



The Heron

FALL—WINTER 2014

ISSUE NO. 31

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

2014 - a banner year for land protection

Gary P. Johnson, President

This year will long be remembered in Mattapoisett as one of the most important in protecting our most environmentally sensitive lands from future development. The MLT's acquisition of the 23-acre Downey parcel on Mattapoisett Neck Road in June and the Nasketucket Bay Land Conservation Project managed by the Buzzards Bay Coalition means that by the end of the year nearly 300 acres of the most scenic and environmentally sensitive land south of Route 6 will have been protected from future development.

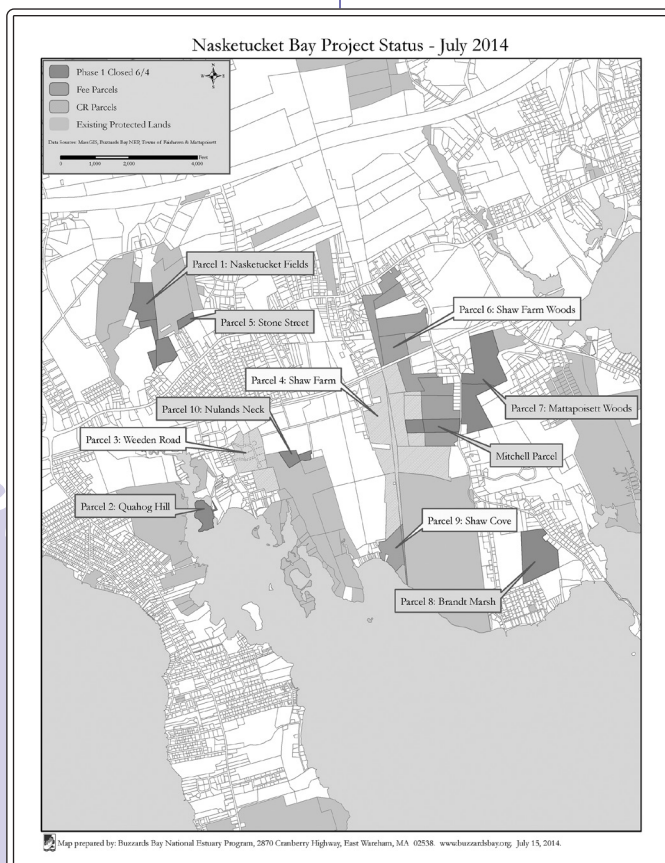
The Nasketucket Bay Land Conservation Project.

We've written about the project in the past- it's an incredibly complicated deal negotiated by the Buzzards Bay coalition to protect over 400 acres in Fairhaven and Mattapoisett through Conservation Restrictions (CR's) and the purchase of land in fee. In fact it's the largest coastal land conservation project currently being undertaken in Massachusetts and has funding from federal, state and local sources, both public and private. Phase One of the deal closed in June with the

Town's Conservation Commission acquiring 28 acres near the end of Brandt Island Road (named Brandt Marsh in the project). The state's Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) also acquired 64 acres of woodland near the bike path at that time. Phase Two is expected to close in November with DCR acquiring an additional 195 acres in Mattapoisett near the bike path and with the writing of a CR on 81 acres of farmland in Mattapoisett. In addition, DCR will have the right to create a path connecting the bike path to the existing Nasketucket Bay State Reservation for more recreational opportunities.

This very complicated deal also comes with a high price tag of approximately \$6 million. Both Mattapoisett and Fairhaven were asked to contribute approximately 3% of the costs- Fairhaven agreed to contribute \$178,830 but only on the condition that Mattapoisett would match its contribution. Last year at Special Town Meeting our citizens approved \$50,000 toward the project and last spring at Town Meeting they added an additional \$96,000 from Community Preservation Funds leaving the Town \$32,830 short of meeting its obligation.

The Mattapoisett Land Trust committed to contribute that additional \$32,830 to make this project a reality. We have a history of helping public entities reach goals in which we believe. In 1999



A full size map will be available at the MLT website maps.mattlandtrust.org/properties/printable-map

the Commonwealth was \$150,000 short of funds for the acquisition of the Nunes Farm which became the Nasketucket Bay State Reservation. We and the Fairhaven Acushnet Land Trust each contributed \$75,000 to make the acquisition a reality. We believe this complementary acquisition to the Nunes Farm deserves our support.

The Downey Acquisition

On June 2 we closed on the acquisition of the 23-acre Downey parcel lying between Tara Road and Mattapoisett Neck Road and directly north of our Walega-Livingstone Preserve. While the parcel with its osprey nest can be appreciated visually from Neck Road, it can be better savored on foot. We look forward to creating a new trail that will link its access to Whalers' Way and Neck Road south to the Walega-Livingstone Preserve and Brandt Island Cove. But we'll probably wait until a hard frost decimates the tick population.

2014 Blanche B. Perry scholarship winner

Ellen Flynn, chair of Education Committee

"To create and nurture a diverse community of the best people committed to leadership alleviating human suffering caused by disease" is Harvard University Medical mission statement, and the Mattapoisett Land Trust chose Leonard Murphy, who selected Harvard as his college of choice. Leonard, fifth in his class of the top ten seniors graduating from Bishop Stang High School, is our scholar to receive the Blanche B. Perry Scholarship for \$1000.00.

He is the son of Marigloria and Leonard Murphy of Rocky Hill, in Mattapoisett.

Here is how a recent correspondence with Lenny transpired.

E How have you found the mission to influence your daily class experience?

L The mission of the Harvard Medical School motivates me to challenge myself in all my classes so I can best educate myself in ways to eventually help others as a doctor.

E Have you ventured off to other parts of the campus?

L Since I am just a freshman, I haven't had the opportunity to explore amazing places like the Center for History of Medicine or the Countway Library of Medicine.

E Leonard tells me he has professors that teach him new things every day.

L I am currently learning about DNA structure and replica-

In order to complete the Downey purchase in June as agreed we needed to borrow approximately \$40,000 of the \$150,000 purchase price. As of this writing we still need to raise approximately \$15,000 to repay the loan before the end of the year.

Help if you can

It's been an aggressive but rewarding year in land protection in Mattapoisett. We still need to raise a little less than \$50,000 to finish the year in the black. You can help by donating for acquisitions on line at www.mattlandtrust.org or by sending a check with a note "For acquisitions" to the MLT at P.O. Box 31, Mattapoisett, MA, 02739. Donations for the Nasketucket Bay Land Conservation Project may also be made directly to the Town of Mattapoisett through the Treasurer's office. Whether you can contribute or not, we hope you will get outside and investigate these newly protected open spaces.

tion in my Life Science class.

E Has there been a lot of discussion on campus about Ebola and have you studied children's illness like the enterovirus & paralysis?

L We haven't spoken about children's illness or Ebola, but we will learn about HIV and how the virus replicates to try to understand how the virus works to explore different treatment options

E For travel, how is getting around on campus and do you use the MBTA transportation system for regular shopping off campus or do you bike?

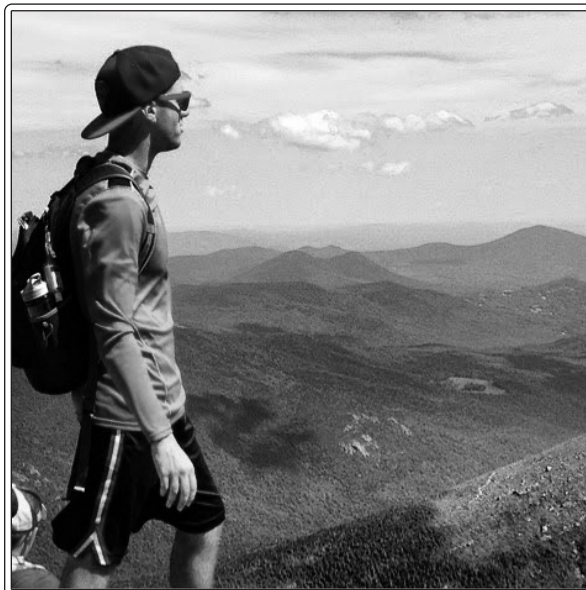
L There is so much going on here at Harvard that I haven't used the train or bus system to go shopping or to the movies, but hope to do so soon. I use my bicycle almost everyday to go to and from crew practice.

All my classes are in walking distance from each other so I usually walk and enjoy the beautiful fall day.

E I read an article on the home page about "Growing Green" and sustainability. Have you had time to join any extracurricular activities in this area?

L Although I have not joined a going green group, Harvard is doing many things to reduce waste and protect the environment. Just this year, they handed out compost bins to all students in hopes to reduce waste from biodegradable material.

E According to the website of Harvard Medical School "Students spend their first two years of medical school in classrooms on the Quad, which also provides laboratories and offices for 146 tenured and tenure-track faculty members in basic and social science departments. In addition, the Quad houses a number of core research facilities and the school administration, including the dean of the faculty of medicine."



Monument honors MLT founders

Don Cuddy

In recognition of the fortieth anniversary of its founding and to honor the ten men and women who had the foresight to bring it into being in 1974, the Mattapoisett Land Trust dedicated a new monument on a corner of the Munro parcel last May.

In the week prior to the dedication ceremony, workers from Tootell Monument Works in New Bedford prepared the surface of the large boulder, demonstrating wonderful technique and considerable artistry in sand-blasting the MLT heron into the rock face along with the name of the property. A bronze plaque listing the names of the original board members was also affixed to the stone. The new monument makes a splendid addition to the parcel, and will serve as a constant reminder to the hundreds of people who weekly pass this spot, of the presence and mission of the Land Trust in Mattapoisett.

Located, as it is, in the center of the village and at the entrance to the town wharf, the Munro parcel is one of the Land Trust's prime holdings and, along with Dunseith's iconic seahorse, undoubtedly our most visible. This beautiful one-acre waterfront parcel was the site of Mattapoisett's first shipyard, giving it a direct connection to Mattapoisett's seafaring past. According to the Mattapoisett Historical Society, it was back

in 1752 that this land was acquired by a man named Charles Stetson from Scituate. He was a shipbuilder and the whaling vessels that came from his yard, and the other shipyards that sprang up along the waterfront, earned Mattapoisett a reputation far beyond the shores of Buzzards Bay.

Ruth Munro, who lived in the big yellow house that stands at the corner of Water and Pearl St. very generously donated the land to the MLT in 1976 as her late husband's family had a long association with whaling history. 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 property in its natural state prevailed and, instead of a sea of blacktop, we are blessed with this jewel that all of Mattapoisett may enjoy forever.

Several of the original founders and officers were able to attend the dedication ceremony, including Brad and Priscilla Hathaway, Donald Fleming and George Mock. This elegant monument is a fitting recognition of their vision and dedication to preserving our land and our legacy.



Summer Volunteer: Marc Gammell

MLT thanks Marc Gammell, a resident of Mattapoisett and rising junior at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, for his work as a volunteer last summer. Marc is studying environmental policy, and contacted us in June about helping with trail development and maintenance, youth outreach, publicity and a variety of other chores. While working a variety of paying jobs, Marc spent time assisting us at several MLT Preserves. Thanks Marc, and have a great junior year at UMass Amherst!

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, Ellen Flynn, John Henderson, Sandra Hering, Michael Huguenin, Luana Marie Jøsvold, 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.

P.O. Box 31

Mattapoisett, MA 02739

E-mail: Info@MATTLANDTRUST.ORG

Layout and Design by Charles Radville

Yawkey Foundation provides grant for Old Aucoot district

In May, MLT received a very welcomed, \$5,000 grant from the Yawkey Foundation. It was directed toward use in the Old Aucoot district to improve the district in three ways: restoring the blueberry orchard, building a memorial sign recognizing the contributors who made the Brownell acquisition possible, and creating a new trail head and parking area on Prospect Road to improve access to the district from the west.

Tom and Jean Yawkey, owners of the Red Sox for nearly 70 years, gave significantly to charity during their lifetimes. Looking to the future, Tom Yawkey created a wildlife refuge in Georgetown, South Carolina. The Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center remains the cornerstone of the Foundation's work in conservation and wildlife. Maintained by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and consisting of nearly 24,000 acres, the diversity of plants, birds, animals, and habi-

tats make the Wildlife Center special and unique. The Foundation continues to not only support the Wildlife Center, but also the conservation efforts of affiliated organizations with similar environmental missions.

We feel honored by having the Foundation confirm the value of our conservation efforts in Mattapoisett. We used \$400 to add 50 new root stock to the orchard this spring; the remainder will be used as we continue to make improvements in the coming year.

Welcome to the board

New student ambassador

This issue we welcome Catherine Cunningham in the role of student ambassador to the board of directors. She has provided an introduction and personal background below.

Currently I attend Old Rochester Regional High School as a senior, residing in Mattapoisett. I moved to Mattapoisett in April 2013, from Wareham, Ma. I was born in Port Chester, NY, and traveled several different states before attending kindergarten at Decas Elementary School in Wareham, continuing public education in town until sophomore year of high school.

My family has always been interested in the tri-town area. Yet only a few miles from Wareham, Mattapoisett is an entirely different town. Its people, activities, and community involvement is extremely impressive, appealing several audiences, my family included. Presently, I work at How On Earth, the store off of Route 6 in Mattapoisett. I also write for the Sippican Week newspaper. Freshman through junior year of my high school career, I participated in varsity soccer and track and field for both the Wareham Vikings and the ORR Bulldogs.

This year, I took on the responsibility of editor-in-chief of the high school newspaper, Paw Prints. Although now there is a lack of time for sports teams, I took on a new hobby of indoor rock climbing at Carabiner's located in New Bedford, MA.

As a fairly new resident in the tri-town, I was determined to get involved as much as I could. When my environmental club advisor, Mrs. Connor, brought up the potential position for a Student Ambassador for the Mattapoisett Land Trust, I couldn't turn the offer down. "What a great way to get involved in the community!" I thought.

I proceeded to contact the land trust, received happy, hopeful responses from the education director, Ellen Flynn, and before I knew it, I was sitting in on the first board meeting of the year in September.

I believe that the Mattapoisett Land Trust is an extraordinary community project that allows locals to see the true dedication that people have to their town. I am hoping, as a member of the board, to put as much of my efforts forth in order to make impact on the community, the people, and the land.

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.

In memory of Audrey Mostrom:

*Victoe & Rosamond Pierce
Felton, DE*

In honor of Gary P. Johnson's 65th birthday:

*Bill & Ginny Johnson
Williams Bay, WI
Luana Josvold
Mattapoisett, MA*

In celebration of Ted Coburn's birthday:

*George & Carolyn Place
Wayland, MA*

In celebration of Jean Whalen's birthday:

*George & Carolyn Place
Wayland, 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.

New MLT membership committee

Charles "Skip" Bedser, chair of membership committee

The MLT has formed a new membership committee headed by Skip Bedser and Alice McGrath. Their goal is to increase awareness of the scope of the MLT's protected preserves, encourage appropriate public use, and to encourage support for the MLT annual obligations to provide stewardship for these properties. Membership support is the life blood of our all volunteer organization that is funded by member support. A new MLT brochure was created for member reference. The MLT brochure includes a map of the over 700 acres of MLT properties and conservation protected properties in Mattapoisett. Trail maps are available to download at www.mattlandtrust.org

Our first outreach project involved presentations to nine beach communities in an effort to reach out to summer residents. The presentations briefly described the extent of our two major preservation districts and how they can be accessed and appropriately used by the public. (Hunting is also a permitted use of the Land Trust property subject to State regulations). The beach community response was overwhelming and we are very grateful for their support. The membership committee would welcome the opportunity to give our brief presentation to other Mattapoisett community groups that have an interest in learning more about the MLT, and its activities. Contact Skip Bedser at cabedser@aol.com to schedule a brief presentation.

Of particular interest to the communities was our "Old Aucoot Preservation District", a collection of 10 preserves that now encompasses over 300 acres of adjoining properties bounded by Route 6, Prospect Road, and Angelica Road in the Crescent Beach area.

This preserve offers an extensive wooded hiking trail system. We will soon be building a parking area and new access on Prospect Road. Also of special interest was the progress of the MLT blueberry patch off Route 6 near the Quaker Meeting House. (It will take several years for this restored blueberry patch to produce fruit in abundance for the community to share).

Another area of particular interest is the 200 acre "green collar" around the Mattapoisett Neck that was completed with the acquisition of the 22 acre property on Whalers Way.

This preservation district stretches across the neck from the town landing on Mattapoisett Neck Road to Brant Island Cove. We plan to build a trail from Whalers Way to connect to the trail at Tara Road to provide an easy and beautiful hiking trail from Mattapoisett Neck Road through the woods to Brandt Island Cove to a wonderful view of the bay with a bird watching area with osprey nests and sea birds. (Any volunteers?)

We also discovered a misconception that the MLT has a "war chest" to seek out and purchase property. The MLT does not have an acquisition fund! The funds to purchase new properties must be raised by applying to Land Conservation Trusts that require that their grants be used to purchase properties that meet special criteria for core habitat, water quality preservation, and endangered and migratory species preservation. We also solicit private donations. The MLT cannot pay more

than the appraised value for properties that use Conservation Fund grants. We are very grateful to these organizations and individuals for supporting our recent acquisitions.

Membership donations are the lifeblood of the MLT! Please help us meet our obligations to improve, maintain and protect the over 700 acres of MLT properties with our all volunteer organization. Stewardship expenses include property maintenance and development of the three Mattapoisett MLT Park Preserves, Munro (adjoining the town pier), Dunseith Gardens (Salty's home on Route 6), and Dexter Mill (on Route 6 at the waterfall), three town land marks. Please help us "Keep Mattapoisett Special" by supporting the MLT with your tax deductible membership donation.

Open or renew your membership at "www.mattlandtrust.org/connect/membership" or by sending a check in the enclosed envelope. Memberships start at \$30 for an individual, \$50 for a family, \$75 for supporting, \$100 for sustaining, \$250 for benefactor, \$500 for patron, \$1000 for founder, and a lifetime membership at \$5,000.

2014 Hunting Seasons Are Here!

Hunting seasons in Mattapoisett open on or around October 18th and continue through the end of the year. Detailed information on specific seasons can be found at <http://www.eregulations.com/massachusetts/huntingandfishing/hunting-season-dates/>. Mattapoisett is in Zone 11.

Land Trust properties are open to lawful hunting, in accordance with state regulations. Please be aware of and respect hunters who are legally using the land, as no one form of outdoor recreation is exclusive of others. Dress for safety, using hats and/or vests of "Blaze Orange" to improve your visibility. And remember, hunters are generally less active during the middle part of the day, and no hunting is allowed on Sundays.

This year MLT will post Seasonal Notices like the one shown at the entrances to our maintained trails at the Walega-Livingstone Preserve on Mattapoisett Neck, and at the Old Aucoot District Preserves in eastern Mattapoisett. We welcome hunters to use these and other Land Trust properties, but remind them that all hunting stands must be removed at the end of the season. We hope hunters and non-hunters alike will enjoy the autumn woods, fields and marshes of your MLT properties!

Seasonal Notice

**Hunting is permitted in this area
in accordance with state regulations.**

**Hunting stands must be removed at
the end of the Season.**

No hunting on Sundays.

**Please be cautious, aware
and respectful of all property users.**



Mattapoisett Land Trust

www.mattlandtrust.org
www.facebook.com/mattlandtrust
1-774-377-9191

UMass Dartmouth Engineering Students help MLT

Mike Huguenin

Last spring six students from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth completed two projects with the Land Trust. The first project looked at the best way to repair areas of erosion in the lawn along the top of the seawall at the Munro Preserve west of the town docks and Shipyard Park. The second project considered advantages and disadvantages of refilling the old mill pond behind the stone and earthen dam at the Tub Mill Preserve along Rt. 6. Both projects were completed as part of a civil engineering course for seniors taught by Professor Heather Miller, a Mattapoisett resident and MLT supporter. Doug Schneider, a professional civil engineer in Mattapoisett who has worked for many years with MLT, provided advice to the students as well.

The Munro erosion project began with students Sean Craven and Tom DaLomba conducting a careful survey of the eroded areas to determine the area and depth of erosion, and the volume of materials needed to refill the area to original grade. The results of this survey, conducted on the coldest day of February 2014, indicated that approximately 50 cubic yards of material would be needed.

The students next conducted research to determine the

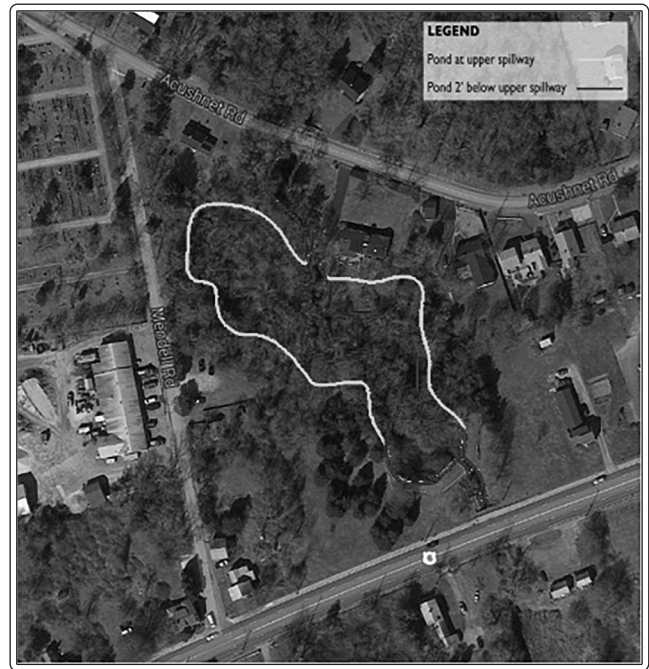


Erosion at Munro Preserve

best material to use to refill the eroded areas. To prevent future erosion, they recommended MLT use six to 12 inch trap rock rather than loam to refill these areas. The students then completed the necessary application to the Mattapoisett Conservation Commission, and appeared before the Commission in April. While the Commission was very complimentary of the students' work, they requested MLT to file additional paperwork before granting the necessary permit. This was done over the summer, and we now have the needed permit to repair the erosion. We expect to complete the work during the

upcoming fall and winter.

The Tub Mill project involved four students: Ashley Bomely, Zach Jamous, Cham Ueng and Ben Whalen. The



Tub Mill Pond outlines

team began by using laser levels and other surveying instruments to determine the geographic extent of possible refilled ponds using different water depths. The results showed that refilling the pond to the top of the spillway at the dam would result in standing water on a neighbor's property, since residential development along Acushnet Road behind MLT's land has occurred since the draining of the pond. However, refilling the pond to a point two feet below the spillway would result in a pond safely within MLT's property.

With this finding in hand, the team began to research various environmental and regulatory questions, including whether a pond rather than free-flowing stream would improve water quality in Eel Pond, the advantages of pond-front vs. stream-bottom habitat behind the dam, dam and flood safety issues, and necessary regulatory requirements to be met before refilling the pond. In addition, the team conducted preliminary research into the technical and economic feasibility of installing a small hydroelectric generation unit at the dam.

The semester ended before all of these questions could be answered fully, but initial results suggest that a small hydroelectric generator could feasibly generate between 15 and 25 KWH per day at the Tub Mill dam. More work is needed to complete research in all of these areas.

MLT volunteers greatly enjoyed working with UMass Dartmouth on these efforts. We extend our sincere thanks to Professor Miller, Mr. Schneider and the six students who worked with us in Spring 2014. We look forward to continuing the Tub Mill project, as well as initiating new projects, with UMass Dartmouth students in the coming year.

Kids' Corner

Sassafras, an odd but useful tree

When you are walking on the MLT properties this fall you are likely to spot an odd tree with three different shaped leaves.- a single lobe, a leaf that looks like a mitten and a leaf with three lobes. You may also notice some small blue-black berries on its branches. This tree is sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*) and it has been a source of food for both animals and humans through the years.

Native Americans used the roots and bark of sassafras for medicinal purposes and scientists have found that it does have pain-killing properties and can help reduce infection. For years the oil from the root bark was used in flavoring a very popular beverage, root beer. The natural oils, however, contain a chemical, safrole, that the FDA banned in 1960 because it caused liver damage and cancer. Sassafras tea and other foods now have the safrole removed before they are sold to the public.

The trees which grow from 30 to 60 feet tall don't just provide a treat for humans, however. White-tailed deer especially like to feed on the oil rich twigs in summer and winter, rabbits will eat the bark in winter and many bird species, including wild turkey, will feed on the berries.

The trees like a damp sandy soil, so many of the MLT properties are ideal locations for it to grow. Look for the three different yellow leaves when you are out exploring this fall and see if you can find a spot where one of our animal residents may have had a snack.

Photo taken along the bike path at the Murray Preserve (G.P. Johnson 2014)





Mattapoisett Land Trust, Inc.
Post Office Box 31 ~ Mattapoisett, MA 02739

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage Paid
Fairhaven, MA
Permit No. 39

The Heron

Calendar — 2014 Fall and Winter 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

October 25	5:30 - 8:00 PM	Salty's Silvery Moon Soiree	Music, a fire to make S'Mores, story telling at 6:30	Dunseith Gardens, Route 6 and North Street. No parking on site. Please bring flashlight to find your way home!
November 8	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Friends Alternative Gift Fair	Gifts you may not have considered	Friends Meeting House, Route 6, Mattapoisett

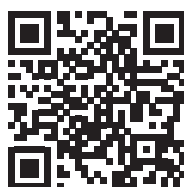
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/mattlandtrust



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.mattlandtrust.org



JOIN

www.mattlandtrust.org/connect/membership

