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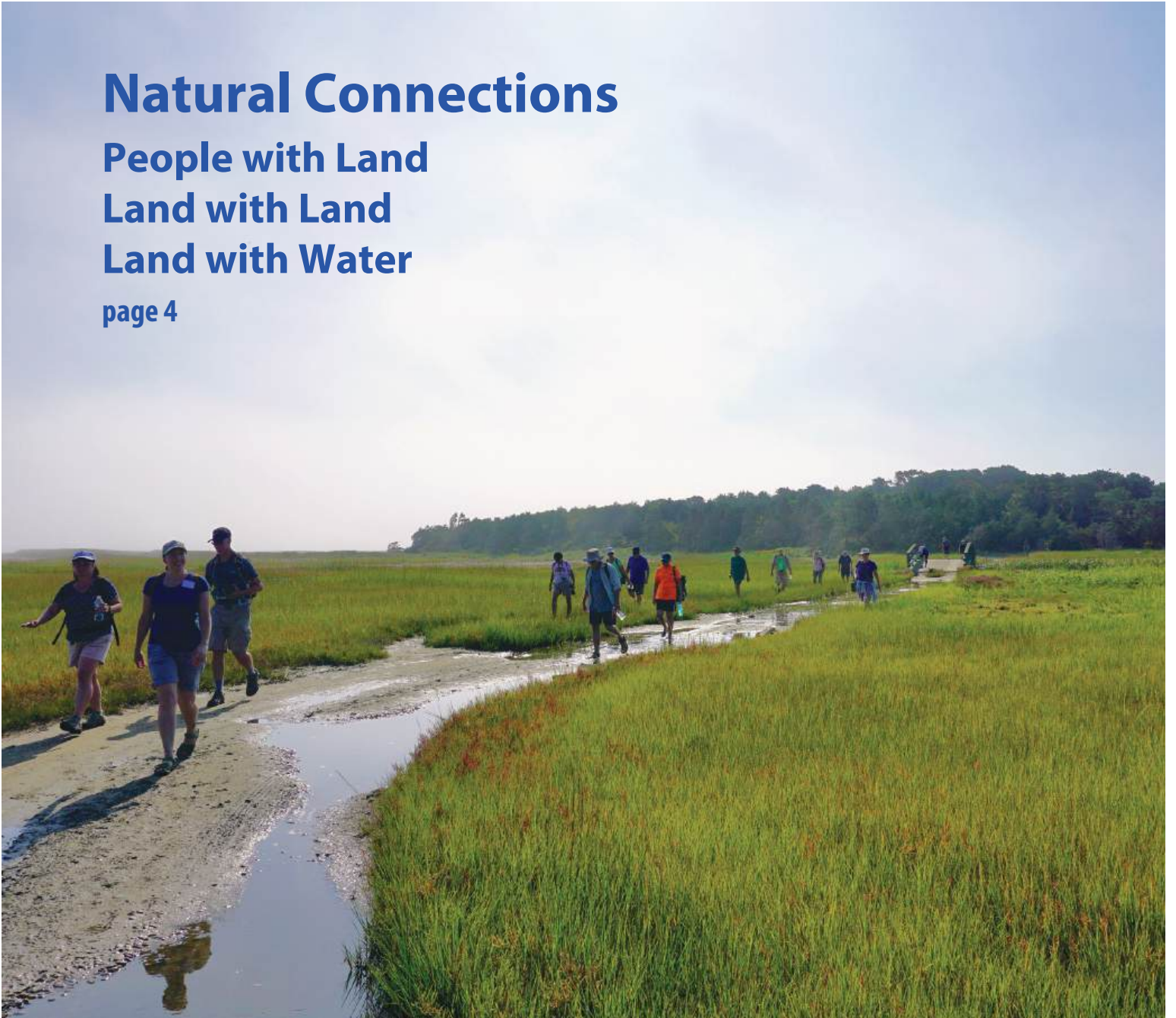
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On the cover: Hikers on the trail to Pochet Island. Photo by Diana Landau.
Inset: Semipalmated plover, *Charadrius semipalmatus*. Photo © Hardie Truesdale

from the executive director

Dear members and supporters,

I'm guessing you have some fond early memories of time spent in nature—a camping trip, a day at the beach, or a casual foray in the woods when you saw something remarkable. The theme of this issue, our connections with nature, is at the core of OCT's work. Although some of our properties serve as wildlife refuges, largely inaccessible to the public, we know that to foster a love and appreciation for Orleans' landscapes, we need to help people experience the outdoors, in all kinds of ways. That's why our stewardship staff and volunteers worked tirelessly after the Blizzard of '26 to promptly restore access to our 6 miles of trails (page 3). And it's a big part of why we're so excited about OCT's Cedar Pond Shore purchase, which will provide the first formal public access to this large freshwater pond (page 6).

We were thrilled to support a neighborhood effort to protect a wooded lot threatened by development on Mayflower Point last fall (pages 4–5), and we hope this success will encourage other neighbor-led efforts to protect locally cherished open spaces. Shouldn't all Orleans residents be able to enjoy conservation land within a short walk of their homes?

Also in this issue you'll find the latest installment in OCT's At Home with Nature series, helping you enjoy more nature right on your own property via ecologically minded land care. Spraying for mosquitos, for example, can have significant unintended consequences (page 9).

Our educational programs and partnerships to inspire the next generation of conservationists continue (page 10). Besides our grants for environmental education in Orleans schools and our popular Preschool Exploration program, which gets youngsters into the wilds of Orleans, we'll be partnering for a second summer with Snow Library's children's programming. We hope these activities will make memories that stick with these kids for many decades—maybe even change the trajectory of their lives.

You can renew your membership, and your commitment to our shared work, via the envelope in this newsletter. None of what we do is possible without your support!

Sincerely,



Stephen O'Grady
Executive Director



OTC ANNUAL MEETING

Save the Date!

Please join us on
Tuesday, August 25,
5:00 pm at
Orleans Yacht Club.

Our keynote speaker is Nick Nelson, a fluvial geomorphologist and regional director with Inter-Fluve. Nick will discuss restoration of degraded wetlands and waterways throughout Cape Cod, including active work on OCT's Namequoit Bog in South Orleans.



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The Trust in Brief



Blizzard of '26 Clean-up

Imagine if your backyard was 700-plus acres (and largely left in its natural state by design)! Then you can picture the challenge OCT's land management team faced in the aftermath of the late February blizzard. The crew cleared more than 120 trees on our properties and trails, then went above and beyond to help remove 40 more on Orleans town conservation lands.



Before and after the blizzard cleanup at Meadow Bog Pond. Graphic shows locations of downed trees on just one OCT property, our Three Ponds Conservation Area.

Welcome New Interns

OCT is fortunate to have two interns serving from May through August. **Emily Williams** grew up spending summers with her grandparents in Brewster and now lives in Orleans. A rising senior at Boston



College, she majors in environmental studies with a concentration in climate change and societal adaptations. Her academic work has explored topics including the ecological and societal impacts of aquaculture in Norway, cyanobacteria blooms in Nantucket Harbor, and coastal erosion across New England, focusing on Cape Cod's changing shoreline. She is especially interested in how education and community involvement can support long-term environmental stewardship. "My experiences so far have shaped my strong connection to Cape Cod and its landscapes," says Emily. "I value this opportunity to contribute to their preservation."

Phoebe LaManna, from Pittsford, New York, is an undergraduate at the University at Buffalo, currently majoring in environmental studies with a minor in media studies. Her love for conservation led her to join the campus' sustainability office as the green space student assistant and to pursue interning with OCT this summer. "I have loved the ocean my entire life and am absolutely thrilled to be able to be surrounded by the beautiful Cape Cod environment," Phoebe says.



Community Connections



OCT had a table at the highly successful Meet Your Local Farmers event sponsored by the Harwich Conservation Trust and the Orleans Farmers Market this March. Trust president Mary Griffin helped greet the crowds that came out to celebrate the beginning of spring. Our trail maps went fast, so we should see lots of you on our trails soon!



The Changemakers class at Nauset Regional Middle School presented ideas for a pollinator garden project to OCT last October.

Natural Connections



Mayflower Point residents and OCT personnel gathered on a Saturday afternoon in early May to celebrate their successful land-saving partnership.

“I walk by that property every day,” says Mayflower Point resident Elaine Baird, relating how she conceived the project to save an undeveloped piece of land in the neighborhood. “I was dreading another big house with a big green lawn.” Fearing that the loss of this wild corner would impair the neighborhood’s character, she began talking to neighbors about saving the land.

Many of them agreed. “What motivated us most is that the property is a beautiful, wooded lot sitting on a corner, right at one of the main roads into Mayflower Point,” says Tom Anderson. Adds Gillian Anderson, “We know what can happen— we’ve seen other lots in Mayflower get clearcut.”

People Connecting with People

So began an inspiring example of one neighborhood banding together to save a piece of natural land in their midst. Elaine, the Andersons, and neighbor Kathleen McNeil began talking to their neighbors, who in turn talked to others. One resident stepped up to donate a meaningful sum toward purchasing the property for conservation—and the snowball really got rolling.

The group contacted Orleans Conservation Trust and worked with Director Steve O’Grady to craft letters to people living on Mayflower Point. “We were very impressed with how Steve worked with us and proud of our neighbors for getting on

board,” says Gillian. Elaine and Kathleen personalized each letter, highlighting how keeping the land in its natural state would enhance their experience of living there, creating a habitat island in a sea of developed properties.

“It took teamwork. At first we didn’t think we could do it,” says Tom. “As we continued to meet, people began to realize that even if they didn’t have enough cash to make a meaningful contribution, there are other ways to donate.

“The tax angle is the secret,” he notes. “You can donate appreciated shares and avoid capital gains taxes. That was a revelation, allowing more people to chip in.”

When all was said and done, almost \$1 million was raised by the neighborhood, and the land at 19 Pershing Lane joined the list of Orleans properties protected by the Trust. “The need was immediate,” says Gillian. “And we realized that OCT doesn’t have unlimited resources for land purchases. We needed to rally our neighbors.”

Although this isn’t the first time OCT has encouraged and worked with neighborhoods to protect land—for example, on Boulder Lane and Tom’s Hollow Lane in South Orleans—the Mayflower Point effort was special in having originated with the neighbors themselves. The bottom line:

If you’re considering selling your property, “talk to your

neighbor first,” suggests Elaine. “Give them the opportunity to save the land. You never know who else might care about the land as much as you do.”

Is there a piece of property in your neighborhood that you want to keep natural and undeveloped? Connecting with your neighbors might work for you too!

People Connecting with Land

A core mission of OCT is to connect people who live in or visit our town to the beautiful lands around them. Conserving open space—more than 700 acres and counting!—and maintaining an extensive trail system are historically the mainstays of that mission.

We strive to connect people to land in other ways too. Our “At Home with Nature” initiative helps people understand how to create natural native habitats on their own lands. We recently developed an ADA-compliant trail and picnic space at our magnificent Window on the Bay preserve at 109 Portanimitic Road and another senior-friendly trail at the Orleans Senior Center. Some of our trails have features designed for kids, like the Storybook Trail at Ice House/Reuben’s Pond. Our volunteers get their hands dirty every other Thursday doing anything from clearing invasives to performing biodiversity surveys.

And just this spring, OCT is preserving pond-front acreage along Cedar Pond, which will connect people to that land and provide access to the fourth-largest pond in Orleans (see page 6). Check out our website for more details on all these initiatives.

Land Connecting with Land

Speaking of Cedar Pond, one of the most important ways to preserve habitat is to connect up individual parcels of undeveloped land to create wildlife corridors. By linking fragmented habitats, these corridors enable animals to access multiple food and nesting



OCT sign recently installed at 19 Pershing Lane.

sources, help prevent species extinction, and mitigate climate-change impacts on local habitats. You can see examples on any map of protected lands in Orleans. The Cedar Pond acquisition will connect 3.78 acres to 12 acres of already protected land that includes a white cedar and red maple swamp—habitat that’s becoming very rare on Cape Cod.

Another great example is our 4.5-acre Eli Rogers Road property, acquired a few years ago. Not only does it have a vernal pool, but it also connects a large piece of protected land in Brewster to the 500-acre Orleans Watershed. Think of the birds, mammals, water dwellers, and insects that corridor can support!

We are always seeking to connect land to land, so if you’re in a position to help determine the fate of a piece of land—however insignificant it may seem to you—keep in mind how that land might help connect habitats. On the Orleans town website you’ll find a link to the GIS mapping system and downloadable maps: <https://www.town.orleans.ma.us/321/GIS-Mapping>.

Land Connecting with Water

You may have read that OCT has just purchased a property at 22 Tonset Road—what seems from a drive-by like an ordinary piece of land flanked by houses and close to town. Why this land, why here, you might wonder?

The answer lies underground. Land in this part of town connects via a stormwater culvert directly to Town Cove. By keeping the land naturally vegetated, stormwater from the surrounding roads and properties is filtered and cleansed so that water entering Town Cove watershed is much safer for the environment. OCT’s 2025 purchase of 1 Boulder Lane is another example of keeping land natural to protect adjacent wetlands—in that case Shoal Pond.



Residents driving by 22 Tonset Road may have noticed OCT’s banner inviting them to learn about the value of this superficially un-special lot.

New Lands Will Benefit Wildlife and Water

Thanks to two conservation-minded sellers, OCT is excited to share our progress on two important land purchases that will protect critical natural resources in Orleans for generations to come.



The Cedar Pond shoreline to be preserved by this purchase. Photo © Hardie Truesdale.

Cedar Pond Shore at 32 Locust Road

Just before this issue went to press, voters at Orleans Town Meeting on May 11 approved, by a wide margin, a measure authorizing a public-private partnership to provide \$175,000 in Orleans Community Preservation Funding toward the \$585,000 required for OCT to purchase and protect nearly four acres on the shores of Cedar Pond. This Town support will augment grants awarded by the Massachusetts Conservation Partnership and the Cape Cod Foundation's Priscilla Alden Sears Land Acquisition Fund.

The land boasts massive oak trees and one of the largest tupelo groves in Orleans, along with two isolated wetlands we hope to certify as vernal pools. Importantly, it connects with 12 acres of existing conservation land, protected bit by bit by the Town and OCT over the last decade. Perhaps most exciting, conserving this land will allow for the first formal public access to Cedar Pond—Orleans' fourth-largest freshwater pond. OCT envisions modest parking improvements, a kayak launch, and a short walking path to an overlook of the pond.

"This land had been in my family for a hundred years and then some," says Steve Peters, who represented the family in negotiations with OCT. "I talked with a couple of builders but found myself saying, 'What am I doing?'"

"I'm just so glad OCT stepped up to protect it, given how much wildlife I see in there. It's a special spot."

Additional support from neighbors and OCT members will be essential to ensure that this ecologically sensitive property close to downtown is protected from development. Donations can be mailed to OCT at 203 South Orleans Rd., Orleans, or made online at orleansconservationtrust.org.

22 Tonset Road

The owner of 22 Tonset Road, a former Orleans Conservation Commissioner, had determined that it was time to sell. Having long admired wildlife that moved through the property and knowing that his wooded land filters water that eventually flows into Town Cove, he much preferred conservation over the alternative option: development squeezed between the road and the wetland.

Although the Town showed interest in purchasing the property for conservation, this outcome wasn't likely within the seller's timeline. As a private organization, OCT was able to reach a purchase agreement with the seller that included a quick closing. Led by an extraordinary gift from members Hardie and Marcie Truesdale, three dozen neighbors and supporters stepped up with their own gifts, allowing the Trust to purchase the land in the tight timeframe required. The land will remain largely unmanaged and in its natural state, providing wildlife habitat, water filtration, and flood mitigation in the heart of Orleans.



The waters of Town Cove will stay healthier with the Tonset Road parcel left as natural habitat. Photo © Hardie Truesdale.

Improving Trails, Restoring Habitat

The OCT Land Management team does more than keep our trails cleared and safe for your walking pleasure. They are acutely focused on habitat restoration and recreational improvement projects, working alongside our great volunteer corps to create a sustainable future for Orleans and all its inhabitants, human and wild. By linking up projects with neighborhood stewards and volunteers, OCT can manage our lands more effectively and take on more projects. We can't do this without you!

New Territory for Terrapins

The Trust has a long history of working to protect Cape Cod's population of endangered Northern diamondback terrapin turtles, most notably our collaboration with Mass Audubon Wellfleet at OCT's Henson's Cove Conservation Area. Now OCT is in the process of creating new terrapin habitat at the end of Cheney Road on Meetinghouse Pond. Working with Parterre Ecological and with support from Cheney Road neighbors, we're converting 1.2 acres of invaded woodland into nesting habitat for the turtles—and habitat for pollinators too!

This special property is known as the Moerschner Gift after its donor, the late Marjorie D. Moerschner, who gifted the land (once owned by her parents) to the Trust in 1991. While Marjorie was still living (in Newton), she enjoyed taking part in guided walks there, after OCT had cleared rampant invasives.



The Cheney Road property on Meetinghouse Pond was heavily invaded before the restoration project. Terrapins need open, sandy habitat for nesting. Native grasses will replace invasive understory vegetation in much of the area.

Visitors can still walk the trail to the edge of the marsh where high tide bush (marsh elder) blooms in season. Marjorie also named OCT a beneficiary in her will. We think she would be happy to know that her land will provide a home for the terrapins—a further testament to the relationship between a land trust and a family.

East Side, South Side, All Around the Town

With help from neighbors, we're improving habitat throughout Orleans. At our Meadow Bog Pond area, off Quanset Road in South Orleans, volunteers from the neighborhood and elsewhere have been helping OCT clear invasive species to improve both habitat and trail access. A similar effort is taking place over at Ice House and Reuben's Ponds in East Orleans. There's plenty of work to be done on other lands, so if you're ready to get your hands dirty and meet great people, please join us on one of our volunteer days, the first and third Thursday morning of each month. Sign up for e-alerts on our website.



OCT's Land Management team repaired the damaged steps down to Reuben's Pond at the Ice House/Reuben's Pond Conservation Area.

Think Before You Spray

We've all experienced early evenings in the yard when mosquitos join the party. Yes, they can be a nuisance and in rare instances can spread diseases to humans. If you have a mosquito problem, first inspect your property and eliminate sources of standing water. Treating mosquitos at the larval stage is safe and effective; it is the primary method of mosquito abatement used by the Cape Cod Mosquito Control Project.

However, mosquito control companies around the Cape promote lawn and garden treatment plans aimed at adult mosquitos. There is a lot to consider before you sign a contract to spray. These companies tend to use a class of insecticides called pyrethroids, a compound that is toxic to all species of native bees and other pollinators. While pyrethroids are FDA-approved and are judged to have low toxicity for mammals and birds, it is a synthetic insecticide.

Companies advertise that they will not spray flowers, or spray if bees are present, or if it's windy. All are good practices but do little to protect a bee. Pyrethroids are designed for stability and prolonged effectiveness, so even if pollinating insects aren't seen during spraying, they will later visit the treated ground and plant material and encounter harmful chemicals. Also, treatments may last a few days to weeks but are impacted by rain and environmental conditions. Frequent reapplication is required to suppress mosquito populations for an entire season.



Rudy-throated hummingbird on bee balm. Photo © Hardie Truesdale.

Some companies market eco-friendly treatments—often a natural pyrethrin found in chrysanthemum flowers. While this is a natural substance that's less harmful to mammals than synthetic

pyrethroids, it is still a broad-spectrum insecticide that will paralyze and kill bees and other pollinators, and it loses effectiveness rapidly in sunlight. Moreover, it is highly toxic to cats, fish, and aquatic life. Find out what the firm is applying, and do your own research.

There also are organic botanical oils, like cedar oil. Though companies state that this oil is safe for bees, again we advise you to look for independent research. A study by the Xerces Society reported that “very little is known about the toxicity of cedar oil to bees, but product labels recommend not applying when bees are active, suggesting it may have some contact toxicity or other negative effects on bees and other beneficial insects.” This oil is a natural repellent for other insects, so some theorize that spraying it on flowers may reduce flower visitation and pollination.

When considering treatments of any kind, keep in mind that any reduction you see in your yard's mosquito population will be temporary. Mosquitoes are highly mobile insects, and new adults will quickly show up—particularly if there is an untreated standing-water source on your property or a neighbor's.

For all these reasons, spraying to kill adult mosquitos is not the most effective way to manage this insect. Certainly, if you care about the fate of our pollinators, it should not be part of a home maintenance strategy.

For more information, see the links from Xerces Society, Pollinator Pathway Cape Cod, and UMass on OCT's website, under At Home With Nature.



Honeybee on pickerelweed. Photo © Hardie Truesdale. Synthetic pesticides like those used in most mosquito spraying are lethal to native bees, butterflies, moths, and other insects that birds depend on for food.



Connecting Kids and Families to OCT

Volunteer Susan Chandler

By Gary Bowden

“I’m an educator at heart,” says retired professor and long-time OCT supporter Susan Chandler, who joined our Education Committee after learning about its goal to enhance Orleans school programming and encourage our next generation of conservationists.

Susan began spending summers in Nauset Heights when her parents (from Scarsdale, NY) bought a house there in 1950. She has visited Orleans every summer since and became a full-time resident in 2020. She traces her connections to OCT to her parents’ friendship with Orin Tovrov, an OCT founder and donor of our Mill Pond Valley property. Orin’s son, Jonathan, was Susan’s first boyfriend; the two sailed on the Town Cove waters she now sees from her home in East Orleans. Her family was also close to Jonathan and Katie Moore, whose family donated much of the land around Ice House Pond to the Trust. Today, Susan regularly walks those two trails: places where she can enjoy nature and reflect on her long local memories.

For 43 years, Susan and her husband, David, taught at the University of Hawaii and spent summers in Orleans. It was David’s love of the Cape, she says, that led them to purchase a home on Town Cove in 1990 and brought them back to the Cape in 2020, when they both retired. After David died suddenly, Susan relied on childhood friends in the area and on her sister, also an Orleans resident, to find new ways of being at home in Orleans and to get involved with town committees and local nonprofits.

Susan’s teaching experience in social work, policy, and nonprofit/government management directly translates to her role as chair of the Town’s Human Services Advisory Committee. She previously served the Energy and Climate Action Committee and remains active with the Orleans Climate Action Network. She was chair and still volunteers with the Cape Cod chapter of SCORE, assisting nonprofits with strategic planning. Susan also volunteers with the Museum of Natural History, focusing on their horseshoe crab programs.

In her work with our Education Committee, Susan has enjoyed reviewing grant applications from the Orleans Elementary and Nauset Regional Middle Schools and working with NRMS students in the Changemakers program, as well as learning more about the Trust overall. Currently she is writing grant requests to

support our children’s and family activities. For a committed educator, she comments, “helping in this way has been a rewarding experience.”

Susan traces her connections to OCT to her parents’ friendship with Orin Tovrov, an OCT founder and donor of our Mill Pond Valley property.



Volunteer Susan Chandler on a windy day at her home on Town Cove.

Many volunteers work on the land or serve as land stewards on trails; however, OCT also needs help with our education programs, communications, and fundraising. If you have relevant experience and an interest in serving on one of these committees, please reach out to any OCT trustee or talk with Steve O’Grady.

We encourage prospective volunteers to visit the Volunteer webpage on our site, learn about options, and sign up for e-blasts about volunteer workdays.

OCT School Grants Bridge Gaps



Orleans Elementary School students hand out flyers for their performance in front of the Academy of Performing Arts on Main Street.

Even in a community as rich in natural resources as Orleans, many students have limited opportunities to engage with the outdoors. Local teachers increasingly see the need to connect students with nature and are eager to expand environmental learning opportunities, but schools have limited funding for outdoor learning and classroom materials.

OCT’s Education Grant Program helps bridge those gaps. Now in its fourth year, the program provides up to \$25,000 in annual funding for K–8 classrooms. Teachers develop project ideas, and administrators at the Orleans Elementary School and Nauset Regional Middle School submit proposals to the Trust. Since 2023, OCT has funded 24 projects engaging hundreds of students each year. The projects help students build environmental literacy, develop land stewardship values, practice scientific observation, and more. Funded projects have ranged from bird-watching field trips to monitoring water quality in nearby Boland Pond.

A recent project for second-grade students culminated in a series of skits entitled *Ocean Conservation: Saving Our Seas*. Students researched, wrote, and performed each piece, focusing on sharks and ocean conservation. With titles like “Wally and the Net at Nauset Beach” or “Margaret and the Messy Ocean,” the skits dramatized saving sharks from stray nets, retrieving plastic from the ocean, and the perils of building homes too close to marine habitat. The Academy of Performing Arts graciously donated its stage, where students performed for parents and community members, “swimming” across the stage with aplomb!

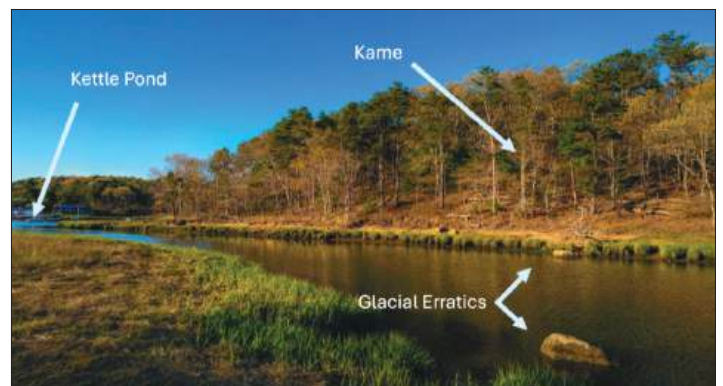
Glacial Memories Bring Us Closer to the Land



In its longstanding efforts to educate residents about our home landscapes, Orleans Conservation Trust tried something new this winter: a joint “walk and talk” series designed to bring what we learn from our evening speakers out onto the trail.

In February, Dr. Kaden Martin, a paleoclimatologist at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, joined OCT to present “Cape Cod’s Glacial Memories,” about how the Cape was shaped by the Laurentide Ice Sheet around 22,000 years ago and the evidence we can see today. From kettle ponds (formed by melted blocks of ice) to kames (the sediment deposited by a retreating ice sheet, creating our hills) to glacial erratics (those seemingly out-of-place boulders), our landscapes hint at how they were formed.

In March, Kaden returned—this time on the trail. At the Town-owned John Kenrick Woods Conservation Area, walkers on a 1.5-hour hike spotted a variety of glacial features near Arey’s Pond. Among much else, we learned how every pond on Cape Cod was created by a left-behind ice block of its same size. In October we’re planning a similar joint walk plus talk at Putnam Farm.



John Kenrick Woods Conservation Area. Photo © Hardie Trusesdale, text additions by Kaden Martin.

Summer/Fall 2026 Walks

Explore the open spaces of Orleans on our **popular guided walks**—free, fun, and appropriate for all ages. The scope of our outings is growing! See this season's special offerings: a nature journaling expedition, a double-barreled walk-and-talk on agriculture, and more. *Space is limited; advance registration required. Register online at our website. Meeting point provided to registrants.* Walks take place on OCT properties or Town of Orleans trails, those marked with **T** symbol.

Ice House/Reuben's Ponds

Enjoy this 1.5-mile walk around two kettle ponds, winding through pitch pine–oak woodland on OCT's longest uninterrupted trail.

Thursday, June 11

10:00–11:30 am



Orleans Watershed **T**

Experience some of the 500 acres that make up the Orleans Watershed on this 1.5-mile service road walk through forested conservation land.

Friday, July 17

1:00–2:30 pm

Three Ponds

Learn about the connection between lands and waters on a 2-hour walk around Meadow Bog, Sarah's, and Twinings Ponds through more than 80 acres of OCT-protected land.

Wednesday, August 12

1:00–3:00 pm

Nature Journaling with Mary Richmond

Join nature columnist, artist, and naturalist Mary Richmond for an easy-going nature journal class. No experience necessary, just a wish to note your observations and a sense of humor. In Orleans; location provided to registrants.

Tuesday, September 8

10:00 am–12:00 pm



Putnam Farm Walk and Talk **T**

Is there farming in Orleans? Learn how local farmers are growing food and flowers for personal use and public sale at the town's Putnam Farm Conservation Land. At an October talk you'll meet farmers and hear their stories of bringing small-scale farming back to Orleans (sign up for OCT's e-blasts for date details). Then join us for the walk later in October to see the trail, farmers' plots, restored wildlife habitat, and new farmers' shed.

Wednesday, October 21

9:30–11:00 am

Baker's Pond **T**

Join us for this brisk-paced, 1.75-mile walk on adjoining conservation lands that circle Baker's Pond and link to Nickerson State Park, with views of the pond and wooded uplands.

Friday, November 20

2:00–3:30 pm

Fall Family Fun with Preschool Exploration

Starting in October, Andrea Higgins will again lead this family-friendly outdoor education program for children 2–5 and their guardians, on the 1st and 2nd Monday morning of the month.

Visit our Children & Families Activities webpage to learn about family-friendly activities on OCT trails, and sign up for our monthly Children & Families Activities e-newsletter.



Members-Only Walks at Namequoit Wood

As a thank-you to our members, we offer special access to Namequoit Wood, an OCT crown jewel on Pleasant Bay, during guided walks with OCT staff and trustees. Dates are posted on our website and shared via e-blasts. (Member support begins at \$50/year individual or \$100/year family.)

Our "Talks" Schedule Is Online!

Speakers, dates, and locations will be announced in advance on our website and in our regular emails to members. If you're not already subscribed, be sure to sign up for updates.

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Dots and dashes in the campaign logo spell out the iconic SOS message, conveying the urgency of this initiative to preserve what remains of the Cape's natural bounty. APCC invites you to join "Team SOS."

The Cape We Shape

is a campaign to protect the Cape's remaining priority natural resource lands from development. Spearheaded by the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) and embraced by the Orleans Conservation Trust and other land trusts across the Cape, this initiative aims to permanently protect land essential for clean water, open space, coastal resilience, and critical wildlife habitat. It's an invitation to everyone who cares about this place to help secure its future. Learn more and watch a video at TheCapeWeShape.org.

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