

Welcome to Betsey's Meadow

Help MLT care for this beautiful two acre meadow

Mattapoissett Land Trust is celebrating a truly unique piece of land, a special gift straight from the heart. Our good fortune comes from Mattapoissett's Florence Martocci, a woman no stranger to generous giving. Florence's mother, Ruth Hiller Martocci, donated the 90-acre Martocci Preserve to MLT in 1994.

Now Florence has given the beautiful 2-acre meadow that adjoins her historic family home and barn at the corner of Prospect Road and Pine Island Road. The land is known as Betsey's Meadow, named for her great, great grandmother Betsey Briggs Hiller.



For nearly 200 years, since 1836, the Hiller family have used Betsey's Meadow for grazing and growing produce, including a lovely fruit orchard maintained for many years, as well as for relaxation and reflection. MLT will maintain the property as a wildflower meadow with plantings of ornamental bushes and trees. We have installed an information kiosk and mown walking paths. Future improvements will include benches, pruning to improve the health of existing trees, plantings of blueberries and raspberries, and fencing on the south side of the meadow. In addition, we will raise a small endowment to fund ongoing maintenance.



A Woman of Strong Character

Betsey Briggs, a Quaker raised in Mansfield, came to Mattapoisett around 1832 to teach at the Friends School in Aucoot. Betsey married ships carpenter Seth Hiller in 1834 and the couple moved to the house at the corner of Prospect and Pine Island Roads in January 1836. Sadly they did not live happily ever after. Seth died of pneumonia in 1844 leaving Betsey with four children. She made do by selling cordwood, cultivating a vegetable garden, keeping cows and making butter. She also became expert at braiding straw "in both plain and fancy patterns" which was supplied to the hat makers in Foxborough. She instructed her children in the craft and then read to them in the evenings while they toiled. Betsey also made something known as 'Buffum's Stick Salve' and was known as a healer, frequently being called out at night to assist her neighbors with a birth or an illness. We honor Betsey and her descendants.

Conservation Values

Betsey's Meadow will become a quiet, restorative oasis for wildlife and people. Wildflowers and native grasses will surround native trees and bushes, and together will nourish pollinators, birds and small mammals. Blueberry and raspberry plantings will be maintained for enjoyment by animals and humans alike. The meadow will be open to the public in all seasons for a walk, a few quiet moments spent on a bench enjoying the surroundings, and observation of wildlife enjoying this special place. Entry to the meadow will be through the stone gate on Prospect Road, near the MLT kiosk. No parking will be available on the property, but pedestrians and bicyclists are welcome.



How You Can Help

Please make a donation honoring Florence Martocci's generous gift of Betsey's Meadow. All donated funds will be used to complete gentle landscaping and tree pruning, install paths, benches and fencing, and provide funds for ongoing maintenance and stewardship of the property.

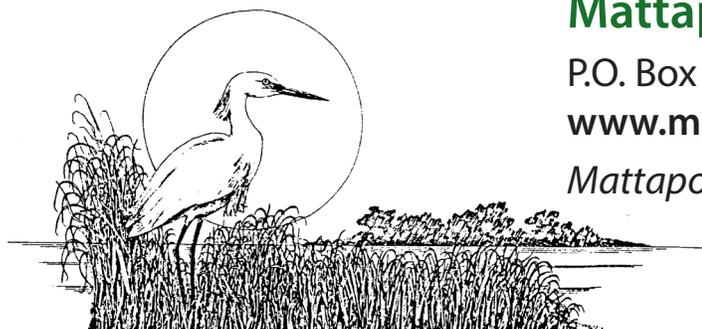
Contact Mattapoisett Land Trust President Mike Huguenin (508-758-2661) with questions or to learn how you can make a gift or volunteer.

Mattapoisett Land Trust, Inc.

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www.mattlandtrust.org

Mattapoisett Land Trust is a 501(c) (3) organization.



We preserve land to enrich the quality of life for present and future generations of Mattapoisett residents and visitors