



The Heron

SPRING - SUMMER 2022

ISSUE NO. 46

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



MLT “Destinations”

by Peter Davies

On many of our 40 land trust properties and 900 acres of preserved land, there are special “destinations” that can provide us with places to get away and lose ourselves in the beauty of natural surroundings.

Benches are the most common destinations, and in Mattapoisett, the majority of the benches on land trust properties overlook water, fresh and salt. A newly installed bench at the end of the Munn Preserve trail overlooks Brandt Island and a new stone bench at the end of the Ox Cart Path in the Munn Preserve looks across the salt marsh to West Island. There is a new bench at the Viollette Preserve swimming hole on Acushnet Road. The two new benches at The Tub Mill property face the dam spillway. At the Munro Preserve there are a number of benches that look out over the harbor.

Soon there will be a short trail from Angelica Ave to a bench overlooking Pine Island Pond. Of course there have been a number of benches for years at the Dunseith Property, the home of Salty the sea-horse, and a bench has recently been installed at the Betsey’s Meadow property. Grace Pond has a bench, and the Woodcock Preserve has a bench overlooking a vernal pool as well as a fallen beech grove as a destination.

Then there is the viewing stand off the Brandt Island Trail that overlooks the salt marsh at the head of Brandt Island Cove. Most of these “destinations” were donated and dedicated to loved ones no longer with us, or built by volunteers. All provide the opportunity for us to linger and be transported beyond the day to day. We are fortunate to have so many natural places in Mattapoisett for us to get away. We hope you venture out and enjoy our “destinations”!



1- Memorial bench at Munn Preserve

2-A new stone bench overlooking salt marsh to West Island at the end of the Ox Cart Path on the Munn Preserve property

3-The view from the viewing stand just off the trail to Brandt Island Cove that starts at the bottom of Anchorage Way

4-Benches overlooking the Mattapoisett Harbor on the Monroe property

5-The newly installed bench at Betsey’s Meadow off Prospect Street

6-A bench by the Gazebo at the Dunseith (Salty) park

7-Bench overlooking the spillway of the dam at the Tub Mill property

8-Overlooking Grace Pond at the southern end of the Meadow at the end of Bowman Road
On the cover: Newly installed bench at the end of the path at the Munn Preserve overlooking Brandt Island

A Memorial Donation

by Gary Johnson

For several years we have tried to acquire more of the Eastern Box Turtle habitat lying between Mattapoisett Neck Road and Brandt Island Road. In the fall of 2021 we were contacted by Hector Margeson, Jr. concerning a 2-acre parcel of land near our Walega-Livingstone Preserve that is categorized entirely as priority habitat for box turtles. In December of last year, we accepted the donation from Hector and Janet Margeson of the Faron Margeson Preserve named for their son who passed away at the age of 64 in April, 2021.

Faron was raised in Acushnet and lived in Fairhaven with his wife Joann. We learned from her that he loved walking through the woodlands of the West Hill area to visit the prop-



erty, enjoying both the plants and animals that he found there. We don't know, however, if he ever spotted any Eastern Box Turtles. The picture was taken by Joann on his last visit to the property in April, 2019.

The parcel has an interesting history—it was part of the larger Albert Ashley farm in that area in the late 1800's. Mr. William Margeson acquired the lot in 1911 and according to the donors it subsequently held a small cabin and an outbuilding containing a still. Hector Margeson, Jr. spent his early years there, without electricity and running water, before the 1938 Hurricane destroyed both buildings. He has furnished us with two pictures and more details that we will share on our website, www.mattlandtrust.org.

We feel honored that the Margeson family has given us the responsibility to preserve this land in perpetuity as a fitting tribute to their son. It will always be welcoming to the Margeson family but also to the public where all can appreciate the flora and fauna that Faron loved.

MLT Stewardship Updates

Accomplishments since the fall:

- o New benches installed at Betsey's Meadow, and at the Munn Preserve overlooking Whale Rock and at the end of the Oxcart Path.
- o Cleanup and clearing continued at Santos Farm.
- o In the Old Aucoot Area, the newly cut Blue trail to Buckley Bridge has been widened.
- o The lane between the Sullivan Preserve and the Quaker Meeting House has been cleared.
- o A kiosk was installed at Hiller Trail/Blueberry Patch trailhead off Route 6.
- o Pruning at Betsey's Meadow has continued.

Upcoming Projects:

- o At the Hiller Trail/ Blueberry Patch trailhead: Improve turnout from Rte 6, creating a small parking area, installing a gate and improving the road down to the Blueberry Patch.
- o Creating a short path from Angelica Ave to an overlook at Pine Island Pond.
- o Improving the stream crossing on the Yellow trail from Prospect Rd parking lot.
- o Installing 120 feet of bog boards west of the the horse bridge on the trail from the Holmes Preserve.



Welcome new volunteers:

Charlie Smith, Ralph Eustis, Kim and Mike Ward, Jim Tapper, Kathleen and Matt Urquhart, and Anne Danforth

Colin Mackin Excels At UMass Amherst Thanks To Background In Community Service.

By Ellen P. Flynn, Education Chair



We caught up with Colin Mackin, the recipient of the Mattapoisett Land Trust's June 2021 "Engaged Community Service Scholar" Award, while he was home on Spring Break from UMass Amherst. When asked how he was adjusting to college life Colin had this to say, "For me, learning leadership skills through the process of attaining the rank of Eagle Scout and my work as a volunteer with the MLT, Rochester Library, and other volunteer clubs in high school has given me more confidence to communicate with my professors and meet new people."

In his short time at college, Colin has already felt the rigor of what UMass Amherst has to offer in the Environmental Science field. "The course I took for Natural Resource Conservation was one of my favorite classes last semester. We learned that we need to preserve different resources ranging from simpler things such as water and food to complex ecosystems. Two of the topics my group researched were the bleaching of coral

reefs and the endangered axolotl. This research has piqued my interest in the possibility of minoring in NRC, since it would go well with Environmental Science."

The Environmental Science Department offers a two semester Career Path Seminar highlighting the work that is conducted on campus as well as the path for students to participate. "Each class, a professor gives us a lecture on their field, including a study they conducted, and tells us how to join one of their ongoing studies. While I can't fully say I know exactly what I want to do within the field of Environmental Science, I can certainly say that I expect that I will be fully immersed in the topic I choose."

In addition to his passion for the environment, Colin is a musician. He has played the piano since he was six years old and participated in school band from elementary through high school. UMass Amherst has provided him with opportunities to participate in his love of music. "I recently joined a club called Pitch, which meets together to have jam sessions and I plan on joining the UMass marching band." Ever the self-starter, Colin found room to take an extra course this semester, Percussion Tech, in order to prepare himself to audition for the pep band.

The Mattapoisett Land Trust and Education Committee congratulates Colin on his success and looks forward to keeping up with his future endeavors.

2022
MLT Annual Meeting
and
MLT Volunteer Appreciation
 Sunday, May 1
 4:00 P.M.
Check mattlandtrust.org or
Facebook for location.

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 for story walks, scavenger hunts and more.

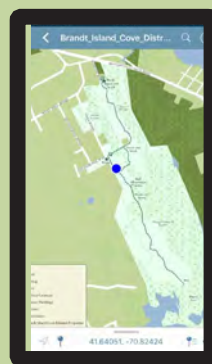
The Mattapoisett Land Trust Blanche B. Perry Scholarship

for a Mattapoisett resident graduating from secondary school pursuing an education in environmental studies or a related field

Application deadline: April 27, 2022

Scholarship application details and forms
mattlandtrust.org/education/grants-and-scholarships/

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.

Upcoming Programs & Events Planned by MLT's Education Committee

April 2022 date TBA Mattapoissett Center School sixty 3rd graders will visit the Buzzards Bay Coalition Acushnet River Sawmill, sits on 19 acres of park and preserve where students will study freshwater habitat, view birds and wildlife, and walk trails.



May 9, 2022 Forty ORR H S Marine Biology and AP Environmental Science students will visit Nantucket's Brandt Point Shellfish Hatchery. They will learn the hatchery process from spawning to grow-out, how shellfish affects water quality, and methods of farming oysters. They will meet scientists and Marine Biologists.



May 31, 2022 During the Coastal Ecology by Rail program one hundred and ninety six ORR Seventh graders will experience a 3-4 hour train ride with several stops to learn about coastal habitat observations, salt marshes, and the Cape Cod Canal (the Largest Sea Level Canal in the World). <https://www.capestrain.com/about/coastal-ecology-rail/>



June 9, 2022 From Old Hammondtown School sixty 6th grade students will return to Cuttyhunk Island to attend the STEAM Academy Program, where they will learn in an outdoor living classroom, about aquaculture, ocean exploration and life on the Island.



August 9-11, 2022 Kayak Program takes place on MLT's Munro property and in collaboration with the MATT Recreation Seahorse Summer Explorers. Two mornings of learning Kayaking skills and safety rules of the water.



September 15th and 16th 2022 the ORR 8th graders approx 220 Students will take a Science Field Trip to Cape Cod Canal Visitor Center along with a visit to the Sandwich Trout Hatchery, and the Midway Recreational Center for their lunch break. The majority of our programs are supported by the Schoolman Fund. MASS Cultural Council is a sponsor



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 beginning May 19th 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 a COVID-19 safe activity! For more information email us at 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!

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 Mattapoissett Land Trust.

In memory of Ruth Perry Bates :

Richard Bates
Mattapoissett, MA

Ruth Karmelin-Bice & Timothy Taylor Bice
Stoughton, MA

In honor of Priscilla Hathaway:

The Brad Hathaway family
Mattapoissett, MA

In memory of Linda Belenger :

LoriAnne & Thomas Avila
Onset, MA

Gail Lynch
Newport, VT

In memory of Kathryn LaMontagne:

Leo J. LaMontagne
Marco Island, FL

Ann & Will Bruno
Mattapoissett, MA

Janice & Bernie Olszowy
Englewood FL

Land in memory of Faron Margeson:

Mr. & Mrs. Hector Margeson, Jr.
Show Low, AZ

In memory of Russell Bassette:

The Brad Hathaway family
Mattapoissett, MA

Joan Thompson-Allen
North Easton, MA

In memory of Ruth Martocci:

Craig & Betty Kepner
Phoenix, AZ

In memory of Lois and Nason Burden:

Brenda Paull
Olympic, WA

In memory of Edward A. Dunleavy:

Janet Marconi
Plymouth, MA

In memory of Charles Stetson Mendell, III:

Cheryl Johannessen
New Bedford, MA

In memory of Michael E. Couture:

Joanne Brown and family
Peterborough, ON

In memory of Merri Eustis:

Barbara Ketchel
Mattapoissett, MA

David Kirchthurn
Franklin, MA

Dianne & Richard Clark
Fairhaven, MA

In memory of Steve Hanna:

Christine Hanna
Hadley, MA

In memory of Elise and George Mock:

The Brad Hathaway family
Mattapoissett, MA

Sandy Dawson Galavotti
Mattapoissett, MA

In memory of Tim O'Connor:

Betty O'Connor
Mattapoissett, MA

Michael DeFrancesco
Easxt Wareham, MA

In memory of Vic Pierce:

David Hall
Santa Rosa Beach, FL

Gail Ginn
Dartmouth, NS

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

The Heron is published bi-annually by the Mattapoissett 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 Mattapoissett, 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, Wendy Copps, Don Cuddy, Arthur Damaskos, Peter Davies, Ellen Flynn, Jerry Johnson, Sandra Hering, Gary P. Johnson, Paul Osenkowski, Charles Radville, Thomas Galavotti, ORR student representative and Mike Huguenin, President.

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

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Kids' Corner

Why we are here!

The Mattapoisett Land Trust was created in 1974 with the purpose of protecting some of the parts of Mattapoisett that make it so special. Several years ago we adopted a mission statement as a summary of why we should continue in our work. It says: “We preserve land in order to enrich the quality of life for present and future generations of Mattapoisett residents and visitors.” Did you notice that there is no mention of human beings? In fact, much of our work involves trying to identify which lands are necessary so that the animals and plants can thrive.

Here are two examples of animals who choose to make Mattapoisett home for at least part of the year- one a full-time resident and the other a summer visitor. The Eastern Box Turtle is listed as a “Species of Special Concern” by Massachusetts. We are fortunate to have several areas in town that provide habitat for them. The Faron Margeson Preserve we recently acquired lies within one of them.

Osprey, on the other hand, only spend about six months with us, from late March through September. We do have a platform on our Osprey Preserve near Whalers' Way where you can watch them feeding their young.

When you visit an MLT property please respect the animals and plants, whether residents or visitors, that you find there. But enjoy your time visiting them!



Eastern Box Turtle Photo: Mike Jones, MassWildlife



Osprey photo: Bill Field



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Calendar — 2022 Spring and Summer Activities

Check MLT's website and social media for updates on all activities.

date	time	event	description	place
April 23	1 :30 P.M.	Vernal Pool Exploration	Explore the wonders of a vernal pool and learn the steps needed for state certification.	Meet at the Grace Preserve on Bowman Road.
May 1	4:00 P.M.	MLT Annual Meeting	Review of year and election of board. Includes MLT Volunteer Appreciation	Check mattlandtrust.org or Facebook for location.
July 16-17	9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.	Harbor Days	Stop by our booth in the shade of the big tree. Learn about our properties and activities. Check out MLT gear!	Shipyards Park
First week of August	5:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.	The Great Community Picnic	Music, oysters and more. Reserved tables. Watch our website and email info@mattlandtrust.org for more information.	Munro Waterfront Preserve
August 9-11	Mornings	MLT Education/MATT REC Kayak Camp	For the sixth year MLT Education Program is in partnership with MATT/REC to offer a two day Kayak Program with emphasis on skills, sportsmanship and safety. Registration is through MATT/REC	Munro Waterfront Preserve