



# The Heron

FALL—WINTER 2019

ISSUE NO. 41

*The Newsletter of the Mattapoissett Land Trust, Inc. • [www.mattlandtrust.org](http://www.mattlandtrust.org) • E-mail: [info@mattlandtrust.org](mailto:info@mattlandtrust.org)*



**photo by Ann Bryant  
at MLT Munn Preserve**

# MLT acquires Pine Island Pond Watershed lands!



*View of the salt marsh, pond and the Pine Islands beyond*

Our spring newsletter announced that MLT had reached agreement to purchase 120 acres of beautiful woods, wetlands and salt marshes in the Pine Island Pond watershed. For more information about these lands, including a video flyover, see the home page of MLT's website at [www.mattlandtrust.org](http://www.mattlandtrust.org).

To complete the purchase we needed to raise \$1.5 million prior to the closing date in June 2020. We are delighted to announce that sufficient funds now have been raised! As we go to press the closing is being scheduled for the early part of October. By the time you read this newsletter we expect that MLT will own these lands, bringing our total holdings in the Old Aucoot District to 425 acres stretching from Route 6 to Pine Island Pond.



This is the largest land acquisition accomplished by MLT since our founding in 1974, and involved funds from a variety of sources. First, at the Spring Town Meeting last May town voters approved (by a vote of 390 to 13) a contribution of \$250,000 from Mattapoisett's Community Preservation Act as well as general funds. This vote of confidence was a wonderful way to begin our summer of fundraising!

Earlier last Spring MLT prepared a grant application on

behalf of the Town to the Commonwealth's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant program, for additional state funds to support the acquisition. We learned in June that Mattapoisett would receive \$960,000 of MVP funding to support the project, bringing the total Town and state funds available to \$1.210 million! With 80 percent of the needed funds raised, we set to work talking with private donors and foundations about the acquisition.

The response from MLT members and friends over the summer has been very generous, with over \$250,000 raised to protect these lands. Gifts have ranged from \$20 to \$50,000 with well over 100 individuals and families donating. In addition we were gratified to receive contributions from the Crescent Beach Improvement Association, the Friends of Angelica, the Point Connett Association and the Brandt Beach Improvement Association as well as from the Yawkey and Fields Pond Foundations. Our sincere thanks to everyone who donated money or volunteered time to assist with fundraising.

Without doubt the most heart warming contribution came from three Pt. Connett youngsters. Lena Paull, Maya



*Mike Huguenin thanks Lena, Maya and Harper for their coffee can containing \$214.76 from the bake sale. Credit: Lauren Monchik*

Warren and Harper Warren are serious about caring for our planet. When these friends, ages 9 to 11, learned about MLT's fundraising they wanted to help. Saturday morning July 20th, one of the hottest days last summer, found them baking treats and squeezing lemons for lemonade. That afternoon the three were at Point Connett's Sandy Beach in the blazing sun selling lemonade, cookies and brownies and explaining the Pine Island project. "It's important to save the land to protect the clean water in our

creek" explained Maya as she poured lemonade for a customer. "The creek is beautiful and clear, and flows right into Pine Island Pond and the harbor." Proceeds of the bake sale totaled \$214.76, which Lena, Maya and Harper donated for the Pine Island lands.

Thanks to Lena, Maya and Harper as well as many others these lands will be conserved in perpetuity, and the water quality and scenic beauty of Pine Island Pond protected. While the lands are now protected, MLT is continuing to raise funds to support trail improvements and stewardship on the property. If you would like to contribute to the protection of the Pine Island watershed; please send a contribution to MLT at P.O. Box 31, Mattapoisett, 02739 or contribute via a credit card or PayPal at our website. And Thank You again to everyone who helped protect these important lands!

**On the cover: Winning photo from our Spring contest. Forster's Terns taken at the MLT Munn preserve by Ann Bryant**



## MLT Updates, Fall 2019

At MLT's Annual Meeting & Volunteer Reception last April 7th we sadly accepted the resignation of Luana Josvold as a Director and Clerk. Luana kept our corporate records in impeccable shape for nearly 20 years! Peter Davies agreed to take on the Clerk position and carry on Luana's excellent work. In addition, we elected Wendy Copps as a new member of the Board (see page 6).



*Ray Cabral instructs at kayak camp 2019*

Our usual summer events were a great success, although intense heat and humidity reduced the crowds at Harbor Days substantially. Both the Tour de Crème in May and the Great Community Picnic in early August were sold out and raised record sums for MLT and our co-sponsors (Friends of the Bike Path, and Mattapoisett Museum, respectively.) The Garden Groomers worked Wednesday mornings all summer to keep the Munro and Dunseith Preserves in fine shape. And our 3rd annual Kayak Camp, sponsored with Matt Recreation, got another enthusiastic group of youngsters out on the water.



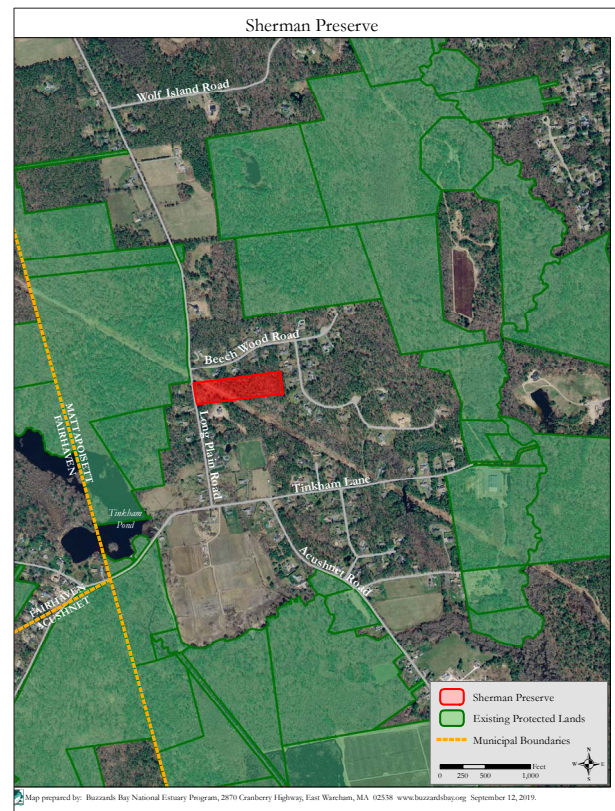
*Fall work group: Oz, Mike, Don, Chuck, Jim, Marc (not shown Alice McGrath). Credit: Marc Anderson*

MLT was joined by Salvation Army Serve-a-Thon participants for a fall work morning on Saturday September 14th at the Tub Mill Dam preserve on Route 6. The group trimmed vegetation from stone walls and stream banks, and generally cleaned up the property.

The habitat improvements planned for the Old Aucott District (described briefly in last Spring's Heron) are slated to get underway this fall. Watch MLT's social media and the local papers for notice of public walks to meet MLT's foresters and learn about what is planned.

## MLT adds new Sherman Preserve

We are pleased to announce the donation from Carole Clifford of five acres of land on Long Plain Road to form MLT's new Russell H. Sherman Preserve. The land includes both forest and grasslands under an electric transmission line, and lies in an area of northwest Mattapoisett with conservation land all around. We plan to begin our stewardship by removing invasive species along Long Plain Road, and then will work with NSTAR to create an improved grassland meadow under the power lines. MLT does not plan to create hiking trails, signage or parking at the Sherman Preserve but the public will be welcome to explore the property from dawn to dusk. If you visit please obey all posted NSTAR warnings.



### 2019 Hunting Seasons Are Here!

Hunting seasons in Mattapoisett open on October 7th and continue through the end of the year, with limited small game and waterfowl hunting continuing into January and February 2020. Hunting activity will peak from December 2nd to 14th. Detailed information can be found at <http://www.eregulations.com/massachusetts/huntingandfishing/summary-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 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 woods, fields and marshes!

## *Honor Your Loved Ones*

*The past year brought us news that one of our founding members, Priscilla Hathaway, had passed away. The following donations made in her memory will be used for the acquisition of the Pine Island Pond Watershed Lands, an acquisition that we believe would have brought her enormous joy.*

### In memory of Priscilla Hathaway :

Andrew Bobola  
Mattapoisett, MA

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Cederberg  
Mattapoisett, MA

Pat & Chris Charyk  
Mattapoisett, MA

Sharon Chown &  
Michael Huguenin  
Mattapoisett, MA

Jonathan & Julie Craig  
Mattapoisett, MA

John Eklund  
Mattapoisett, MA

Bill & Liz Field  
Mattapoisett, MA

Bob & Diane Garde  
Mattapoisett, MA

Brad Hathaway  
Mattapoisett, MA

David A. Hathaway  
Mattapoisett, MA

Jane Hathaway  
Marion, MA

Joshua B. Hathaway  
Mattapoisett, MA

Malcolm & Patricia Hathaway  
Reidsville, NC

Mary Beth & Walter Hempel  
Duxbury, MA

Sandy Hering & Don Bamberger  
Mattapoisett, MA

Gary P. Johnson & Luana Josvold  
Mattapoisett, MA

Jerry & Cindy Johnson  
New Bedford, MA

Brian Kelly & Patricia Kanab  
Santa Barbara, CA

Hugh & Donna Kelly  
Weston, MA

Ray & Muriel Larson  
Attleboro, MA

Lucinda Lucey & Joan Bell  
Belchertown, MA

Kristen McCormack  
Boston, MA

James & Annette Moran  
Mattapoisett, MA

Paul & Susan Osenkowski  
Mattapoisett, MA

Julie Starr-Duker & Jay Duker  
Newton, MA

Arlene R. Sullivan  
Mattapoisett, MA

Stuart & Judy Tallman  
Rochester, MA

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Tinkham  
Mattapoisett, MA

Brendan A. Whittaker  
Pomfret, VT

Dorothy & Brendan J. Whittaker  
and Andrew  
Brunswick, VT

Gwendolyn Whittaker & David  
Mankins  
Cambridge, MA

Quaker Missions  
Mattapoisett  
Friends Meeting

Also in support of the Pine Island Pond  
Watershed Lands acquisition,  
in memory of David Morse "Davo"  
Clay:

June W. Clay  
Walpole, MA

Gary and Mary Pforzheimer  
Belmont, MA

In memory of C. Nason Burden:

Brenda Paull  
Mattapoisett, MA

### In memory of Gerry Dyer:

Posy Dyer  
Concord, MA

### In memory of Bob Elson:

Alice McGrath  
Mattapoisett, MA

### In memory of Theodore C. Pedersen:

Mrs. Theodore Pedersen  
Bristol, RI

### In memory of Ed Scholter:

Mary Franklin & family  
Mattapoisett, MA

Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Monchik  
Mashpee, MA

### In memory of MLT Treasurer, Allan Schubert:

Brad Hathaway  
Mattapoisett, MA

Mark & Nancy Keighley  
Mattapoisett, MA

### In memory of MLT Treasurer, Martin Smith:

Mark & Nancy Keighley  
Mattapoisett, MA

### In honor of Gary P. Johnson's 70th birthday:

Virginia Johnson  
Williams Bay, WI

Luana Josvold  
Mattapoisett, MA

### In honor of Catherine and Joseph Meaney:

Barbara Keough  
Sherborn, MA

John K Byrne  
Miami Beach, FL



# Mattapoissett Salt Marshes under study



*Marsh study area with Molly's Cove and Mattapoissett harbor in the background. Credit: Rosemary Loer.*

MLT protects extensive salt marshes west of Mattapoissett Neck through our ownership of the Brandt Island Cove District preserves and our conservation restriction (CR) co-held with the Buzzards Bay Coalition on the Field Family Farm. Over the past five years we have noted decline in some sections of marsh, in particular a dieback of marsh vegetation in areas along some small creeks and mosquito control ditches. In addition,

higher tides appear to be causing decline of larger shrubs and trees on many salt marsh islands.

As we have noticed these changes in Mattapoissett, the Buzzards Bay Coalition (BBC) has seen similar changes throughout salt marshes around Buzzards Bay. Over the past two years MLT has hosted BBC scientists for several field visits to damaged Mattapoissett marshes. We also have reviewed some of the extensive scientific literature looking at salt marsh decline. Present knowledge suggests that marsh decline can be caused by a number of factors including changes in tide lev-

els, subsidence of marsh soils, ice damage, changes in air and water temperatures, and invasive species of both plants and animals such as certain vegetation-eating crabs. Causes can be complex and interrelated, and frequently degraded marshes are located close to healthy marsh areas.

Early last summer BBC announced a joint effort with the Buzzards Bay National Estuary Project to monitor long-term



*Dr. Joe Costa, BB National Estuary Program Director, sets the elevation benchmark. Credit: Rosemary Loer.*

salt marsh health at 12 sites around Buzzards Bay. The study will set elevation benchmarks to allow measurement of changes in marsh elevations over many years, and will collect information about vegetation types, heights and density as well as the types of shellfish and crabs present at each site. One of the sites to be monitored is Town-owned salt marsh on Mattapoissett Neck, adjacent to marshes owned by MLT or protected by our Field Farm CR. MLT is pleased to have Mattapoissett marshes included in the study. For study details, see <https://www.savebuzzardsbay.org/news/coalition-commits-to-monitoring-long-term-salt-marsh-health/>.

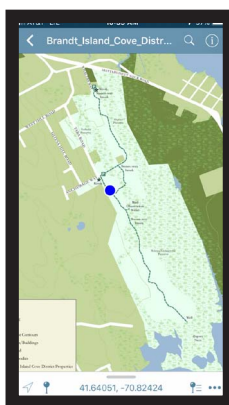
## Help us save trees



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 you can print at home or read on your iPad, Kindle, smart phone, computer, or similar device. The file can be downloaded from MLT's website, [www.mattlandtrust.org](http://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](mailto:info@mattlandtrust.org) and we'll remind you when the new issue is online.

## Trail Maps ... paper or on your Phone



Printable trail maps are available for download as PDF files on MLT's website. Users can download these maps at home and print as needed. Or for real time mapping on your digital device, download a FREE app for smartphones and tablets called Avenza Maps. Avenza users can download up to three trail maps (PDF files) into Avenza. 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.

To download maps for home printing or use in Avenza, use the detailed URL address for each map from [www.mattlandtrust.org](http://www.mattlandtrust.org). Trail maps are found on the webpage describing each property with hiking trails: Old Aucoot, Brandt Island Cove, Munn, Woodcock, and Shoolman. From the MLT homepage click Visit in the left column. Then from the top menu, select a specific preserve and click Read More. The trail map download will appear at the bottom of the page.

Let us know if you have problems downloading MLT maps, and how Avenza works for you. Email us at [info@mattlandtrust.org](mailto:info@mattlandtrust.org).

# Alexander Wurl

## *From Land Caretaker to Land Trust Scholar* by Ellen P. Flynn

As early as eight years old, Alexander Wurl, son of Mariam and Gregory Wurl of Mattapoisett, was caring for and exhibiting his love of the natural world, on Mattapoisett land and the land of Portugal. For many years he worked in both the community garden in Mattapoisett and his grandfather's garden in Portugal.

Today Alexander is the recipient of the Mattapoisett Land Trust Blanche B. Perry \$1000 Scholarship award.

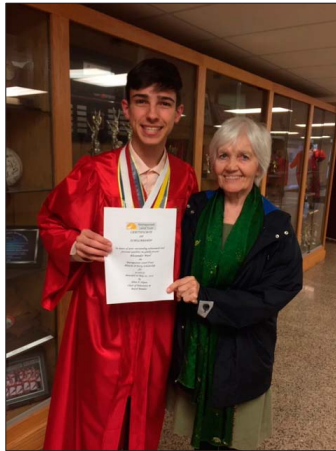
From 2017 until August 2019 Alex played a vital role as student representative for the Board of Directors of the Mattapoisett Land Trust.

He served on the Education Committee and participated in a wide range of programs, activities and events. He helped with our Kayak Camp, Salty Soiree, Eel Pond Exploration and Harbor Days' Pony rides. In April, Alex was a panelist on our Straws Documentary Campaign program and while attending UMASS Amherst plans to use natural compostable products such as cornstarch garbage bags and bar shampoo. On campus he lives in an Eco Friendly dorm. Alex explains that this year is the largest freshman class ever with over 6,000 students selected to the campus size of 24,000. He believes UMASS Amherst is competitive in scholastic sports and is in every way a prestigious college.

Alexander has challenged himself with studying languages, Portuguese, Spanish, and Catalan, and will concentrate on the study of different cultures and land diversity. His other classes are Sexual Ethics, and Comparative Literature with an emphasis on dystopian futures.

Alex plans to do marathon training, and will join Track. He finds time management the ultimate test to prioritize and set goals, he said "it is like running a marathon for the first time, you need to be self motivated".

The Land Trust is delighted to award Alex our Scholarship and we wish him much success.



*ORR Awards night June 2019  
for Alexander Wurl*

# MLT WELCOMES WENDY COPPS



The Mattapoisett Land Trust could not function without the commitment and active participation of its volunteer board. It is always pleasing when another member of the community steps forward to join us in our work and we are pleased to welcome Wendy Copps as a board member. Wendy, who was raised in Virginia, is already familiar to many of us through her work on our education committee. She, her husband Tom and

their two boys, now 12 and 14, moved to town about ten years ago. "We were living in Newport and Tom was teaching at Stang so we were looking for somewhere closer and found this lovely community," Wendy said. A shared enthusiasm for the outdoors led to family hikes, exploring all of the MLT trails and a growing appreciation of our efforts to preserve land. "We're not TV people or screen people. With us it's 'go outside and do something.' I'm an avid supporter of the Land Trust and I really appreciate the mission and the methodology," she said.

By profession a coastal engineer, with a focus on erosion control, Wendy is currently enrolled in another master's program at UMass Dartmouth's School for Marine Science and Technology where she is studying habitat restoration for salt-marshes. "Ultimately I would like to do something with that in this area," she said. In addition to that, and raising a family, Wendy also volunteers with the Buzzard Bay Coalition as a Bay Watcher and has been monitoring water quality at Eel Pond for the past five years. "When I started the health index was a 29 and now it's up to 32 so I would say Eel Pond is holding its own," she said.

With a wealth of experience in the natural world and an abundance of enthusiasm and energy Wendy will doubtless prove a very welcome addition to the MLT board. "I just appreciate the opportunity to serve and be part of this community," she said.

## Attention Photographers!

Show off your best shots of and from MLT preserves on our web site and social media. To submit, send them to [photos@mattlandtrust.org](mailto:photos@mattlandtrust.org)

## 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 Mattapoisett 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.



# Kids' Corner

For over 20 years the logo of the Mattapoisett Land Trust has been a white heron standing in the marsh grass in front of a rising sun. We think the time has come for us to investigate herons and to try to identify the one standing in our logo.

Heron is a large family (*Ardeidae*) of long-legged birds that feed in coastal or fresh-water with their long bills. There are 64 different species that inhabit all continents except for Antarctica. Most smaller herons are classified as bitterns; larger species are called herons or, if they are white, egrets. Herons are carnivorous feeding on fish, amphibians, mollusks, insects or even birds' eggs, small mammals or reptiles. With their long beaks, herons resemble some other bird families such as storks and cranes, but unlike the others, herons fly with their necks pulled back, not outstretched. They are actually more closely related to pelicans than to storks or cranes.



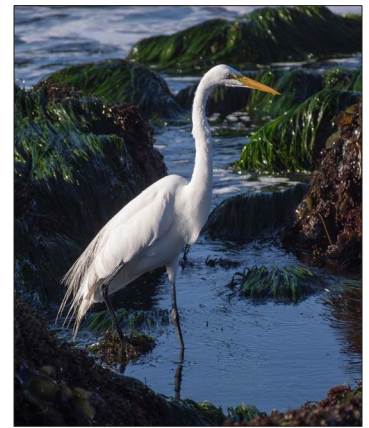
*Snowy Egret*  
By Andy Reago & Chrissy McClarren  
Wikimedia Commons

What species is our “heron”? While there is a sub-species of great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*) which is white, it only lives in Florida and the Caribbean, so we can eliminate that one. The great egret (*Ardea alba*) is present in Mattapoisett, but it doesn't have the decorative plumage on its head and chest. The

most likely candidate is the snowy egret (*Egretta thula*). This species was nearly hunted to extinction in the 1800's when its feathers were used to decorate women's hats; at that time an ounce of its feathers sold for twice as much as gold. Mattapoisett lies near the northern boundary of the breeding area for the snowy egret, but it may be spotted here. To tell the difference between a snowy egret and a great egret, look at the beak and feet: great egrets have yellow beaks and black feet while snowy egrets have black beaks and yellow-orange feet.

The snowy egret seems an appropriate symbol for the MLT. It was a bird that was nearly hunted to extinction, but conservation efforts saved it. We also want to save the wide variety of plants and animals who call Mattapoisett home, or who just stop by for a visit.

Update: In our spring Heron we described a dangerous plant, giant hogweed, that we feared may have taken root on the Grace Preserve. We are relieved to report that the plant in question was not hogweed but cow parsnip, an identification confirmed by the University of Massachusetts. Cow parsnip can still create a rash, but it's not nearly as dangerous as giant hogweed. Enjoy the Grace Preserve meadow with less concern!



*Great Egret*  
By Rhododendrites  
Wikimedia Commons



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# The Heron

## **Salty's Silvery Moon Soirée**

***(Note new time and program!)***



Join us on Saturday October 26th from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. for our annual autumn campfire at Dunseith Gardens, home of Salty the Seahorse. There will be music by Jake Hunsinger, a magic show by Skip Daniels and storytelling by Jackson Gillman! Plus as always we'll have a roaring campfire and

ingredients to make your own s'mores!

This is a free event, open to the public, and always provides an evening of fun for all ages. The magic show will start promptly at 5:15 p.m. 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, Wendy Copps, Don Cuddy, Arthur Damaskos, Peter Davies, Ellen Flynn, Sandra Hering, Gary P. Johnson, 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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