

The Heron

Spring 2003



The Newsletter of the Mattapoissett Land Trust, Inc.

Land Preservation Updates

Dunseith Gardens

Home of "Salty" the Mattapoissett Sea Horse, Dunseith Gardens, located on the corner of Route 6 and North Street, holds a prime location for orienting visitors to Mattapoissett, as well as reminding us of days gone by. Thanks to the coordinating efforts of Charlie DuPonte, a beautiful gazebo donated by Mike Esposito and his wife, Cynthia Redel, has been added to the property. You may also have noticed several log benches along the Dunseith nature trail. Thanks to Kevin Wheeler who, with the help of his fellow scouts and the leaders of Troop 53, fulfilled the service project requirement toward his Eagle Scout Badge. It was a lot of work, and we know these benches will be appreciated for many years to come.

A Sign of the Times...

MLT has partnered with the Mattapoissett Lions Club to bring you a community bulletin board, located across from Dunseith Gardens on Route 6. This bulletin board will provide information on upcoming community events of interest. We'll complete this project with some landscaping in the spring.

Trail Blazing...

The Martocci preserve, donated by Ruth Martocci in 1993, provides 97 acres of mixed woodland for your enjoyment. Accessed from Rte. 6, across from the Friends Meeting House, an approximately mile-long trail has been marked by the MLT for exploration. Take a walk, and see what flora and fauna you can discover.

Tub Mill Refurbished

Last fall, the stone wall along the mill race at the Tub Mill property was repaired by Sherman Briggs after the engineering work was completed by Doug Schneider. In addition, in order to prevent future wash-outs, part of the stream bed was excavated and filled with large stone. We're lucky the work was completed last fall, given the amount of snow and run-off this winter.



The race is on!

Soaring housing prices, depressed cranberry prices and the extension of commuter rail lines south have all encouraged more rapid development of open space on the South Coast. In an effort to protect some of our most important open spaces, the MLT has joined six other South Coast land trusts and the Coalition for Buzzards Bay in the Saving Buzzards Bay Lands capital campaign. The purpose of the campaign is to raise \$10 million to preserve lands that will be held by the land trusts and to fund a \$2 million revolving fund to provide short-term financing for land purchases. As part of the campaign, the William Field family has graciously agreed to sell us a conservation restriction on 64 acres of forest, fields, and salt marsh along Brandt Island Cove. We are also looking at other purchases that could unite our many scattered holdings. As we engage in our fund-raising efforts this year, we hope you will help us generously. Remember, once it's developed, it's gone.

Agreement Reached on Bay Club Project:

As many of you know, the developers of the Bay Club golf course and luxury-home project and the environmental group Coalition for Buzzards Bay (CBB) have recently reached an agreement that addresses several environmental concerns. Here are some of the highlights:

- In exchange for the use of 100,000 gallons per day of Mattapoissett's sewer capacity, the Bay Club will pay for providing an equal amount of new sewer capacity for existing homes in the town's low-lying areas.
- In the event that the Fairhaven Wastewater Treatment Plant must be upgraded to meet EPA requirements, the Bay Club will pay Mattapoissett's \$300,000 share of the cost.
- The Bay Club will donate \$150,000 to the CBB, \$100,000 of which will be used to fund completion of a water-quality study of New Bedford Harbor by the UMass School for Marine Science and Technology. The remaining \$50,000 will be used for public education and advocacy related to nitrogen-removal technology upgrades at the Fairhaven Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- The Bay Club will donate \$12,500 to both the Whaling City Rowing Club and the Community Boating Center. It is hoped that support of these groups, which use the waters of New Bedford Harbor, will foster increased appreciation of and a stronger constituency for a cleaner harbor.
- The Bay Club will *not* swap land for Tinkham Forest, and has agreed to grant a permanent public-access easement across land owned by the Mahoney family that allows access to the forest.

For more details on the Bay Club-CBB agreement, visit the CBB website at www.savebuzzardsbay.org.

Saturday, April 26
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Calendar

APRIL THROUGH JULY 2003 EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Spring Clean-up and Planting

The commemorate Earth Day (April 22), MLT will hold an in-service day to clean up and spruce up the Munro and Dunseith properties, and to acquaint volunteers with these MLT holdings. Bring work gloves, rakes, shovels and clippers. We will provide additional tools. Refreshments will be provided. Choose to meet us at either the Dunseith Gardens parking lot or the Munro property (on the harbor at the south end of Pearl Street).

Rain Date: Saturday, May 3

Saturday, May 17
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Spring Awakening Plant Sale

The MLT is co-sponsoring The Garden Club of the Mattapoisett Woman's Club Annual Plant Sale. Held at Dunseith Gardens, you'll find a nice selection of flowering plants for your spring gardens, as well as local artist exhibits. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy afterwards!

Saturday, June 26

Biodiversity Day

A full day of activities designed to inform us on our local habitats and wildlife, join us for any and all of the following events:

- Early birds meet at Nasketucket Bay at **6:30 a.m.** for guided bird watching. Wear comfortable shoes.
- A nature walk is planned for **8:30 a.m.**, also at Nasketucket Bay. Come and learn from local naturalists, or teach us a thing or two about your own favorite flora and fauna.
- Join Ruth Bates at **11:30 a.m.** at the Friends Meeting House for a presentation on Keziah Parlow Randall, a well-known Mattapoisett mid-wife who lived to be 103!
- Come with an appetite and join us for a noon lunch, then stay for our annual meeting (see next), also at the Friends Meeting House. To help us plan, please email us, or call 508-758-7849, by the Friday before to let us know if you'll be joining us for lunch.

Saturday, June 14
1 p.m.

MTL Annual Meeting

Following our diversity day activities, our annual meeting will be held at the Friends' Meeting House on Rt. 6. In addition to electing officers for the next year, we would like to discuss issues related to the use of Land Trust properties, such as whether hunting should be permitted on

Land Trust properties. And, if so, what should the limits be. We hope that you will plan on attending what promises to be a very lively and informative discussion.

Saturday, July 12
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Mattapoisett Woman's Club Annual Garden Tour

Purchase tickets (\$12) and maps for this popular annual event at MLT's Dunseith Gardens during the day of the tour.

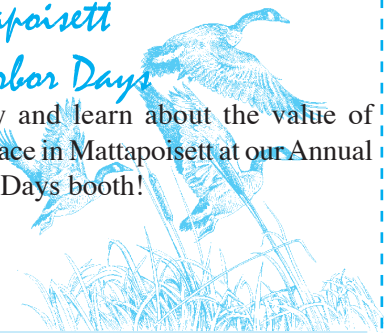
Mark Your Calendars!

Saturday, July 19 and

Sunday, July 20

Mattapoisett Harbor Days

Stop by and learn about the value of open space in Mattapoisett at our Annual Harbor Days booth!



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: Bob Atkinson, Brad Hathaway, Elizabeth Leidhold, Paul Osenkowski, Luana Josvold, Jenny Mello, Diane Perry, Susan Reid, Elizabeth Richardson, Allan Schubert, Sue Watgen and Gary Johnson, president.

The Mattapoisett Land Trust is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization. All contributions are fully tax deductible.

Mattapoisett Land Trust, Inc.

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We want to hear from YOU!

In the coming month, the MLT will be mailing membership renewal letters to all those who have supported the Land Trust in the past. 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 to these ongoing costs, opportunities abound for expansion and acquisition of woods and fields for the enjoyment and education of generations to come. Whether your contributions come in the form of tax-deductible financial gifts, or through volunteer opportunities, your support matters!

To become a member of the MLT, renew your membership, learn more about the events above, find out about volunteer opportunities, please contact us at mattland-trust@earthlink.net



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