



The Heron

FALL-WINTER 2010

ISSUE NO. 23

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

The Brownell Acquisition

A Keystone Property

by Gary P. Johnson

A year and a half ago we announced that we had an agreement to acquire the 40-acre Dunn Preserve along Old Slough Road north of Angelica Avenue and Pine Island Pond. With your help we were able to close on the property in June of last year. Subsequently we were contacted by Linda Brownell to determine whether or not we would be interested in acquiring the 49-acre parcel which lies between the Old Jenny Farm and the Martocci Preserve. Given its location between two of our existing properties

we were, of course, interested. The negotiations were a bit complicated but we were finally able to sign a purchase and sale agreement this September committing us to purchase the parcel next June.

The shape of the property made the negotiations for its purchase quite complicated. The parcel has only 40 feet of frontage on Prospect Road and the western arm is bisected by a brook that runs into Buzzards Bay at Crescent Beach. The eastern section, however, is largely upland and already has existing trails and the overgrown blueberry patch. (See below.) By linking the Old Jenny Farm with our existing properties we will have created a 300-acre preserve running from the Watertown Park north of Route 6 nearly to Angelica Ave. in the south and from Prospect Road in the west to Hollywoods Road in the east. (Our thanks to the

Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program for the providing the map.)

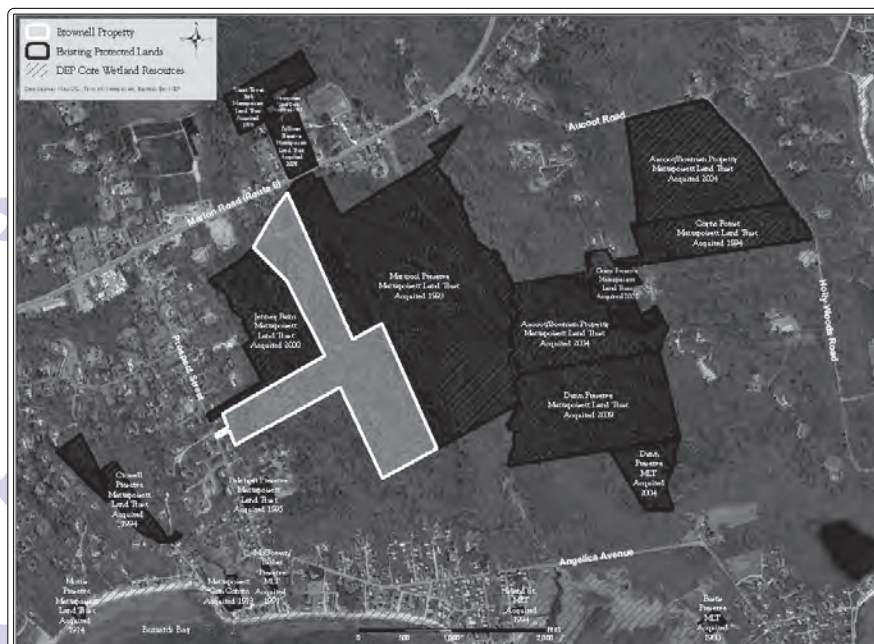
Raising the funds for this acquisition will be a stretch for us. We will pursue all of the foundation and government grants that may be available, but we will also have to ask our members and friends for help. It is not the most environmentally sensitive land, but it is key to our goal of providing a large, undeveloped tract of woods and fields where the public can enjoy the beauty and wonders of the natural world in Mattapoissett. And, who knows, perhaps even an occasional blueberry.

Blue Memories

by Don Cuddy

For many years, Linda Brownell enjoyed a close personal association with this land that has been in her family for three generations.

"There were 1500 blueberry trees there,



Map courtesy of Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program. See our website for full size map. www.mattlandtrust.org

all cultivated by my family. We picked them ourselves and sold them to a fruit market in New Bedford," Linda remembers.

"My grandfather David Brownell and his wife Dorothy started the trees. I remember when they had these little sticks of trees and then they planted them all. All through my childhood in the late 50's and early 60's that's how we kept busy during the summer. My mother brought us down there and we picked blueberries all day long. In the fall we pruned and fed them."

While the work sometimes seemed tedious to a young



The Blueberry Patch

girl, there was a cash incentive.

"My father would go down and cultivate and we were made to go as a job. But we got 10 cents a bucket for picking and my mother kept the money till the end of the season. We'd get maybe fifty dollars. That was a lot of money then. My mother would let us loose in the store for back to school clothes or something. I did get sick of looking at blueberries then but now I wish I had them again."

There were various kinds of blueberries there, she said. "They were well cultivated and they were really good blueberries. There were ones we called quarter berries; they were the size of quarters. There were pie berries. Some were sweeter. In October we'd get our little tin can and go around to fertilize the roots. There were a lot of bugs around but ours weren't buggy because we took care of them. There was a lot more land there but all we ever used it for was the part with the blueberries. Hopefully it can be called the Blueberry Patch or something like that."

The land acquired a special significance as a result of all the hours she spent there with her family, Brownell said.

A Special Request...

In order to provide you with timely information on upcoming MLT events, the MLT is trying to assemble a database of members' e-mail addresses. You can provide us your e-mail address by simply heading to our website (www.mattlandtrust.org), clicking "Contact Us", and entering your e-mail address. We really appreciate it! (And we promise to maintain the privacy of your information, e-mailing you only with MLT updates!)

"I am very glad to know that the land is going to a good cause that will protect the property. I would certainly not want to see anything being built down there. With the other property that's alongside it already protected this will make a very large tract," she said.

The MLT's New Website

by Charles Radville

Over the Summer the Mattapoisett Land Trust, with immeasurable help from Peter Mello of Seaz Media, launched a new website. Now optimized for interaction and multimedia, www.mattlandtrust.org will prove an informative landing point for those interested in our prop-



erties, activities and mission. You will be able to browse a great interactive 3D map showing where to find a trail for a pleasant hike. Our properties are getting their own pages with photos and descriptions. As users of the site, you can submit your own photos and stories to

share, and enjoy the submissions of others.

Use the Stewardship Log to tell us that you have seen or fixed a problem on one of the properties.

Our goal for the new site is that it be a dynamic link for the public to access all the MLT has to offer.

We are developing an online donor section, which will allow you to join, renew, or give additional support toward our goal of preserving undeveloped land for your use.

Give us a click, and help the MLT's new website grow!

Brad and Priscilla Hathaway Receive CBB Guardian Award



The Coalition for Buzzards Bay 2010 Buzzards Bay Guardian Award went to Brad and Priscilla Hathaway of Mattapoisett.

The Buzzards Bay Guardian Award is the highest honor bestowed by The Co-

alition for Buzzards Bay. Buzzards Bay Guardians must have demonstrated outstanding service in the clean-up, restoration or protection of the bay. Congratulation to our local heroes!

It Takes Volunteers

by Paul Osenkowski

As an all-volunteer organization, the MLT is dependent on the generosity of individuals and groups to give not only money, but also time and effort in helping us meet our goals. One such group with which we have had a long relationship is Boy Scout Troop 53.

About 7 years ago the Mattapoisett Land Trust teamed-up with the local Boy Scouts to create a nature path at the Dunseith Garden Park where Salty the Seahorse resides. A young man named Devin Gaudett took on an Eagle Scout project of creating a nature path on the property which would allow people to commune with nature. It was followed up by Kevin Wheeler adding hand chiseled log benches for his Eagle Scout Badge Project. At a later date, Boy Scout Graham O'Dowd with the help of some of the ORR football team and Boy Scouts removed hundreds of automobile and truck tires and old car bodies from Grace Pond on one of the other properties owned by the Land Trust to earn his Eagle Scout Badge.



Nathaniel and Walker Fuchs



The original "bridge"

term monumental because this was a task that entailed many facets of construction. He not only had to design the structure; but also, had to fund the project, obtain the materials, build the 18-foot struc-

The next step was accomplished by Nathaniel and Walker Fuchs who created two individual trails that connected an existing trail that the Mattapoisett Land Trust had with the pond that Graham O'Dowd had cleared. The big obstacle that was then presented was the construction of a foot bridge across the Pine Island Brook to connect the two trails.

This monumental project was taken up by a young man named Mr. Brian Buckley. I use the



A "troubled" crossing

ture, plan for the footing, organize the people to clear the site for the bridge, and then transport the "beast" about a mile into the forest which was filled with obstacles. It took months of planning and the use of skills that he had acquired while attending the Old Colony Regional High School. He had to use his training in welding to attach a temporary axle and wheels to get this bridge to the perennial stream. He had to use his technical drawing skills to design the bridge and then had to go before the Conservation Commission to get their approval for the project. But



The completed bridge

most of all this young man had to use his brain to overcome the multiple problems that he encountered. All of these things he did with distinction and precision.

In spite of all his achievements, this could not have been accomplished without a strong family commitment. His father Matt, his brother Alex and his mother Andrea were there to help him along. A neighbor, Geoff King who is an experienced cement contractor, helped with the placement of the footings. Brian's uncles and the rest of Troop 53 were there for him to organize into a cohesive force that could create this edifice. By leveraging his efforts though his family, friends, and the other Scouts, Brian was able to contribute a stunning addition to the MLT trail system that we will appreciate for years to come.

Archimedes said, "Give me a fulcrum and I'll move the world". With more volunteers like Brian and his family the MLT will be able to fulfill its mission of preserving land in Mattapoisett for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations.

The Hiller Trail can be accessed from the clearing across the street from Friends Meeting House, which is located on Route 6.

We will have a dedication of the new bridge on the Hiller Trail at 9:00 AM on Saturday Oct. 16th. Please join us to celebrate the immense amount of work and commitment that went into this project

Harbor Days 2010

by Martin Hudis

Harbor days for the Mattapoisett Land Trust continues to be a big success. The goal for the Mattapoisett Land Trust's participation in Harbor Days continues to be increased visibility. It's hard to measure "increased visibility" but the community feedback from the Harbor Days exposure is always very strong and positive.

The sales of clothes (mainly shirts) and Salty items have grown over the past six years. A new shirt design was introduced at this year's Harbor Days and it was a big hit, nearly selling out. The new shirt design was developed by Charlie Radville with some help from Jenny Mello. The children's shirt motif continues to be "Friends of Salty"



but this year came with a new set of bright colors. Shirt sales for 2010 were 135 made up of 85 adult shirts and 50 kid's shirts. This exceeds the previous record sales of 85 shirts. The Heron profile received

positive comments during the whole weekend.

The "591" on the back of the shirt lead to questions all weekend. Some thought it referred to the tax code section dealing with non-profits. Others thought it had something to do with the MLT. Actually the number refers to acres owned in fee by the MLT. (The actual acres of land under preservation by the MLT exceeds this number when you add in acres held under a conservation restriction by the MLT).

A second big hit at the booth was book markers put together by Bill Field, described in the inset.

A map of our properties was given out to interested visitors and was very popular.

The raffle this year included six antique animal prints from 1780 and a Snowy Owl poster by wildlife photographer Mark Wilson. Framing for the prints and poster were provided by Roger's Gallery, adding to the quality of the prints and poster. The raffle, clothes and article sales plus new memberships and donations all contributed to the success of Harbor Days.



Bookmark by Bill Field

Bill Field, a longtime supporter of the Mattapoisett Land Trust, produced a beautiful bookmark that was offered for sale at the 2010 Harbor Days MLT booth.

Wool used for the tie was spun from sheep on his land. The background wood image was scanned from pine on his land. Bill built the Osprey nest, and it has been home to a breeding pair for many years. The picture was hand painted and lettered by Bill. The stream actually flows on his property, separating two properties held by the MLT. A limited number of this item are available for purchase.

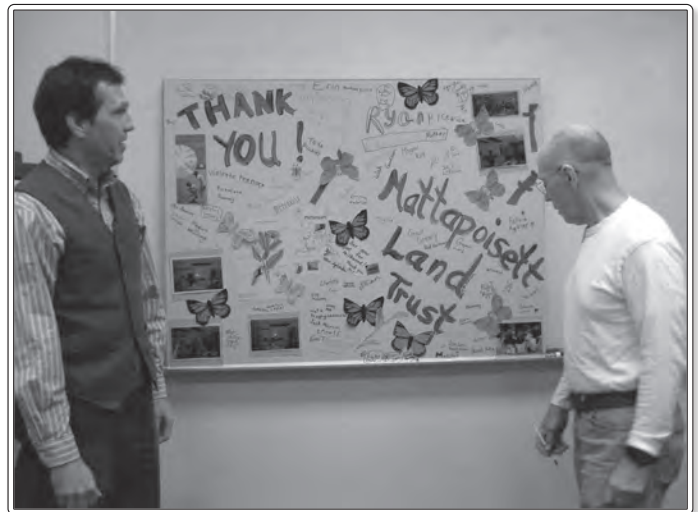


ORRHS Students present their findings in the MLT funded Estuary Water Quality Analysis project

The MLT Shoolman Fund Supports Student Work

The Mattapoisett Land Trust, through the Edith Glick Shoolman Fund, has provided grants and assistance for environment related studies at our local schools.

At ORRHS, a project was developed to analyze and study water quality and biodiversity in the Eel Pond Estuary. Students learned to document weather conditions,



Gary Johnson and Paul Osenkowski admire the "thank you" note from the second grade students at Center School

conduct water quality analysis, and organize and analyze collected data. A presentation was made at the 2010 MLT annual meeting. The MLT provided funding for student transportation during the course of the project.

At Center School, second grade students were nurturing Monarch Butterfly caterpillars. The MLT gave space at the Tub Mill property on Route 6, and donated milkweed plants to provide a growing medium.

Grants are available through the MLT Education Committee.

Contact Education Committee Chairperson Ellen Flynn for details.

elflynn@vassar.edu

Kids' Corner

Snowy Owls

by Gary P. Johnson

At the "Eyes on Owls" presentation last June Marcia Wilson showed us a beautiful snowy owl and told us that they frequently spend their winters in marshlands. We have one property that would provide an ideal habitat for them: the Walega-Livingstone Preserve on Brandt Island Cove. If you know what to look for, perhaps you can spot a snowy owl there this winter.

Snowy Owls (*Bubo Scandiacus*) are large owls related to Great Horned Owls. The adults range from 20" to 27" long with the female larger than the male and have a wingspan of 54" to 65". The males are nearly all white while the females and juveniles are white with brown bars allowing them to blend in more easily with the arctic tundra. As protection from the cold weather they have downy feathers, almost like fur, that covers even their feet.

They spend their summers in the arctic tundra so they must hunt during daylight, unlike other owls, and they prefer open spaces rather than woodlands. They will take small mammals on the ground but will also hunt other birds in the air and take fish from the water. Small animals are swallowed whole and then the bone and fur pellets are regurgitated later!

Snowy are very strong- they can apply up to 200 pounds of pressure with their talons. And they can fly up to 70 miles per hour because of their long wing-span.

So stay alert this winter and perhaps you'll spot a snowy owl in Mattapoisett. If you do, please tell us so we can help others see this magnificent predator from the north.



Tedeschi Appeal

At Least It's Over

by Gary P. Johnson & Paul Milde

After more than 4 years, and many postponements, the court has ruled against our appeal of the town's zoning board to permit the Tedeschi drive-through window by denying our "standing".

The Mattapoisett Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) issued a special permit to Tedeschi in February of 2006 over the strenuous opposition from the Mattapoisett Planning Board, abutters, including the MLT, and several concerned citizens. We all felt that the litter, traffic, and pedestrian hazards associated with a drive-through would be a detriment to the town and to the community-friendly zoning that had recently passed by Town Meeting. The special permit seemed obviously in contradiction to the requirements for granting such permission in the applicable town bylaws. We also believed that the ZBA had underestimated the adverse effect that the drive-through would have in increasing litter in the neighborhood, especially on Dunseith Gardens. As an abutter the MLT seemed most likely to achieve the standing required to appeal

the decision, and was willing to be the leader of the group that decided to appeal.

The MLT contributed \$1,000 to the appeal in May 2006 while other concerned citizens eventually contributed nearly \$14,000 more. After failed mediation and many postponements, Tedeschi asked for another postponement in the spring in order to file a motion to deny our "standing". This motion was accepted in August, 2010, denying our right to challenge the decision and ending our appeal of the special permit.

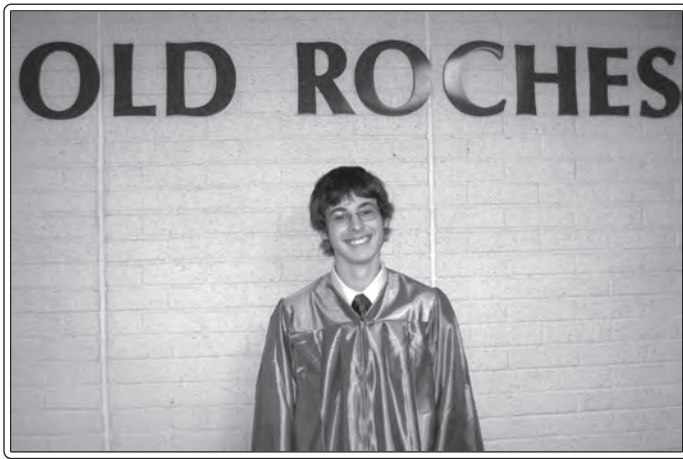
In summary, we felt that our case arguing that the ZBA had made a terrible decision was strong, but the harm caused was to the town as a whole rather than to the MLT specifically. Also, the harm is largely not of a monetary nature. Our arguments against the special permit might have prevailed if given a hearing, but ironically they are irrelevant to the "standing" which is required to bring the appeal in the first place. We are in good company here; the National Park Service was recently denied standing and then lost an appeal of their standing to question a ZBA decision in Orleans, Massachusetts. This has been a frustrating experience, and an expensive education. We hope that we have at least had some impact on future decision making at the Zoning Board of Appeals. We will also continue to monitor Tedeschi's compliance with conditions of the original special permit, especially with respect to litter.

Zachary Cosgrove: Land Trust Scholar!

by Ellen P. Flynn, Chair of Education Committee

"One cannot demand of a scholar that he show himself a scholar everywhere in society, but the whole tenor of his behavior must none the less betray the thinker, he must always be instructive, his way of judging a thing must even in the smallest matters be such that people can see what it will amount to when, quietly and self-collected, he puts this power to scholarly use."

Quote by Georg C. Lichtenberg



Blanche B. Perry Scholarship winner Zachary Cosgrove

Years ago the Mattapoisett Land Trust discussed the possibility of offering a tri-town scholarship along with the other area land trusts. As time grew on and ideas evolved the Education Committee and the Board of Directors felt an urgency to offer our own Land Trust Scholarship to a Mattapoisett resident graduating by June 2010 from secondary school pursuing an education in environmental studies or a related field. The funding for the Scholarship is through the Edith Glick Shoolman fund, a bequest left to the Mattapoisett Land Trust to provide support for children in the community.

This year The Mattapoisett Land Trust awarded our first Blanche B. Perry Scholarship to Zachary Cosgrove a land trust member and graduate of Old Rochester Regional High School. He is the son of Lois Fluegel and Richard Cosgrove. Lynn O'Connor, one of Zachary's teachers, claims that Cosgrove is "a high achiever" in "Marine Biology and Environmental Interactions", she adds, "Zach makes astute observations and meaningful analysis, and he is one of the top five percent achievers in the science curricula".

Inspired by his studies of and work with young Diamondback Terrapin Turtles, at the National Marine Life Center, in Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts, Cosgrove is now enrolled at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, in the field of marine science. He plans to continue his work on the graduate level in training with endangered marine

life. Cosgrove's goal is to work at the new marine animal hospital facility, located on site of the National Marine Life Center, in Buzzards Bay. This facility is "dedicated to the rehabilitation for release of stranded sea turtles, seals, dolphins, porpoises and small whales and to advancing scientific knowledge and education about marine wildlife health and conservation." Because of his self-motivation and being an organized thinker, Zach is committed to making a difference in his future.

Today while studying at U. Mass Dartmouth Mr. Cosgrove has found college life a totally different experience than high school. "My Biology classes and Bio-Lab are by far my favorite", he explains. Presently he is working with cells but expects to soon start investigating and dissecting marine organisms which he states, "should be pretty fun".

Lichtenberg quoted above is the 18th century experimental physicist, who "concentrated on single natural phenomena, living beings, and instruments as objects for his research." He used methods of the physical sciences as a guide, and offered intellectual power through knowledge. Following these concepts and typically exploring the natural world and their environment it is a belief of the Education Committee that future candidates for The Blanche B. Perry Scholarship will represent the Mattapoisett Land Trust in their advocacy and leadership to make a difference and join us to "preserve and protect land in order to enrich the quality of life".

Please join us in the recognition of Zachary Cosgrove, as this year's Land Trust Scholar.

Future Projects of the Education Committee are:

- Partner with Center School & "The Coalition for Buzzards Bay"...A third grade educational tour with Rob Hancock, Vice President of Education and Public Engagement for the Coalition for Buzzards Bay, at the new "Richard C. Wheeler Bay Learning Center". The Center according to Hancock, is a great place for "students to learn about why Buzzards Bay is important, how we impact the health of the bay, and how the watershed and Bay are connected." Date to be announced...
- October 16, 2010 at 1PM with the Mattapoisett Free Public Library for the Scarecrow Contest & Bulb and Plant Sale, we are supporting this event with bales of hay.



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 Mattapoissett Land Trust.

In memory of Duane Ragsdale:

Jean L. Whalen
Duxbury, MA

In memory of Frances Pernas:

Nogonewly Fund: Betsy Boileau, Isabella Cunyngame, Ned Watts
Duxbury, MA

In memory of R. Jeffrey Parker & William W. Parker:

George & Virginia Parker
Dedham, MA

In memory of Helen Cobey Flynn & Joseph Chester Flynn:

(A bench at the Munro Waterfront)
Ellen P. Flynn
Mattapoissett, MA

Cobey T. Flynn
Brooklyn, NY

In memory of Jane T. Gowing:

Elizabeth Marshall Weaver
Portsmouth, NH

In memory of Marilyn Flood:

Brad & Priscilla Hathaway
Mattapoissett, MA

In honor of the Birthday of Edwina McCarthy:

Richard F. McCarthy, her husband
Wellesley, MA

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

Cleaning up with the Land Trust

by Charles Radville

The first Saturday of most months finds one of the Mattapoissett Land Trust's properties the subject of a clean-up party. Volunteers gather with their tools and energy to keep our protected areas accessible and safe.

In April of this year, we were joined by the Boy Scouts of Mattapoissett Troop 53 in Dunseith Gardens (beneath Salty the Seahorse). Under direction of Paul Osenkowski ("Ozzie", who heads up property stewardship) the existing walking trails were raked out, brush was cleared and sent to the transfer station. And bark mulch, generously provided to the project, was spread over the revived trails.

These parties are a great way to connect with your Land Trust, meet members and directors and get some fresh air and exercise. Check at our website www.mattlandtrust.org for the latest project.

On the morning of November 6, we'll work on the Munro waterfront property on the Harbor. See the calendar on the back cover for details.

Photos by Bodil Perkins



We would like to hear from you!

Whether your contributions come in the form of tax-deductible financial gifts or through volunteer services, your support matters! Your annual membership contributions support the operating expenses of the MLT. Mowing, inspections, forestry services, trash pick-up, legal and accounting advice are all part of what keeps the organization vital and growing. In addition, whether you are concerned about preserving the scenic beauty of Mattapoissett, maintaining its biodiversity, or fear the degradation of Buzzards Bay waters from septic systems and chemical run-off, there are many ways you can volunteer your time and services, allowing for the enjoyment and education of future generations. You can check out some of these opportunities on our website, mattlandtrust.org, or contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Jenny Mello at 774-377-3305.

To become a member of the MLT, renew your membership, or learn more about upcoming events, check out our website: mattlandtrust.org, or e-mail us at info@mattlandtrust.org. We would like to hear from you and welcome any suggestions or comments!



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Calendar — Fall and Winter Activities 2010

Hiller Trail Bridge Dedication

Saturday, October 16, 9:00 AM

Access the Hiller Trail at the clearing across the street from Friends Meeting House on Route 6. See article on page 3.

Scarecrow Contest & Bulb and Plant Sale

October 16, 2010 at 1:00 PM

Mattapoisett Free Public Library

Salty's Silvery Moon Soirée

Saturday, October 23, 5:30 PM at Dunseith Gardens (under Salty the Seahorse on Route 6.)

Make S'mores at our cooking fires, play games, listen to stories by Tobi Dills. Always great fun for all ages. Rain date: November 6. You will have to park off site, so bring a flashlight.

Clean up Party

Saturday, November 6, 10:00 AM

Join us to clean up your Munro waterfront property for the winter. On the west side of the Mattapoisett Harbor parking lot.

The Heron is published bi-annually by the Mattapoisett Land Trust.

The MLT, formed in 1974, is a non-profit, tax-exempt charitable organization incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Its purpose is to preserve open space for the enjoyment of current and future residents of Mattapoisett, as well as to educate the public about the sound use of natural resources, and to work with other organizations having the same goals. Our membership consists of annual contributors — our primary source of revenue — and a volunteer Board of Directors: Kathy Bohan, Sandra Dawson, Don Cuddy, Ellen Flynn, Sandra Hering, Martin Hudis, Luana Josvold, Elizabeth Liedhold, Jenny Mello, Paul Osenkowski, Charles Radville, 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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Layout and Design by Charles Radville

Check our website for updates and additional information

www.mattlandtrust.org