kept ownership of the rest, but in 1975 the Pochet Island Trust (made up of Payson family members) placed a permanent federal conservation restriction over Hog,

continued on page 6



Aerial shows New House and some of the much-needed grassland habitat the family has worked to restore. © Hardie Truesdale

Protecting Land—A Winning Investment Strategy

Where should you put your treasure? As any investor knows, there are no sure things if the looked-for return is monetary. But investing in what you love is another matter. All contributions to OCT pay off unerringly in fulfilling the Trust's mission to protect and restore natural lands—for people and wildlife, the health of our waters, and the character of our community. Your investment in OCT ensures that these returns will continue to be enjoyed by generations to come.



Depending on your interests, capacity, and retirement or tax strategy, there are several options. Gifts can be unrestricted or "restricted"—that is, directed to a specific focus such as land acquisition or education. They may be made

- in the current year in response to our appeals,
- to support our Evergreen Fund, which sustains the Trust's work through a growing endowment, or
- as a bequest when you become a member of the OCT White Cedar Society (see page 13).

Gifts of land are priceless. Supporters may donate land for conservation or real estate that OCT may resell to further our mission. A newer option, suggested by members, is to sponsor/underwrite an event or an educational program.

Any of these ways of giving are welcome:

- Mail a check to Orleans Conservation Trust, 203 S. Orleans Road, Orleans, MA 02653.
- Donate by credit card via the OCT website.
- Supporters with a donor advised fund (DAF) can recommend a contribution to the Trust.
- Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)—Those 70.5 or older may contribute from a retirement account; such donations also count toward Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) for those 73 or older.
- Donations of appreciated stocks or other securities.
- Designate OCT as a beneficiary of a life insurance or retirement plan.

You'll find more information on OCT's website, the "Ways to Give to OCT" page. Or contact Executive Director Steve O'Grady, stephen.ogrady@orleansconservationtrust.org.

continued from page 5

Sampson, and the north and south ends of Pochet (excluding about 53 acres in the middle of the island). Pochet is also protected under Chapter 61B, a subset of Massachusetts' Chapter 61 law that provides for recreational land; thus the public is welcome to walk the pathways (except for an acre around each house). Finally, more than 11 acres have been donated to Orleans Conservation Trust, and another 16 are under Chapter 61 protection.

Today, the biggest challenge facing the family (aside from the complicated mowing schedule on Pochet) is "keeping the next generation attached to the land," says Payson descendant Lynn O'Connell. "We all want to see it stay the way it is." Younger family members can take inspiration from hundreds of family photos and thousands of historic documents outlining the Payson family history, but above all from the personal example of land conservation set by their forebears. Anyone fortunate enough to



Walkers now access Pochet Island from the outer beach via Pochet Bridge.

visit Pochet or the other islands on a sparkling late-summer day may be similarly inspired.

The best way to visit Pochet Island is on the annual walk led by OCT during Orleans Pond Coalition's Celebrate Our Waters weekend each September.

Conserving Pond Shores and a Neighborhood Habitat



Protecting the ecologically rich Cedar Pond shoreline will also offer public access to the pond for the first time. Photo © Hardie Truesdale

Cedar Pond Shore

OCT was thrilled to learn that we have been awarded a \$260,000 Massachusetts Conservation Partnership Grant to support the protection of 3.78 acres along Cedar Pond. This award gives a significant boost to our \$585,000 goal to purchase and conserve this ecologically rich shoreline—home to mature oaks, tupelo stands, and roosting egrets—while offering the first formal public access to Cedar Pond. The project will help protect key habitats that sustain both Cedar Pond and the Rock Harbor Creek system downstream.

The property will also strengthen a larger network of conserved wetlands, linking to 12 acres of adjacent protected land, including an Atlantic white cedar-red maple swamp. "We're especially excited about this space's proximity to downtown Orleans, the Cape Cod Rail Trail, and nearby affordable housing," says OCT Executive Director Steve O'Grady. "It's an ideal location to improve equitable access to nature and recreation in Orleans." OCT hopes to partner with the Town of Orleans through Community Preservation Act funding and is continuing private fundraising efforts to complete the purchase.

Donations can be mailed to OCT at 203 South Orleans Rd, Orleans, or made online at orleansconservationtrust.org.

Shoal Pond Shore

In early July, thanks to the generosity of neighbors and OCT supporters, the Trust secured a 1.1-acre wooded parcel at 1 Boulder Lane on Shoal Pond in South Orleans. More than 40 households supported the acquisition, raising nearly \$940,000 in just three months to close the deal and prevent development of this highly coveted site. OCT's acquisition effort was aided by The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, which temporarily took title to the property, allowing OCT the time needed to raise funds for its permanent protection.

The land includes some 160 feet of shoreline and nearly 400 feet of frontage along Lake Drive and Boulder Lane. This acquisition protects the last undeveloped lot on Shoal Pond and safeguards a vital wildlife corridor between Shoal and adjacent Twinings Pond. Preventing development here protects water quality in both Shoal Pond and Pleasant Bay while preserving a scenic viewshed and wildlife habitat for generations to come.

Mayflower Point Habitat

When 19 Pershing Lane in Mayflower Point came on the market in late June, OCT took little notice. The 1.4-acre lot, though nicely forested with a healthy native understory, does not abut other protected open space. But in the weeks that followed, several neighbors encouraged the Trust to become involved and offered support for an OCT purchase. An anonymous lead donor emerged, and OCT engaged a few nearby landowners to determine whether an opportunity exists to expand conservation holdings in the area. Satisfied that it does, the Trust launched a campaign to protect 19 Pershing Lane. Less than three months later, neighbors and OCT supporters had contributed \$985,000 for the purchase, and the lead donor added funding to ensure that the property will be cared for into the future.



Neighbors helped OCT protect Shoal Pond in South Orleans; Pleasant Bay in the distance. Photo © Hardie Truesdale

Bugged by Light Pollution



Illustration © Immy Smith. Source: "Why Flying Insects Gather at Artificial Light," by Samuel T. Fabian et al., in *Nature Communications*, Vol. 15; January 2024

po you see as many fireflies and moths as you did when you were a kid? Do flowers get pollinated only during the daytime? Do the night sky and the faraway planets and stars seem harder to discern these days? If you wonder about such things, Dr. Avalon Owens has

answers. A researcher with the Rowland Institute at Harvard and OCT's featured speaker in September, she shared her expertise on how artificial lighting impacts insects that are active in the evening.

Dr. Owens wants us to understand that how we light our homes, businesses, and communities affects the insects we rely on to pollinate plants, break down nutrients in soil, and serve as food for birds and other animals. Light pollution is a serious and overlooked cause of insect loss, and given that 60 percent of plant pollination occurs in the evening, we should be concerned. Insects use natural light patterns of sunset and moonrise to direct their activities, and those are disrupted by high levels of artificial light. Moths flying around a bright light bulb may be fascinating to watch, but it is not normal behavior—rather, it's a kind of "fatal attraction" reaction by the disoriented insect, impacting

their physiology, behavior, and fitness. These moths also become food for nearby insectivores.

Dr. Owens promotes the idea of living with less artificial light at night, particularly when it's not related to safety or nighttime recreation. Lighting for aesthetic reasons—illuminated home exteriors and landscapes, well-lit



Fireflies, such as this common eastern firefly (*Photinus pyralis*), flash with distinctive patterns to attract a mate of the right species. Photo: Terry Priest, Flickr, Attribution-ShareAlike 2.0 Generic

empty office buildings, or parking lots ablaze when the business is closed—not only wastes energy but also harms insects. She suggests we use artificial lighting only as needed to move around safely, but not leave the garage light on all evening out of habit. If you need light regularly, consider motion-activated lighting that comes on briefly when it senses something in the vicinity—like your car pulling into the drive or someone approaching your house. Also consider the type of fixture you install. Is it shielded and aimed just at the walkway or house entrance, or does it illuminate a much larger area than necessary and perhaps shed light towards the sky? The type of light source matters too: The harsh blue-white light provided by newer LED lighting is economical and brighter than ever before, but it's very harmful to night-traveling insects. Research suggests that widely available lower-intensity lighting on the spectrum of reds and ambers has less impact.

Many causes of insect decline are challenging for homeowners to address. But artificial light at night, says Dr. Owens, "is unique among anthropogenic habitat disturbances in that it is fairly easy to ameliorate." Please try to lose lights that shine through the night on your house or a rarely used walkway, and let the evening insects get to work.

Learn more online about the worldwide Dark Skies Initiative at the National Park Service website, and about insects and light pollution at Avalon Owens's website (owenslab.org) and the Xerces Society.



Suggestions for reducing artificial night light from the International Dark Sky Association

First in Line to Volunteer

Land Steward Michael Cirincione

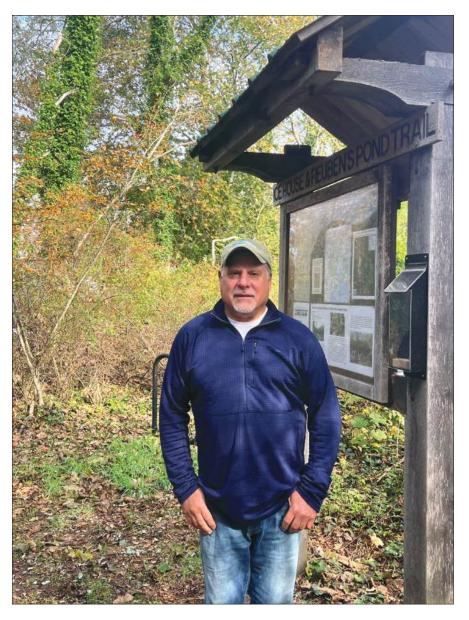
By Gary Bowden

ichael Cirincione is an OCT Land Steward ▲at our Grassy Knoll/Erskin property. But his volunteer commitment to the Trust doesn't end there. He takes part in our monthly work parties, doing trail maintenance and removing invasives. He is also one of OCT's Biodiversity Seekers; he has particularly enjoyed his experience tracking box turtles and observing the diversity of plants and wildlife on our trails. And he won't soon forget the bitter cold, windy December day when he joined a group on our new Namequoit Woods property, raking a seed mix into a bare, snow-covered field and clearing non-native brush after buildings were removed at the former Viking Sailing Camp. Notes OCT's Land Stewardship Technician Sam O'Neil, "Michael is always first to sign on for a volunteer request and comes ready to do whatever is needed."

Michael and his wife, Joanne, first started coming to the Cape in the mid-1980s. Like many of us, they were drawn to Orleans by its wealth of natural open space and the joys of having the ocean and the bay within the same town. They bought their first home here in 2013 and moved to Orleans permanently in 2019. In his career,

Michael worked for companies focused on making products designed to be sustainable and good for people and the planet. Supporting nature, being outside, and rewilding open spaces are now the focus of his volunteer interests. "It's truly about likeminded people working together," says Mike.

Michael connects with nature in other ways and places, too. A regular volunteer with the Sipson Island Trust, he works on the island to remove invasive plants and manage trails. He also supports the Orleans Conservation Commission's ecological restoration work at Putnam Farm. Throughout the summer, Orleans Yacht Club benefits from Michael's knowledge of power- and sailboat maintenance.



A mild summer day often finds Michael and Joanne on their boat, cruising Pleasant Bay or heading out to the Atlantic to enjoy a little fishing. If the waters are rough, nothing beats ending the day with friends and family on Nauset Spit, where Michael can rest up after all that hard work on behalf of Orleans' natural environment.

Volunteering with OCT can be as large or small a commitment as suits you. Visit the Volunteer page on our website to learn about options, introduce yourself, and sign up for our e-blasts about volunteer workdays!

Learning on Land and Water

Education Programs for All Ages



his summer, Orleans residents and visitors came to Snow Library with their kids and grandkids for a special edition of the popular Thursday morning Story Time, led by Youth Librarian Kim Auclair. Over a six-week session on "Pollinators and Their Plants," children and their caregivers learned about those amazing birds, butterflies, and bees

that are so important to our gardens and our food supply. OCT trustees were on hand to answer questions, and after the story, children created a companion craft designed by Kim. As part of this initiative, OCT's Education Committee designed and installed a native plant garden at the library, giving children the chance to watch pollinators interacting with the plants and to bring home their own pots of natives.

Later in the summer and early fall, OCT members took to the water on birding-oriented kayak trips led by Christine Bates, who has been an education coordinator for Mass Audubon's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary and an interpretive ranger for Cape Cod National Seashore; she currently is with Brewster's Recreation Dept. On August 19, paddlers headed into the Nauset Inlet,



At the weekuw celebration event at Nauset Regional Middle School: trustee Deirdre White, Wampanoag educator Darius Coombs, and OCT Executive Director Steve O'Grady.



Trustees Gary Bowden and Deirdre White with Kim Auclair and youngsters at the new native garden behind Snow Library.

stopping on Nauset Spit to view the shorebird migration. Another group, on September 30, went down The River from Meetinghouse Pond to Kent's Point and Kescayogansett Pond, looking for birds and other wildlife. Participants had a blast and expressed gratitude for the time spent in community with other OCT members. Look for more member-only trips next year!

Our Preschool Explorers program for children aged two to five, led by naturalist Andrea Higgins, has continued through the fall. These outings take place on OCT trails. The remaining walks for this season, on December 1 and 8, will begin at 9:30 and last about an hour and a half. See our website for details and registration, and look for more Preschool Explorer walks after the first of the year.

On November 7, members of OCT's board and staff joined other supporters and community members at Nauset Regional Middle School for a celebration of the recently completed weekuw (wetu) built by Darius Coombs, Cultural Outreach Coordinator for the Mashpee Wampanoag Education Department, with help from students from Susy Remillard's Exploratory Education class. Near the weekuw, Exploratory Education teacher Rand Burkett and his students created a "three sisters" teaching garden (corn, beans, and squash). The event featured an outdoor ceremony with Wampanoag drummers and a traditional Wampanoag lunch prepared with produce from the new garden. OCT's Education Committee and Native Collaboration Task Force facilitated a gift by the Trust in support of this important local project.

Winter/Spring 2025–26 Walks

Get to know the open spaces of Orleans on our popular guided walks. They're free, fun, and appropriate for **all ages**. Space is limited; advance registration required. Register online at our website. Walks take place on OCT properties or Town of Orleans trails, those marked with T symbol.

Ice House/Reuben's Ponds

Join naturalist and avid birder Christine Bates for this 1.5-mile walk around two freshwater ponds, seeking migrating birds for the annual Cape Cod Waterfowl Census. Bring binoculars if you have them.

Sunday, December 7 10:00-11:30 am



Paw Wah Point T

Take in the stunning views over Little Pleasant Bay while learning how Orleans voters prevented development and preserved this sensitive area.

Wednesday, January 14 10:00-11:30 am



Hello, 2026!

First Day Hikes Cape Cod is a unique one-day regional celebration, featuring free walks, talks, and hikes across Cape Cod. Greet the new year with an OCT walk: explore the peaceful woods and waters of the Mill Pond Valley Conservation Area.

Thursday, January 1 1:00-2:00 pm



Baker's Pond

Enjoy the stillness of winter on this longer, brisk-paced walk: 1.75 miles on adjoining conservation lands around the "great pond" that straddles Orleans and Brewster.

Thursday, February 12 2:00-3:30 pm



John Kenrick Woods ^T

Rich in local history, this one-mile walk meanders through a white pine grove containing specimens of the rare American chestnut.

Monday, March 16 1:30-3:00 pm



Three Ponds

A 2-hour walk around Meadow Bog, Sarah's, and Twinings Ponds through more than 100 acres of OCT-protected land, highlighting the connection between lands and waters.

Tuesday, April 21



9:00-11:00 am

Beach Walk to Namskaket

Walk about 1.5 miles (round trip) through soft sand on Skaket Beach to a saltmarsh habitat of 200+ acres, including the single largest land donation to OCT.

Friday, May 15 1:30-3:00 pm



Find schedule for "Talks" online

Speakers, dates, and locations will be announced well in advance on our website and in our regular emails to members. Be sure to sign up for e-blasts if you haven't done so!

Gifts and Donations Membership Year 2024

From January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, Orleans Conservation Trust received donations to support the trust's most pressing needs and others restricted to a specific purpose, including land acquisition, land stewardship, or educational programs. The Trust also received special gifts made in honor or in memory of someone designated by the donor.

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 protect and restore natural lands—for people and wildlife, the health of our waters, and the character of our community.

2024 Donations

People who have made donations to OCT, in any amount, for at least five consecutive years, are designated as Red Oak Donors with an acorn symbol after their names.

Benefactors

\$10,000 and Above

Anonymous (4) Curtis Akins and Beverly Akins Andrew Barnard and Gwen Marcus Edward L. Hutton Foundation @ Drusilla Henson 🎒 Steve and Anne Koehler Vincent and Abigail Maddi 🎒 Barbara Murphy @ Victor Paci and Jennifer Miller Paci 🎒 The Silver Tie Fund William and Cynthia Treene 🍑 Hardie and Marcie Truesdale William and Judith Weil @ Karl F. and Teryn B. Weintz Foundation @

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\$1,000-\$4,999

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We remember with gratitude the following White Cedar Society member, who recently passed.

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Welcome New OCT Trustees!

Jamie Demas has extensive experience in business development, financial planning, HR, contracts, and operations. She was the SVP of finance and



administration for Macmillan Learning and now works as the part-time COO for the podcast studio Double Elvis Productions. Jamie is passionate about land conservation and improving the quality of the Cape's waters; she is past treasurer for the Orleans Pond Coalition, where she led OPC's committee to sample Orleans ponds for cvanobacteria in partnership with APCC. She served her first term as a trustee for the Orleans Conservation Trust from 2016-2021 and currently serves on the board of APCC. She has had a home near Bakers Pond in Orleans since 2006 and has lived here full time since 2019. An avid environmentalist and proponent of native plants, Jamie enjoys gardening, bird-watching, and hiking in

Nickerson State Park with her dogs, Lucy and Koko.

Ed Hafner worked in science research for the Allied-Signal Research Center near Chicago and then at

Pfizer, Inc. He served for many years on the Conservation Commission in East Lyme, CT, and he volunteered at and became board

chairman for the Drop-In Learning Center in nearby New London, tutoring kids in their after-school program.

For four years Ed has been a mentor at the K-3 Hyannis West Elementary School. He also serves on the board of the Orleans Pond Coalition and as a member of the Orleans Marine and Fresh Water Quality Committee.

Emily McKhann is a strategic communications professional who has worked with leading nonprofits, corporations, and agencies. She was co-founder and CEO of



The Motherhood, an award-winning social impact agency that leveraged the web to advance and inspire social good. In that role she launched global campaigns for the Gates Foundation, the ONE Campaign, the UN Foundation, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and others. Earlier, Emily ran strategic communications firms based in New York City and Dallas, advising senior leadership teams at CBS, AT&T, Scholastic, and others, and was Director of International Business and Acting Commissioner to the United Nations and Consular Corps for New York City. She co-authored the bestselling book Living with the End in Mind. Emily currently serves on the Orleans Pond Coalition board. She and her husband split their time between Larchmont, NY, and Orleans.

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The White Cedar Society of the Orleans Conservation Trust recognizes and honors those who choose to show their love of the natural world through a bequest. A legacy to the Trust deepens your engagement with our land-saving mission and can serve your family and your estate in many ways. Becoming a member is as simple as advising us that the Trust is a beneficiary of your estate. To begin a conversation, call Executive Director Stephen O'Grady.

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