



The Heron

SPRING - SUMMER 2019

ISSUE NO. 40

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



Save the Pine Island Watershed!

MLT to Acquire Land Near Pine Island Pond

Mike Huguenin



Mattapoissett Land Trust has a special opportunity to expand our 300-acre Old Aucoot District with an additional 120 acres of spectacular forest, wetlands and salt marsh in the Pine Island Pond watershed. These lands have important historic and scenic values in addition to exceptional natural resource quality. After discussions spanning two decades, we have signed purchase agreements with the owners and are beginning fundraising to acquire these lands!

The Pine Island lands lie directly north of the Crescent Beach community and Pine Island Pond, and east of The Cedars and Pico Beach. The views from Angelica Avenue, particularly over salt marsh to Pine Island Pond and Buzzards Bay beyond, are spectacular in all seasons. Development of these lands, threatened repeatedly for the past 20 years, would markedly degrade the environmental quality and scenic character of the surrounding neighborhoods and the town overall. With this acquisition, MLT will conserve over 425 contiguous acres of wildlife habitat and public outdoor recreation space stretching from Rt. 6 to Pine Island Pond.

These lands are critically important wildlife habitat, as recognized by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. The lands include streams draining to Crescent Beach and Pine Island Pond, and large areas of fresh water wetlands and salt marsh. By extending the Old Aucoot District to Pine Island Pond, MLT will provide a wildlife corridor running north from Buzzards Bay through MLT protected lands, then

on to lands protected around the Bay Club and to the state's Haskell Swamp Wildlife Management Area in the northeast corner of Mattapoissett.



These lands will provide new, year round outdoor recreational opportunities for people of all ages and varied interests. MLT will extend our existing Old Aucoot trail system and install additional parking convenient to Angelica Avenue. In addition, acquisition of the lands south of Angelica Avenue will allow public access to Pine Island Pond for kayaking, fishing, shell fishing and other water-based activities.



The Pine Island lands include the historic summer property of one of the Town's most famous residents — noted attorney, legal scholar, and Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. Remnants of Holmes' stone barn are found on the property (photo above.) This area will become a small park along Angelica Avenue with parking and a kiosk describing Holmes' time in Mattapoissett.

To complete the acquisition MLT must raise \$1.5 million in the next 15 months, by June 2020. We hope to receive \$1 million from local, state and federal government grants, leaving \$500,000 to be raised privately. For updates, keep an eye on our website and Facebook page. We will lead a series of public walks on these lands this spring and summer to show you just what a beautiful opportunity we have!

How You Can Help

We have one chance to save these 120 acres from development, and that chance is now! Generous contributions of your time and money are needed.

Volunteers to assist with research, grant-writing and event planning are welcome, as are donations large and small. To volunteer or to learn more about donating or pledging cash or securities, please contact Mike Huguenin or Gary Johnson at info@mattlandtrust.org.

Volunteer Appreciation Reception and 2019 Annual Meeting

Volunteers of the MLT will be recognized at our 2019 Annual Meeting on April 7th from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Inn on Shipyard Park. Please mark your calendar.

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 on **Wednesday** 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.

Habitat Improvements Coming!

Over the past two years MLT has created Forestry Management Plans (FMPs) for 360 acres of woods in our Old Aucoot and Brandt Island Cove Districts. The FMPs were prepared by professional foresters (Phil Benjamin and Tom Farrell) under contract to MLT, with advice from Mass-Wildlife and the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Our goal is to improve habitat for wildlife, particularly birds. Much of our forest is roughly the same age and lacks diversity of canopy structure and vegetation density. To make improvements, the FMPs call for selective thinning and limited tree harvest in certain forest areas to create more varied sizes and ages of trees, areas of additional sunlight, and to control invasive species. We hope to begin work in the forest this summer. As the work gets underway MLT will sponsor public walks with our foresters to explain what is happening in the woods. Watch our website and local media for further information.

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/

Trail Maps on your Phone

Are you sometimes unsure where you are when walking MLT's properties? We are having good results with a FREE app for smartphones and tablets called *Avenza Maps*. Users can download up to three trail maps (PDF files) from MLT's website into Avenza, using the full URL address for each map from www.mattlandtrust.org. For example: "https://mattlandtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Brandt_Island_Cove_District.pdf." (Trail maps are found



on the webpage describing each property with hiking trails: Old Aucoot, Brandt Island Cove, Munn, Woodcock, and Shoolman). The trail map will then display on your device with your location updated continuously as the blue dot. The app also allows users to record a GPS track, navigate to a destination, and measure distances. Let us know how Avenza works for you, and other apps with similar functions, via email to info@mattlandtrust.org.

Alexandra Hulsebosch

2018 MLT Scholarship Recipient

Mary Cabral



Alexandra Hulsebosch, a 2018 Old Rochester Regional High School graduate, is one of two recipients of the 2018 MLT Blanche B. Perry Scholarship.

I caught up with Alexandra after completing her first semester as a freshman, at Boston College. According to Alexandra, Boston College has been a great fit for her. The location, size, academic rigor and school

culture, as well as family ties made BC her top choice of four possible colleges.

As a very successful high school student, academics have always been the important factor in Alexandra's education. At BC, she has been learning a lot about a new subject: the responsibility of living on her own in a new place. Navigating a sprawling campus to locate classes, buying books, going to office hours are just a few of her new experiences and don't forget doing laundry and making new friends!

For Alexandra, life at BC is not all academics. By efficiently managing her time, Alexandra has enjoyed activities outside of the classroom. At the beginning of freshman year, she was selected to be a member of the Women's Crew Team, as a walk on. Next year, she hopes to be accepted into a community service program, BC Bigs, as a mentor for an underprivileged child.

Alexandra is a student with a self-directed plan. Her plan includes working hard in class, progressing in rowing skills, and enjoying living away from home for the first time. From our conversation, I would say her plan is working out just fine!

In closing, Alexandra had a few words for high school seniors. She advises not to stress or worry too much about things that are out of your control. She assures them that they will get into a college somewhere or secure a job.

Finally, Alexandra thanks the Mattapoisett Education Committee for selecting her as a scholarship winner. The scholarship has enabled her to work toward achieving her academic and career goals.

We wish Alexandra the best and every success in her future at Boston College!

Carolyn Foley

2015 MLT Scholarship Recipient

Ellen P. Flynn, Chair of Education



Carolyn Foley, daughter of William and Janice Foley of Mattapoisett MA, is a former Mattapoisett Land Trust Board student representative and 2015 MLT Blanche B. Perry Scholarship recipient.

Today Carolyn is a senior Honors Dietetics student at Virginia Tech, and plans for a May graduation. She has completed her clinical rotations and will expand her science degree to

apply for medical school.

After graduation Carolyn will continue on Virginia Tech campus to spend months in research and complete additional science courses with more clinical experience.

Since VT is ranked top for its' dietetics and science programs she was often challenged in her science requirements, and she decided to make it her best academic opportunity. Being eleven hours away from home, Carolyn found adjustments in being resourceful, to pursue new opportunities and learn to be a strong advocate for herself, which helped to maximize her experiences.

A former Military Technical Institute that now houses "seven different research institutes and two university research centers where students are challenged to invent the future".

Virginia Tech's motto is *Ut Prosim*, "That I may serve", and that has been a great connection for Carolyn. She has served on the executive board of her college, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences (CALS) and co-chairs for the community service committee. She volunteers for "The Big Event", VT's university-wide community service event, and now is second largest in the country. Sometimes there are over nine thousand volunteers and 1200 community projects are completed.

Over four years Carolyn has witnessed great changes on campus, from university safety and security, to climate change and coastal zone issues and to her own milestone event of becoming a senior where each class creates a ring specific to their experiences. Photo is of Carolyn in front of the Burrus Hall, a landmark building on VT campus.

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, Malcom Campbell, Don Cuddy, Arthur Damaskos, Peter Davies, Ellen Flynn, Sandra Hering, Gary P. Johnson, Luana Marie Jøsvold, Alice McGrath, Paul Osenkowski, Charles Radville, Alex Wurl, ORR student representative and Michael Huguenin, President.

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

Mattapoisett Land Trust, Inc., P.O. Box 31, Mattapoisett, MA 02739

E-mail: Info@MATTLANDTRUST.ORG

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

Robert H. 'Bob' Atkinson, Sr. :

- Carol D. Catley
Mattapoisett, MA
- Brad and Priscilla Hathaway
Mattapoisett, MA
- Elizabeth Hill
Mattapoisett, MA
- Gary P. Johnson and Luana Josvold
Mattapoisett, MA
- Paul and Susan Osenkowski
Mattapoisett, MA
- Jill Simmons, Harbormaster
Mattapoisett, MA
- Barbara and Jim Stowe
Mattapoisett, MA

In honor of Henry Batchelder:

- The Daniel's family
Hopkinton, NH

In memory of Ruth Bates and in honor of Richard Bates:

- Ilene Horvitz
Duxbury, MA

In memory of Robert Elson:

- Scott Goldsmith
Through MLT website

In memory of Ray Lemieux:

- Liz Ackerman, Oxford Creamery
Mattapoisett, MA

In memory of Lois Martin:

- Lee and Joseph Burton
Hingham, MA

In honor of Edwina McCarthy's birthday:

- Richard McCarthy
Wellesley, MA

In memory of Dennis Perry:

- Richard Bates
Mattapoisett, MA

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.

4th Annual Tour de Crème in May

Together with the Friends of the Mattapoisett Bike Path, MLT is hosting the 4th Annual Tour de Crème on Sunday, May 19. This fabulous, family-friendly fundraiser features bicycle tours of the area's creameries. Again, we offer a choice of four scenic rides of 11, 19, 25 or 50 miles, with up to 5 stops along the route for ice cream, AND a great party after the ride with food, beer and live music at Munro Preserve. You won't want to miss it!

Note that spots are limited and the 25 and 50-mile tours go quickly. Registration opens March 15th. If bike riding isn't for you but you can spare a few hours to support the event, we can very much use your help as a volunteer. For maps, volunteer opportunities and sign-up information, see the event website at www.tourdecreme.org. For other questions, contact Marc Anderson at info@tourdecreme.org.



MLT Education Events

April 17th, 2019 at 3:30PM & 6:30PM, "STRAWS" Documentary on oceans being polluted by plastic straws. Held at Mattapoisett Free Public Library. To reserve seats call MLT 774-377-9191 or Email: info@mattlandtrust.org.

May 1st Wednesday or May 6th, Monday Girl Scouts Story Walk at Dunseith. New book about space.

May 8th Wednesday & May 9th, Cape Code Canal 7th Grade Field Trip. Chaperones welcome!

May 24th Friday 3rd, Grade Field Trip with Buzzard Bay Coalition to Acushnet River. Chaperones welcome!

June (date tba), 6th Grade Field Trip to Cuttyhunk Island

June (date tba), Estuary Water Quality Analysis. Lynn Connor's High School Advanced Biology Students on site presentation of program with MLT Board Members invited.

August (Two days, 1st or 2nd week), Collaborative Kayak program with MATT REC



Students at Acushnet River



Ozzie instructs sixth graders

Mattapoisett Land Trust is Having a Photo Contest!

We are looking for photos in the following categories:

- Landscape
- Wild Animals
- People on the Land
- Seasons
- Birds

RULES:

All images MUST be photographed on Mattapoisett Land Trust property.

Email photos as an attachment to mltphotocontest@gmail.com

The email should include:

- the name of the photographer.
- the date and location of the

photograph.

- the category in which you would like your photograph to be judged.
- There is a 5 entry limit.

Enter all submissions by midnight August 15th, 2019.

Winners will be announced in Fall 2019 "Heron."

First, second and third place winners in each category will appear on the Mattapoisett Land Trust website and Facebook page and will be submitted for

publication in local print media.

Photographers submitting images agree to allow MLT to reproduce the photos at no cost. Full credit will be given to photographers whose images are published.



Photo by Kathleen Damaskos

Kids Corner

A dangerous invader?

For the past two years we have been working to create a healthy meadow on the Grace Preserve at the southern end of Bowman Road. Last year we discovered a large plant that caused us a great deal of concern. We discovered an unusually tall plant with a large white flower head that we suspect could be the first occurrence of giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) in Plymouth County.



Suspected Giant Hogweed at Grace Preserve



Giant Hogweed

Giant hogweed is a native of central Asia that was introduced as an ornamental plant in 1917 after being introduced to Britain in the 1800's. The plant can grow up to 16 feet high with a hollow stem up to 3 inches thick and a crown of white flowers. The stem is bright green with reddish-purple spots surrounding protruding white hairs. What makes the plant dangerous is the sap that is contained in the leaves, stem, flowers and seeds can create blisters and scars if exposed to the skin in sunlight. This is not a plant we want on our properties.

Our confusion comes because there is a very similar related plant, cow parsnip (*Heracleum maximum*), that is a native plant and not nearly as dangerous. In fact, it is even edible. It doesn't grow as tall as giant hogweed, only about eight feet, the leaves and stalks are not as large and the flower heads are not as wide. It also doesn't produce the skin irritation of giant hogweed.



Cow Parsnip



Giant Hogweed

We need to do some more research, but in the meantime, we encourage you to keep a look-out for very tall plants with large clusters of white flowers. If you spot a suspicious plant, please let us know. If giant hogweed appears in Mattapoissett, we want to contact state authorities and start control efforts quickly. Once we're sure it's cow parsnip, perhaps you can cook some up and tell us how it tastes.

Giant hogweed photos courtesy Leslie J. Mehrhoff, U. of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

Cow parsnip photo courtesy of Wildfood.org

Grace photo: Mike Huguenin, MLT



The Heron

Calendar — Spring and Summer Activities

date	time	event	description	place
April 7	5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.	Annual Meeting	To include Volunteer Appreciation Reception. See page 3.	The Inn on Shipyard Park
April 17	3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.	"Straws"	Film documentary on pollution by plastic straws. Reserved seating, see page 6	Mattapoissett Free Public Library
April 27	1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Vernal Pool Exploration Walk	Explore a vernal pool and learn the methods to officially certify it.	To be determined. Check mattland-trust.org or Facebook/mattlandtrust
May 19	tourdecreme.org	Tour de Crème	Bicycle tours of local creameries. See page 5.	Mattapoissett Town Beach and Munro Waterfront Preserve
July 20-21	9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Harbor Days	Visit our booth to learn about properties, our mission, buy tee shirts, gear and memberships.	Shipyard Park
August 1	5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	The Great Community Picnic	Music, oysters and more (reserved tables). info@mattlandtrust.org	Munro Waterfront Preserve

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!

