



The Heron

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

The Munro Preserve

A treasure renewed

Don Cuddy

Our mission at the MLT is to protect land for present and future generations and while we have enjoyed a good deal of success of late in acquiring some valuable and environmentally sensitive acreage it must be remembered that taking ownership is merely a point of departure. Stewardship of our various properties is a large part of what we do year-round, whether that involves the purely routine—such as mowing and pruning at Tub Mill or Dunseith— or singular projects such as the ongoing restoration of the blueberry patch or the creation of new trails. Although our membership may seem relatively small in comparison to some Land Trusts in surrounding areas, the MLT is fortunate to have a committed group of volunteers who have combined hard work and ingenuity to meet every challenge to date.

Currently our focus is on the Munro Preserve. Along with the Seahorse at Dunseith, this is probably our most visible property. It gained even more prominence with the dedication, in May of last year, of the stone on Water St. with a plaque honoring our founders. But over the years the stone seawall along the shoreline had fallen into disrepair. It was reconstructed once before, in 1998, thanks to the generosity of many town

residents and visitors and with assistance from local engineers and contractors. At that time the perennial beds on the property were also restored by well-known landscape designer Charlie Duponte, a friend and past president of MLT. However in the ensuing years, surface soil erosion behind the seawall and along most of its length took its toll, an inevitable consequence of the ceaseless onslaught of storm, wind and tides. Meanwhile the native plantings had become largely overgrown, choked by a mass of invasive species. It was clear that something had to be done. Fortunately the MLT can avail itself of considerable resources embedded within our community. Mike Hu-

guenin was able, thanks to his acquaintance with UMass professor Heather Miller to engage the services of Sean Craven and Thomas Da Lomba, two civil and environmental engineering students at UMass Dartmouth. The two men conducted a survey of the eroded area to determine its extent and calculated the vol-



The Munro Preserve during tropical storm Sandy

ume of material needed to restore it. All the necessary permits were acquired and we are pleased to report that the installation of the trap rock selected for the task was completed early in January with the assistance of Nicolosi Excavation. Thankfully work was undertaken before the big snows hit. The plan now is to allow this rock to settle for a few months, then to top up any low spots from the remaining amount that we are holding at Mahoney's.

As many people will undoubtedly have noticed, most of

the perennial plantings on the property were removed last summer. Upon inspection, it was determined that the extent of the encroachment by invasive species was such that the original *rosa rugosa* plantings had been overwhelmed, so it made more sense just to take everything out and start again. As soon as the weather permits we hope to begin this phase of the work.

The exact shape and dimensions of the reconstructed bed, and the specific plants to be added to each will be finalized during the reconstruction. All the material to be added will be either native grasses or indigenous shrubs capable of surviving with minimal maintenance in the harsh environment by the sea at Munro. Charlie Duponte has once again generously offered to design and execute the reconstruction. He will also monitor the reconfigured areas for the first season. MLT volunteers will maintain and water the beds and apply water as needed during the first season and thereafter.

The cost of creating the new landscape at Munro is being offset thanks to a generous grant of \$2,000 awarded to the MLT by NStar as part of a program they instituted to work with local communities.

This came about through the efforts of MLT board member Sandy Hering who also serves on the Mattapoisett Tree Committee. Sandy researched and submitted the grant application and we have just learned that we are among the applicants to receive approval. Well done Sandy!

We are very fortunate to count this beautiful property, with its prime location and wonderful water views, among our holdings. It is important that we maintain it for its own sake, but also as a reflection of the important work that the Land Trust does to benefit all of the people in Mattapoisett. When summer finally comes and the plantings are in place, we can all look with pride at the fruits of our labor.

Thanks from Salty

Once again, Salty the seahorse had a Santa hat this winter. We wish to express our thanks to Brownell Systems of Mattapoisett for rigging the hat in place!



Mattapoisett Land Trust seeks scholar for Blanche B. Perry Scholarship

The Mattapoisett Land Trust is seeking applicants for their one thousand dollar Blanche B. Perry Scholarship. This award is available to a Mattapoisett resident interested in the field of Environmental Studies, Sciences, Technology or a related field, and is a graduating senior from a secondary school by June 2015. The scholarship is made available through the Edith Glick Shoolman fund, a bequest left to provide support for children in the community. Offering this scholarship is consistent with the mission "of preserving land in order to enrich the quality of life for present and future generations of Mattapoisett residents and visitors.

Along with the application, the following additional information is required:

1. A personal statement about career goals, as they relate to the mission of the MLT, past and present.
2. A signed Community Service Form documenting a minimum of 20 hours of community service.
3. A professional letter of reference (teacher or guidance counselor)
4. A character letter of reference from an employer, scout or community leader and/or neighbor.
5. An official school transcript including credits and class rank.

Applicants will be assessed according to academic achievement, personal statement, professional and personal references, community service, and financial need. Preference will be given to individuals who are members of the Mattapoisett Land Trust or whose parents or grandparents are members of the MLT.

Participating schools are:

1. ORRHS, Marion Road, Mattapoisett, MA 02739.
2. Bishop Stang High School, 500 Slocum Rd, N Dartmouth, MA 02747.
3. OCRVT High School, 476 North Avenue, Rochester, MA 02770.
4. Tabor Academy, Front St, Marion, MA 02738.

The deadline for submitting the forms will be April 30, 2015.

The recipient will be selected by May 20, 2015 and will be notified by mail. The recipient will be recognized at his or her school's awards ceremony. The award will be disbursed after the student submits an official college transcript documenting a successful completion of his or her first semester in college to the President of the Mattapoisett Land Trust.

The application forms will be found in the guidance offices at the local public and private schools and at the Mattapoisett Land Trust website:

<http://www.mattlandtrust.org/education/>

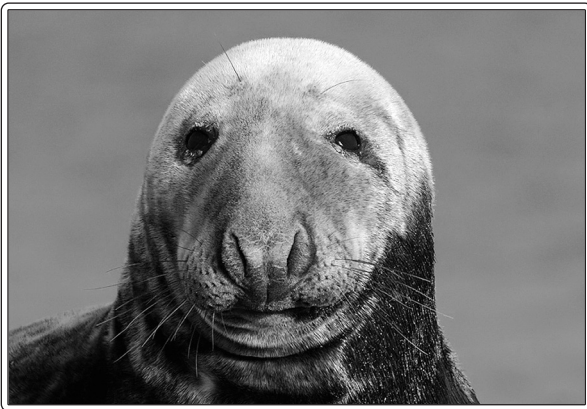
Kids' Corner

Winter visitors

You may have seen a juvenile seal near Shipyard Park in November or you may have read about Kennedy, the harbor seal, rescued and released by the National Marine Life Center in February. We have two varieties of true seals, harbor seals and gray seals, that make Mattapoisett their home in the winter when many human residents have taken flight to sunnier and warmer places.



Harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*) are the smaller of the two ranging in size from 120 to 370 pounds and they inhabit Buzzards Bay from September to May before swimming north again. They are very common and are found in the northern areas of both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Adults are spotted and range in color from brownish-black to tan or gray and can be most easily identified by the V-shape of their nostrils.



Gray seals (*Halichoerus grypus*, which means “hooked-nosed sea pig”), are much larger with adult males ranging up to 880 lb. and females up to 550 lb. They have a straight head and nose profile with their nostrils set far apart and with fewer spots than harbor seals. Unlike harbor seals they don’t live in the Pacific Ocean and some actually stay in Massachusetts year round.

Until the 1960’s seals were hunted in Massachusetts because it was thought that they ate too much fish. In 1972 Congress passed the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the number of seals began to recover in Massachusetts. Seals do eat a lot of fish and crustaceans, up to 11 lb. per day, except during the breeding season. But much of what they eat

are not fish that are eaten by people: sandlance, silver hake, Atlantic herring and redfish the most common species. Seals need shoreline and rocks to “haul out” to rest and to give birth to their pups and when they are on land they can be easily scared by people. If you see any seals on the shore, please stay far away so you won’t disturb them.

If you would like to learn more about how the National Marine Life Center saved Kennedy, the harbor seal, please come to our annual meeting on May 30 when Kathy Zagzebski, Executive Director, will tell us about Kennedy and also about the sea turtles they saved this year. Mattapoisett becomes even more special when you learn more about its natural wonders.

Photos: Harbor seals: Amanda Boyd / USFWS

Gray seal: Jenny Schwebel

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 celebration of Paul Osenkowski's (Ozzie's) birthday:

John J. McGarrie

Wilmington, NC

In memory of Ruth Perry Bates:

In November we lost one of our most ardent and steadfast supports, Ruth Bates. Her example of unflinching dedication to protecting the natural world will help motivate our efforts for years to come. We thank the family for choosing the MLT as an appropriate recipient of donations in her memory. We'll miss Ruth.

Richard Bates

Mattapoisett, MA

Jayne M. Brisson

North Dartmouth, MA

Diane & Morty Burman

Chestnut Hill, MA

William Cantor & Kristen Eastman

Mattapoisett, MA

Jane & Robert Coache

New Bedford, MA

The family of Rosaire & Blanche Constant

New Bedford, MA

Don Cuddy

Mattapoisett, MA

Bill & Lisa Elliott

Fairhaven, MA

Ellen P. Flynn

Mattapoisett, MA

Brad & Priscilla Hathaway

Mattapoisett, MA

Lee Heald, Walker & Nathaniel Fuchs

Mattapoisett, MA

Sandy Hering & Don Bamberger

Mattapoisett, MA

Ilene Horvitz

Duxbury, MA

Martin & Diane Hudis

Mattapoisett, MA

Cynthia & Gerald Johnson

Mattapoisett, MA

Gary P. Johnson & Luana Josvold

Mattapoisett, MA

Phyllis Kroudvird

Swampscott, MA

Bruce & Tina Larson

Bridgewater, MA

Robert & Ruth Mellen

Mattapoisett, MA

Mary V. Menke & Susan L. More

Marshfield, MA

Ann Moriarty

Brookline, MA

Joanne M. & Mark J. Olson

Mattapoisett, MA

Charles & Trudy Radville
Mattapoisett, MA

Janet D. & Earnest W. Smith, Jr.
Bourne, MA

Maggie & Peter Stull
Canton, CT

Chrystal Walsh
Rector, PA

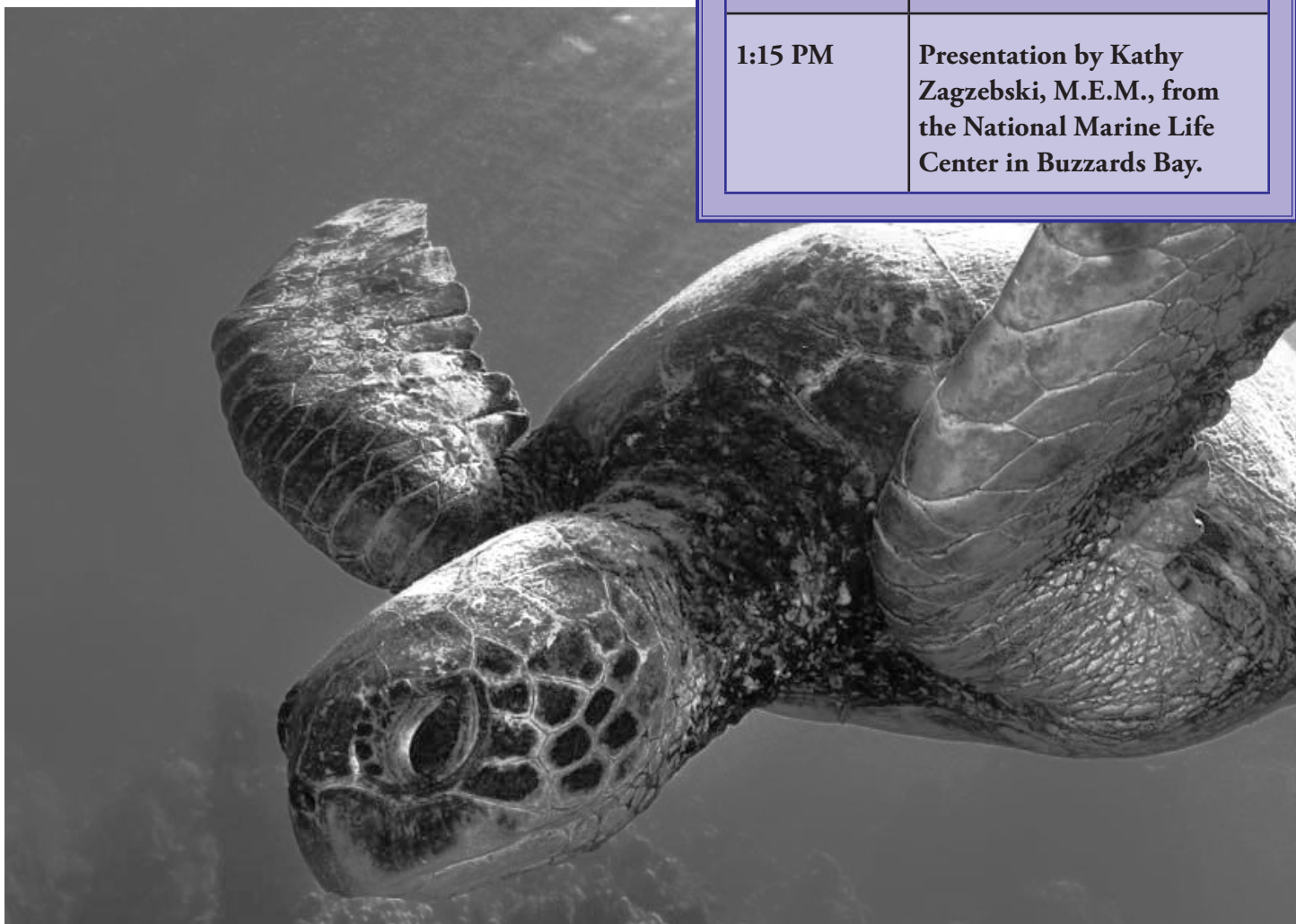
*Thank you for your generous contributions which will be used
 to further our mission of protecting the land and environment
 of Mattapoisett for generations to come.*

Mattapoisett Land Trust Annual Meeting Schedule

May 30, 2015

Friends Meeting House

10:00 AM	Dedication of the new preserve and trail at Whaler's Way.
11:30 AM	Presentation by ORR students on Eel Pond water sampling.
12:00 PM	Pot luck lunch. Bring a main dish to share. MLT provides drinks and desserts.
1:00 PM	Annual meeting. Annual reports and elections.
1:15 PM	Presentation by Kathy Zagzebski, M.E.M., from the National Marine Life Center in Buzzards Bay.



Whalers Way Preserve

Gary P. Johnson

Last year we asked repeatedly for funds to acquire from Greg and Jeanne Downey 23 acres of salt marsh and woodland connecting Mattapoisett Neck Road to our existing Walega-Livingstone Preserve. In order to complete the purchase in June the MLT found it necessary to borrow from our "Reserve Fund" and to continue fund raising into the fall. In December we were delighted when we were contacted by the William E. Schrafft and Bertha E. Schrafft Charitable Trust asking about our needs and subsequently awarding us a grant of \$10,000 to "close the books". This, with previous grants from the Fields Pond Foundation, the Lee L. and Judith E. Selwyn Foundation and the Sheehan Family Foundation as well as the major grant from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, allowed us to add these environmentally sensitive 23 acres to our protected properties. We wish to offer our thanks to these organizations and all of our members and friends who made this acquisition possible.

Fortunately, before the blizzards arrived in February we were able to lay out a new trail from Whalers Way through the preserve to the existing trail on the Walega-Livingstone Preserve and we have received permission from the Conservation Commission to cut the new trail when the weather permits. (Unfortunately the winter storms have knocked down the existing osprey platform in the salt marsh.) This new trail will permit hiking from Mattapoisett Neck Road all the way to Brandt Island Cove, a distance of nearly 1.5 miles.

Please join us on Saturday, May 30, as part of our annual meeting, for the dedication of the preserve and trail and an investigation of the preserve's natural beauty. We're assuming the snow will have melted and the osprey will be busy by then.



An Education Highlight

Ellen P. Flynn

Many property parcels maintained by the Mattapoisett Land Trust are hidden secret pathways and gathering places with recreational trails for school age children to enjoy. The Education component of the MLT likes to envision our children as the guardians of the land and sea. It is always our greatest strength and pleasure to have community members involved in our volunteer efforts to add to their success.

Nathaniel Fuchs our 2012 scholarship winner is also a very unique volunteer who shared his love and value for preserving the land while he blazed trails and built bridges, literally, as a Boy Scout and a junior volunteer.

Today Nathaniel is on a success trail, now in his third year of the Honors College at the University of Vermont. He is a member of the Appalachian Mountain Club and has climbed the 4,000 footers before turning twenty. Again he finds himself on trails with likeminded hikers pursuing peaks and places in the wilderness.

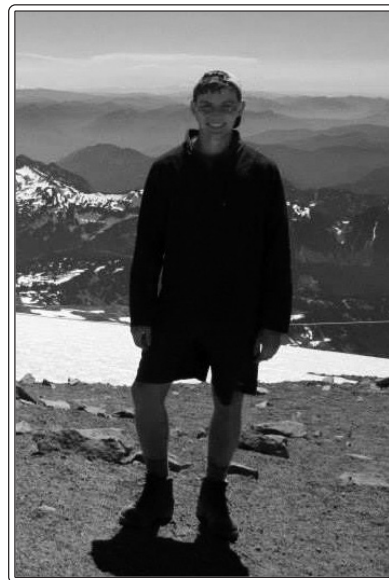
He has written his own independent learning program,

to be a major in Public Health Medicine. During summers in Vermont he has worked with the Department of Public Health and is presently maintaining Dean's List status. His interest is in Vaccine Statistics and Analysis of Disease.

Nathaniel has applied to work in Norway for the summer to study Local and Public Health.

In addition to all his responsibilities and class work at UVM he works as a teaching assistant. Nathaniel's long-term goal is to achieve a PhD in Immunology.

The Education Committee would like to salute Nathaniel in his accomplishments, and wish him continued success.



Thanks for the help

Local assistance keeps our properties in shape

Paul Osenkowski

The Mattapoisett Land Trust has embarked on a number of projects this year in our continuing efforts to preserve and maintain the numerous properties that are in our care.

The Director of our Stewardship Committee, Michael Huguenin, enlisted the help of Dr. Heather Miller, who is a Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth. She set up a program whereby two students, Sean Craven and Tom DaLomba, used their training in a practical application to map and design a barrier on the north side of the seawall at the Munro Preserve to mitigate the erosion problem that we've been facing for the last few years. They designed a fifteen foot trap rock barrier that will keep "back flow" caused by storm waves from undermining the seawall that was constructed in 1999. With the tutelage of resident engineer Doug Schneider they went before the Conservation Commission and presented the plan for approval. After the MLT was able to obtain the proper permitting with a Notice of Intent the project was put into action. Once again the residents of the town helped out tremendously. David McIntire assisted in the procurement of the correct size of trap rock and the storage of it on his property. David Nicolsi, a local contractor and past member of the Conservation Commission, hauled all the stone and placed it in position to complete the project. To these people, we are once again very thankful for their community spirit and their willingness to protect and preserve this town.

MLT Director, Sandy Herring, has been working diligently to secure funds for the reestablishment of the vegetation at the Munro Preserve. With the help of local Landscape Designer, Charles Duponte, we hope to place new plantings to restore those lost in the past five years due to storm water

damage. Local landscaper and arborist, Dan Shea, has assisted in the placement of wood chips around the monument as has the town Highway department through Barry Denham. The Munro Preserve is a favorite of many people in the town and deserves the efforts that are being made to bring it back to what was originally planned.

Four other students from U Mass Dartmouth, Ashley Bomely, Zach Jamous, Cham Ueng and Ben Whalen, under the direction of Dr. Miller, were responsible for the work at the Tub Mill Brook Dam Project. They did preliminary studies on the feasibility of a pond at the site. This work is ongoing and will require further study.

The Murray Preserve at the junction of the bike path and Brandt Island Road had a monument placed. It commemorates the gift by of the property to the MLT by Jeanette Murray Mello in memory of her parents Captain Jack Murray and Mrs. Bridget Murray. The work was done by the Tootell Monument Company, who has done all the monuments for the MLT. Their work is of the highest standard as seen in all six stones that they have produced.

At Dunseith Gardens Dan Shea did further work by removing downed trees and David Mendell of Bartlett Tree Experts did some pruning of large trees and cabling of strategic trees so as to preserve their integrity. The hiking trails shown on our web site will be improved once the snow melts (if it ever melts). So check those out and use them. If you feel so inclined, contact me at 508-758-9643 and I'll put you work on the maintenance of the trails. Happy Hiking!!!

Exploring vernal pools

Vernal pools are unique and vulnerable kinds of wetlands. They are usually temporary pools that fill with snowmelt and spring run-off, and then dry sometime during the summer. Many of these pools are vital breeding habitat for certain amphibians and invertebrates such as wood frogs, spotted and blue spotted salamanders, and fairy shrimp. What makes vernal pools such excellent breeding habitat is the seasonal nature of the pools that excludes fish populations that would prey on the offspring.

Vernal pools are not only used for reproduction. Other species such as spring peepers, gray tree frogs, and a number of bird species use pools for feeding and resting. These important wetlands are some of the most vulnerable because they are small, isolated, and often dry, therefore unrecognizable. They are easily destroyed, frequently because they are small or are dry.

Let's take a closer look at some of the animals that rely on vernal pools to survive during a slide show to be hosted by the Mattapoisett Land Trust at the Mattapoisett Library on April 14th from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Then Saturday April 25th at 2:00 pm we'll take a walk to Grace Pond and see if we can identify signs of these animals that have adapted to rely on these pools.

On Saturday, May 2, from 10:00 am to Noon, join wetland scientist Elizabeth Leidhold at Old Field Farm in Rochester. She will lead you through the procedures of identification needed to certify a vernal pool with the state. This event is in cooperation with the Tri-town Libraries "My Own BackYard" (MOBY) program. Contact the Mattapoisett Free Public Library for more information.

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 Josvold, 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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Calendar — 2015 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

April 14	6:30 - 7:30 PM	Vernal pool presentation	Narrated slide show on vernal pools and their inhabitants	Mattapoisett Library Meeting Room
April 25	2:00 PM	Vernal pool field trip	Visit a vernal pool to collect evidence of animal life	Grace Pond
May 2	10:00 AM to Noon	Vernal pool certification	Partipate in collection of evidence to support certification	Old Field Farm, Rochester
May 30	1:00 PM	Annual meeting	See inside for full schedule	Friends Meeting House, Route 6, Mattapoisett
July 18 - 19	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Harbor Days	Visit our booth to learn more about properties and mission. Check out MLT merchandise.	Shipyard Park by the big tree off the parking lot.

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