



# The Heron

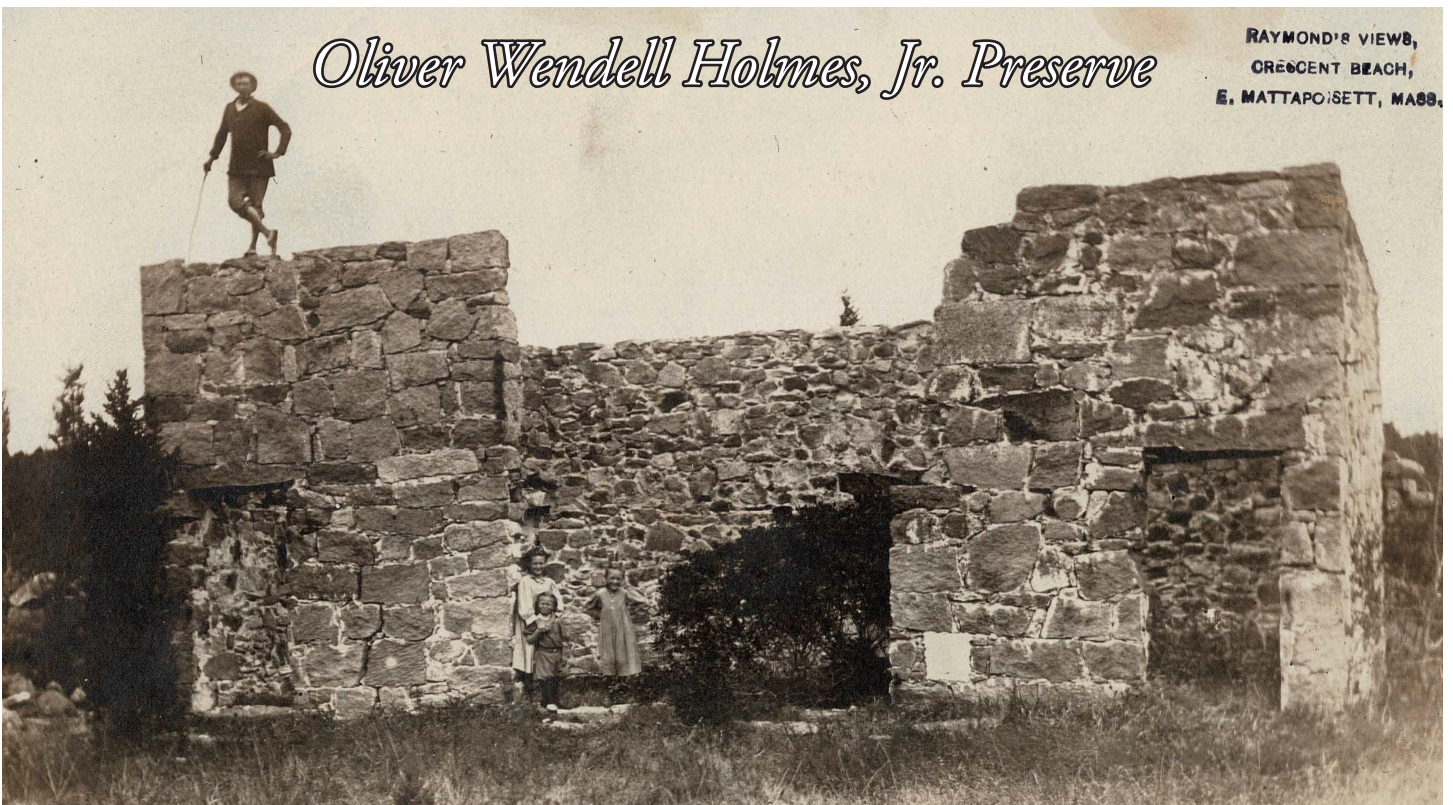
FALL—WINTER 2021

ISSUE NO. 45

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

## *Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. Preserve*

RAYMOND'S VIEWS,  
CRESCENT BEACH,  
E. MATTAPOISETT, MASS.





# MLT's new Holmes Preserve in Old Aucoot

by Don Cuddy

One of the MLT's more visible acquisitions occupies the bend in the road where Prospect turns into Angelica Avenue. This lovely parcel, long in the possession of the Hiller family, was added to our other holdings in the Old Aucoot District in 2019. It came with an interesting history as it was once owned by Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. who served on the US Supreme Court from 1902 until 1935. A Civil

War veteran, Holmes acquired a house and barn along with thirty-seven acres of farmland in 1873, shortly after becoming a junior partner of Boston lawyer George Otis Shattuck who had built a house on Ned's Point. Thus Holmes and his wife, Fanny Bowditch Dixwell, were among Mattapoisett's first summer people and evidently enjoyed their retreat. They



*The reconstruction of the four foot front facade begins.*

spent summers here from 1873 until 1887 and opened their home to some distinguished guests, including William James. Holmes wrote of his time in Mattapoisett, "We entertained as we were able and I remember Mattapoisett as a center of the most romantic delight." Their summer stays came to an end after a neighboring farmer, burning off a field in the winter of 1887-8, lost control of the fire and the blaze engulfed both house and barn, leaving only a cellar hole and a pile of stones for posterity. Apparently, efforts to extinguish the flames were hampered when rifle cartridges stored in the house began to explode. The Holmes' did not rebuild but remained Mattapoisett property owners until 1906.

After the Land Trust assumed ownership of the parcel, it seemed entirely fitting that the long association of such an important historical personage with land in Mattapoisett



*After the vegetation had been cleared, but before any reconstruction.*

he has wrought down there. His efforts attracted plenty of on-lookers this summer as he toiled by the roadside and certainly helped raise the profile of the Land Trust in that part of town.

The tall, original barn walls were of mortared stones. All of Peter's restoration work has been with dry stone. The kiosk that now stands there provides the Holmes history. From the new stone wall bound parking lot, the trail leads into the woods and connects to our expanding trail network north and east in Old Aucoot. Saving this property, both for its intrinsic and historic value, is an achievement of which we can all be proud, and we remain indebted to Peter for his craft and the many hours of labor invested in such a challenging project.

*On the cover.*

*Top: postcard showing remains of Holmes' barn.*

*Bottom: current restoration of the barn walls.*

## 2021 Hunting Seasons Are Here!

Hunting seasons in Mattapoisett open on October 2nd and continue through the end of the year, with limited small game and waterfowl hunting continuing into January and February 2022. Hunting activity will peak from November 29 to December 15. Detailed information can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/2021-hunting-season-summary/download>. 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!

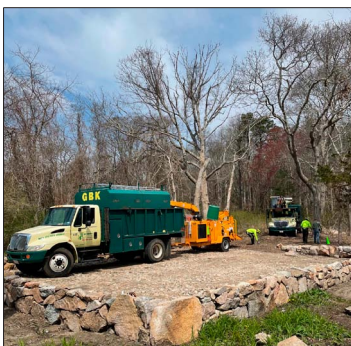


# Stewardship updates

## Fall 2021

by Mike Huguenin

MLT sends a hearty Thank You to GBK Company Arborists of Fairhaven for donating a day of tree pruning last April at the O.W. Holmes, Jr. historic site. And we thank Colin Mackin, a rising freshman at UMass Amherst for completing an internship with MLT last Spring. Colin used a trail camera to make estimates of traffic on a number of MLT hiking trails at the Brandt Island, Munn, and Old Aucoot preserves.



This summer MLT employed Liz Sylvia, a recent college graduate and New Bedford resident, to tackle trail maintenance and invasive species control. Liz works with us two days each week and will continue into September and October. She also is working with the Buzzards Bay Coalition.



Garden Groomers had a banner summer taking care of the Munro and Dunseith Preserves, and enlisted many new members. The preserves looked great all summer --- thanks all!

With great fall weather upon us we hope you'll get out for a walk on MLT's hiking trails, and enjoy the new yellow directional signage on the trails in the Old Aucoot District. Maps for all MLT trails are available on our website or the Avenza Maps store (free download). Watch for new signage on the Brandt Cove District trails in the coming months

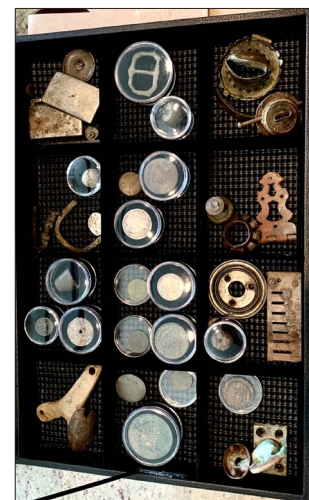


## "History Hunter"— Dean Withrow

by Peter Davies

With special permission from the Mattapoisett Land Trust, "History Hunter" Dean Withrow was allowed to use specialized metal detecting equipment to locate buried relics on the Tub Mill and Betsey's Meadow properties. Once cleaned and examined, all relics were provided to MLT for safe-keeping and display. Ground conditions were fully restored so that no sign of excavation remains. He found almost sixty objects of interest from the sixteen to eighteen hundreds, including coins, buttons, belt buckles, musket balls, thimbles and more. It is fascinating to watch Dean in action and share his excitement by searching his name on YouTube and seeing his videos, "Treasure in the Meadow" and Dexter 'Tub' Mill." Look for two boxes filled with his discoveries from the two properties on display at the Mattapoisett Public Library.

The public is reminded that metal detecting is not allowed on any MLT properties; Mr. Withrow's activities were by special arrangement with MLT.



*The display box of relics found at Betsey's Meadow*

As we continue to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic, remember that exercise outdoors with fresh air and sunshine are healthy ways to maintain both your physical and mental health. Get out and take a walk or ride on your MLT Preserves. Check out the Family Activities page at [mattlandtrust.org](http://mattlandtrust.org) for story walks, scavenger hunts and more.

## 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), along with back issues dating to 1996. 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.

## New MLT board member Karen Borges

Born and raised in Mattapoisett, Karen has lived most of her life in town. She modeled her love of hard work after her father, the late John Bowman. After graduating from Bristol Agricultural High School in 1984, Karen worked for 37 years as production assembler and then contract administrator at Sippican Ocean Systems, now Lockheed Martin, in Marion. During that time, she went to college, receiving an Associate's degree in 1994 and later a Bachelor's degree in 2014.



Karen has been married to Matthew Borges for 20 years. Mathew has been in the Air Force before and after four years working for the Mattapoisett Highway Department. They have 2 boys, ages 16 and 18. An animal lover who has had many animals over the years, Karen currently has two Nigerian Dwarf Goats, one horse, chickens, three kittens and a dog. She would have more if it weren't for Matthew saying, "enough!"

Karen has been a 4-year member, and now Vice President, of the Marion Horse Show. A volunteer for the Mattapoisett Land Trust for the past five years as a steward of the land on Bowman Road, Karen enjoys mowing the Grace Pond property since its grassy trails were laid out.

This past February, Lockheed Martin decided to close its doors in Marion and move its production lines to New York and Florida. Although offered a position in Florida, Karen could not leave her family. Recently, she was fortunate enough to find a position with Teledyne Marine in North Falmouth as a Customer Service Representative, which she loves.

### Salty's Silvery Moon Soirée



Join us on Saturday October 23rd 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 Mattapoisett's own energetic one man band Jeff Dunn and storytelling by Danny Dullea (see back cover)! 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. 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.

## MLT's Scholarship Awardee William Stark's Sustainable Academia at UNH

by Ellen P. Flynn, Chair of MLT's Education Committee

I caught up with William Stark, the 2021 Mattapoisett Land Trust Blanch B Perry Scholarship winner, at the University of New Hampshire. It was his third week on campus, and he found himself reasonably settled.

He has a challenging course load this semester but still has had time to go camping in the White Mountains and surf near campus.



William says, "I have been doing a lot of running on UNH's 'College Woods' trail system, which reminded me a lot of Mattapoisett and the Land Trust. I plan on looking into if there are any organizations doing trail work and maintenance. I love being up in New Hampshire, so close to all the things I enjoy, hiking, camping, skiing, surfing, etc. One of my most difficult challenges has been adjusting to the much different schedule, and style of lectures, labs, and homework, as well as the daunting task of meeting new people and finding those who share common interests."

I asked William to reflect on his experience at Old Rochester Regional High School in AP Chemistry and AP Environmental classes. He said, "my initial understanding of topics has allowed me to dive deeper into these fields of study that interest me. Two classes I am taking this semester, Introduction to Sustainability and Tropical Agriculture are much more in depth topics under the general Environmental Science field".

Stark looks forward to planning a dual major in Environmental Engineering, and Sustainability.

UNH is one of the top 3 most sustainable schools in the country and gets 100% of their power from renewable sources. Fiona Wilson, deputy chief sustainability officer and director of UNH's Sustainability Institute, stated in a 2021 interview, that "UNH is home of the nation's first endowed University Sustainability Institute and has continued to deepen our more than two-decade commitment to sustainability through partnerships on campus and in our communities, serving as a model 'sustainable learning community.'"

William plans to begin assisting in research for the CAM-PRI Oil Thickness Project at the Coastal Response Research Center. He said that he is very excited to learn more about his duties there, and work on such an interesting project. The Coastal Response Research Center is a partnership between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Response and Restoration (ORR) and the University of New Hampshire (UNH). The goal is to reduce the consequences of spills and other hazards that threaten coastal environments and communities.

We all at the Mattapoisett Land Trust wish William great success and look forward to hearing more about his adventures in the academic world.



# MLT Education Committee Activities

by Ellen P. Flynn, Chair of MLT's Education Committee

## MLT Education Pine Island Pond Oyster Project.



There have been two trips to MLT Pine Island Pond of approximately seventeen students from Lynn Connor's Old Rochester Regional HS Marine Biology class. The project is a collaboration with Jamie McIntosh, Harbormaster of the Mattapoisett Town Harbormaster's Headquarters, the Marine Biology Class and the MLT Education Committee.

**Purpose and Goals:** The purpose of this project is to get students out working in the environment, with community members, to experience hands-on learning and to foster a sense of respect and stewardship for the environment. The goals are that the students will learn about oysters, and how culturing stimulates natural microbial processes to help remove nitrogen and improve water quality. Pine Island Pond is a MLT watershed property of 120 acres of woods, wetlands, and salt marshes. The Marine Biology students learned about oysters and aquaculture, and they were able to help sort 4 cages of oysters, large enough to plant, but too small to overwinter.

They will conduct water quality tests, keep aquaculture oyster journals and participate in the Solution Board of brainstorming for their final reports. The answers from this brainstorming will be added to a Solutions Board and shared with the harbormaster and Mattapoisett Land Trust.



## A Planning Meeting took place August 24, 2021 on Munro Preserve Property.

The special guest was Lizzie Sylvia of Buzzards Bay Coalition, part time Environmental Field Educator and Conservationist. She discussed successful programs which she helped to innovate for the Tampa Florida School district while attending Tampa University. "Roots and Shoots", a global environmental and humanitarian youth movement of the Jane Goodall Institute. It is dedicated to green sustainable practices in the Tampa Bay community. She also talked about "Pathways to Pollinators," which is a program for local community groups to engage in land conservation and stewardship.

### We continued our agenda with topics of:

- Saturday October 23rd, 2021, 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Salty Soiree, at Dunseith Gardens Rte. 6 and North Street. See page 4.
- New Marine Biology oyster aquaculture project with ORR H S and the Mattapoisett Harbormaster.
- Grant writing for our Massachusetts Cultural Council grant.
- Spoken Word Project for 5th grade.
- Vernal Pool project with 5th graders offered by Carlos T.B. Fragata, Marine Biologist.
- 2nd grade Story Walk project with life and growth of Daffodil Bulb Program.
- 3rd Grade Acushnet Sawmill River with Sarah Jennings of the Buzzard Bay Coalition.
- Trout Fishing with Ben Squire and continued support for Outdoor Classroom (garden area at Old Hammondtown School.)
- Hillary Sullivan [hsullivan@woodwellclimate.org](mailto:hsullivan@woodwellclimate.org) Woodwell Climate Research Center (AKA) Woodshole Research Center, "Helping Coastal Wetlands Survive Climate Change."
- Our next Podcast will be a site specific interview style to be held @ MLT Oliver Wendall Holms, Jr property with Liam Waldron, sophomore at Bishop Stang H.S. and Peter Davies, Director & Clerk of MLT Board.
- Unless otherwise noted, dates for the above programs are to be determined.



*Mary Cabral, Karen Browning, Lynn Connor, Cindy Turse, Wendy Copps, MaryAnn Buckley, Special Guest Lizzie Sylvia, BB Coalition*  
**Front Row: Ellen P Flynn, Chair**  
*Missing from photo: Marcia Waldron, Joann Porter*

## 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.

## 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 Florence Bates :**

Brad and Priscilla Hathaway  
Mattapoisett, MA

**In memory of Walter Bowman III:**

Bob and Diane Garde  
Mattapoisett, MA

**In memory of Marsha Burden Kelley,  
Lois & Nason Burden :**

Brenda & Dan Paull  
Olympic, WA

**In memory of Bill and Anita Croft:**

The Brad Hathaway family  
Mattapoisett, MA

**In memory of Merry Eustis:**

Ralph Eustis  
Buzzards Bay, MA

The Brad Hathaway family  
Mattapoisett, MA

**In honor of Ralph Eustis:**

The Brad Hathaway family  
Mattapoisett, MA

**In honor of Brad Hathaway:**

Ann and Will Bruno  
Mattapoisett, MA

Gwendolyn Whittaker  
(for her uncle's birthday)  
Cambridge, MA

**In memory of Jim Huntoon:**

The Brad Hathaway family  
Mattapoisett, MA

**In honor of Gary P. Johnson's birth-  
day:**

Virginia Johnson  
Williams Bay, WI

Elizabeth Hill  
Mattapoisett, MA

**In memory of Donald Marvin:**

John and Emelie Marvin  
Chuluota, FL

**In memory of Annette Moran:**

James Moran  
Mattapoisett, MA

**In memory of Patricia Morris:**

Lynn Meier  
Fredericksburg, VA

**In memory of Tim O'Connor:**

Betty O'Connor  
Mattapoisett, MA

**In memory of Vic Pierce:**

David Hall  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL

**In memory of Daniel J. Sullivan, Sr.:**

Terry Simonson  
Canton, 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.*

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



Printable trail maps are available for download as PDF files on MLT's website. For trail maps on your digital device, download a FREE app for smartphones and tablets called Avenza Maps. All MLT trail maps are available for free download in the Avenza store. Trail maps will 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. If you have problems, email us at [info@mattlandtrust.org](mailto:info@mattlandtrust.org).

### New ways to donate

We recently made a change in the Donations page of our website. You can now arrange for recurring payments monthly, quarterly or annually from either a credit card or from a bank account. Of course, you can still make a one-time donation if you choose. In addition to membership, the site can accept honor / memorial donations as well as donations for a special purpose.

Why not eliminate any concerns about whether your membership is up-to-date?

Set up a recurring annual contribution today!

# Kids' Corner

## A Peculiar Resident

You have no doubt walked along the shorelines of Mattapoisett and found large numbers of scallop shells but have you ever considered what an odd animal it is. The bay scallop (*Argopecten irradians*) is a bivalve mollusk meaning that it has two parts to its shell, like clams but unlike other mollusks such as snails. But it is one of the only bivalves that doesn't live buried in the sand or attached to a rock as an adult. Instead, it is able to propel itself through the water to avoid predators. The bay scallop is only about half the size of the Atlantic sea scallop (*Placopecten magellanicus*) that prefers colder, deeper water and provides the income for the fishing fleet of New Bedford.



Unlike other bivalves the shell is nearly round, not oblong or oval, but what makes it most interesting is that it has 30 to 40 bright blue eyes along the edge of the shell. It also has tentacles along the edge that are sensitive to chemicals. The eyes and tentacles give the scallop the information it needs to know when it should move, for example to avoid a predator.



Adult scallops spawn in the summer releasing eggs and sperm into the water. The spat that are created eventually attach themselves to eel grass in the coves where they grow until they become so large that they drop to the bottom. Up to 90% of the spat never reach maturity.

Because the eel grass is an important link in the growth of the spat, it is important that we protect the eel grass beds in Mattapoisett such as in Brandt Island Cove and Pine Island Pond. If we wish to enjoy bay scallops in the future, we need to protect the eel grass beds today from the nitrogen and other pollutants that can destroy them. Without our help, the round shells may disappear from our shores.

Bay scallop (Photo by: Rachael Norris and Marina Freudzon Woods Hole, MA 5/24/07)

Bay scallop shells on Goodspeed Island (Photo by: G. P. Johnson, 2021)





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# The Heron

## *At Salty's Soiree*

**Jeff Dunn** is a one man band! He sings, plays keyboard bass with his left hand and piano, organ, clavinet, synthesizer and steel drums with his right hand. He also has programmed a drum synthesizer to add a beat to get the crowd up and moving! Jeff knows over 500 songs ranging from a large selection of 50's, 60's, 70's and 80's and more. Jeff plays a wide variety of styles of music including classic rock, country, oldies, R&B, blues, island music, dance and party music. With an energetic all live show featuring vocals, keyboard, bass and drums, Jeff Dunn is your one man band

**Danny Dullea's** storytelling specializes in intercultural stories of Environmental Justice to honor the beauty and integrity of complex associations of the flora and fauna of healthy ego systems.

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, Karen Borges, Mary Ann Buckley, Mary Cabral, Malcolm Campbell, Wendy Copps, Don Cuddy, Arthur Damaskos, Peter Davies, Ellen Flynn, Sandra Hering, Gary P. Johnson, Jerry Johnson, Paul Osenkowski, Charles Radville, and Michael Huguenin, President.

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

Mattapoisett Land Trust, Inc.

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