



The Heron

FALL—WINTER 2018

ISSUE NO. 39

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



Preserving Scenic Beauty

Most people associate land conservation with protection of wildlife habitat, prevention of surface water and ground-water pollution, and provision of land for public outdoor recreation. All are important goals of MLT's work, but we also strive to preserve the scenic beauty and rural character of Mattapoisett. Neighbors of MLT preserves enjoy unspoiled views of our properties. But everyone can enjoy beautiful vistas from many town roads whether from a car, from a bicycle or on foot. And more lovely sights are available with a short walk along an MLT trail. Take a look at these photographs, then get out this autumn and enjoy our properties on foot, on your bike or even from your car. You might be surprised at the beauty you'll find all around us!

On the cover: Travellers entering Mattapoisett from Marion enjoy the unspoiled forest of MLT's Indian Cove Preserve directly across Rt. 6 from ORRHS. This preserve has no trail system or parking so is enjoyed primarily from the road. Photo by Rich van Inwegen



A wide, smooth path leads from the end of Mattapoisett Neck Road to the beach of Brandt Island Cove at our Munn Preserve. This is an easy walk and parking is available at the beginning of the trail. Photo by Rich van Inwegen



At the end of the path at Munn is a sandy beach with beautiful views of Brandt Island Cove, Nasketucket Bay, and Buzzards Bay beyond. A perfect place for a picnic at sunset, or anytime! Photo by Rich van Inwegen



Mattapoisett Neck Road provides views to the west of unspoiled salt marsh running all the way to Brandt Island Cove. The marsh and surrounding forest are protected by Mattapoisett Land Trust. Photo by Marc Anderson



A rider enjoys the bike path to Fairhaven with MLT's Murray Preserve on the right side travelling west. A bit further along the path is the Shaw's Farm Trail maintained by the Buzzards Bay Coalition. Photo by Rich van Inwegen



Travellers on Rt. 6 west of the traffic lights enjoy views of the stone Tub Mill Dam on the north side of the highway. MLT maintains the area around the dam as a small park, with parking available on Mendell Road across from the Highway Department. Take a look when traffic allows! Photo by Marc Anderson

MLT updates, Fall 2018

MLT members and friends gathered last April 29th for our **Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Reception** at the Inn on Shipyard Park. After a social hour with drinks and light hors d'oeuvres we conducted a brief business meeting and elected the Board of Directors for the coming year. Welcome to new Directors Mary Cabral and Malcolm "Mac" Campbell, and a hearty *Thank You* to retiring Directors Mary Ann and Ray Cebula!



President Mike Huguenin thanks volunteers Ellen Flynn, Sam Ogle, Deborah Smiley and Bill Fredericks at the 2018 Annual Meeting.

On May 18th and 21st students from the **ORRHS marine biology class** demonstrated water quality testing methods for a group of MLT Directors. MLT's Education Committee has provided financial support for marine biology as well as other programs at all of the Town's schools for many years.



Directors Paul Osenkowski, Sandy Hering, Arthur Damaskos and Mike Huguenin look on as ORRHS students test the waters of Eel Pond.

On June 29th the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation purchased the **Old Hammond**

Quarry property for eventual addition to the Nasketucket Bay State Reservation. This culminated over two years of effort by MLT and the Buzzards Bay Coalition to protect the property. MLT and BBC provided part of the funds needed and will work with the state to install a trail system and small parking area at the quarry. Thank you to everyone who contributed time and money to this acquisition!

As always, Summer 2018 was busy! We started with the third annual **Tour de Crème** biking and ice cream event on May 20th, then moved on to MLT's booth and pony rides at **Harbor Days** in July, and our third **Great Community Picnic** on August 2nd. All three events were successful despite weather challenges –windy conditions reduced the turnout for the TdC, bedeviled picnickers, and caused cancellation of Harbor Days Sunday. These events raise funds for MLT and our partners Friends of the Mattapoissett Bike Path (TdC) and Mattapoissett Historical Society (Picnic.)



Volunteers Sharon Chown, Jim Stowe and Ray Williams staff the MLT booth at Harbor Days 2018.



Alex and Rosemary, and the drone plus control unit.

ORRHS senior Rosemary Loer and her dad Alex volunteered their time and expertise over the summer to shoot **aerial photographs of declining salt marsh** areas around Mattapoissett using Alex's professional-quality drone. This is part of a larger effort by MLT and the Buzzards Bay Coalition to understand the scope, causes and possible remedies for salt marsh die-back. Thanks Rosemary and Alex!

Kayak Camp 2018

This was the second annual collaboration of the Education Committee of Mattapoissett Land Trust and the MATT REC Seahorse Camp. It took place on the MLT Munro preserve, on August 9th and 10th, this year.

Each student participant received a copy of "From My Kayak" by Donna Lee Tuft, local author from Marion MA.

There was a book presentation at Old Hammondtown School by Mary Cabral, MLT Board Member and Ellen Flynn, MLT Education Committee Chair.

Mary, Ray and Kelsey Cabral were there instructing and watching the children. Also assisting were Alex Wurl (MLT student representative), Lynn Connor, Marcia Waldron and Wendy Coops.

Director Greta Fox of MATT REC, and staff members Jane Finnerty, Erin Murphy and the Harbor Master Jill supplied life preservers and instruction on how to wear them!

Photos by Ellen Flynn unless otherwise noted



Photo by Kevin Tavares



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.

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 Mattapoisett Land Trust.

In memory of Lois Martin:

Sally Adams
Taunton, MA

Bellamy Fields Assisted
Living Facility
Dover, NH

Cochecho Country Club
Dover, NH

Diane and Paul Geraci
Dover, NH

Jerry and Nancy Janousek
Port Charlotte, FL

Grace Nordhoff
Seattle, WA

In celebration of Gary Johnson's birthday:

Virginia Johnson
Williams Bay, WI

Tour de Crème donation in memory of Ray Lemieux:

Jean Szyndler
Mattapoisett, MA

In celebration of the marriage of Allie Wainer and Andrew Straus:

John and Ann Rockwell
Marion, MA

In celebration of the marriage of Katherine Straus and Nate Braudrick:

John and Ann Rockwell
Marion, MA

In celebration of Cynthia Turse's birthday:

10 anonymous donors through a Facebook fundraiser

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

Help us save trees

Would you prefer an electronic edition of The Heron instead of the paper edition you receive by mail? We produce a full-color edition as a pdf file that we can email to you for printing at home, or reading on your iPad, Kindle, smart phone, computer, or similar device. The file also can be downloaded from MLT's website, www.mattlandtrust.org. The money saved from lower printing and mailing costs can be redirected to MLT's land acquisition, stewardship and education activities.



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!

Attention Photographers!

Show off your best shots of and from MLT preserves on our social media and new website

To submit, send them to
photos@mattlandtrust.org.

2018 Hunting Seasons

Hunting seasons in Mattapoisett open on October 1st and continue through the end of the year, with limited small game and waterfowl hunting continuing into January and February 2019. Hunting activity will peak from November 26th through December 8th. Detailed information on specific seasons can be found at <http://www.eregulations.com/massachusetts/huntingandfishing/hunting-season-dates/>. Mattapoisett is in Zone 11.

Mattapoisett Land Trust properties are open to lawful hunting, in accordance with state regulations. Please be aware of and respect hunters who are legally using MLT lands. Dress for safety, using hats and/or vests of "Blaze Orange" to improve your visibility. And remember, hunters are generally less active during the middle part of the day, and no hunting is allowed on Sundays.

MLT welcomes hunters using Land Trust properties, but reminds them that all hunting stands must be removed at the end of the season. We hope hunters and non-hunters alike will enjoy MLT's forests, fields and marshes!

Meet your new directors

Mary Cabral



New board member Mary Cabral is no stranger to the mission of the MLT having served on our education committee since 2015. Nor are she and her husband, Ray, strangers to the land in these parts. They built their post and beam home on Wolf Island Road with trees felled on their own six-acre parcel back in 1981, way before there was any electricity up there.

Mary grew up in Quincy but spent all her summers close to nature on Nantucket where

her parents built a cottage and also operated a popular local eatery called The Pines. She and Ray met and married in college at the old SMU and moved to town when Ray began teaching here. Mary's first sight of Mattapoisett came one winter day in 1975 while cross-country skiing on Reservation golf course. When she saw the village from Shining Tides it reminded her so much of Nantucket she went back to Fairhaven and scanned the classifieds for a rental in town and the couple promptly moved here.

Mary's SMU degree was in biology but she went back for her teaching certificate and she too began a career as an educator, initially teaching in Wareham for several years before a twelve-year hiatus to raise her children. In 1993 a job opened up at ORR for a biology teacher and Mary was hired. She retired from teaching after twenty-seven years in 2014. "I'm happy to step up and join the board now," Mary said. "My husband and I recognize the importance of preserving the land and open space."

Malcolm Campbell



We also welcome new board member Malcolm Campbell whose skill with a chain saw brought him to the MLT. "We keep a home in Jackson, NH," he said, "and heat it with wood. I've always been an outside person." When he and his wife Lizanne retired here to enjoy sailing their forty-footer from our harbor, Malcolm met Mike Huguenin. After the storms and downed trees of last winter he offered his help and began assisting the stewardship committee to clear

trails and has now been recruited to join the board.

Prior to his retirement, there was a graduate degree in economics and a career in financial services with Fidelity, punctuated by a ten-year stint as a stay-at-home Dad and later as a stay at home grandad, he said. Malcolm first became acquainted with the South Coast as a young boy with frequent summer trips to Horseneck Beach and his brother later attended Tabor Academy. So when their last of their three children went off to college and the time to downsize a large home in Hopkinton arrived the couple gravitated towards Mattapoisett. "Mattapoisett is like the land that time forgot. I tell my friends who go to the Cape that we can make a left turn on Route 6 on the Fourth of July with no problem," he said. An avid hiker, cross-country skier, biker and sailor Malcolm has also been a guitar player for all of forty years. Retirement has not meant inactivity for Malcolm as in addition to all his recreational pursuits he is currently staying busy doing finish carpentry work.



Improving MLT's Trails

MLT maintains roughly eight miles of hiking trails on four different properties (Old Aucoot and Brandt Island Cove Districts, Woodcock and Munn Preserves, see www.mattland-trust.org for trail maps.) We want to improve the trail system to (1) encourage more use by the public and (2) ease our trail maintenance workload. To begin we've asked Kent Harlow (left), an Americorps-Terracorp

Service Member, to take a fresh look at our trail system and develop ideas for improvements.

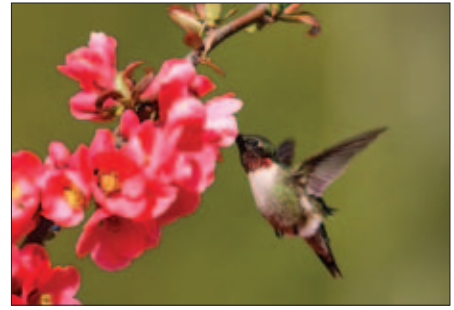
Kent hails from upstate New York and is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Biology. He has spent the past five years working on a variety of trail improvement and outdoor education projects around the U.S. Kent will be based at the Buzzards Bay Coalition and will spend one day each week working with MLT. His work follows on the success last year of MLT's work with Logan Johnson, another Service Member who inspected the boundaries of all MLT preserves and met many of our neighbors. If you have thoughts about improving MLT's trails, please contact Kent via email to info@mattlandtrust.org.

Kids' Corner

A remarkable traveler



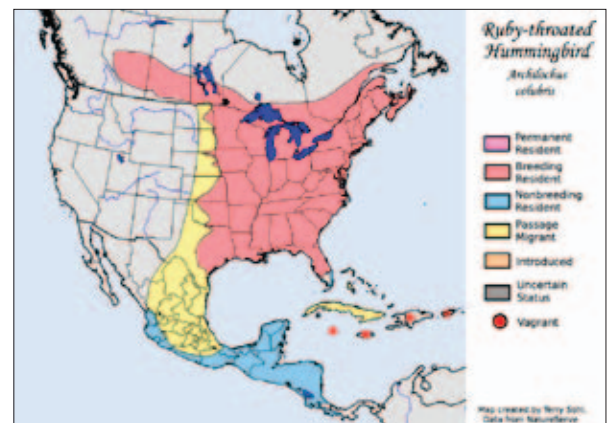
Humans aren't the only animals that choose to visit or reside in Mattapoissett in the summer. Many bird species make their summer homes here; others just visit here on their way to and from their nesting areas further north. The spring migration takes place during a relatively short time starting in March as birds rush northward to build their nests and raise their young. The fall migration going south starts as early as the end of July and lasts into November after the young are able to feed themselves and food is getting scarce with winter coming on.



One of our smallest summer residents that makes one of the longest journeys is the ruby-throated hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*). These birds are only about 2.5 to 3.5 inches long and weigh on average .12 to .13 ounces with females slightly larger than the males. Another difference between the sexes is the ruby red throat patch that the males have but is not seen on the females or juveniles. Because hummingbirds are able to rotate their wings, unlike other birds, they can actually hover in the air while feeding on the nectar of flowers. Their wings can beat up to 80 times per second.

Since hummingbirds feed on flower nectar and insects they can't spend their winters in Mattapoissett and instead migrate to Central America and the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico, a 500-mile trip over the Gulf of Mexico which takes 20 hours. How can such a small bird make such a trip? In preparation they store fat until their weight is nearly double their normal weight and they use up all of that fat during the 20-hour flight.

Hummingbirds, like all animals, will take food where they can find it. Because of climate change and the existence of backyard feeders, some ruby-throated hummingbirds are finding that they no longer have to make the dangerous journey across the Gulf of Mexico. Instead, they can spend the winter in Florida or other warm states. They have now been observed spending the winter in states as far north as South Carolina. We hope they won't be permanent residents of Mattapoissett anytime soon.



Photos courtesy of The Gall Lab, Vassar College



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Salty's Silvery Moon Soirée



Join us on Saturday October 20th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. for our annual autumn campfire at Dunseith Gardens, home of Salty the Seahorse. There will be music, storytelling by Dan Dullea, and a campfire and ingredients

to make your own s'mores! Dan is a storyteller and instructor in communications and media from Clarkson University.

This is a free event, open to the public, and always provides an evening of fun for all ages. There is no parking at Dunseith, so park in the village and bring a flashlight to find your way home or back to your car.

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, Mary Cabral, Malcolm Campbell, 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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Printable maps available

Go to mattlandtrust.org/maps ("visit" on the main menu) to view protected lands. From the top menu, roll over "Preserves with Trails" and select the desired preserve from the drop down. Select "Read More" at the bottom and on the preserve's page (bottom again), download your PDF map.