



## MATTAPOISETT LAND TRUST, Inc.

Box 31, Mattapoisett, MA 02739

### News Letter: 1996-1997

**What is Mattapoisett Land Trust?** The Trust is a private, non-profit, tax-exempt charitable organization incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Its purpose is to promote preservation of open land and natural resources, to educate the public on the wise use of natural resources, and to work with other organizations having similar purposes.

**May 17 Spring Program and Annual Meeting:** Mattapoisett Land Trust begins its 23rd year with the Annual Meeting on **Saturday, May 17 at 9:30 A.M. at the Friends Meeting House.** Our speaker on Land Planning and Stewardship, vital steps for the future of MLT, comes from the Wildlands Trust of Massachusetts and has extensive experience in open-spaces preservation. We'll have exhibits of each of our 30 properties and will serve coffee and pastries. Following this meeting at the Mattapoisett Friends Meeting House, we'll have a guided tour of our newest property which surrounds the water tower behind the Friends Meeting House. **Members, residents and friends are encouraged to participate.**

**New Activities:** The seawall at the Monroe property at the foot of Pearl Street has deteriorated badly in recent years. We have a committee working with the State for recommendations and have hired an engineer to develop plans and estimates. Once these are available, we will involve all of the greater Mattapoisett community in decisions on how much of the plan to implement and how to pay for it.

We hope to develop walking trails in several properties to allow peaceful enjoyment of the Open Space made available through forward minded gifts. Volunteers are needed. A team of father-daughters or mother-sons (or vice-versa) would be ideal to build interest in Open Spaces for future generations. Any enthusiasm, of course, is very welcome.

Please look for our booth at Harbor Days, buy one of the new MLT hats, and see drawings of the Monroe property seawall which are promised for that date.

**Property Acquisition:** MLT has an acquisition planning function which will be intensified this year. As funding sources develop, we can effect beneficial land-preservation projects on an attractive basis. In addition, we are always pleased to review available options with people thinking about dedicating land to Open Space Preservation.

**Past Presidents honored:** After several years as President and many more on the Board of Directors, Charles Duponte declined another nomination and will step down from both offices. Family, business and personal opportunities all call for attention and he says that "It's someone else's turn." Charlie and Johanna will be missed. She left the board last year and is also a past president. They have been a vital, driving force.

Most of the MLT acreage has been accumulated during Charlie and Johanna's combined administrations. The Dunseith property (The Seahorse) is the most commonly known of and required immense attention. The largest is 90 acres off Prospect Street which was given by Mrs. Ruth Martocci in 1994. It can also be accessed from Route 6 and makes a marvelous "adventure-walk".

Organizational and property-management responsibility have depended on the Duponte's for long enough and it's easy to lose sight of their contributions. These range from liaison with tenants, to arranging "Posting" signs for properties being abused by poachers, to just plain mowing paths or making a truck available for cleanup programs. Thank you, Johanna and Charlie.

**Director Emeritus:** Vi Jones will step down from active status on the Board after umpteen years of conscientious service. Her contributions include years as Treasurer and assistance in shepherding MLT through its early growth stages. In recognition of this service, the MLT board unanimously created the Director Emeritus status specifically for Vi.

**New Nominations:** We are pleased that Ruth Bates and Dana Coggins have agreed to join the Board and that Board member Randall Kunz has agreed to the Presidency.

**Thank you:** The following members and friends were most generous in the recent past: ***Please renew your financial commitment to MLT and include the enclosed card.***

**Individual & Family Members**

One hundred and thirty

**Supporting Members**

Jeanne & John Bernardi  
Fredrick Best  
Mrs. Charles W. Bigelow  
M/M Carleton Burr  
M/M Richard Cederberg  
Roger Cheever  
Dana & Ann Coggins  
Eleanor Conant  
M/M Robert Coquillette  
John A. Eklund  
Barbara H. Gordon  
Edward Hartnett  
Jane Hathaway  
Vi Jones  
Albert W. Merck  
M/M Ressel Pearson  
Diane & Dennis Perry  
M/M Donald Rice  
Phyllis E. Ryan  
Susan Peterson & John Teal  
T. H. P. Whitney

**Sustaining Members**

Bradford Hathaway  
Ray E. Larson  
Fredrick C. Mock  
George Mock III  
M/M Allan Parker  
Martha Peterson (Mem. of Jeanie Brooks)  
M/M H. Potter Trainer, Jr.

**Guardian Members**

M/M Christopher Arnold  
M/M George Christopher  
Kathryn V. Dinneen  
M/M Gordon Henderson  
Gil LaFrance  
Mattapoisett Lions Club  
Katherine & Bruce Minevitz  
Richard Prouty  
James J. Vanecko

**Benefactors**

M/M Robert B. Brack

**Patrons**

Friends Meeting

**Founders**

Edith G. Shoolman  
Stokley P. Towles

**In-Kind Contributions**

Robert Atkinson  
Burt Corkum  
Charlie & Johanna Duponte  
Elizabeth Kunz  
Nye Oil  
Martin Smith