

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

Land Preservation forty years on

This year the Mattapoisett Land Trust celebrates its fortieth anniversary. In recognition of this happy event, this issue of The Heron takes a look back in time to learn a little about those early days and the events surrounding its creation.

By Don Cuddy

When Brad Hathaway and Dave Hewitt were serving on the Mattapoisett Conservation Commission in the early 1970's they began to worry what might happen if large tracts of the town's open space were swallowed whole by unchecked development. Fortunately for all of us who live here today, Brad and Dave decided to act on their fears and from these

early conversations the goal of creating a Land Trust in Mattapoisett emerged. "I think we both could see into the future," Brad said.

Forty years later, the MLT has grown to become an integral part of our community. But back in the day, as these hometown visionaries were soon to discover, the dream of land preservation was not shared universally.

"There weren't many land trusts around back then," said Brad. The whole concept was new and, as with many new ideas, it was greeted initially with suspicion and even resistance. Some at town hall, for example, were irked by the prospect of removing any land at all from the tax rolls and

that resentment lingered. Even after hiring a lawyer and incorporating the Land Trust as a non-profit in 1974, the MLT continued to receive an annual tax bill from the assessor's of-

fice, year after year for ten years, and had to file for an abatement every time.

At its outset the fledgling organization struggled to gain any traction in the community. "We had no money, it was difficult to attract any members and we got no support from the town," Brad remembers. But original board members Dave Hewitt and his wife Norma proved indefatigable and even went from door to door in town to get the message out about what the MLT was trying to accomplish, Brad said.

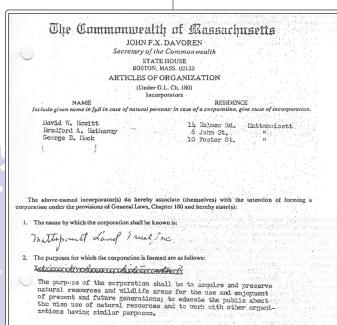
The first acquisition, a 17-acre parcel on Long Plain Rd. donated by Joan Woodcock, provided a beginning. But it was the Munro parcel, adjacent to Shipyard Park that put the MLT squarely on the map.

Ruth Munro, who lived in the big house on the corner opposite this lovely waterfront lot, eschewed other alterna-

tives and donated the land to the MLT in 1975, ensuring its preservation in perpetuity. At the time, the town was interested in acquiring the property to provide additional parking for the wharf. Thankfully Ruth Munro's desire to maintain the land in its natural state prevailed and gave us this jewel that all of Mattapoisett may enjoy forever.

It was the distinguished gentleman George Mock who became the MLT's first president. As an avid birder, George had attracted the interest of Dave Hewett. "Dave and his wife were really the moving force that got things going for the Land Trust," George said in a 2010 interview. "People were really uninformed about

the possibility of preserving land back then," he said. "The town was worried that the Land Trust wouldn't last and the land would be off the tax rolls forever. "



Land conservation enjoys widespread support today but it was a novel idea in the beginning, according to George. "We were early in the process," he said. But gradually, with large organizations like the Nature Conservancy and Mass Audubon acquiring acreage, it became apparent that protecting and preserving land was a growing national movement.

An early mailing helped get the word out about the MLT's mission, George recalled but "there was no rush of acreage and it was a bit discouraging during those early years." A bird walk scheduled to celebrate the newly acquired Woodcock property attracted just three people and there were just a couple dozen members during the early years.

"It was an effort that had few rewards to start with and we almost despaired of real success. But we knew it was the right thing to do," George said. "We just hoped we could keep it going until somebody came along. And someone did come along."

Another significant acquisition came the MLT's way in 1984, courtesy of the Shoolmans, summer residents of Brant Beach. An 85-acre parcel of land on the Mattapoisett River, Oldfield Farm is actually located in Rochester which did not have a land trust of its own at the time. The Shoolmans donated the land to preserve the fields and woods as a sanctuary for the birds they loved.

Over the past twenty years, the Land Trust has gone from strength to strength and now owns over 700 acres of land, all of which is safe from development and open to the public for recreation and the enjoyment of the natural world. This is truly a remarkable accomplishment for such a small all-volunteer group and is something of which the whole town can be proud. But as much as has been achieved in recent years, it is worth remembering that none of it would have been possible without the vision and dedication of the original members.

Our Founders

We hold a deep sense of gratitude to the eleven citizens, our first directors, who had the courage, foresight and energy to found a non-profit environmental organization in Mattapoisett on April 9, 1974.

David W. Hewitt, President George B. Mock, Treasurer Bradford A. Hathaway, Clerk Donald J. Fleming Norma E. Hewitt Priscilla A. Hathaway Violet Jones Frances Pernas Larry Seidl Lorraine Seidl Isabella Watts

Without their initiative Mattapoisett would not be nearly so "Special" today. Thank you.

MIT Annual Meeting

Saturday May 10

10:00 Join us at the Munro waterfront preserve for the dedication of a monument to the Mattapoisett Land Trust founders.

11:00 Come to Friends Meeting House for presentations by students from ORRHS and UMass, Dartmouth on research, field work and engineering projects.

12:00 Pot luck lunch. Bring a dish to share. We'll provide beverages and dessert.

1:00 Annual meeting. Election of directors and officers. Review of the year.

1:15 Wolf Talk (wolftalk.net) presentation featuring the Wolf Ambassador. One Hour.

Wolf behavior in captivity and in the wild.

Eating habits and pack structure.

Visual display of furs, skulls and more.

Question and answer session.

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: Charles A. "Skip" Bedser, Kathy Bohan, Raymond Cebula, Don Cuddy, Sandra Dawson, Ellen Flynn, John Henderson, Sandra Hering, Michael Huguenin, Luana Marie Jøsvold, Elizabeth Leidhold, Louis Martin, Paul Osenkowski, Charles Radville, Jeffrey P. Sanders, Esq. and Gary P. Johnson, President.

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

Mattapoisett Land Trust, Inc.

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Despite Cold and Snow, Stewardship Presses on...

By Mike Huguenin and Paul Osenkowski

Our land stewardship activities are ongoing in all seasons. While summer brings demands for mowing, planting, trimming and trail maintenance the cooler months allow us to focus on other activities. During the winter of 2013 we began a weekly program of walking the boundaries at MLT preserves to establish our property lines, post signs, meet our neighbors, and resolve any encroachment issues. We continued this program in winter 2014 and, despite seemingly endless snow, by the time warm weather returns we will have completed inspections at roughly two-thirds of our preserves, accounting for well over 90 percent of the acreage we protect. Inspections on the remaining preserves will be completed during the winter of 2015. As part of the inspection program we have developed a series of resource maps for each preserve as well as a report detailing inspection findings. Over the next year these items will become components of a management plan for each property.

In addition to property inspections, Stewardship Committee members fought the winter chill by repairing lawn mowers, tractors, and other equipment; clearing downed trees and brush from trails on MLT preserves; and planning for spring and summer, as detailed below.

Dunseith ("Salty the Seahorse") Preserve

We plan to refurbish MLT's small shed with a

badly-needed new roof and new windows. In addition, students from ORRHS will join us to install new plantings at the entrances, and to assist in our continued clean up and

landscape improvements at the property.

Munro Preserve

We will repair areas of erosion in the lawns and gardens along the seawall, and refresh the Rosa rugosa and other plantings. We also will complete tree pruning, trail maintenance and fence repairs. Most important, we will install a monu-

ment to MLT's founders in celebration of our 40th birthday in 2014!

Grace Preserve

We will redefine and mark several trails, including the southern trail to Angelica Avenue and the eastern trail to Holly Woods Road. Signage will be improved as part of this effort. We will continue our work to control brush and create varied habitat around and near Grace Pond.

Brownell Preserve

We will continue our work to restore the blueberry patch, including soil amendments, pruning and mowing as needed. Students from the Environmental Science class at ORRHS will join us to conduct soil testing at the patch. We also will plant 50 new blueberry bushes and monitor their success in filling some of the gaps in the orchard. In addition, we will establish a walking trail from the blueberry patch to Prospect Road, and work with neighbors and the Town of Mattapoisett on a design for a small parking area off Prospect Road at the start of this new trail.

Walega-Livingstone Preserve

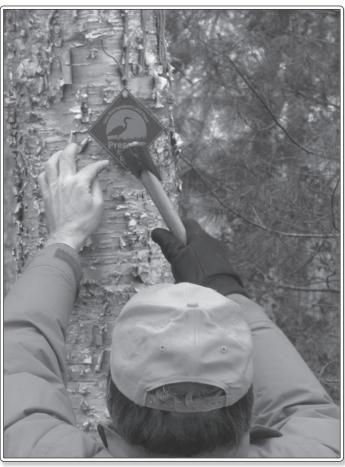
We will work with Mattapoisett Boy Scout Troop 53 to clean up Styrofoam, timbers and other debris on the preserve's shoreline at the north end of Brandt Island Cove.

MLT's Stewardship Committee welcomes new volunteers to join us in these or other activities related to the upkeep and improvement of our properties. Specific activities and time commitment can be tailored to your interests and constraints. To explore spending some time

with us, please contact Ozzie Osenkowski (758-9643), Mike Huguenin (758-2661) or any member of MLT's Board of Directors.



MLT's inspection crew at a stone pile marking a property corner



We use small MLT signs to post Preserve boundaries

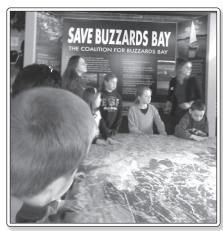
A few features of the Educational Arm of the MLT

By Ellen P. Flynn

When the Mattapoisett Land Trust offers support through scholarships, leading walks on our properties and participates in Earth Day and other events for children, a priority is established. This priority helps to provide a better understand-

ing and connect the lives of Mattapoisett children, residents and future visitors. Here are a few features of how the Education component of the Mattapoisett Land Trust has impacted young people in our community over the years.

Four years ago the Education committee initiated support for a third grade program that was tailored around a trip to the Buzzard



Mattapoisett students learn about Buzzards Bay ecology. Photo by Ellen Flynn

Bay Coalition and the National Park Service located in New Bedford, Massachusetts. Rob Hancock, V.P. of Education and Public Engagement and Margo Connolly, Senior Educator of the BBC helped design and coordinate the objectives for this program. Each year the trip includes a watershed walk, hands on scientific experiments about water, rivers, land use and the bay. Many questions about restoration and the protection of the bay including what happens to rain water after it falls are discussed. These topics are integrated with the disciplinary

core ideas set forth in the framework of the Massachusetts third grade science and technology curriculum. At the BBC location there is a large, lighted 3D model of a view of Buzzards Bay. The children discover ways to generate clean electricity and find out about renewable energy and learn exactly where they live in relation to the ecological treasures found in Buzzards Bay. All this learning takes place at the award winning Richard C. Wheeler Bay Learning Center located on 114 Front Street in downtown New Bedford Massachusetts, one block from the New Bedford Whaling museum.

The Mattapoisett Land Trust achieves its goals when just a sample educational program like The Buzzard Bay Third Grade Trip reaches over 90 different students each year and through learning and analyses these young people can assess how they can become active and take charge of a small part of their own environment. We offer assistance, which helps to determine a conscious awareness and successfully formulate long-range goals for children. MLT Board member Kathy Bohan and I chaperone this trip.

Another featured program is the annual continued study and certification of vernal pools located on our properties and one or two on the local Old Hammondtown school property. This program is led by Ms. Elizabeth Leidhold, a Natural Science specialist, MLT board member, Director of the Marion Natural History Museum and Executive Director of the Buzzards Bay Action Committee. Each year Ms. Leidhold offers a fascinating program at the local Library and later presents a walking visit to one of our properties or the Old Hammondtown School to discover and conduct an official certification of vernal pools.

The finance for our Educational programs originates from the Edith Glick Shoolman fund. This fund was granted as a bequest to provide support both direct and indirect to make a difference in the lives of children. MLT ED Committee often promotes projects that involve and encourage environmental education and physical activity to refine and improve academic skills. Our goal is to encourage children to explore the world around them and discover their role within it.

S.E. MA Land Trust Convocation

By Luana Marie Jøsvold

On Saturday, February 1st, five members of the Board of Directors of the Mattapoisett Land Trust attended the annual Southeastern Massachusetts Land Trust Convocation at the Canal Club Facility of the Quality Inn Hotel in Bourne, MA: Ellen Flynn, Mike Huguenin, Gary P. Johnson, Luana Marie Jøsvold, and Elizabeth Leidhold. The event was co-sponsored by The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Buzzards Bay Coalition, and the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition.

Delegates attended one of two morning workshops before the plenary session by Ed Becker and Mark Robinson about what the NEFF decision will mean for individual land trusts, and one of two afternoon workshops after the plenary session. The two morning workshops dealt with stewardship principles and capital campaigns. The focus of the workshop on stewardship principles was the need to have a solid understanding on paper and in the field of a land trust's properties and conservation restrictions. The focus of the workshop on capital campaigns was to think about fundraising around a project that threatens to stretch an organization's capacity to the limit.

The afternoon sessions focused on communication with members and deal negotiations. The communications workshop covered how newsletters, mailings, e-mails, and social media all play an important role in getting out the word to members. Those attending were presented with new ideas on creating messages, setting goals, reaching out to targeted audiences, and publishing effective newsletters. The second workshop focused on how to seal the deal after identifying an important piece of land to preserve.

In addition to hearing from experts in a variety of fields, the annual convocation gives those attending an opportunity to talk to members of other land trusts and to share ideas about what is going well, what is not going well, solutions to problems, and possible resources. Networking with members of land trusts both large and small is both encouraging and rewarding for those who attend the convocation.

Kids' Corner

Salty, our famous seahorse

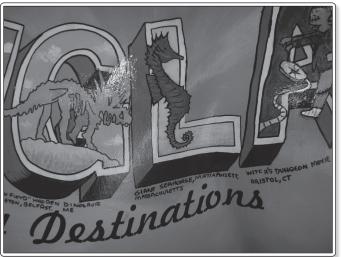
If you have ever flown to a foreign country from Logan Airport in Boston, you have visited Terminal E. Next time you are there, make sure you take a look at the unusual sculpture of a painted cow and a calf that stands in the middle of the terminal. The calf has an Icelandic flag on its forehead, but an even more interesting

sight for Land Trust friends appears on the left side of the cow. Painted on the side is the message "A Compendium" of NEW ENGLAND Fun and Interesting Destinations" with each letter of "NEW ENGLAND" holding a special sight. Between the "G" with its "Pink Floyd", the wooden dinosaur of Belfast, Maine, and the "A" with the Witch's Dungeon Movie Theater of Bristol, Connecticut, sits the "L" with what they call the "Giant Seahorse. Mattapoisett, Massachusetts". Too bad they didn't know its name is "Salty"

So next time you're traveling to a foreign country, please take some time to visit "Salty" in the terminal. Take a picture that you can share with friends in foreign lands and invite them visit to this "Interesting Destination" so that they can view the original masterpiece.

Photos by Gary Johnson





MIT Merchandise

The MLT typically has a number of items for sale at our Harbor Days booth. New items are designed regularly. We have a new beach towel, several tee shirt designs in long and short sleeve, and smaller items like our Salty decal and an aluminum water bottle with our logo.

Tee Shirts

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	ldren	\$8.00				
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Aluminum Water Bottle \$5.00 Salty Beach Towel \$20.00 \$2.00



Thank You!

Many Mattapoisett residents and businesses support the work of MLT with contributions of labor and materials to repair, maintain and improve our properties. We offer our sincere appreciation to the people and organizations listed below. Please support these businesses, and offer a word of thanks when you see them around town!

Matt Borges

Gary Bowman

Wes Bowman

Craig Canning, Progressive Grower Supply

John Clifford

Roland Cote, Mattapoisett Tree Warden

Barry Denham, Mattapoisett Highway Department

Charlie Duponte, Duponte Landscaping & Design

John Mathieu

Mattapoisett Boy Scout Troop 53

Jeanette and Jim Mello

David McIntire, Jr., Mahoney's Building Supply

David Mendell, Bartlett Tree Experts

Professor Heather Miller, UMass Dartmouth Civil & Environmental Engineering

David Nicolosi, Nicolosi Excavation

Gary Parker

Todd Rodrigues, Yard Boss Landscape Design

Doug Schneider, N. Douglas Schneider Civil Engineers & Land Surveyors

Dan Shea, Shea Tree & Landscaping

Tom Simonson

Dan Sullivan

Carmen Sullivan

Bob Tripp

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 bush in memory of Roy R. & Catherine V. Andrews:

Brad & Priscilla Hathaway Mattapoisett, MA

In honor of the wedding of Gary P. Johnson & Luana Jøsvold (38 years ago):

David Kibbe

Albany, NY

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.

Our Next Opportunity

By Gary P. Johnson

We knew when sewer was extended onto Mattapoisett Neck that more development would be permitted than had previously been allowed. Then Greg and Jeanne Downey obtained permission to create a building lot with a sewer stub that would overlook the salt marsh on an extension of Whal-

er's Way. The 22-acre lot would be an attractive location for another large vacation home, but it would adversely impact the salt marsh of Brandt Island Cove. The map shows clearly the central location of the parcel within the matrix of previously protected land.

The Commonwealth's Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program BioMap2 (2012) report lists the parcel both as "Core Habi-



tat" and "Critical Natural Landscape". Quoting the Mattapoisett summary report: "Core Habitat identifies key areas that are critical for the long-term persistence of rare species and other Species of Conservation Concern...", and "Critical Natural Landscape identifies large natural Landscape Blocks that...,if protected, will provide habitat for wide-ranging native species, support intact ecological processes, maintain connectivity among habitats, and enhance ecological resilience to natural and anthropogenic disturbances in a rapidly changing world." More simply, these are among the most important



natural resources of the Town.

We already have the promise of a \$75,000 grant through the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, the same agency that helped fund our Walega-Livingstone acquisition. But we need to raise the balance. You can help by sending your donation to P.O. Box 31 or by making a donation online at www.mattlandtrust.org.

If you would like to arrange a visit to the property, please send us an email at info@mattlandtrust.org; warm weather will make a visit much more attractive and there will be much more activity when the osprey return. (Photo courtesy Bill Field)

Director Profiles

As new directors come on board we present profiles so members and friends of the MLT can get to know them

Jeffrey Sanders was born in Worcester, Massachusetts and spent a few formative years living in New Bedford before moving to Mattapoisett. He attended Center and Old Hammondtown Schools in Mattapoisett before attending Old Rochester High School and graduating in 1996. In an effort to see other parts of the country, he attended the University of Maryland graduating in 2000 with a B.A. in Government and Politics. While in Maryland, Jeffrey interned in Vice President Gore's White House Office for a semester.

Feeling homesick for Massachusetts, Jeffrey returned to Massachusetts by spending summers on Nantucket working in restaurants and for Chase Canopy Company. He was lucky enough to meet his wife, Lynn, while both were waiting tables at the Atlantic Café. After the summer on Nantucket, Jeffrey was admitted to Suffolk University Law School in Boston and received his Jurist Doctorate in 2005. Soon after passing the bar exam he opened his own office in New Bedford specializing in real estate and corporate matters before merging his firm with his current firm of the Percy Law Group, PC.

Shortly after marrying Lynn, a New Yorker, Jeffrey was able to convince her to move to Mattapoisett after spending a beautiful August afternoon on the porch of the Mattapoisett Inn. Much to Lynn's dismay the Town looked a lot different when they moved into the Mattapoisett Village on a snowy January day a few months later. The Sanders family has grown since moving to Mattapoisett with the additions of William (age 6) and Teddy (age 3).

Jeffrey joined the MLT Board in 2013 with goal of protecting open space and environmental sensitive land. Beyond the acquisition of land, however, he feels strongly that the MLT is capable of doing this by educating kids and adults about the land of Mattapoisett. Preserving the ability of kids and adults to utilize the many great properties in Mattapoisett is something Jeffrey would like to work towards so his kids can enjoy Mattapoisett the way he did.

John Henderson grew up in Greens Farms, Connecticut. He graduated from Choate and Yale University where he received a BA degree in Political Science in 1964. His career was in banking and he retired from Bank of America as a Senior Vice President in 2003. He is a Chartered Financial Analyst.

John and his wife, Anne G. Tinker, live on Freeman Street in Mattapoisett. They have four children and five grandchildren living in Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York City. John and Anne enjoy tennis, golf, reading and travel. Walking in natural and historic settings is also a favorite pastime for the couple.

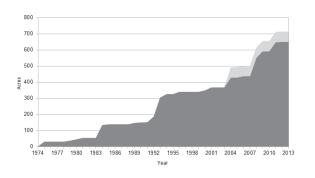
John has been active in Land Trusts in Connecticut since the late 1960s and is a former Trustee of The Connecticut Forest and Park Association. He also served as a member and Chairman of the Killingworth, CT Planning and Zoning Commission. He sees his involvement with the MLT as a way to help maintain the natural and historic resources in Mattapoisett and believes the organization plays a vital role in achieving these goals.

A Chronology of Land Protection

We thank all those who saw the Mattapoisett Land Trust as an appropriate partner for protecting the environment of our "special" town. We'll continue our work to justify their trust in the future.

Acquired	Title	Acreage
1974	•	
1975	Munro Waterfront	1.00
	Cairnes Preserve	8.73
	Violette Preserve	0.30
	Woodcock Preserve	20.04
1979	Elegancia Estates Preserve	6.20
1980	Eustis Preserve	0.80
	Elegancia Estates Preserve	7.26
1981	Delano Preserve	9.02
1984	Oldfield Farm	79.76
1985	Crowell Preserve	4.36
1989	Duseith Gardens & Sign	3.38
	Gregoire Preserve	5.36
1990	Ferreira Preserve	3.13
1991	McGowan/Farber Preserve	0.34
	Gorzka Preserve	0.34
1992	Indian Cove Preserve	34.40
	Newman Preserve	1.05
1993	Pine Island Pond Preserve	6.40
	Martocci Preserve	95.91
	Old Jenney Farm	14.84
	Dupont Drive Preserve	0.53
1994	Coyne Forest	16.77
	Crowell Preserve	3.01
	Belenger Presenve	0.11
1996	Ferreira Preserve	3.70
	Dexter Mill	3.69
	Murphy Preserve	0.77
	Water Tower Park	7.83
2000	Old Jenney Farm	7.37
	Flaherty Preserve	1.45
2001	Indian Cove Preserve	0.47
	Munn Preserve	18.35
2004	Shoolman Park	1.10
	Aucoot/Bowman Properties	59.56
	Field Farm CR	64.00
2006	Grace Preserve	9.28
2008	Walega-Livingstone Preserve	107.90
	Sullivan Preserve	6.26
2009	Dunn Preserve	39.80
2011	Brownell Preserve	49.32
	Murray Preserve	7.00
2012	Crowell Preserve	1.90
	TOTAL	713

MLT's 40 Years of Land Protection



= CR = Fee Acreage

The Heron

Calendar — 2014 Spring and Summer Activities

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

Check mattlandtrust.org or facebook.com/mattlandtrust for up-to-date information

Wednesday, April 2	7:00 PM	Vernal pool talk	Wetland scientist Elizabeth Leidhold will give a slide presentation on vernal pools in preparation for a field trip.	Mattapoisett Library
Saturday, April 5	2:00 PM	Vernal pool field trip	Join wetland scientist Elizabeth Leidhold on a field trip to identify features of a vernal pool. Wetland friendly footware suggested.	TBA
Saturday, May 10	10:00 AM	MLT annual meeting	See page two for full information. We'll be dedicating a monument, having some fun, a potluck lunch, and learning about wolves.	Munro Preserve and Friends Meeting House
Saturday, July 20 Sunday, July 21	9:00 AM-5:00 PM 10:00 AM-4:00PM	Harbor Days	Visit our booth for current information, join or renew your membership, learn about recent acquisitions and trails. Check out merchandise, including beach towels and tee shirts.	Shipyard Park, by the parking lot, under the tree.

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