



The Heron

Fall-Winter 2009

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

Shoolman generosity funds children's programs and MLT Scholarship

by Don Cuddy

While the mission of the Land Trust remains primarily that of protecting as much land as possible from development and preserving open space that it not our sole objective.

Developing environmental programs aimed at kids is also a goal of the MLT and, thanks in great measure to the generosity of the late Edith Shoolman, the available opportunities to do so in Mattapoissett would be the envy of many other environmental organizations.

"We're in a very favorable position," Land Trust president Gary Johnson said. "Most small land trusts don't have these types of funds available."

Gary was referring to the \$250,000 left by Ms. Shoolman for maintenance of the property that she willed to the MLT. That property included a waterfront cottage located on Brant Beach, the Shoolmans' longtime summer residence.

"Owning a house wasn't consistent with our mission statement so we thought we could use the proceeds from the sale to protect more land," Gary said. The house was subsequently sold but the funds for maintenance were still available.

While a small portion of that money was reserved for the upkeep of the lovely Shoolman

Park on Ocean View Avenue in Brant Beach there was a considerable amount left over.

"The executors of the will agreed that we could retain the balance of the maintenance money if it were used to develop children's programs," according to Gary.

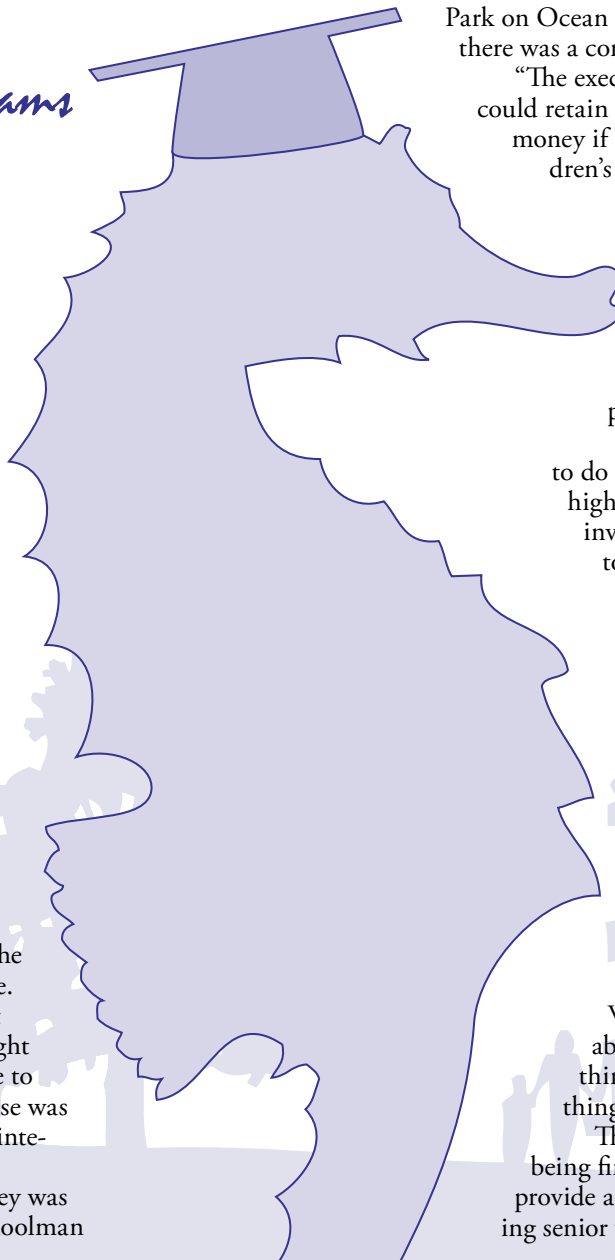
To date the Land Trust has found a number of uses for this windfall such as providing buses for the Mattapoissett fourth-graders field trip to the Nasketucket Bay state reservation to visit the vernal pool.

Sixth graders were also funded to do vernal pool certification and high school students at ORR were involved in an estuaries program to do water sampling last year thanks to assistance from the Land Trust which paid for the four bus trips.

The Shoolman funds were also used for then creation of the new adventure playground that was officially opened this year at Dunseith Gardens.

"But we'd like to do more. I just saw that every third-grader in Framingham goes on an environmental field trip to Garden in the Woods for education to learn about ecology and systems. I think we should be doing something like that," Gary said.

The most recent proposal, now being finalized by the board, is to provide a scholarship aimed at a graduating senior who plans to focus on environ-



mental studies. Candidates will be judged on what they have already done in the environmental field and also on what they hope to do when they continue their studies.



Inaugural start at the new Dunseith playground

their goals or special projects that are consistent with our own objectives.

"As the education committee chairperson I plan to reach out to local teachers to partner with them for their involvement in possible grant writing and other funding development," Ellen said.

Under my leadership over the summer 2009 months, a sub-education committee met to formulate and establish an MLT scholarship fund. By offering a MLT scholarship it is the Education Committee's goal to help assist a high school student in furthering their college opportunities.

Along with Don Cuddy, during the summer 2009 I put together a plan to plant and maintain sunflowers and an herb garden at the Mattapoisett Historical Society on Church St. geared toward children. The MLT now has quite an extensive junior membership branch of the organization and with this in mind my goal is to engage these members to participate in our educational activities.



The renovated buoy at Dunseith Gardens

can follow the natural choice of preservation for our children, and continue to use these vital links to help save the environment"

A recent reorganization the Land Trust's educational committee saw board member Ellen Flynn take over as chairperson and there will be a concerted effort in the months ahead to inform the community at large and particularly educators of the funding opportunities that might be available to support



The slide at Dunseith Gardens

"For me I see the work of the Education Committee, as a full commitment to symbolize the MLT's mission to preserve, protect, and educate the public about natural resources and wildlife. Working with community leaders, teachers, and environmental agencies, we as the education committee

Blanche Perry

A Treasure

Blanche Perry is my friend. Blanche Perry is my mentor. Blanche Perry will be with me always.

I met Blanche just 5 or 6 years ago. It's hard to tell just when I became aware of her. She was just the older woman who came to the Mattapoisett Land Trust meetings and spoke her mind. She would quietly sit there and listen to the discussions and then calmly state her case. Never one to criticize but always one to show things that you might miss. She had a way of making me aware of my folly without making me feel stupid. You always knew where you stood with Blanche because she was so forthright.

She could warm up a place with her smile and make everyone just more comfortable whenever she was around. She was a friend to all and always so energetic. That woman could accomplish so much in a short time and she never hesitated in giving a helping hand. When she passed away everyone that I saw said the same thing: "But I just saw her yesterday". That's because they did. She was all over town and knew everyone.

Therein lies the treasure. She was a friend to all because of her heart. She was a mentor because you learn by example. Who could be a better example than Blanche? That spirit lies within us all. We are better people because she touched our lives. She is the treasure that we will have forever.

Blanche's friend

OZZIE

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 Mattapoisett, 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!

Five Years of Harbor Days

by Martin Hudis

This is the fifth year that the MLT has had a booth at Harbor Days. The Harbor Days booth for the Land Trust continues to be a corner stone of our effort to increase our visibility within the community. The Harbor Days program continues to evolve as we develop new and better ideas to spread our message. A summary of these changes is listed below:

Introduction of a raffle, which results in a fund-raiser from a small cost for the land trust.

Expanding the sales items from just hats and shirts to clothes plus aluminum water bottles and Salty items (pins, decals and refrigerator magnets).



The MLT booth with many of the items on sale.

Expanding use of the estuary maps, which are used to show protected land in Mattapoisett and to show the MLT plan to develop a continuous trail from highway 6 to the harbor.



Two pictures of the tent along with the Estuary maps showing the MLT protected land plus other protected land in the town of Mattapoisett.



Continuing the HHH riding lessons with Julie Craig. This program continues to be a big success. Each year around 150 kids ride Copper and have a

great time.

HHH (Helping Hands and Hoofs) is a wonderful charity and the Monroe Property, owned by the MLT, provides the ability for riding lessons during the Harbor Days.

Hosting the Nasketucket Bird Club which gives

them an opportunity to promote birding which is a great environmental use of the land trust land.

Moving the shirts from non-organic cotton to organic cotton. The use of organic cotton is a growing movement and is one more tool to help maintain the environment.

Moving the location of the booth from a shielded area with limited traffic to a highly visible area with much greater traffic.

Harbor Days is a major activity and it can only take place through the help of many volunteers all of whom are members or on the board of the Mattapoisett Land Trust.

Special thanks go out to those individuals who volunteered their time and made this activity possible.

A very special thanks goes out to Brad Hathaway who organizes and drives the raffle. Brad's help makes the raffle a big success.



Julie Craig with some of the many children riding Copper on the MLT property next to the Wharf.

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, Linda Clifford, Don Cuddy, Ellen Flynn, Sandra Hering, Martin Hudis, Luana Josvold, Elizabeth Liedhold, Jenny Mello, Paul Milde, Paul Osenkowski, Charles Radville, Elizabeth Richardson, Johnna Tierney, 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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Mattapoisett, MA 02739

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The Dunn Preserve – Thank You

by Gary P. Johnson

With your help in June of this year we were able to complete the acquisition of the Dunn Preserve, the 40-acre parcel lying along Old Slough Road between Angelica Avenue and Bowman Road. As we mentioned in the spring Heron, adding the Dunn Preserve gives us a contiguous 215 acres in



A view along Old Slough Road

eastern Mattapoisett that will be open for passive recreation and enjoyment by members and the general public.

We had originally planned to have a dedication in the Fall, but other activities have prevented adequate preparation. We will try again in the spring, perhaps around the annual meeting.

In order to acquire the Dunn Preserve we had to severely

deplete our Acquisition Funds Reserve. If you can help restore them so that we will be able to make additional acquisitions in the future, we would greatly appreciate it. You may wish to wait until after January 1 in order to make the donation in the new tax year.

Thank you again to all of you who contributed to opening up one corner of Mattapoisett for public enjoyment for years to come.

New Website Needs Your Pics

We are the first to admit that the website we created in 2003 has become a little stale. We have established a new committee to create a new one and in our first meeting we decided that we would like to see more pictures and less text. To this end we would like to ask our members and friends to send us digital photos for use in the new website. The photos can be of people or places, landscapes or close-ups, in winter, spring, summer, or fall. We ask only that they be taken on, or from, one of our properties or Nasketucket Bay State Reservation (which we helped the state acquire). You can submit them by email (if under 2 meg) to info@mattlandtrust.org or send us a CD or DVD. If one, or more, of your photos are used, we will give you credit on the new website and you'll have your choice of an MLT cap or T-shirt.

We know there a lot of secret artists out there. So start rummaging through those .jpeg files to find some "special" photos of Mattapoisett that you'd like to show to the world.

Join the Mattapoisett Land Trust! Cut along the dotted line and mail in your support!

Membership Application/ Renewal...We only exist with your help!

Name(s)

Mailing Address

City/State/Zip

Phone

E-mail

Seasonal Address (if applicable)

City/State/Zip

Membership Categories

☐ Individual \$30

☐ Family \$50

☐ Supporting \$75

☐ Sustaining \$100

☐ Friends of Salty \$5
(children under 12 years)

☐ Benefactor \$250

☐ Patron \$500

☐ Founder \$1000

☐ Corporate _____

☐ Other _____

Please make your check payable to:

Mattapoisett Land Trust, Inc.

P.O. Box 31

Mattapoisett, MA 02739

Kids' Corner

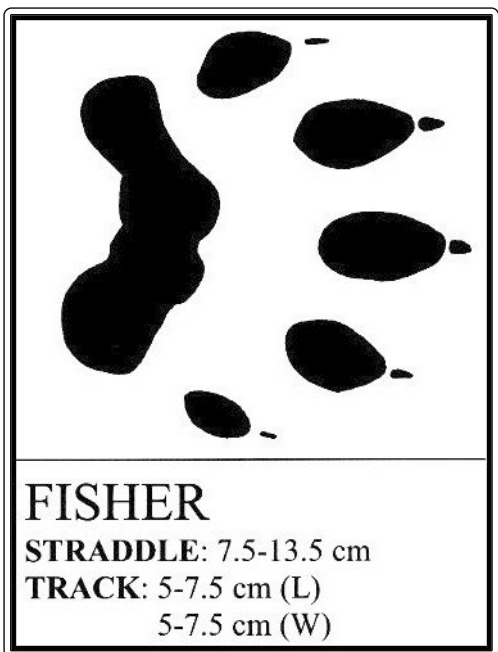
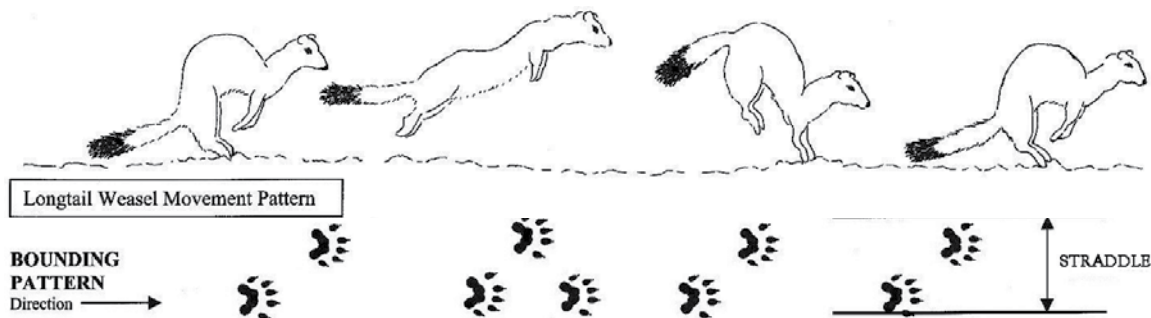
Time for Tracking

Winter and early spring bring us plenty of snow and mud, the perfect environment to find tracks of the mammals that make Mattapoissett their home. A couple of years ago in early March we found tracks of a fisher near the Grace Pond at the end of Bowman Road.



The fisher is a large member of the weasel family getting up to 45" long and weighing up to 11 lb. (The largest ever recorded was 20 lb.) They usually make their dens in hollow trees and will eat anything they can catch including rabbits, other small mammals, and birds. They are one of the only animals that will attack and kill a porcupine.

Unlike other mammals that move by walking or waddling or hopping, the weasel family moves by bounding as shown:



To give you an idea of how large a fisher is, the track shown is life-size. These drawings are taken from *Mammal Tracks and Scat* published by Heartwood Press. You can get your own waterproof copy at www.heartwoodpress.com. You'll be surprised to see how many different mammals included in the guide you can find in Mattapoissett.

So put on your coat and boots and go explore the outdoors this winter and spring. The cold weather gives us a great opportunity to investigate nature and not worry about deer ticks.

Happy hunting!

Holiday Stocking Stuffers from the MLT

The Mattapoissett Land Trust is now your source for small holiday gifts. If you want to help Mattapoissett preserve environmentally sensitive land, preserve open land for future generations, and help the environment, consider purchasing small holiday stocking stuffers from the MLT. These are the same items which have been a big hit for the past five years at Harbor Days. They can now be purchased for the holidays. Five items are available this year: adult and children's shirts, adult hats, an aluminum water bottle, a Salty decal and a Salty pin. These items are shown in the accompanying 6

pictures.

The Salty stick pin is green on brass and can be seen in picture 1. The Salty decal measures 2 inches by 3 inches and is black on white. It can be seen in picture 2. The Aluminum water bottle shown in picture 3, has the MLT logo stenciled on the side.

The children's shirts are powder blue with a green emblem of Salty on the front and nothing on the back. The adult shirts are green with a cream color logo on the front and on the back (see picture 5a and 5b). The shirts are short sleeve, and are available in many sizes, see table 1. Finally the shirts are made from organic cotton (cotton grown using only natural fertilizers and pesticides).

The last items are baseball hats. They are available in two colors, red and tan. Both hats are one size fits all with an adjustment strap in the back.

These items can be purchased by contacting Martin Hudis at the MLT web site: <http://www.mattlandtrust.org/> using the "Contact us" tab. Martin Hudis can also be reached by phone at (508) 728-0755. Orders will be taken up to Friday December 18, 2009.

Any item (including the clothes) can be returned for full credit, no reason needed as long as they are returned before the end of January 2010 and are not damaged.

Special arrangements for drop shipping and holiday wrapping can be made, but there will be an

additional charge for the service.

Supplies are limited, so please contact us early if you have a need for one of the holiday stocking stuffers.



Picture 4, Children's shirt showing the front side.



Picture 5a and 5b, Adult shirt showing back and front images

Table I, Available Shirt Sizes

Children Sizes	Adult Sizes
12 Month	Small Adult
2 T	Medium Adult
X-Small Youth	Large Adult
Small Youth	X Large Adult
Medium Youth	

The items are being sold (during the holiday season) at the prices listed in Table II.



Picture 6a and 6b, Baseball hats with MLT logo and adjustment straps in the back.

Table II, Item Prices

Item	Price
Salty pins & Decals	\$2/each
Aluminum Water Bottle	\$10/each
Hats (either color)	\$10/each
Adult Shirts	\$10/each
Children Shirts	\$5/each

Have a great holiday from the Mattapoissett Land Trust.



Picture 1, Salty pin about the size of a quarter.



Picture 2, Salty decal, 2" x 3"



Picture 3, Aluminum water bottle with snap on cover.

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!)

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 Mattapoisset Land Trust.

In memory of Jane T. Gowing:

Bob & Jeanne Bigelow
Newport, VT

Bob & Sandy Brooks
Mattapoisset, MA

Anne Coggins
Mattapoisset, MA

Roger Kelley Family
Mattapoisset, MA

John & Jeannette Rhine
West Hartford, CT

Cynthia C. Field
Coventry, CT

Victor M & Rosamond J. Pierce
Felton, DE

Bob & Sue Nydick
Ambler, PA

Thelma V. Karr
Lansdale, PA

Hilda Horne
Boxborough, MA

James & Laurienne Goodman
Ellington, CT

David Richardson
Waltham, MA

Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Nydick, Sr.
East Norriton, PA

Alexander & Anne Marshall
Truro, MA

Richard & Michele Stern
Lansdale, PA

Julie & Mark Bodenstab
West Chester, PA

Jennifer & Jean-Paul Belliveau
Simsbury, CT

Mrs. James L. Whalen
Duxbury, MA

Judith Pasquill
Fairhaven, MA

Elyse & Marc Russman
Canton, MA

Stein Sharpe Family Fund
Jay & Melinda Whalen
Westwood, MA

Stephen T. Gowing
Canton, MA

In honor of Robert Coquillette:

William & Dorothy O'Neill Foundation
Cleveland, OH

In memory of Paul S. Munn:

Madelyn Fogler
Mattapoisset, MA

In honor of the wedding of Siddhartha Chowdri and Arati Seturam:

Blanche Perry
Mattapoisset, MA

In honor of the 60th Birthday of Gary P. Johnson:

Luana Josvold
Mattapoisset

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

"Protected Spaces" Maps Available

Whenever we make a presentation to groups about our land protection efforts (including during Harbor Days) we use large maps that show all of the protected land in Mattapoisset. Over the years several individuals have inquired about how they could acquire copies of the map. Unfortunately we have neither the software to create the maps nor the hardware to print them – they are created for us as a public service by the Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program in Wareham.

While we cannot create new maps for members, we can distribute the old maps after we have used them for our land protection activities – we prefer to recycle them rather than adding them to a landfill. To this end the Directors have authorized the distribution of the old maps to members in good standing on a "first come, first served" basis. We will keep a list of interested members and, as the maps become available, we will contact the member to arrange a delivery.

All of the maps are large, measuring 44" by 34". We have two different styles: one shows individual land parcels with an overlay of the "DEP Core Wetland Resources"; the other uses an aerial photograph of the town. Both have color grids that show land held by the MLT, other land trusts, municipal bodies, and the Commonwealth. To protect the maps for display purposes, we have one set laminated in plastic.

If you're interested in receiving one of the maps please contact a director, contact us by e-mail at info@mattlandtrust.org, or send a note to the MLT at P.O. Box 31. Let us know whether you would like "paper or plastic" and "parcel or aerial" and we will add your name to our list.

Everyone loves maps and with your own "Protected Spaces" map you'll be able to track our efforts as we try to protect some of what make Mattapoisset "special".



Mattapoisett Land Trust, Inc.
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Calendar — Fall & Winter Activities

Vernal Pool Training and Certification

Wed. March 24 and Sat. March 27, 2010

Since our spring issue of *The Heron* won't appear until April, we thought we should give you an early notice of an educational event we have planned for the spring. We have tentatively scheduled a workshop and field trip to give the public hands-on experience with certifying a vernal pool. Elizabeth Leidhold, MLT Director, will provide the background information about vernal pools- their characteristics and importance- at a workshop on Wednesday evening at the Mattapoisett Free Public Library. She will then lead the group on an exploratory visit to Grace Pond on Bowman Road on Saturday morning where we will complete the documentation necessary for obtaining state certification. Our goal is to give more Mattapoisett residents the tools necessary to protect these critical wetland habitats. Stay tuned for more information.

Saturday Clean-up Party

First Saturday of each month, 1:00 P.M.

Join us the 1st Saturday of each month for cleaning up the MLT properties and preparing them for winter. We'll meet at Dunseith Gardens at 1pm and then proceed to the property where work is most needed. Leaf rakes, leaf blowers and plastic trash barrels are especially useful in moving leaves and branches to the composting piles.