

Protecting the Pine Islands

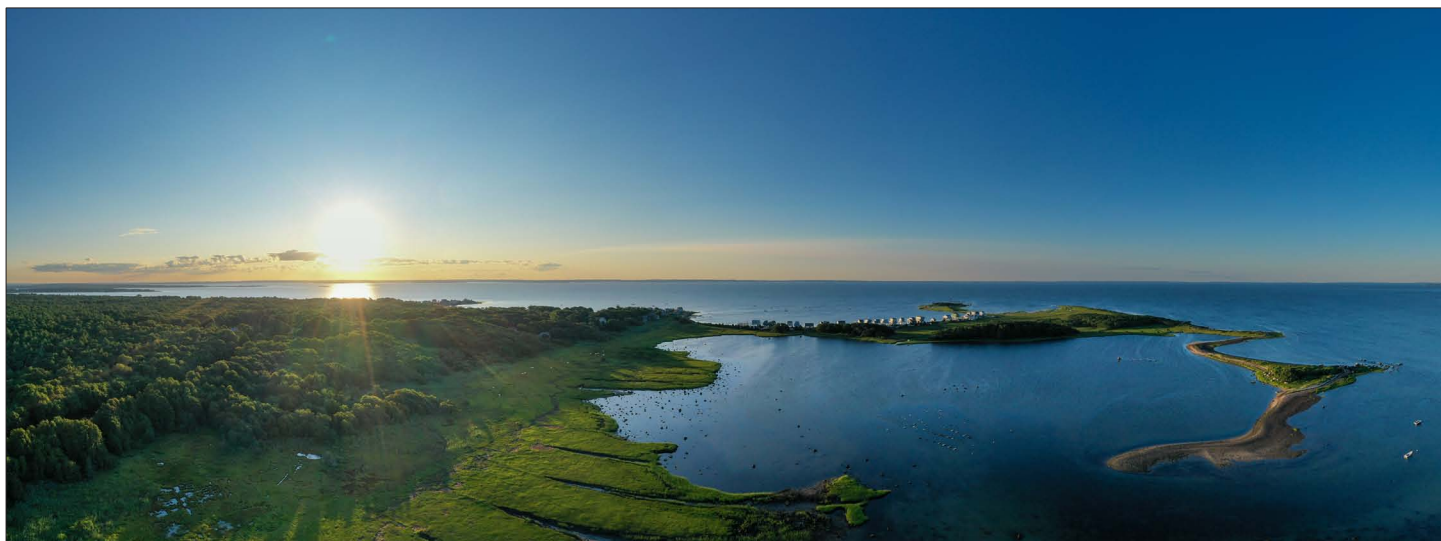
The Pine Islands are a unique habitat found in Mattapoisett that provide wonderful scenic value for residents and critical habitat for wildlife. In efforts to continue preserving the Pine Islands, found beyond the Point Connett neighborhood, Mattapoisett Land Trust accepted a land donation from Florence Martocci for a 0.68-acre plot of land this summer.

The new addition to the existing MLT Pine Island Pond Preserve extends the protection of this ecosystem. The Pine Islands provide important habitat for state protected wildlife, contain a healthy and unique ecosystem, and act as a barrier for residents absorbing some storm action coming in from Buzzards Bay.

We are grateful to Florence for helping us to further protect this habitat.



Map showing the lands around Pine Island Pond protected by MLT with the newly acquired Martocci parcel outlined in yellow.



Drone photo looking east over Pine Island Pond taken by Marc Anderson

Cuttyhunk, An Island Classroom

On Thursday June 1, 2023, the Mattapoisett Land Trust and the Mattapoisett Cultural Council sponsored a scientific day trip for sixty-one Old Hammondtown sixth graders to the Island of Cuttyhunk. They attended workshops and activities with the STEAM Academy, an Island classroom. Ben Squire, Elementary Science Coordinator for the Old Rochester Regional School district, said, “The weather was perfect and the students had a great time learning about native species, ecosystems, Native Americans and the history of Cuttyhunk.” “It was the best trip ever,” said Squire, after participating annually for over seven years. Mary Cabral, Retired Biology educator, a Director of MLT, said, “The students smiling were totally engaged during all activities and eager to learn.” Ellen P. Flynn, a Director of MLT and Chair of Education, followed and photographed students throughout their workshop experiences from wearing bear skin coats to digging soil samples in the sand.



The following are two out-side classroom workshops:

1. **Wampanoag Culture** with Gertrude Hendricks Miller, (Kitty) from the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, Indian Education Coordinator:

Her emphasis on having respect for animals, people and plants was very effective.

6th grader Ava said, “The song with deer hide drums and rattles brought out the respect and kindness element.” Each student had an opportunity to touch, handle and wear animal skins: bear, deer, skunk, fisher, two types of foxes, red and gray. Kitty’s Wampanoag history was demonstrated through her artifacts, hand-eye coordinated toys, tools and musical instruments and told through stories. She often spoke of her 400 year old ancestors and how her indigenous people and their simple cultural life of farming, hunting, and gathering was shared by many family tribes. Her tribe is

Did you know that MLT provided over 435 Mattapoisett and Old Rochester students with educational experiences?

- 2nd grade Sunflower Project
- 3rd grade Daffodil Project
- 6th grade Cuttyhunk Trip
- SMEC students to Jazz concert at MLT’s Munro property
- HS science trip to Nantucket
- HS science students Pine Island Oyster Project
- Center School students to Art Luminaries Project
- 6th year of MLT-MATT/REC kayak program at Munro property



from the Otter clan. She taught inspirational Native American history using words and phrases of her native language.

2. **Salt Marsh Exploration** with Hillary Sullivan Marchwinski, Northeastern University PhD candidate from Woodwell Climate Research Center:

Hillary has volunteered with the Mattapoisett Land Trust for over seven years. She has conducted nutrient recycling in freshwater research in Brazil’s Amazon River. Presently Hillary is working on the understanding of hydrologic drivers of salt marshes. While standing in the marsh, students wore boots and waders and participated in three activities. First they used a quadrant cut rectangular shaped tool to learn how many random grasses can be found growing in small areas at the beach. There was cordgrass, eelgrass, and pencil grass. Next, in the sand, they used an auger to measure earth sediment to determine the peat level in the deep mud. They learned about hypoxia and the growth of bacteria. They searched out an abundance of marine and plant life, in water and around the rocky shore such as crabs, hermit crabs, tiny shrimp and oysters. They learned that salt marshes protect shorelines, absorb rainwater and protect water

quality. Hillary said, “The kids got wet and dirty to discover and ask questions.” Maxine, a sixth grader, had a “great experience discovering sea lettuce and learned to respect plants and other organisms.” Wyatt said, “My favorite part of the Cuttyhunk trip was the salt marsh exploration station because finding all the creatures was so interesting.” Isabella said, “I learned about new things, the importance of specific life of organisms, animals and fish.” She commented, “how welcoming and nice the residents were to her group.” Madelyn, a first time island visitor, said, “It was a fun day learning about animal and plant life.”

This unique scientific program that the STEAM Academy offers, with Michelle Carvalho as Director, provides a positive outdoor Island classroom site experience with a rich cultural marine environment, featuring ecosystems, beaches, birding and the history of indigenous people. Alie Thurston, a naturalist presenter and lifetime summer resident, with family dating back to 1914, said, “The Island is the breadbasket of interpretive scientists.” Her favorite part of the trip is watching the shy students become adventurous by the end of their day. Kevin Tavares, Principal of Old Hammondtown School, said, “the STEAM Academy experience was fantastic for the sixth grade students, and it was impressive how the people of Cuttyhunk embraced us all.”

Submitted by Ellen P. Flynn, Board Member & Chair of MLT Education



MLT Pine Island Pond Oyster Program with ORR Lynn Connor's Marine Biology Class served 98 sophomores, junior and seniors over five separate visits



Don Cuddy, MLT Board member,, spearheaded the Center School Second grade Sunflower Program held at MLT's Dunseith property, on May 30, 2023



In May, MLT sponsored a Jazz concert at Munro Park for students in the Southeast Massachusetts Educational Collaborative Program housed in the Old Hammondtown School.



MLT ED programs are funded in part by the Mass Cultural Council and the Mattapoissett Cultural Council.

Mattapoissett Cultural Council

2023 Hunting Seasons Are Here!

Hunting seasons in Mattapoissett open on October 2 and continue through the end of the year, with limited small game and waterfowl hunting continuing into January and February 2024. Hunting activity will peak from November 27 to December 11. Detailed information can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/2023-hunting-season-summary/download> Mattapoissett is in Zone 11.

Mattapoissett 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!

Alves-Bucciarelli Preserve: Open!

The new Alves-Bucciarelli Preserve is ready for hikers and kayakers. The riverfront preserve now has marked walking trails in from Route 6 and Mattapoisett Neck Road, a new kiosk at the Mattapoisett Neck entrance, and an amazing kayak landing constructed by MLT Board Member, Arthur Damaskos, and installed by volunteers. Take a walk at the new property to see riverfront beauty insulated from the main roads.



MLT volunteers and staff that installed the new kayak landing



MLT Manager, Colleen, with the newly installed MLT kiosk at the Mattapoisett Neck Rd. entrance to the Alves-Bucciarelli Preserve.



The beautifully crafted kayak landing that now provides river access to/from the Alves-Bucciarelli Preserve.

Trail Maps ... Paper Or On Your Phone

Printable trail maps are available for download as PDF files on mattlandtrust.org/mlt-trail-maps/. 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.

Mattapoissett Land Trust Scholars

By Ellen P. Flynn, Chair of MLT Education Committee

MLT chose two candidates for Scholarships. Reagan Rock, daughter of Michael and Cynthia Rock was awarded The Blanche B. Perry Scholarship. Joseph E. Dupre IV son of Joseph E. Dupre III and Elisa Dupre was awarded the Priscilla Hathaway Art Scholarship.

2023 marks the first time that the Mattapoissett Land Trust has been able to offer an Art Scholarship to a Mattapoissett senior graduating by June 2023.



Kate Butler ORR Visual Arts Teacher awards Joseph E. Dupre IV the MLT Priscilla Hathaway Art Scholarship

The Art Scholarship is made possible by Brad Hathaway in honor and memory of his wife Priscilla, both founding members of the Mattapoissett Land Trust. Joseph E. Dupre IV was chosen by Mattapoissett Land Trust and Brad Hathaway for his excellence in art and his core values as a believer of “tranquility, growth and a protector of land and the seas” which match those of Priscilla. She was very interested in Native American Artifacts. She loved the outdoors, especially the woods, beaches, and Buzzard Bay. In regards to Jed’s pursuit of Communicative Design at Massachusetts College of Art and Design MASS ART; the

Hathaway Family states, “Art students now and into the future typically do not receive scholarships, so it was the family’s inten-

tion to set up an Art Scholarship to honor Priscilla Hathaway, an artist and an original founder of the Mattapoissett Land Trust.” The purpose was to help budding artists achieve their goals. The Hathaways are delighted to honor Joseph E Dupre IV, and will be forever grateful to the Mattapoissett Land Trust for honoring Priscilla and making this Art Scholarship possible.

Reagan Rock from ORR High School is the Blanche B. Perry Scholar, chosen for her outstanding academic achievements, her leadership qualities and her excellence in extracurricular activities. She is pursuing a medical degree at Boston College in order to become a “superhero” in her care of her patients. Reagan says, “I’ve only been at Boston College for 3 weeks, and am already finding myself at home. The beautiful buildings, wonderful coaches/professors, and inspiring peers help me grow academically, athletically, and spiritually each day. I feel so lucky to still have my whole college career ahead of me, and can’t wait to see how I evolve here on The Heights. Go Eagles!”



Reagan Rock (left) at convocation Boston College

50 Years of MLT...

Did you know that 2024 will mark 50 years of the Mattapoissett Land Trust? That’s right! What an amazing 50 years of conservation, community-building, and worthwhile hard work it has been. Stay tuned into our social media, e-newsletter, and online calendar in 2024 for celebratory events and programs all year long to mark this major accomplishment.

Help Us Save Trees

The Heron is available as a PDF at mattlandtrust.org/newsletter, with back issues dating to 1996. If you would like to end your subscription to the paper edition and get a notice that the latest PDF edition is online, send an email request to info@mattlandtrust.org



Salty's Silvery Moon Soirée

Join us on Saturday October 28th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. for our annual autumn campfire at Dunseith Gardens, home of Salty the Seahorse. As always we’ll have a roaring campfire and ingredients to make your own s’mores! Joining us will be Diane Edgecomb, to delight you with stories around the campfire. There will also be music from Jeff Dunn. This is a free event, open to the public, always providing an evening of fun for all. 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.

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 Elizabeth Atkinson:

Elizabeth & Drew Hill
Mattapoissett, MA

Gary P. Johnson & Luana Josvold
Mattapoissett, MA

The Brad Hathaway family
Mattapoissett, MA

Kenneth Schackmann
Oak Lawn, IL

In memory of Annette Moran:

James Moran
Mattapoissett, MA

In memory of Tim O'Connor:

Betty O'Connor
Mattapoissett, MA

In memory of Horace Field:

The Craig family
Mattapoissett, MA

In celebration of Gary Johnson's birthday:

Virginia Johnson
Williams Bay, WI

Luana Josvold
Mattapoissett, MA

In memory of Howard Tinkham:

Barbara Tully
Mattapoissett, MA

In memory of Edward J. Hartnett:

Edward & Kathleen Jacobs
Flemington, NJ

In memory of Gerald "Jerry" Johnson:

Ray & Mary Cabral
Mattapoissett, MA

Mick & Dianne McBroome
Plainfield, CT

In memory of Tucker Zenski:

Pat & Chris Charyk
Mattapoissett, MA

Tom & Terry Simonson
Anton, MA

In memory of Priscilla Hathaway:

J. Philip Cayford
Dublin, NH

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.

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!



*Photo by
Marc Anderson*

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

Your Legacy For Open Land

For nearly 50 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.

Kids' Corner

Our cottontails

You may have noticed many cottontail rabbits in town, especially near the Munro Waterfront with its *Rosa rugosa* beds. You may not be aware that the cottontails in Mattapoissett now were not always here and that they displaced the native inhabitants. Until the last century the only rabbits in New England were New England cottontails. Hunters introduced the Eastern cottontail around 1900 and it has largely taken over. Let's look at the differences.



Adobe Stock Photos

1. **Habitat:** The New England cottontail (*Sylvilagus transitionalis*) prefers dense, shrubby habitats found in the northeastern United States, areas of forest disturbance and regrowth. It prefers thickets where it can avoid predators. On the other hand, the Eastern cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) is more adaptable and can be found in a wide range of habitats, including grasslands, fields, and even suburban areas.

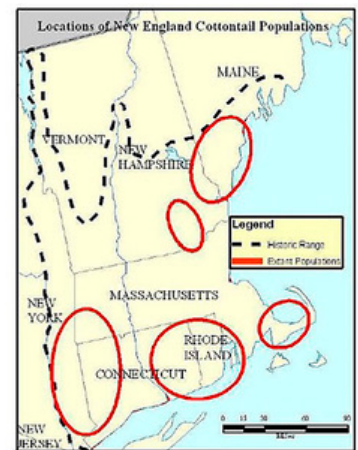
2. **Appearance:** Both species have a fluffy white tail, but their fur coloration is different. The New England cottontail tends to be darker and has more speckles on its back compared to the Eastern cottontail, which has a reddish-brown coat. About half of Eastern cottontails have a white spot on their foreheads.

3. **Size:** The New England cottontail is slightly smaller in size than its Eastern counterpart. It's like comparing a small-sized bag of chips to a regular-sized one.

4. **Range:** Eastern cottontails are found throughout Massachusetts while the range for New England cottontails has declined to the southern Berkshire mountains, the pine barrens in the southeast of the state and on Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket.

5. **Behavior:** New England cottontails tend to be more elusive and shyer, while Eastern cottontails are often seen hopping around more confidently in open areas.

Given the loss of appropriate habitat in Mattapoissett it seems unlikely that we will ever have New England cottontails in town. But you may get a chance to see one in other parts of Plymouth County or on the Cape and Islands. And we can still appreciate the antics of its more adaptive cousin, the Eastern cottontail.



Fuller & Tor, 2012



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Calendar — Fall and Winter Activities

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

DATE	TIME	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
October 15, 2023	10:00 - 11:00 AM	Mindfulness Walk	Led by Carly Bauman	Starts at Prospect Road parking lot
October 28, 2023	5:30 - 7:30 PM	Salty's Soiree	Featuring Diane Edgecomb and Jeff Dunn. See page 5.	Dunseith Gardens
November 11, 2023	10:30 AM	Stone Wall Workshop	Learn about repairing and rebuilding a stone wall	Dunseith Gardens
January 20, 2024	10:00 AM	Milk Jug Seed Planting Workshop	Learn about native seeds and plant your own!	Mattapoisett Free Public Library

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, Karen Borges, Mary Cabral, Wendy Copps, Don Cuddy, Arthur Damaskos, Peter Davies, Ralph Eustis Jr., Ellen Flynn, Sandra Hering, Gary P. Johnson, Jenn Kaiser, Tim Ladd, Kristen McCormack, Paul Osenkowski, Charles Radville, Michael Taubenberger, Andrew Porter, 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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