



The Heron

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



Meadow restoration at Grace Pond

Making a meadow

by Don Cuddy

They say you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear but here at the MLT we took on a similar challenge: undertaking the cleanup of eight acres of land in our Old Aucoot District



Steve Bowman working on the meadow

preserve. This parcel, at the end of Bowman Road and adjacent to Grace Pond, had been largely overgrown by dense brush and overrun by thorns and invasive species. To make matters worse, beneath the tangle of vines and briars lay the remnants of a pig farm, including the ancient school bus used to house the animals, while much of the surrounding land served for decades as a dump and was littered with old tires, innumerable glass bottles, scrap metal, household trash and other refuse.

The land has an interesting history forming part of the farm purchased in 1904 by Manny Grace. He left his Cape Verdean home on the island of Brava as a youngster, joining the crew of a New Bedford whaler which had stopped to take on water, and eventually finding his way to Mattapoisett. The Grace family acquired a contract from the town to collect people's garbage which they fed to their pigs. Later they also began hauling trash. MLT reached a sale agreement with Manny's son, Abel Grace, in 2006 to acquire the property.

Along with a desire to restore the land and make it more accessible, the project was also driven by an awareness that its conversion to an open meadow would improve wildlife habitat, particularly for woodcocks, whose numbers are diminishing statewide. These birds need meadowlands as they feed primarily on insects and worms.

"A lot of meadow and grassland habitat is disappearing

in Massachusetts with forests taking over old farms and pastures," MLT president Mike Huguenin said. "Conservationists at the state level, along with the people at Mass Audubon, have set a high priority on maintaining and creating meadow and grassland habitat."

The work began last spring when MLT engaged Vegetation Control Service Inc. of Athol to remove the invasive brush. The most prevalent invasive proved to be the pesky black swallow-wort which is also toxic to the monarch butterfly. VCS brought in a powerful brush cutter to tackle the formidable growth. Once the brush was cleared MLT volunteers, ably assisted by Dupont Landscaping and Nicolosi Excavation, be-



Meadow after clearing and stone removal

gan collecting refuse. Enough was gathered to fill two 40-yard dumpsters and more than thirty old tires were also removed from the property. Steve Bowman from Dupont Landscaping and his brother Brian brought in a small backhoe and this proved useful in removing large stones and other obstructions from the cleared fields. In true New England fashion these stones are now being used to construct walls around the meadow.

After the initial operation concluded the area was allowed to grow back for several months. VCS then returned last August to apply herbicide to any invasives that had emerged since the clearing. Now that the hard work has been accomplished it is time to allow Mother Nature to carry on. The meadow will be left to grow through the coming summer and fall with the next mowing scheduled to take place in November. We also plan to introduce milkweed which will

help to attract monarchs. If all goes well the summer of 2019 should see the emergence of a fully restored meadow.

We can all take tremendous satisfaction from these kinds of projects which enhance the beauty of the natural environment and fulfill our mission to preserve land for present and future generations. A lot of people helped to see this through but special thanks is owed to Justin Morreale of Mattapoisett who was instrumental in obtaining the financial support of the Yawkey Foundation which generously funded the project with grants in 2016 and 2017.



VCS goes to work on the invasives

Hammond Quarry news

by Mike Huguenin

Our 18-month effort to permanently protect the Old Hammond Quarry is nearly complete! This beautiful 53-acre parcel at the corner of Mattapoissett Neck Road and Rt. 6 includes mature forests, freshwater wetlands, and the abandoned quarry that produced “Buzzards Bay pink granite” for 200 years beginning around 1710. The entire parcel is mapped as rare species habitat for the eastern box turtle, and other wild-life abound as well. In addition, conservation of the property protects water quality in the abutting Swift Brook as well as the Mattapoissett River and harbor. Our plans for the property include hiking trails, informational kiosks, and clean up of brush and fallen trees in the old quarry area.

Working with our partners at the Buzzards Bay Coalition

(BBC), we have raised over half of the \$600,000 needed to purchase and conserve the property. Funds to date have been provided by The Nature Conservancy (eastern box turtle habitat mitigation fund, \$200,000), the Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program (\$35,000), Mattapoissett Town Meeting (Community Preservation Act funds, \$37,500), and many private donors (close to \$50,000, THANK YOU!)

We have been working hard with BBC to iron out all the final details, including securing the remaining \$300,000 from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation who is proposing to ultimately own the property. The parties are very close to an agreement. Stay tuned for a final announcement and property opening ceremony later this spring or early summer 2018!

Join us for Garden Grooming!

Do you enjoy fresh coffee, salt air and harbor views in the early morning sunshine? If so, please join us for an hour or so one morning each week during the summer months at the Munro Preserve just west of the Mattapoissett Town wharves. MLT’s Garden Groomers meet at 8 a.m. when the weather cooperates to prune, pull weeds and do light garden maintenance while enjoying a fresh cup of coffee and good company. Please join us! For more information email us at info@mattlandtrust.org.



Garden groomers enjoy the sunshine

Your legacy for open land

For over 40 years MLT has worked to ensure that you and your family will always have woods, fields, ponds, and trails to enjoy. Much of our success has been made possible by generous individuals who made provisions in their wills to support MLT. Have you thought about leaving a legacy to protect the nature of Mattapoissett through a planned gift?

Please let us know if you have or would like to consider naming MLT as a beneficiary in your estate plan. We appreciate gifts of all sizes.

The Mattapoissett Land Trust

Blanche B. Perry Scholarship

for a Mattapoissett resident graduating from secondary school pursuing an education in environmental studies or a related field

Scholarship application details and forms

mattlandtrust.org/education/grants-and-scholarships/

Help us save trees

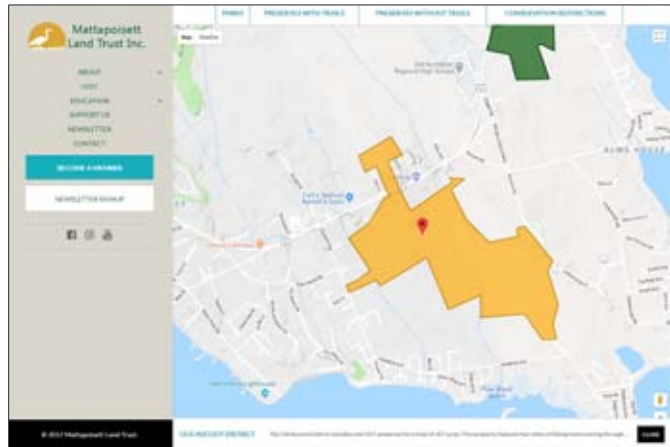
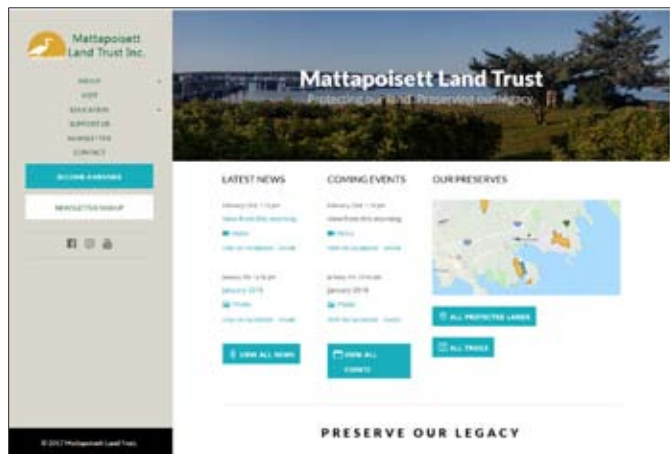
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Please help us save trees and reduce MLT’s carbon footprint! Send an email to info@mattlandtrust.org and we’ll begin your electronic delivery of The Heron with the next issue. Many thanks!

New Website To Launch Soon

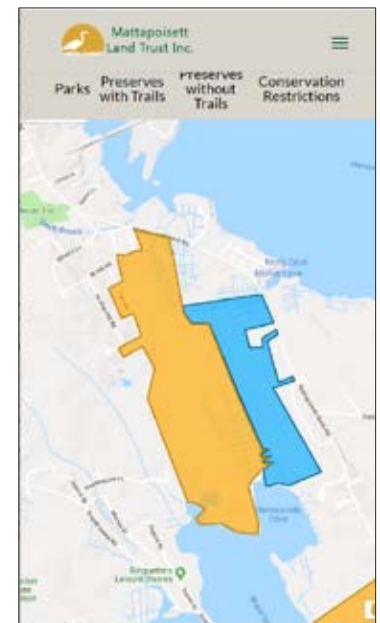
by Marc Anderson



It probably has nothing to do with Russia or North Korea, but the land trust's old website, most mysteriously, has been down for weeks now, likely never to return. We are, though, in the final stages of creating a fresh new website that we hope is up and running by the time you read this. The new site will be familiar in some ways but will have a new interactive map to navigate to pages for each property. These pages are new and will allow visitors to find our trail maps quickly. The site also links to our social media accounts — yes, we have those — and displays news and events from our Facebook page so MLT fans can get updates from either site.

While it has great “starter” photos from Richard Van Inwegen, Marc Anderson and others, we'd love to show off your high-quality digital images on the site. Great pictures make all the difference. Please send yours to photos@mattlandtrust.org.

The website address remains the same: mattlandtrust.org. Check it out! We're crossing our fingers that it's online by now.



The site will be responsive to your phone or tablet's screen

Volunteer Appreciation Reception and 2018 Annual Meeting

Please join us on Sunday, April 29th at 4-6 p.m. at the Inn on Shipyard Park for a Volunteer Appreciation Reception and our Annual Meeting. The event will begin with a social hour with hors d'oeuvres and drinks at 4:00, after which we will honor our MLT volunteers, and elect Directors and Officers for the coming year. All MLT members and guests are cordially invited, but we ask that you let us know if you will be attending. For more information or to RSVP, please email us at info@mattlandtrust.org. See you on April 29th!

The Heron is published bi-annually by the Mattapoissett 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 Mattapoissett, 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, Mary Ann Cebula, Raymond Cebula, Don Cuddy, Arthur Damaskos, Peter Davies, Ellen Flynn, Sandra Hering, Gary P. Johnson, Luana Marie Jøsvold, Alice McGrath, Paul Osenkowski, Charles Radville, and Michael Huguenin, President.

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

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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. 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.

In memory of Gloria Fontenot:

Lynn Meier
Fredericksburg, VA

In memory of H. Wilbur 'Bill' Johnson:

Tammy and Kurt Johnson
Jamestown, NY

In memory of Michael Kiple:

Lynn Meier
Fredericksburg, VA

In memory of her parents, Martha Hiller Lorraine and Jack Fredrick Lorraine:

Beth Lorraine Kelley
Mattapoissett, MA

In memory of George Mock, Jr.:

Brad and Priscilla Hathaway
Mattapoissett, MA

In memory of Dr. M. C. Rosenfield:

Richard Bates
Mattapoissett, MA

In memory of Vincent Worden:

Mary Worden
Mattapoissett, MA

In memory of Pret and Lorraine Valley:

Chrystal Walsh
Rector, PA

In honor of Marc Anderson:

David Anderson and Phoebe Girard
Mattapoissett, MA

In honor of Ellen Flynn:

Connie and Mark Kearins
Norfolk, MA

In honor of the Hall, Burbine, Peterson and Zeimetz families:

David Hall
Santa Rosa Beach, FL

In celebration of Brad and Priscilla Hathaway's anniversary:

Hugh Kelly
Weston, MA

In honor of Edwina McCarthy's birthday:

Richard McCarthy
Wellesley, MA

In honor of Justin Morreale, Sr.:

Noelle Morreale
(website donation)

In honor of James Shepley and Jamie Shepley:

Anne Shepley
Mattapoissett, MA

Stewardship Update

Through warm and cold, rain and snow MLT's stewardship volunteers work to maintain and improve our properties. In addition to major projects like making the new meadow described on page 2, we've

also completed major tree work and repairs to the gazebo at the Dunseith Preserve, designed and cut new hiking trails at the Woodcock and Old Aucoot District preserves, and removed fallen trees and other winter damage at many MLT properties. Watch our website and kiosks for updated trail maps coming in April and May. And if you enjoy working outdoors please email us at info@mattlandtrust.org to join our stewardship volunteers.



Arthur Damaskos repairs gazebo balusters at Dunseith Gardens



Arborist pruning tree at Dunseith Gardens



Crew from Bartlett Tree Experts at work, Dunseith Gardens

From MLT scholar to Fulbright scholar

By Ellen Flynn, education committee chair

“As a Fulbright Scholar, I’ve had the opportunity to explore the culture, health system and geography of Norway. To me, Norway seems a place of quiet rationality, equality, and great beauty. I hope to take what I’ve learned here, especially about the vaccination system, and bring it back home to the USA. I count myself very fortunate to have had this opportunity and plan to continue making the most of it.”

Nathaniel Fuchs, son of Candace Lee Heald and William Fuchs, was the 2012 Blanche B. Perry Scholarship winner and is now a Fulbright Scholar. He is currently conducting research and attending Masters’ classes at the University of Oslo. Nathaniel’s research is divided between two fields of study: Biology and Anthropology. He is researching the Vaccine system and conducting interviews with school nurses. One interesting find, is that Norway has high vaccination rates even though vaccines are not compulsory by law to enter daycare or elementary school.



N. Fuchs at Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony, Oslo Town Hall, December 2017

“My hypothesis combines the culture and system of the Public Health sector as a natural sector. It is very different than that of the United States. In Norway, health equality of rural and urban spaces have equal distribution for public health facility, care, and emergency services. They are equal across the board.” said Nathaniel.

Nathaniel reports that environmental conservancy is still at the top of his list and he loves being outdoors. In the US he climbed forty-eight “4000 footers” and in New Hampshire, Mount Washington which comes in at 6,288 ft tall. While in Norway, he has visited over eighteen different museums, cross-country skied almost 200 km and attended the Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony in Oslo. He had Christmas above the arctic circle and saw the northern lights.

The future for Nathaniel is bright, he is pursuing a M.A. of Public Health at Brown University where he will design his own public health major with biology and geospatial technologies. He will investigate the cultural and systemic factors of successful school vaccination systems. “I see an evermore important exchange of ideas and cultural values for cross continents, particularly in present-day life and into the future.” said Nathaniel.

The Mattapoissett Land Trust and Education Committee congratulates Nathaniel on all of his success and looks forward to keeping up with his future endeavors.

Check our new website for Education’s upcoming events and dates!

Popular events return for 2018:

3rd Tour de Crème and The Great Community Picnic



The Tour de Crème returns to Mattapoissett on Sunday, May 20th with bike rides, ice cream, and fun for all. MLT and the Friends of the Mattapoissett Bike Path co-sponsor this event with four bike rides to area ice creameries covering 11, 19, 25 and 50 miles, followed by a party at the Munro Preserve with cold beverages, hot food, live music and free massages for riders and volunteers. Visit www.tourdecreme.org to learn more, register

or volunteer! It’s a big event that needs many hands.

If a summer sunset, live music and picnic supper sound inviting, please form a table and join us on August 2nd for

The Great Community Picnic. MLT and the Historical Society host this event and provide tables and chairs, linens, hors d’oeuvres, live music and a cash wine and beer bar. You provide the picnic and table decorations. Tickets will be available starting around June 15th at Town Wharf General Store and at the Mattapoissett Historical Society for tables of 4, 6, 8 or 10 people



Kids Corner

A sign of spring

One hundred and fifty years ago Mattapoissett was a town made up of small farms with pastures and woodlots like much of the rest of the state. The pastures and meadows provided habitat for a number of bird species that need open space for nesting; the loss of farm land has badly hurt those species. Our hope is that by restoring the meadow on the Grace Preserve we can provide an inviting habitat for these bird species, one of which is the woodcock (*Scolopax minor*).



The woodcock is a small plump shorebird with a long bill that chooses to live in woods and fields. It uses its long bill to probe the ground for earthworms but it will also feed on insects. The colors of its feathers resemble dried leaves which makes the woodcock very difficult to see while it searches for food on the ground. However, during the mating season in the early spring it creates a wonderful display.

In late March or early April at dawn and dusk the males begin their courtship by prancing on the ground and making a buzzy “peent” sound. Suddenly he will fly up in a spiral going higher and higher with a fluttering sound from its wings only to be followed by a sudden drop to the ground. Then the male looks to see if a female is interested. If not, he will do the dance and flight again.

Woodcocks have been spotted in the past in the open field at Nasketucket Bay State Reservation and we assume they will return again this year. If our restoration at Grace Pond is successful, perhaps we will have these entertaining displays there in a few years. Listen for the “peent” in the spring.

Photo courtesy of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology



The Heron

Calendar — Spring and Summer Activities

date	time	event	description	place
April 8	10:00 a.m.	Buzzards Bay Coalition Sunday Stroll	Join MLT, BBC and Southcoast Health for fresh air and exercise while learning tips for healthy living.	Old Aucoot District Parking area at end of Bowman Road
April 14	11:00 a.m.	Buzzards Bay Coalition Mindfulness Walk	Enjoy the peace and beauty of nature on this slower, mindful walk led by Yoga instructor Jessica Webb.	Woodcock Preserve/Tinkhamtown Woodlands parking area, 29 Long Plain Road.
April 21	1:00 p.m.	Vernal Pool Visit	Investigate a vernal pool on Mattapoissett Water Department land.	Woodcock Preserve/Tinkhamtown Woodlands parking area, 29 Long Plain Road.
April 29	4 p.m. to 6 p.m.	Annual Meeting	To include Volunteer Appreciation Reception. See page 4.	The Inn on Shipyard Park
May 20	tourdecreme.org	Tour de Crème	Bicycle tours of local creameries. See page 6.	Mattapoissett Town Beach
July 21-22	9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Harbor Days	Visit our booth to learn about properties and mission, buy tee shirts, gear and memberships.	Shipyard Park
August 2	5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	The Great Community Picnic	Music, oysters and reserved tables. See page 6.	Munro Waterfront Preserve