



The Heron

FALL-WINTER 2012

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The Newsletter of the Mattapoissett Land Trust, Inc. • www.mattlandtrust.org • E-mail: info@mattlandtrust.org

Losing Ground in Mattapoissett?

Our attractive town has limited space for growth
by Don Cuddy

Here's a surprising statistic that should hearten all of us. According to Mass Audubon we are now saving twice as much land as we are developing statewide for the first time in a number of decades. For every acre developed two are being protected according to their findings.

I discovered this surprising fact while browsing the web and looking at the Audubon's wonderful overview of development entitled *Losing Ground: Beyond the Footprint*. This exhaustive study, available on their web site (massaudubon.org/losing-ground) looks at all aspects of land use and also has interactive land use maps.

If you examine the maps they will show that Mattapoissett is considered to be somewhere between 10 and 20 percent developed. By comparison Marion is in the 20 to 35 percent range while rural Rochester remains below 10 percent. This information was released in May 2009 however, so we will have to wait for another update to see if this is a continuing trend, at least in our corner of the state.

The Mattapoissett results are particularly welcome to me since I recently wrote a story for the Standard-Times describing the town as being currently in the midst of a building boom. The building inspector Andy Bobola was quoted as saying: "In Point Connett, you can't even drive down the streets off Angelica Avenue because of all the contractor vehicles." I decided to take a run down there and I saw what he meant.

From January through the end of July 2011, the Mattapoissett building department turned in \$50,000 to the town that it collected in building fees. In the same period this year

that figure had jumped to \$111,000. There has been a corresponding surge in the value of new development in town for that same period, from \$6.1 million last year to \$13.7 million in 2012. Seeing big figures like that it is easy to imagine Mattapoissett becoming engulfed in urban sprawl but what is happening, according to Bobola, is that more people from "away" are now discovering just how nice Mattapoissett is and apparently they do not lack for funds. So they decide they want to have a second home in a beachfront community just like Point Connett and since there are very few house lots available in any of the places on the water they just wait for a home to go on the market. Once they take ownership they tear it down to build their dream house or, as we've seen frequently, completely gut the old home's interior and substantially rebuild it. A lot of the people coming into town are second-home buyers. "There's not a lot of land available so if they want to live in a certain area they just demolish the house," Bobola said.

A lot of potential development has been hindered by the fact that town sewer is still unavailable in large areas of town. As I found out in my own Brandt Beach neighborhood, as soon as the sewer extension reached my street every vacant lot became valuable and buildable and the houses went up almost overnight. There are 11,196 acres of land in total in Mattapoissett so if "only" 20 percent of it is now developed we may think that we are better off than many communities but that should not mislead us. I believe we need to continue to pursue any and all available means to protect as much of the open space as we can.

The Mattapoissett Land Trust through the leadership of its board and the support of its members and the larger community has been doing a great job so far. I am pleased to report the MLT currently owns 567 acres in town and an additional 80 acres at the Oldfield Farm in Rochester. But the work is not over yet as we strive to preserve the natural beauty and diversity of Mattapoissett.

Test your knowledge of land preservation in Mattapoisett with this MLT Quiz

1. How much land does the MLT have under its protection?

- a) approx. 350 acres b) 526 acres c) 712 acres
d) 993 acres

2. Are all of these acres in Mattapoisett?

- a) Yes b) No, MLT holds CR's in Rochester and Marion c) No, MLT owns land in Fairhaven d) No, MLT owns land in Rochester

3. Must the MLT get approval from the Conservation Commission to make changes in wetlands on its properties?

- a) Yes, like any other land owner.
b) No, as a public non-profit environmental organization, it is exempt. c) It's exempt from the Town's ConComm, but not from the State's requirements. d) It only needs to file a Notice of Environmental Action (NEA) with the State within 90 days.

4. In what year was the Mattapoisett Land Trust created?

- a) 1963 b) 1974 c) 1982 d) 1998

5. What was the MLT's first land acquisition?

- a) Munro Waterfront b) Woodcock Preserve off Long Plain Road c) Morris Preserve on Brierpatch Lane d) Martocci Preserve on Marion Road

6. Is hunting permitted on MLT properties?

- a) Yes, where permitted by law. b) Only on the properties in the Bowman Road area. c) Only where

we have a written agreement with abutters. d) No, not permitted.

7. T/F The price we can pay to acquire a piece of property is limited only by how much we can raise in donations and in grants for the acquisition.

8. T/F Once the MLT buys or accepts a property it is prohibited from subsequently selling it.

9. T/F The MLT pays no taxes to the Town or to the Commonwealth.

10. T/F The MLT is prohibited by its bylaws from expending funds for acquisitions that do not lie largely within the borders of the Town.

11. T/F All of the work of the MLT is done with the help volunteers and only one ½ time staff person who handles membership mailings and maintaining the bank accounts.

12. T/F Purchase and sale data of all land transactions in Town, including those by environmental groups like the MLT, are used to determine the value of undeveloped land during re-assessment.

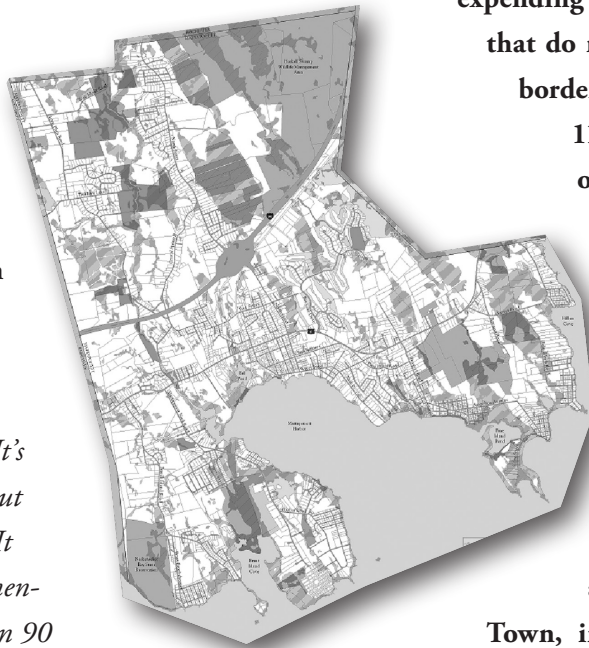
13. How many MLT properties were acquired with partial funding from from the Town?

- a) 0 b) 1 c) 4 d) 7

14. How many Commonwealth properties were acquired with partial funding from the MLT?

- a) 0 b) 1 c) 4 d) 12

15. T/F The MLT will accept all donations of land but will only purchase parcels exceeding 10 acres.



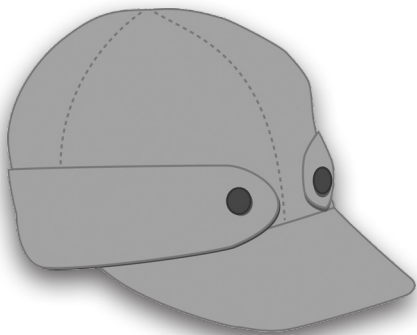
MLT Quiz Answers

1. (c) 648 acres owned in fee; one Conservation Restriction covering 64 acres.
2. (d) 80 acre Oldfield Farm in Rochester
3. (a)
4. (b)
5. (c) Donation received in December, 1974.
6. (a) Please be careful.
7. False, we can't pay more than the value put on the property by a qualified appraiser.
8. False, the board of directors makes decisions about the disposition of properties in the best interest of furthering the MLT's mission. The bylaws were changed in May, 2012, to require a 2/3 vote of the board of directors to acquire or dispose of a property.
9. False, the MLT does not pay property taxes but does pay taxes, for example, on unrelated income, such as raffle proceeds.
10. False, there is no limit in the bylaws but we have our hands full here.
11. False, we have no paid staff but do contract for outside help with some projects.
12. False, non-profit transactions are not considered "arms-length" transactions and are not used in the assessors' revaluation.
13. (a) We have used state and federal funds and private grants, but none from the town.
14. (b) The MLT contributed \$75,000 toward the acquisition of Nasketucket Bay State Reservation.
15. False, The MLT will accept as a gift, or purchase, properties of any size but the property must help us further our mission.

2011 Hunting Season

Be careful out there

Deer hunting season (it is not the only one) opens October 15, and runs through December 31: for archery (Oct. 15 - Nov. 24), shotgun (Nov. 26 - Dec. 8) and primitive muzzle load firearms (Dec 10 - Dec 31). You can find more information regarding all hunting seasons and regulations at <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/> (Mattapoissett is in Zone 11) When using your Land Trust properties, remember that hunting is allowed, and that no one form of recreation is exclusive of the other. Please be aware of and respect hunters who are legally using the land. Dress for safety, using hats and/or vests of "Blaze Orange" to improve your visibility.



More to see on MLT website

Go to www.mattlandtrust.org for additional information and an up to date events calendar (ABOUT/CALENDAR).

Use the Stewardship Log (PROPERTIES/STEWARDSHIP LOG) to keep us informed of what you see on the properties and trails. You can note problems such as misuse or blocked trails or entry ways, or interesting things you observe.

On the PROPERTIES page you will find more and more information about the individual parcels and preserves available for your "passive" recreational use. Under the PROPERTIES menu there are two maps available. One is a printable map to take with you. The other is an interactive 3-D Google map giving you the ability to "fly" over the town and see outlines of your MLT properties.

CONNECT with us to see PDF's of past newsletters, join the MLT, make a donation or befriend to us on Facebook.

SHOP securely and purchase from the catalog of T-shirts, caps, tote bags and more.

Nathaniel Fuchs

Land Trust Scholar on the Pre-Med Track

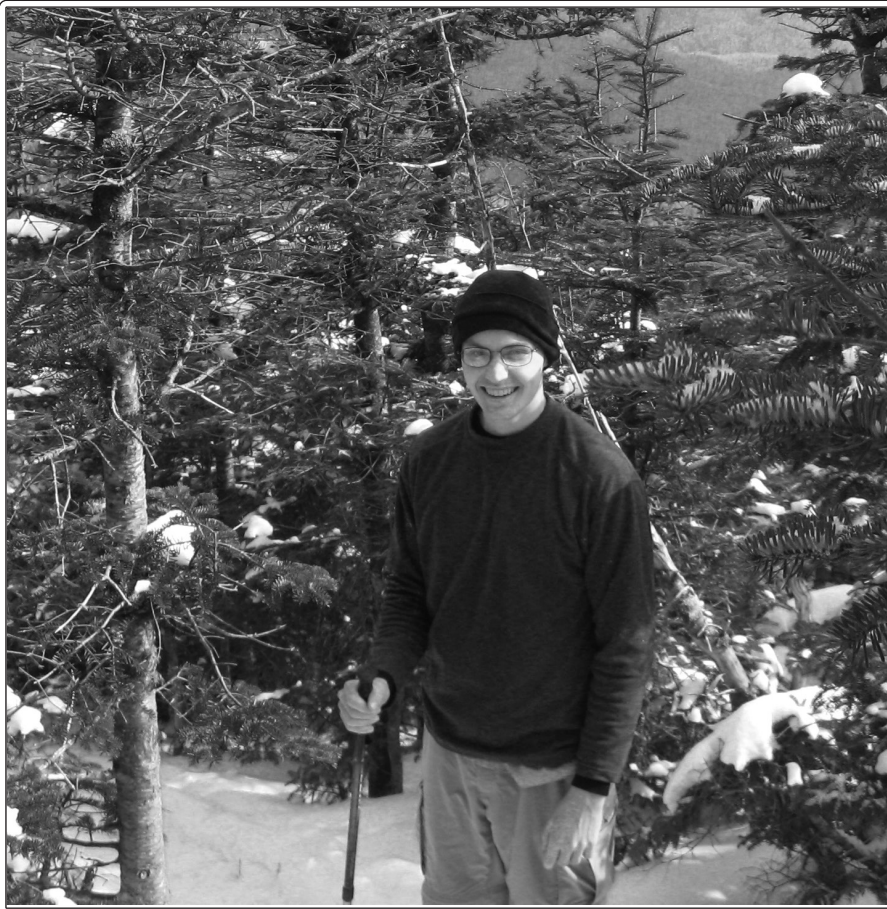
By Ellen P. Flynn

EF How did you choose which schools to apply to and what were your main criteria for this process?

NF There is a great variety of colleges in America and around the globe, each is unique and can provide an education like no other. With the range of choices I found it useful to reflect on what I find important and what I am interested in learning and living for the rest of my life. The criteria I used to narrow down the search were all based on things that I found in Mattapoisett. I wanted a college that provided a rigorous academic experience, a good Pre-Med Track, and an environmentally clean campus with emphasis on the natural world plus an active outing club. After research and college visits, I found all the things that I was interested in at the University of Vermont.

EF Now that you have been at UVM your choice, for a few weeks and settling in the academic environment, what do you think you would have liked to know in advance before attending this college?

NF College is a place of new experiences and opportunities. Fortunately I have had a lot of good advice about college from friends and family and feel very prepared both academically and socially. However I do wish that I had known to bring a broom.



EF How does your day rate compared to your expectations? What have you learned about those expectations?

NF Every day is different at UVM, many opportunities arise and interesting people surround me. For example the outing club led a series of hikes to introduce students to the club. On one of my hikes I discovered a leadership program that trains future leaders. My day-to-day experience is much more exciting and involved than I thought it could be while studying. Broadening my range of experiences was my expectation and it has come to reality in my work and classes. I love being able to hike and being part of the outing club and I love being here at UVM.

EF What kind of freshman involvements in the campus community have you joined or are considering? Would your Land Trust experience be applied to college life?

NF Spending one's time is not an easy choice. As a dorm rep for student government council, my responsibilities include communicating needs for residencies. "Green House" where I reside is for like-minded people interested in preserving the environment. I train for a leadership position in the Outing Club. My Land Trust experiences provided me with the skills to take on a project and make the community we live in a better place. When I worked for the Land Trust under Paul Osenkowski (Ozzie) I learned the value of hard work and how to enjoy the work that you do. By listening to Ozzie and the other members of the land trust I increasingly learned the value of preserving the land and respecting the resources that we survive on. Through my work with the Mattapoisett Land Trust I am better organized, willing and interested in preserving the environment.

EF How often do you and your twin brother exchange ideas, now that you are at different colleges?

NF One of the things about college is that it takes you from home and throws you into a new place, a whole different world. My brother and I do keep in regular contact. That being said it is certainly different being away from my family and the surroundings that I grew up with.

EF Do you have a self-directed plan for your first year?

NF I hope to accomplish many things this year. I plan on learning all that I possibly can. UVM has a host of amazing science courses and over half of UVM accepted pre-med students go on to Medical School. Again I am particularly enthusiastic about the Outing club and about being able to see the mountains of Vermont. Finally, I am planning on having a good time, meeting new people and I coming back home to see my family and friends.

Honor Your Loved Ones

The following individuals or groups have chosen in the last six months to honor their loved ones through donations to the Mattapoisett Land Trust.

Blueberry bushes in memory of Barbara K. & E. Mason Welling:

The Hathaway Family Mattapoisett, MA

In memory of Barbara Welling:

<i>Sandra Staple</i>	<i>Belfair, WA</i>
<i>Bortner & Brad Bortner</i>	<i>Hebron, CT</i>
<i>Mrs. Marie P. Pellizari</i>	<i>New Bedford, MA</i>
<i>Noel Tripp</i>	<i>Mattapoisett, MA</i>
<i>The Reid Family</i>	<i>Marion, MA</i>
<i>Mrs. Arleen Shaw</i>	<i>Newburgh, NY</i>
<i>Mrs. Elizabeth Davis</i>	<i>Rochester, MA</i>
<i>Walter & Raye Sawyer</i>	<i>Mattapoisett, MA</i>
<i>Mrs. Eletha Yeaton</i>	<i>Mountain Lakes, NJ</i>
<i>Mary & Kenneth Davis</i>	<i>South Carver, MA</i>
<i>The Tinkham Family- Robert, Shirley, Rob & Paul</i>	<i>Boston, MA</i>
<i>Diana Misenti</i>	<i>Stafford Springs, CT</i>
<i>Robert V. Keirans</i>	<i>Mattapoisett, MA</i>
<i>Eleanor Johansen</i>	<i>Mt. Pleasant, SC</i>
<i>Ron Gift</i>	<i>Mattapoisett, MA</i>
<i>Patricia & Ralph Sanford</i>	<i>Assonet, MA</i>
<i>Ted & Patricia Quinn</i>	<i>Oriskany, NY</i>
<i>MetLife SHV/OP Team</i>	

In honor of the birthday of Gary P. Johnson:

Bill & Virginia Johnson Williams Bay, WI
Luana Josvold Mattapoisett, MA

Thank you for your generous contributions which will be used to further our mission of protecting the land and environment of Mattapoisett for generations to come.

MLT plans to honor volunteers

Continuing on its mission to preserve and protect open space for your recreation, exploration and enjoyment, your Mattapoisett Land Trust depends on many resources.

From membership fees to endowments and major donations of land, the all volunteer Board of Directors uses these resources judiciously. From expanding the acres of protected properties (if you've taken the quiz in this issue you know the number) to developing new trails and maintaining existing ones we can sometime stretch what is made available.

One of our greatest and most appreciated assets is band of enthusiastic volunteers. Scouts from our local troop have cleared and built trails, recreation areas and even bridges. Members of our community help out in a many ways, from staffing our booth at Harbor Days, to assisting in clean-ups and general maintenance.

It is this background activity, probably invisible to you, that keeps protected lands open and available for your use.

This winter we will be honoring this selfless segment of our organization.

Plans are being finalized for location, date and time. Keep abreast of upcoming activities on mattlandtrust.org and facebook.com/mattlandtrust.

Join us as we let these indispensable folks know our deep appreciation for their work. Who knows? You may find inspiration to jump in yourself!

Guided Tours

Want to know more about what goes on and what lives in your Mattapoisett Land Trust properties?

Stewardship chair and enthusiastic promoter of protected land use Paul "Ozzie" Osenkowski will arrange to guide you through properties that have attracted your interest.

Believe me when I say Ozzie will fill you with a knowledge of your surroundings and an appreciation for what your Land Trust has accomplished.

Give Ozzie a call at 508-758-9643 to get started.

Happy trails!

Kids' Corner

A success story

Many of our native bird species are threatened by the loss of habitat and new predators but one very large species has made a remarkable come-back and is now common in Mattapoisett. The wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) was eliminated from Massachusetts by 1855 through hunting and loss of habitat but after reintroduction in the 1930's it has rapidly recovered much of its original range.

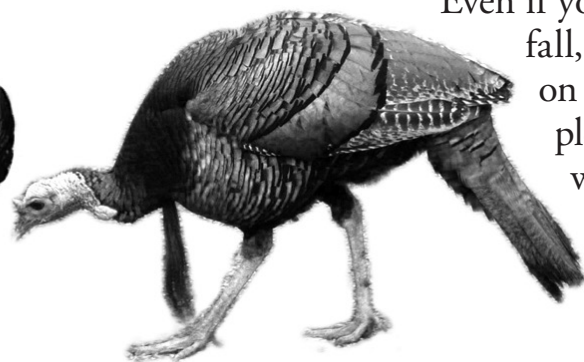
The birds are very large with males, called gobblers, as large as 48" tall and females, hens, up to 36". Unlike domesticated turkeys that have white tips on their tail feathers, wild turkeys are brown with black bars on their feathers, a bronze sheen with chestnut-brown tips. They have a naked head with bluish and reddish wattles hanging down from their throats. Males, and some females, have a "beard" of feathers on their breasts, but only males have spurs on their legs for fighting. One of their most distinctive features of turkeys is their large fan-shaped tails.

Wild turkey nests are simple depressions lined with leaves in the forest floor where the hen will incubate 4-17 eggs. When the chicks hatch they quickly learn to find their own food but will follow the hen as she looks for food. Frequently broods will group together in groups of more than 30 chicks and hens. The gobblers don't take a role in raising the chicks.

Like people, turkeys are omnivores, meaning that they eat both plants and animals. They eat fruit and nuts but will also eat insects and salamanders. Mattapoisett is fortunate to have pine and oak forests which provide the food and shelter that they prefer. While turkeys feed on the ground during the day they prefer to find security by roosting in trees at night to stay away from predators.



The MLT owns a number of properties that have the type of habitat that wild turkeys prefer and we did spot a pair on the Brownell Preserve last spring. If you spot them on another of our preserves we would like to hear about it.



Even if you don't spot them this fall, when you see the turkey on your Thanksgiving table, please give thanks for the wild cousin that has made a remarkable comeback in Massachusetts.

Your Board of Directors

From time to time we ask new members of the board to introduce themselves to the membership and other readers of The Heron. Here are a couple more

Sandra Dawson

Sandra is well known in Mattapoisett as the owner / broker of Dawson Real Estate which has been in business for 34 years. She grew up in Brockton MA, leaving for Boston to attend nursing school. In addition to having been an RN, Sandra is a Graduate, REALTOR® Institute (GRI) and a Certified Residential Specialist (CRS).

Sandra and husband Kevin, a New Bedford business owner are parents of 3 adult children, and grandparents of 5. "When the children were young", she tells us, "we often took hikes with lunches in our backpacks. Many Thanksgivings we would walk to the end of Angelica Point while the turkey was cooking".

In 1969 Sandra and Kevin found a beautiful piece of land in Mattapoisett on which to build a small Cape-style house. They have lived in Mattapoisett since then, raising their children while Sandra established her business.

In her free time Sandra is an avid reader and lover of flowers. Community involvement has put her on the Board of Trustees of the Nativity Preparatory School of New Bedford, and in the past she has been involved in the Mattapoisett schools, Library, and Woman's Club, and active in Realtor Associations.

Sandra already knew most of the board members before joining us in 2010 and becoming a member of the

Acquisition Committee where her solid knowledge of the town has been invaluable.

Lou Martin

Lou Martin came to the Board in 2010, after having helped other cities and towns in his job, deciding to put his skills to work in his own community. Lou grew up in Binghamton, NY and has earned degrees in Environmental Design/ Urban Planning and Public Administration.

With his wife Beth, Lou has four daughters. Two are in high school and two in college. On one sunny June day, Lou and family discovered this pretty little town on the water and soon after made it their home.

When not at work or spending time with his family, Lou enjoys trail running and live music.

Lou sees the MLT as continuing to build on its impressive track record of accomplishments. "There are still plenty of opportunities", he says, "to protect and enhance the natural and built environment for all Mattapoisett residents. The educational component is also key because it passes on the interest and shared responsibility to the next generation of stewards".

Lou has been active in our Stewardship Committee and was instrumental in planning the renovation of the small MLT property on the corner of North Street and Route 6.

Adopt a trail

Take a section of the system to heart

As mentioned elsewhere, we are grateful to volunteer efforts to build and maintain the trail system throughout the properties. Trails can quickly become overgrown with bramble, vines and other flora native (and not) to our region.

The battle to keep nature at bay along the extensive walking paths does not end.

An idea sprung up (like phragmites) that we could use the same model as the road systems. Why not have sections of trail become adoptees of the community?

The model is simple enough. Find a trail that needs love, and work with our Stewardship Committee to set up a program of weed whacking and clearing.

The reward to everyone using the trails is obvious, but deep down inside you'll know you are a part of the land preservation community.

Contact Ozzie at 508-758-9643 to get going.



Mattapoisett Land Trust, Inc.
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Calendar — 2012 Fall and Winter Activities

All Mattapoisett Land Trust events are free and open to the public

Check www.mattlandtrust.org/calendar for up-to-date information

Saturday, Oct. 20, 2012	5:30 pm to 8:00 pm	Salty's Silvery Moon Soirée	An evening of storytelling, song, and s'mores. No parking on site, bring a flashlight to guide your way out.	Dunseith Gardens, Route 6 and North Street
Saturday, Oct. 13, 2012	1:00 pm to 3:00 pm	Botanical Exploration of Nasketucket Bay State Reservation	Jim Sears, Retired UMass Dartmouth professor will guide you on an interactive tour of the reservation	Nasketucket Bay State Reservation 1.5 mi. up Brandt Beach Rd.
Mid Winter 2013		Honor our volunteers	A simple affair to meet, greet and thank the volunteers who make our mission work	TBA, Check mattlandtrust.org

THE HERON is published bi-annually by the Mattapoisett Land Trust.

The MLT, formed in 1974, is a non-profit, tax- exempt charitable organization incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Its purpose is to preserve open space for the enjoyment of current and future residents of Mattapoisett, as well as to educate the public about the sound use of natural resources, and to work with other organizations having the same goals.

Our membership consists of annual contributors — our primary source of revenue — and a volunteer Board of Directors: Kathy Bohan, Don Cuddy, Sandra Dawson, Ellen Flynn, Sandra Hering, Luana Marie Josvold, Elizabeth Leidhold, Louis Martin, Jenny Mello, Paul Osenkowski, Charles Radville, Donald Short, Raymond Cebula, and Gary P. Johnson, President.

The MLT is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization. All contributions are fully tax deductible.

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