

Old Hammond Quarry needs your support!

Mike Huguenin

MLT is working with the Buzzards Bay Coalition (BBC) to protect a beautiful 53 acre parcel at the junction of Route 6 and Mattapoisett Neck Road. The parcel is comprised of mature white pine, oak and holly forest as well as fresh-



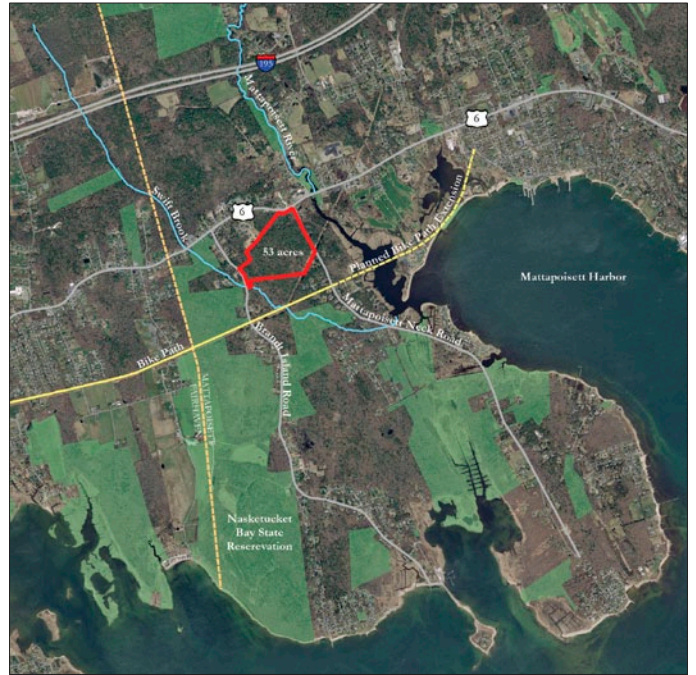
water wetlands, along with an abandoned granite quarry. The quarry lies a short distance and easy walk from Mattapoisett Neck Road. The western boundary is directly across Brandt Island Road from the recently expanded Nasketucket Bay State Reservation and just north of the Bike Path.

The quarry was owned primarily by the Hammond family and operated from the early 1700's until the early 1900's producing pink granite for which Mattapoisett was well known. This stone was used to construct the town wharves we enjoy today as well as curbstones, foundation stones, boundary markers, and other cut stone uses seen throughout Old Rochester and beyond. MLT is working with the Mattapoisett Historical Society (MHS) to learn more about the quarry's history and its important role in the Town's development as a major shipbuilding port.

The entire property is mapped as Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) rare species habitat, indicating the parcel's high importance to wildlife. And conservation would protect water quality in a number of small streams and springs discharging ultimately to the Mattapoisett River and harbor.

Following acquisition MLT, MHS and BBC will develop

a hiking trail network running throughout the property and connecting to the Nasketucket Bay State Reservation, the Bike Path, BBC's Shaw Farm Trail and other conservation land. One trail will lead to the quarry area and kiosks will be used to



Location of parcel off Mattapoisett Neck Road

explain the history and operations of this historic site. Watch for walks to see the property coming this spring and summer.

Contributions to acquire the Old Hammond Quarry are welcome!

For more information, please email us at info@mattlandtrust.org.

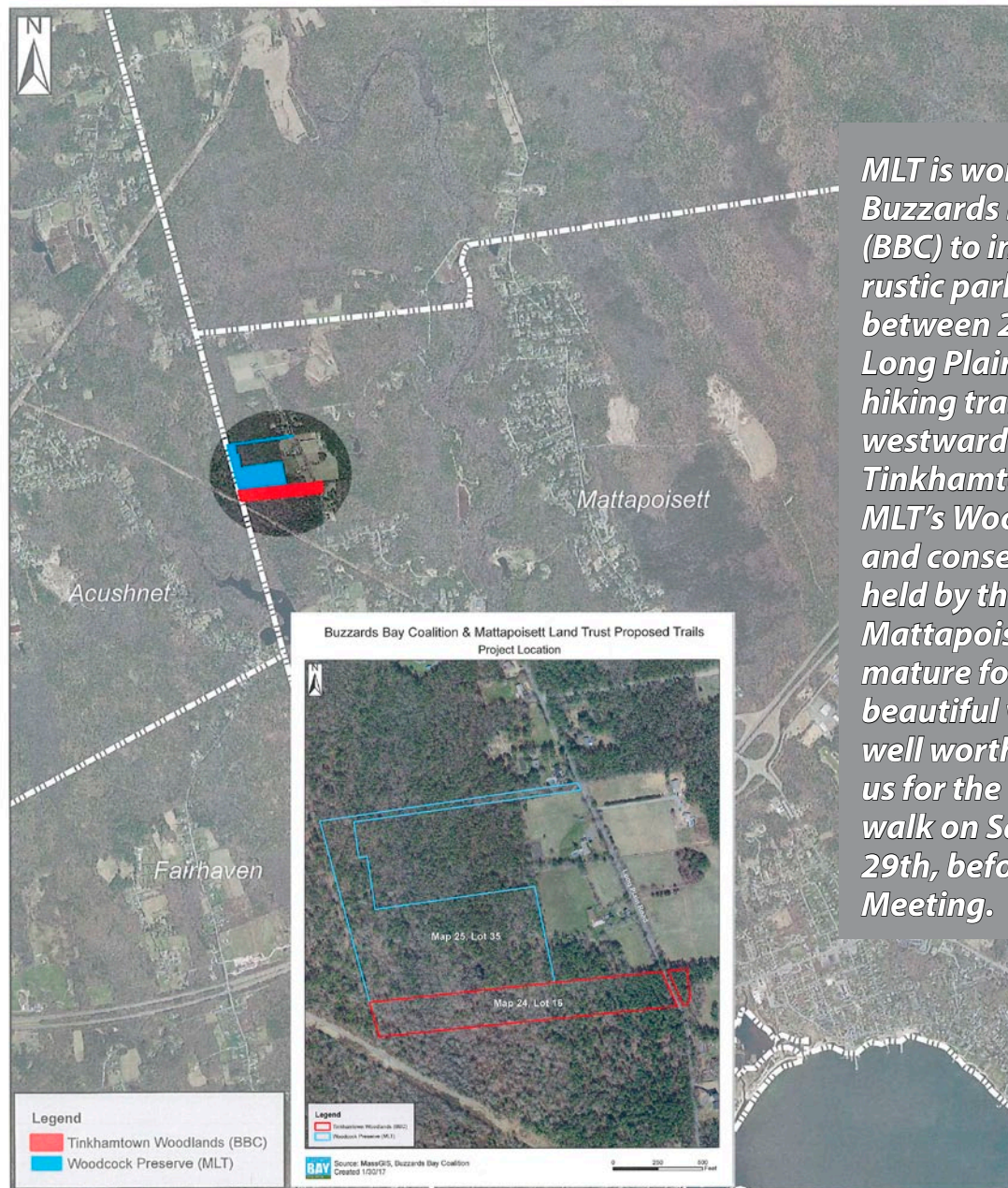


Attention Photographers!

Show off your best shots of and from MLT preserves on our new website, coming later this year. To submit, write to us at info@mattlandtrust.org.

New parking and trails at Woodcock Preserve

Buzzards Bay Coalition & Mattapoissett Land Trust Proposed Trails
Project Locus Map



MLT is working with the Buzzards Bay Coalition (BBC) to install a small rustic parking area between 26 and 37 Long Plain Road, with hiking trails leading westward into BBC's new Tinkhamtown Woodlands, MLT's Woodcock Preserve, and conservation lands held by the Town of Mattapoissett. Woodcock's mature forest and beautiful vernal pool are well worth a visit. Join us for the opening and walk on Saturday April 29th, before MLT's Annual Meeting.



Source: MassGIS, Buzzards Bay Coalition
Created 1/30/17

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Town Meeting May 8

We need your support

In our efforts to raise the funds necessary for the Old Hammond Quarry acquisition we applied last year for a grant of \$75,000 from the Community Preservation Committee. As we go to press we have not yet heard whether or not they will recommend that our grant be funded, or if it may be a smaller amount. If the CPC approves the grant, the recommendation will require approval at the annual Town Meeting in May. We hope that you will make an effort to join us at Town Meeting and vote in favor of this grant application. The Old Hammond Quarry property has environmental, historical and recreational characteristics that make it particularly appropriate for CPC funding.

Annual Meeting to feature eastern box turtles and a vernal pool

Marla Isaac from New England Reptile and Raptor Center will return this spring to introduce everyone to eastern box turtles (see Kids Corner, page 7), including live animals! These local reptiles are found throughout Mattapoisett but are on the state's list of species of critical concern. MLT's acquisition of the old Hammond quarry (see cover story) would preserve 53 acres of prime turtle habitat.

The day will begin with the opening of the new Buzzards Bay Coalition Tinkhamtown Woodlands Preserve between 26 and 37 Long Plain Road, and a short hike to the vernal pool found on the adjacent MLT Woodcock Preserve. The pool and woods should be teeming with spring life! Then we will return to Friends Meeting on Route 6 at noon for a pot luck lunch, a presentation by ORR marine biology students, and MLT's short Annual Meeting before Marla talks turtles. Festivities will conclude by 2:30 p.m. Come join us and meet the turtles!

Garden Groomers? Blueberry Buddies?

Do you enjoy the sunshine, salt air and harbor views at the Munro Preserve, just west of the Mattapoisett Town Wharves? Would you like to spend more time with Salty the Seahorse at the Dunseith Preserve? Or spot deer and wild turkeys at the Brownell Blueberry Patch? Could you spare an hour occasionally to help maintain these properties? If so, join the Garden Groomers or Blueberry Buddies! We meet for an hour on selected mornings each month to prune bushes, pull weeds and do light garden maintenance, while enjoying a cup of coffee. Join us! For more information email us at info@mattlandtrust.org.

Education Committee

Updates and activities

- In March, MLT will deliver & install picnic benches at Old Hammondtown School Courtyard
- April 13, 2017, 12:50-1:45 PM, Munro Preserve visit with 21 H.S. Students from Lynn Connor's Biology class & Hillary L. Sullivan, Biogeochemist from Woods Hole Research Center
- April 22nd, MLT will participate in Town Clean Up for Earth Day at Shipyard Park
- April 27th, 3rd Grade Center School trip to Buzzards Bay Coalition and National Park Service New Bedford
- May 1st & 2nd Cassie Lawson, Senior Educator of BBC will explore "Earth & Human Activity" with Mrs. Theresa Valente's 8th grade Science Classes on MLT property.
- May 1, 2017, Story Walk with Mrs. Rachel Perone's Girl Scouts at Dunseith. Book "When Spring Comes" by Kevin Henks ordered from Library.
- June, 6th Grade Trip to Cuttyhunk Island
- Join us at Harbor Days for pony rides on Saturday and face painting and art activities on Sunday
- MLT will collaborate with Mattapoisett Recreation's Greta Fox on kayak day camp week August 14th on Munro Preserve
- MLT will sponsor a Pollinator Walk on Brownell Blueberry property, TBA

If you would like to volunteer for any of these activities, please contact Ellen P. Flynn, MLT Chair of Education elflynn@vassar.edu.



"Map-A-Palooza" during February vacation. Sponsored by MLT Education, Mattapoisett Recreation and Mattapoisett Historical Society

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 Ruth Perry Bates:

Richard Bates
Mattapoissett, MA

In memory of Barbara K. Gordon:

Francis H. Gordon
Mattapoissett, MA

In memory of Ann McGrath:

Susan and Alan Fine
West Palm Beach, FL

In memory of the Petersosn, Hall and Zeimetz families:

David Hall
Santa Rosa Beach, FL

In memory of Alice Valley Walsh:

Chrystal Walsh
Rector, PA

In memory of Vincent Worden:

Mary Worden
Mattapoissett, MA

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

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Mattapoissett Land Trust Annual Meeting Schedule

**April 29, 2017
Friends Meeting House
Mattapoissett**

10:00 AM	Trail opening and vernal pool hike at Woodcock Preserve & Tinkhamtown Woodland
11:30 AM	Presentation by ORR students on Eel Pond water sampling
12:00 PM	Pot luck lunch. Bring a main dish to share. MLT provides drinks and desserts
1:00 PM	Annual meeting. Annual reports and elections
1:15 PM	Presentation on box turtles by Marla Isaac



The Mattapoissett 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

[mattlandtrust.org/education/
blanche-b-perry-scholarship/](http://mattlandtrust.org/education/blanche-b-perry-scholarship/)

New vistas at Dunseith Gardens

Many people know MLT's Dunseith Gardens Preserve as the home of Salty the Seahorse and the Silvery Moon Soiree, our annual autumn campfire with s'mores and storytelling. But Dunseith extends farther through gentle woodlands to a small stream, and is surrounded by beautiful stone walls assembled by our ancestors. Thanks to hard work by many volunteers, we are completing major improvements at Dunseith.



Rebuilding of old stone walls in progress

Last fall MLT's Garden Groomers thinned, pruned and weeded the gardens and planted 200 new daffodil bulbs to welcome the sunshine this spring. In November MLT's Education Committee worked with the Mattapoisett Free Public Library to install a children's Story Walk leading past the

stream. Improvements to the gardens continued this winter, along with trash removal and clearing along the old stone walls. In addition many dead and damaged trees were removed, others pruned, and now the stone walls are being rebuilt to their former glory. Come see what we've accomplished! Special thanks to Anne Bedser and Barb Van Inwegen for the daffodils, to Peter Davies for his work rebuilding the stone walls, and to Ozzie Osenkowski for overall coordination.



Steve Bowman working the excavator for Charlie DuPont

Second Annual Tour de Crème and Great Community Picnic coming this summer



On Sunday, May 21st, the land trust will host the Second Annual Tour de Crème along with Friends of the Mattapoisett Bike Path. This year there will be four tours of area creameries of 11, 19, 25, and 50 miles, followed by a party at Munro Preserve. Visit tourdecreme.org to learn more, register, or volunteer. It's a big event that takes lots of hands.

On Thursday, August 3rd, come enjoy the sunset over Mattapoisett Harbor with us as MLT and the Historical Society host the Second Annual Great Community Picnic from 5:30-8:30 PM at Munro Preserve. We provide tables and chairs, linens, hors d'oeuvres, music and a cash bar. Tickets for 4-, 6-, and 8-seat tables will be available from the Historical Society and the Wharf General Store for \$25 per seat.



Kids' Corner

A Reptile with a Mobile Home

One of the reasons we want to protect the Old Hammond Quarry is because it provides a home for the Eastern Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina carolina*), a species the Commonwealth has listed as a species of “Special Concern”.

The Eastern Box Turtle is a relatively small turtle which only grows to about 6.5 inches long. Its upper shell (the carapace) is highly arched and is usually dark brown or black with blotches that are yellow, orange or red. The bottom shell (the plastron) frequently also has a variable pattern but the most important characteristic is that it has a hinge. The hinge allows the turtle to protect itself by pulling completely inside and “closing the door”.

Eastern Box Turtles live in woodlands as well as meadows and are present in other parts of the state but are most common in Southeastern Massachusetts, our neighborhood. They are omnivorous meaning that they eat both animals and plants; their diet consists of slugs, insects, earthworms, snails, mushroom, berries, fruits and vegetables- nothing that moves very fast.

Mating can take place any time between April and October but the females usually lay their eggs in June or early July in a nest dug into soft ground. She can lay between one and five clutches during a season, each clutch being from one to nine eggs. But she can also delay laying eggs for up to four years if food is scarce by holding the sperm inside her body.

The largest threat to Eastern Box Turtles comes from the actions of people: destroying habitat that it needs, capturing and removing turtles for pets, using ATV's and motorized vehicles in woods and fields and by hitting turtles on roads with vehicles. Old Hammond Quarry will protect important habitat but you can also help the turtles. If you see a turtle crossing the road, stop, pick it up and carry it to the side of the road in the same direction that it was heading. A quick, free ride will be greatly appreciated.

(Pictures from Wikipedia)





Mattapoisett Land Trust, Inc.
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The Heron

Calendar — Spring and Summer Activities

date	time	event	description	place
April 22	9:30 AM	Earth Day town cleanup	Help clean up areas in Mattapoisett	Shipyards Park
April 29	10:00 AM- 2:00 PM	MLT Annual Meeting and trail opening	See page 5	Friends Meeting House
May 21	tour de creme.org	Tour de Crème	Bicycle tours of local creameries	Mattapoisett town beach
July 14 and 15	9:00 AM	Mattapoisett Harbor Days	Learn about properties and mission, buy tee shirts, gear and memberships	Shipyards Park
August 3	5:30- 8:30 PM	Great Community Picnic	Music, oysters and reserved tables. See page 6	Munro Waterfront Preserve

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.

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