



The Heron

FALL - WINTER 2016

ISSUE NO. 35

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



Salty's Soirée **Saturday, Oct. 22**

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Stewardship Update

In past months MLT updated our trail maps for the Old Aucoot and Brandt Island Cove Districts and added a new trail map for the Munn Preserve at the southern end of Mattapoisett Neck. In addition, we produced a map showing all properties in Mattapoisett with walking trails, as shown on the facing page. The walking trails map includes MLT properties as well as lands owned by the Buzzards Bay Coalition,



Ready for a well informed use of a preserve



One of the new kiosks goes up.

Town of Mattapoisett, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts. All maps can be downloaded from www.mattlandtrust.org. Get out for an Autumn hike!

Last spring MLT volunteers finished the new parking area and trails at 31 Prospect Road, and installed five new kiosks at Old Aucoot, Brandt Island and Munn. The kiosks now feature trail maps and other information about MLT. Over the summer our new "Garden Groomers" group met on Wednesday mornings to keep the Munro Preserve weed free, and other volunteers mowed and maintained Dunseith, Tub Mill and other MLT preserves. As summer wanes we are beginning work on long-needed repairs to our shed at the Shoolman Park in Brandt Beach. Hearty thanks to all our volunteer stewards!



*Garden grooming at Munro Preserve
Collage by Rebecca Mayer Knutsen*

Annual Meeting

MLT's Annual Meeting was held on Saturday May 14th at Reynard Hall of the Mattapoisett Congregational Church. Over thirty members attended and elected Directors and Officers to serve for the coming year. Directors elected include Marc Anderson, Skip Bedser, Ray Cebula, Don Cuddy, Ellen Flynn, Sandy Hering, Mike Huguenin, Gary Johnson, Luana Josvold, Paul Osenkowski, Charlie Radville, Jeff Sanders, and new Directors Arthur Damaskos and Peter Davies. Pictures and profiles of Arthur and Peter are found on page 7 in this issue.

The newly elected Board then elected Officers: Mike Huguenin will serve as President, Marc Anderson as Vice-President, Gary Johnson as Treasurer, Sandy Hering as Assistant Treasurer, and Luana Josvold as Clerk.

Prior to the Annual Meeting the public was welcomed to the opening of MLT's new parking area on Prospect Road

(between houses at 29 and 33 Prospect) and enjoyed a hike on new trails to the Brownell Blueberry Patch. Hikers and others then returned to Reynard Hall for a potluck lunch and presentation by ORRH marine biology students about water quality testing at Eel Pond. This was the 11th year that MLT has supported the marine biology program, and teacher Lynn Connor received a small gift from MLT in thanks for all her work.



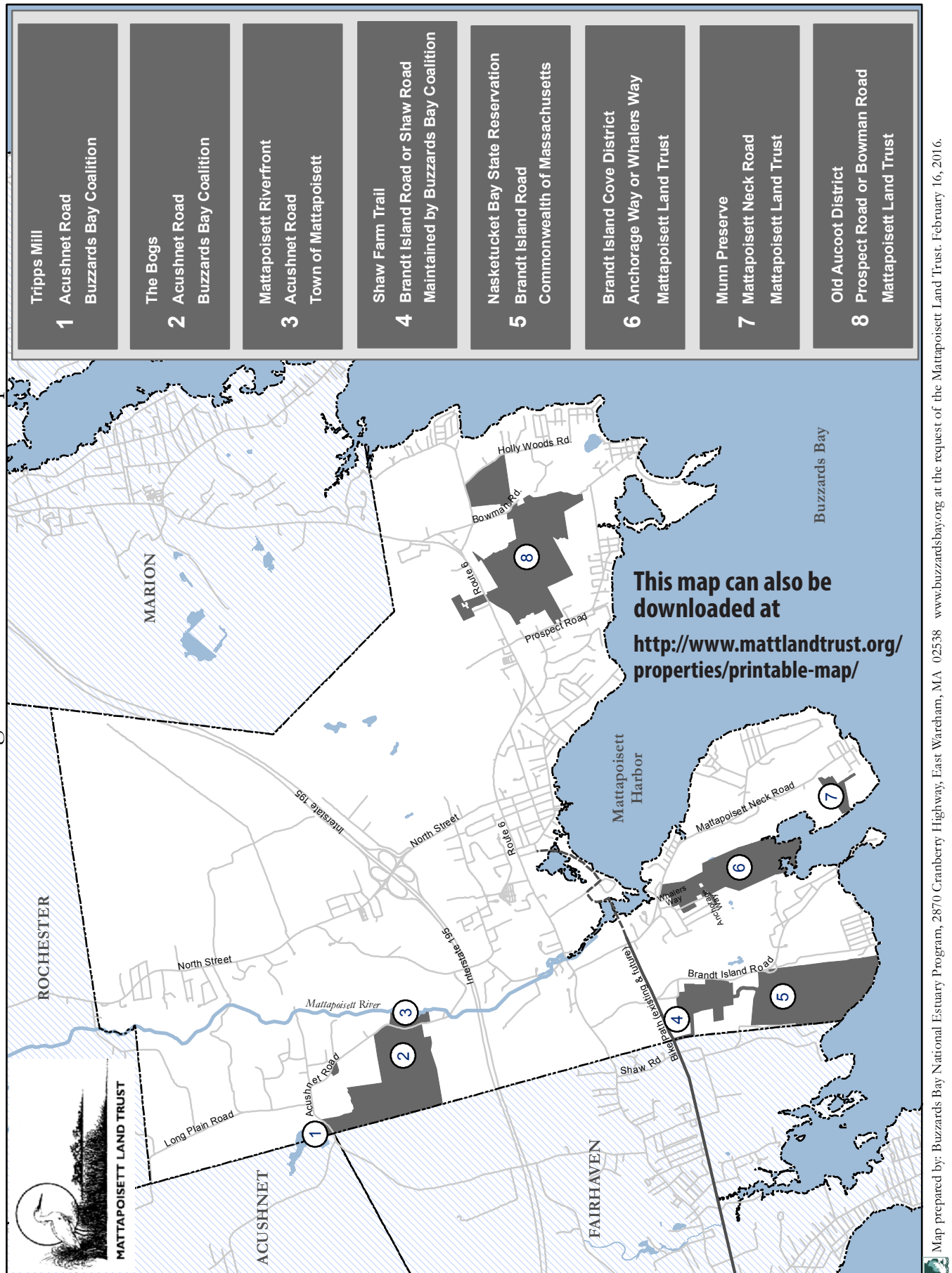
ORR Student presentation

Following the Annual Meeting, members and guests enjoyed a presentation by Marla Isaacs of the New England Raptor and Falcon Center in Taunton. Marla introduced us to a number of rescued raptors she had brought for a visit, and described the habits and skills of these fascinating animals.



Marla Isaac and turkey vulture

Locations of Walking Trails in the Town of Mattapoisett



Tour de Crème, Harbor Days and The Great Community Picnic



Pedal Powered Creamery Tour Proves Popular



The Tour starts off

On May 22nd MLT and Friends of the Mattapoissett Bike Path hosted the Tour de Crème, 3 bicycle tours of area creameries. 160 participants on rides of 13, 25, and 48 miles enjoyed 8 creameries supported by 70 volunteers, local businesses, and the weather gods. The forecast rain never fell and it was an all-around superb day. The over \$5000 in proceeds are going to hiking and biking trails in Mattapoissett. It was so much fun we're on again for next year: mark your calendars now for May 21, 2017.



A creamery stop

Harbor Days

MLT attended Harbor Days at our usual space under the Locust tree on the west side of Shipyard Park.

This year we enjoyed a new, larger tent and improved map and literature displays, and we sold record amounts of MLT shirts, hats and other merchandise. In addition we provided pony rides and face painting at MLT's Munro Preserve, to the west of Shipyard Park, on Saturday. We hope that pony rides and similar activities for kids will again become a regular feature sponsored by MLT at Harbor Days. Thank you to all the volunteers who staffed MLT's booths, and to all our customers and supporters!

The Great Community Picnic

On one of the most beautiful evenings of the summer (August 4th) over 200 people joined MLT and the Mattapoissett Historical Society to enjoy The Great Community Picnic at MLT's Munro Preserve on Mattapoissett Harbor. Participants enjoyed food and



Grace Morrison

drink brought from home as well as local oysters and hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine, and live music from singer Grace Morrison as well as bands Glowbox and Huxter. The event raised over \$3,000 to support the MLT and MHS. Thank you to all attendees, and to our supporters: Copper Beech Farm, Inc. (oysters), The Inn at Shipyard Park, Buzzards Bay Brewing, Winestone — Chestnut Hill, Village Package Store, and Town Wharf General Store.



Face Painting



Pony rides



Personalized table at the picnic

Kids Corner

A Strange-looking Friend

One of the strangest looking residents of Mattapoisett is the opossum, commonly pronounced “possum”. While there are over 60 varieties of opossum in the world, the kind we have in the U.S. and Canada is the Virginia opossum (*Didelphia virginiana*). Opossums can appear threatening with their sharp teeth, but they are actually quite gentle and will frequently “play dead” if threatened. The opossum is the only marsupial that is native to North America — after the babies are born they crawl into the mother’s pouch to develop further. As they get bigger they will ride on the mother’s back while she hunts for food.



Opossums are omnivores which means they eat both animals and plants and they are also scavengers so they are often attracted to garbage and roadkill. Because they are slow and not very aggressive and because they are easy prey for predators, they have a very short life of only three to four years.

The reason we should welcome opossums in Mattapoisett is that they act like tick vacuum cleaners as they make their way through the grasses and trees of the town. Opossums spend a lot of time grooming themselves and when they do scientists have found they eat 90 to 95% of the ticks that try to jump on them for a free meal. They have the fewest ticks of any mammal in the woods. So next time you see an opossum in the road or on a street, please give them plenty of space and offer them a hearty “Welcome to Mattapoisett”.



Land Trust Travels to Cuttyhunk Island

by Ellen P. Flynn

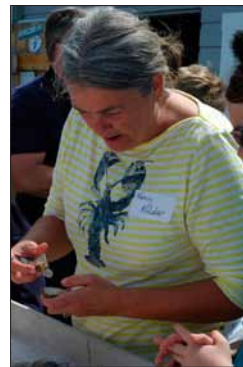
Once off the ferry from New Bedford, on a perfectly warm June 1st day, eighty-five Old Hammondtown School sixth graders and twelve adult teachers and chaperones from Mattapoisett traveled back in time by foot on a 2-½ x ¾ mile area of protected ecologically sound clean beaches and land. It was a day to learn & view a quality of life that ideally offers outdoor environmentally centered education only 11 nautical miles away. A shellfish farm with tasty oysters, fishing docks, aquaculture, and history of Cuttyhunk with shipwrecked artifacts on wheels, and beach exploration were part of the overall success of this day!

The group visited a one-room schoolhouse where two resident students Carter and Gwen still learn all they need to know from teacher Michelle Carvalho, who was the organizer of this trip along with Ben Squire 6th grade Old Hammondtown science teacher, and the Education arm of the Mattapoisett Land Trust.

James, a 6th grade student “was thrilled to find heart shaped rocks, and view rare birds” with binoculars from the highest look out point. Jared, another 6th grader, loved the ferryboat ride. Julia learned about the “ecosystem containing small animals, and walking the Island was a cherished memory”.

Well known naturalists, geologists, and educators offered sessions of outdoor learning from Audubon and Buzzards Bay Coalition, Coastal Specialists and local residents.

(Photos by Rebecca Mayer Knutsen)



Tastings at the Oyster Farm (est. 1981)



Magical Audubon Discovery



Highest point phenomenal Lookout Hill



Running to the one room schoolhouse



If You See Something, Post Something

Some of you, we know, can't get to MLT properties or events as often as you'd like. To keep you up-to-date and connected, we post photos and updates on Facebook and Instagram. If you're not familiar with it, Instagram is an app for sharing photos taken with your smart phone. Besides us (mattapoisettlandtrust), our friends Peter Mello and Buzzards Bay Coalition post great shots. Rebecca Knutsen has generously offered to manage the account for us.

If you're out on a walk or joining us for an event and you snap a good picture on your phone, share it!

If you have the Instagram app on your phone, use it to send pictures to mattapoisettlandtrust.

Otherwise, you can email it to rebeccaknutsen@yahoo.com with a few words describing the scene. Whatever you do, please do not send a word processing document with the photo inserted.

We'd also be happy to share photos taken with your camera on our website and here in The Heron. You can always get in touch with us at info@mattlandtrust.org to arrange to share them.

Kick the Ticks!

Ticks carry a host of diseases, and are active in spring, summer and fall. Come learn effective and safe methods to protect yourself from tick-borne illness. Following last year's well-received winter moth workshop, Deborah Smiley, Publications Managing Editor at Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology, will demonstrate practical tools to repel and eliminate ticks. Join us and enjoy being outdoors again!

Saturday, October 1st at 1:30 p.m., Mattapoisett Public Library

The Mattapoisett Land Trust

Blanche B. Perry Scholarship

for a resident graduating from secondary school pursuing an education in environmental studies or a related field.

Scholarship application details and forms

<http://www.mattlandtrust.org/education/blanche-b-perry-scholarship/>

Peter Davies



After 44 years as a teacher and administrator in independent boarding and day schools, Melissa and I decided we wanted to devote more time to our four grown children and our grandchildren in Massachusetts, California and Alaska.

We are often asked why we decided to retire to Mattapoisett two and a half years ago. Having grown up on Narragansett Bay and graduated from Brown, and Melissa raised in Connecticut and

a graduate of Middlebury, we knew that we wanted to move back to New England from New Jersey, where, for profession-

al reasons, we spent the last 30 years. Our daughter-in-law, a land trust lawyer from South Dartmouth, knew we were very interested in an area with an active land trust and suggested we look at Mattapoisett. We bought a piece of land on Mattapoisett Neck, built a house and have never looked back.

I am a year-round kayaker, a small boat sailor and an enthusiastic builder of stone walls. Melissa and I have enjoyed using and maintaining land trust trails. Working on land trust related carpentry projects and repairing stone walls on land trust properties has been very satisfying. As a trustee at Friends Academy in South Dartmouth, and now on the Mattapoisett Land Trust board, I feel I can contribute to organizations that can make a lasting difference.

Our two Golden Retrievers, Graham and Gracie, keep us active and happy here in Mattapoisett.

Arthur Damaskos



Arthur is a Boston native and graduate of Northeastern University. He was a long-time resident of West Roxbury, MA. After owning a summer place at Crescent Beach for a number of years, he and his wife Kathleen moved to Mattapoisett full-time in 2013.

A civil engineer, he served as senior engineer at RoadSafe Traffic Systems, a national company specializing in the manufacture and installation of roadway

signs for municipal and state projects throughout New England, for 32 years.

After spending two years at International Yacht Restoration School (IYRS) in Newport in their intensive boatbuilding and restoration program, he currently works in boatyard operations at Saltworks Marine in Marion.

Arthur and Kathleen are the proud parents of daughters Alison and Elena. In his spare time, he enjoys kayaking, biking, hiking, and woodworking.

Being involved with the Mattapoisett Land Trust fits seamlessly with his love of the outdoors, interest in preserving the natural environment, and making MLT trails and properties more accessible to the community for its enjoyment.

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 Gary Johnson's birthday:

Bill & Virginia Johnson

Williams Bay, WI

In celebration of Edwina McCarthy's birthday:

Richard McCarthy

Wellesley, MA

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

Salty's Silvery Moon Soirée

Join us on Saturday, October 22, 5:30 - 8:00 PM for our annual Soirée at Dunseith Gardens, home of Salty the Seahorse. There will be music, storytelling by Big Ryan of Big Ryan's Tall Tales and a fire to make your own s'mores.

This is a free event, open to the public and always provides an evening of fun for all ages.

There is no parking at Dunseith, so bring a flashlight to find your way home or back to your car.



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Hunting Season 2016

Hunting in Mattapoisett opens on October 15th and continues through the end of the year. Hunting activity will peak from November 28th through December 10th. Detailed information can be found at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/seasons-summary.pdf>. 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 MLT lands. Dress for safety by wearing hats or vests of blaze orange. Hunters generally are less active during the middle part of the day, and no hunting is allowed on Sundays.

MLT welcomes hunters using our properties, but reminds them that all hunting stands must be removed at the end of the season. We hope hunters and non-hunters both will enjoy MLT's forests, fields and marshes!

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: Marc Anderson, Charles A. Bedser, Raymond Cebula, Don Cuddy, Arthur Damaskos, Peter Davies, Ellen Flynn, Sandra Hering, Gary P. Johnson, Luana Marie Jøsvold, Paul Osenkowski, Charles Radville, Jeffrey P. Sanders, Esq. and Michael Huguenin, 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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