



50 Years of Conservation, Education and Collaboration

by Colleen Andrews

The History

In 1974, eleven concerned citizens determined to protect the nature of Mattapoisett from overdevelopment joined forces to create the Mattapoisett Land Trust. They hoped to preserve natural resources and wildlife, to educate the public on the importance of conservation, and to work collaboratively within the community. Fifty years later, we now celebrate the legacy they started with the 50th anniversary of the Mattapoisett Land Trust.

We honor the foresight of these founders: Donald J. Fleming, Bradford A. Hathaway, Priscilla A. Hathaway, David W. Hewitt, Norma E. Hewitt, Violet Jones, George B. Mock, Frances Pernas, Larry Seidl, Lorraine Seidl, and Isabella Watts.

The wave they set into motion is one that we have agreed to keep going forever. All land owned by the Mattapoisett Land Trust is to be conserved in perpetuity. And so now we celebrate how far we've come, with excitement for what the future has in store.

The Now

The Town of Mattapoisett has more than 30% of its land in conservation at this time. One third of that 30% is held by MLT, consisting of 50 parcels of land, 910-acres, more than 8-miles of trails, and 5 public parks. These numbers are a



result of dedicated officers and board members, enthusiastic volunteers, and support from our members and community. It's work that our founders 50 years ago would be proud of, and work that our successors 50 years from now will continue to build upon.

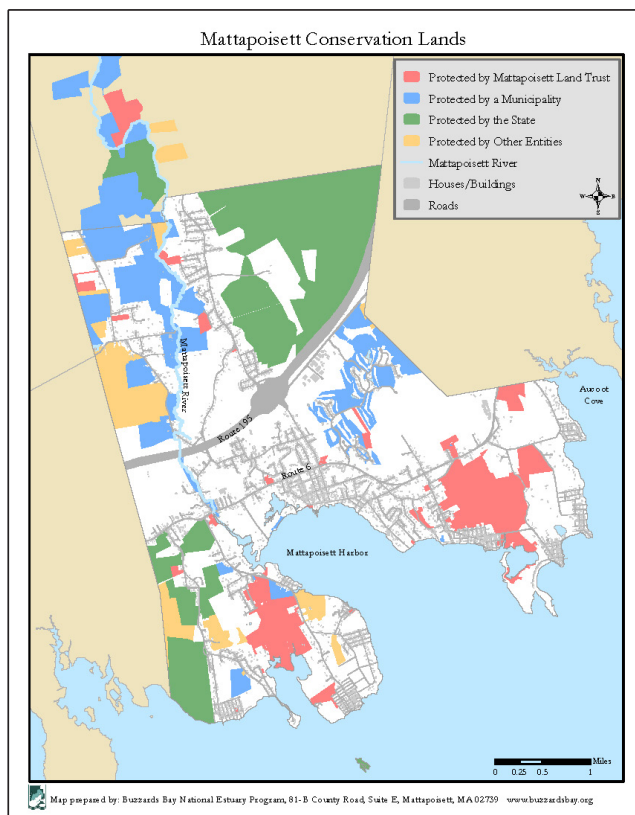
The Future

Inspired by this milestone year, MLT has considered how to uphold the grand promise of "perpetuity." To keep operations running smoothly for the next 50 years and beyond, we're embarking on a 50th Anniversary Fundraiser to raise \$1 million dollars in the next five years. The funds raised will create an Operations Support Endowment which will help provide financial support and stability well into the future.

As our members, you will hear more from us on this exciting fundraiser and our vision for the future. We hope you will consider supporting the 50th Anniversary Fundraiser when the time comes! We've come this far with your support, and we need your continued support as we move into our next 50 years.

The Celebration!

We kicked off the celebration early with the repainting of Salty the Seahorse in October of 2023. The beloved sculpture received a much needed cleaning and fresh coat of paint this past fall, and he's looking better than ever going into our big year.



On May 1st, we will start our MLT Hike50 Challenge. Between May 1st and August 31st, we challenge you to hike on woods trails in Mattapoissett, Rochester, and Marion, logging your miles as you go. There will be prizes for those who complete the challenge! We urge you to try new trails in the Tri-Town, explore our lands and those of our neighboring land trusts, and have fun hiking! We'll host a kick-off hike in early May to help jumpstart your miles.

On Sunday June 30th, we are throwing a 50th anniversary bash to celebrate MLT at the Munro Preserve. Take this as your save the date! We plan to have music, raffle prizes, merchandise, and some special guest speakers. Lunch will be provided and of



course, dessert. Keep your eye on our website and social media pages for more information coming soon!

For those of you who love our tried and true events, be sure to register for this year's Tour de Creme bike ride, scheduled for Sunday May 19th, and purchase a table for the annual Great Community Picnic, scheduled for Thursday August 1st. These are the same events you've come to know, but we will have a

little something special included as a nod to our anniversary...

And that would be our Golden Anniversary IPA! Thanks to a partnership with Buzzards Bay Brewing Company, we'll be serving a special version of their Buzzards Bay IPA brew at our events this summer. You'll also be able to find the special edition beer at two of our local package stores beginning this spring: Seahorse Liquors and Village Package. There's no better way to 'cheers' the 50th anniversary than with a Golden Anniversary IPA in hand!

Lastly, if you aren't following MLT on Facebook or Instagram, we suggest you do so now. You won't want to miss the exciting content regarding the 50th coming soon. We might have some more fun surprises up our sleeve.

We thank you genuinely for your support as 50 years would have been impossible without you as our members. Cheers to the next 50 years!



“Making it 3D/ A challenge” for Joseph E. Dupre IV The MLT/Priscilla Hathaway Art Scholarship Winner

By Ellen P. Flynn ,Chair of Education Committee

I caught up with Joseph E. Dupre IV over his spring break of his first semester at MASS/ART in Boston MA. He told me his “Making it 3D Methods and Materials Course” was a new challenge for him because he had never done 3D arts before this class. For creative aspects, where you consider how the art will be displayed, how it's viewed, the lighting and angles, the position in the space, are all factors. So for Jed Dupre, he went “all in” with great determination.

He said that his “Studio for Drawing” course was good for him because it really demands good work, so “it pushed me to think creatively and made me just make more work.”

Being that he received the prestigious “Gold Key” award before arriving at MASS/ART; I wondered how and if that carried additional college demands? The award was said to place him in the category of icons like Andy Warhol. Jed responded, “to be honest, I went into MASS/ART with the same view as everyone else. I didn't see myself as higher or more prestigious than other students. No medal is gonna make me a better artist than someone else in art school.”

In his short time at college he found quite quickly that college life tests you and he said, “It tests your dedication. I had to learn time management skills, and learned to not get distracted from my studies.” In addition to his courses, he is thinking in terms of photography for the future.

Right now he's social and enjoys meeting new people on

campus. He finds everyone is very kind and genuine. “People are not judgmental, he said, I've made some really amazing and talented friends while living on campus. I feel I've learned so much from them about love and kindness, and finally becoming an adult in this big city.”



Jed climbs a tree near a park just off campus

I asked him if he is still thinking outside the box? A quote by his former visual arts teacher, Kate Butler. Jed advised, “Everyday you must think outside of the box, everyday in life and see things from every perspective.”

2023 marked the first time that MLT offered an Art Scholarship, made possible by Brad Hathaway in memory of his wife Priscilla, both were founding members of the MLT. The purpose is to help young artists achieve their goals. Both the Hathaways and MLT are delighted to honor Joseph E. Dupre IV.

We all congratulate Jed and extend our greatest wishes for his continued success. We look forward to hearing more.

Add Stamps to your (Trail) Passport

by Colleen Andrews

The MLT Trail Passport program debuted in August of 2023 and was a hit! If you didn't participate last summer, don't worry, it's not too late. Pick up a free Trail Passport booklet from the Children's Section desk at the Mattapoissett Free Public Library at any time. Follow the trail maps within the passport and find stamp stations throughout MLT's trail systems. Find a stamp station and make a rubbing of the stamp inside the Trail Passport. Collect all 11 stamps and earn a \$10 gift card to the Oxford Creamery in Mattapoissett!

The Trail Passport program came together

through our partnership with Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School. The CAD students created the designs of the stamps, the Metal Fabrication students laser engraved each stamp, and the Graphic Design students printed and bound all of the passport booklets. We're proud of this partnership and the skilled students who brought this idea to life.

With the whole summer before you, it's the perfect time to grab a Trail Passport. This is meant for children to complete, with the help of a parent or other adult. Please limit one Trail Passport per child. We hope you have fun exploring and discovering new places!



MLT Awarded Grant for Salt Marsh Restoration Study

By Mike Huguenin



Mattapoissett Neck salt marshes, west side looking north from Brandt Island Cove

degraded marshes around Buzzards Bay according to the Buzzards Bay Coalition (BBC). MLT is working with the Town of Mattapoissett, Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project and BBC. Technical research is underway by two consulting firms: Woods Hole Group and Greenman Pederson, Inc., working as subcontractors to MLT.



Vegetation damage from crabs along creek bank

The first phase of the study, now completed, has evaluated present conditions in the marsh and forecast future conditions out to 2070 using projections of sea level rise, increasing storm frequency and intensity, and similar factors. Results show that some areas of the marsh will be lost over the next 50 to 100 years, converting to mud flats with little or no vegetation. Other areas offer promise for new marsh creation as the marsh migrates into low-lying neighboring areas. In addition, we have identified actions that may prolong or restore the health of the existing marsh as well as actions that might enhance the creation of new marsh in the migration areas. These include improvements to

saltwater flow into and out of the marsh, better drainage on the marsh shelf, reducing nutrient flow into the marsh from improved storm water management, channel bank restoration, invasive species control, and control of herbivorous marsh crabs.

The second phase of the project, ongoing now, is evaluating and ranking these possible restoration actions. The most promising actions will receive additional planning and design efforts. The final product of the study will be a Saltmarsh Habitat Restoration Plan describing current and future conditions in the marsh, and feasible restoration actions to help restore and prolong healthy ecological function.

For more information about the study, please contact MLT. Also watch for a public briefing at the Mattapoissett Fire Department training room in June that will describe the methods and results in detail. Date and time of the public briefing will be posted on MLT's website and social media, and in the local press. We hope to see you there.



Present day salt marsh resources



Projected future high tide lines

Curriculum Beyond the Classroom: Educational Grant Program

By Mary Cabral

Recently, the Education Committee, represented by Mary Cabral and Ellen Flynn, presented information on the Mattapoisett Land Trust Education Grants during staff meetings at Center School and Old Hammondtown School as well as to the Old Rochester Regional Junior and High School science department. Over 80 teachers were informed of the newly updated grant process where educators apply for funds from MLT to carry their science-based curriculum beyond the classroom walls. Every school has now established a teacher liaison to assist educators in utilizing the MLT grant program.



ORRHS marine biology students observe microscopic organisms collected at the UMASS FIELD STATION on Nantucket last spring.

During the presentation teachers were excited to learn of the funding and possible opportunities to engage their students. The teachers' enthusiasm was infectious and we have already received several applications for new activities that will take place before the close of this school year.

Center School 2nd grade students (56) will travel to Heritage Museum and Gardens for a Nature Exploration that will reinforce concepts embedded in their second grade science curriculum this school year.

The ORRHS Marine Biology students will be traveling to Nantucket Island Shellfish Hatchery to learn about the spawning and growing of bay scallops, oysters and quahogs.

The Old Hammondtown 6th grade students (60) will be attending the Cuttyhunk STEAM academy in June. This annual trip to Cuttyhunk has continued for over 20 years!

The "ORRHS Community Storywalk Collaborative Project" consists of Tri-Town Preschool students (24) and ORRHS Science (95) and Visual Arts Students (14) collaborating to cre-

ate a storybook that will be installed on one of the MLT properties. These activities reflect the Mattapoisett Land Trust Education Committee's mission: to enhance students' environmental awareness, discover the art of the natural world, and to guide students to be ecological citizens.

The above examples are just a few of the many educational opportunities funded by the Mattapoisett Land Trust Educational Grant program this year.

Funding for the Educational Grant program is possible through the Shoolman bequest, Mattapoisett Cultural Council, Marion Cultural Council and Massachusetts Cultural Council. The MLT Education Committee looks forward to increasing the number

of Mattapoisett students who benefit from programs. Our goal is to support more new programs and partner with teachers and students in each grade of the local schools in the very near future.

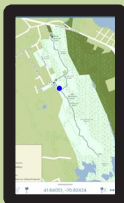
Old Hammondtown 6th grade students learn about Wampanoag heritage during their attendance at the STEAM ACADEMY on Cuttyhunk Island.



Old Hammondtown 6th grade students sketch views from the dock while attending the STEAM ACADEMY on Cuttyhunk Island



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. The app allows users to record a GPS track, navigate to a destination, and

measure distances. If you have problems, email us at info@mattlandtrust.org. Also, now find MLT trails on AllTrails too, available online or in the app store!

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!

Welcome Your New MLT Directors

By Don Cuddy

Tim Ladd



As any visit will demonstrate, Dunseith Gardens has never looked so good and a lot of the credit for that must go to MLT board member Tim Ladd. While new to the board Tim has been doing tree work, mowing and general maintenance on the property for some years now. It helps of course that his backyard shares the stone wall which marks the north boundary. However, his initial encounter with the Land Trust was, shall we say, unsought. When he bought his house, twenty-two

years ago, the surroundings were badly overgrown and he set to work, as he thought, “to make things better.” This included unwittingly taking down a maple tree on MLT property. “Then I started getting letters,” he remembers. And he was also required to attend a meeting to explain himself to town officials. It was there that he first met Paul Osenkowski (Ozzy) and a collaboration evolved that has now resulted in Tim joining the board.

Originally from Norwich Connecticut, Tim first came to the area when appointed general manager of New Bedford Thread. He subsequently became vice president of sales and new product development for Coats and Clark, the world’s leading manufacturer of industrial thread. Now retired, he still runs a consulting business but has more time to dedicate to the pursuits he most enjoys, including cultivation of the heirloom tomatoes that are now a feature of summer in Mattapoisett. “I’m just an outdoorsman, even as a corporate executive I was always an outdoorsman,” he said.

Ralph Eustis, Jr.



After settling in Mattapoisett four years ago gravitating to the MLT was a natural progression for Ralph Eustis. “I was involved with the land trust in the town I lived in in Granby, Connecticut,” he said. “They had a few organizations involved with land and I basically did trail maintenance. So, when I came here I signed up to do the same. Then I was asked to be on the board and I agreed as long as nobody wanted to make me president.”

In the business world Ralph managed his own company engaged in commercial construction but he is now retired in Mattapoisett. “My father served in the Coast Guard and was stationed in New Bedford from 1968 -70 so I went to third and fourth grade here,” he said. “Then we moved on, but my dad came back to Mattapoisett when he retired. He worked for Edey and Duff so I was back for high school. And when I retired I moved into their house.”

Ralph has worked on many MLT properties but has an affinity for Betsy’s Meadow which has a bench in memory of his mother. “I did a lot of clearing there a couple of years ago and I like to plant flowers, mostly daffodils. I have a bunch of bulbs now that I want to transfer over there.”

In addition to his work with the MLT Ralph is also closely involved with Habitat for Humanity in our area. “There are a couple of houses in Wesport that should be completed in the next couple of months,” he said.

2024 MLT Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation

Sunday, April 28, 2024, 4:00 P.M. at Rustico, 62 Marion Road, Route 6

RSVP requested

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 Mattapoisett Town wharves. MLT’s Garden Groomers meet at 8:30 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. For more information email us at info@mattlandtrust.org.

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 Ruth Bates:

Richard Bates
Mattapoisett, MA

In memory of Linda Belenger:

Robert Belenger
Mattapoisett, MA

In memory of Michael Couture:

Diane Brown-Couture
Mattapoisett, MA

In honor of Anne Danforth:

James O'Neill
Bristol, RI

In memory of Priscilla Hathaway:

Donna McAuley Kelley & Hugh J. Kelley
Mattapoisett, MA

The Brad Hathaway family
Mattapoisett, MA

In honor of Mike Huguenin & Sharon Chown:

Kim & Tom Reynolds
New Orleans, LA

In memory of Gerald "Jerry" Johnson:

Anne Landry
Reading, MA

In memory of Justin Kelleher:

Glen Ventures Management, Inc.
Boston, MA

Liz Ackerman
Mattapoisett, MA

John & Patricia Sheehan
Jamestown, RI

Bob & Katherine Walsh
Austin, TX

In memory of Kathryn LaMontagne:

Leo J. LaMontagne
Mattapoisett, MA

In memory of Donald K. Marvin:

John & Emilie Marvin
Tierra Verde, FL

In memory of Kim Meyer-Pelletier:

Patrice Cooper & Tony Nesi
Warwick, RI

In memory of Charles Stetson Mendell III:

David Kirchthurn
Franklin, MA

Cheryl Johannessen
New Bedford, MA

June Mendell
Mattapoisett, MA

In memory of Annette Moran:

James Moran
Mattapoisett, MA

In memory of Annette Moran, Howard Tinkham, and Sherry Haskell:

Cynthia Haskell
Falmouth, MA

In honor of Ed Ottensmeyer & Anne Donnellon:

Tanya J. Phillips & Jeffery S. Dover
Newton, MA

In memory of Mary Hoyt Ransom:

David Anderson & Phoebe Girard
Dartmouth, MA

In honor of Bette-Jean & Bruce Rocha:

Kerrin Thompson
Sherman Oaks, CA

In memory of Aileen Tiffany:

Scott Woodfield
Mountainside, NJ

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.

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 22, 2024
Scholarship application details and forms
mattlandtrust.org/education/grants-and-scholarships/

The Mattapoisett Land Trust
Priscilla Hathaway Art Scholarship
FOR A SENIOR/SECONDARY STUDENT
RESIDING IN MATTAPOISETT
 Application deadline: April 22, 2024
Scholarship application details and forms
mattlandtrust.org/education/grants-and-scholarships/

Kids' Corner

By Gary Johnson

The North American Red Fox

Last fall we discussed the cotton-tail rabbits that inhabit Mattapoisett. Now we would like to discuss the predator that limits the number of rabbits that hop around town, the North American red fox (*Vulpes vulpes fulva*).



Characteristics: The red fox is a medium-sized canine with a bushy tail and a slender, agile body. They have distinctive reddish-orange fur, which helps them blend into their surroundings. One of their most notable features is their pointed ears, which they use to detect even the slightest sounds. These foxes also have keen eyesight, allowing them to spot prey from a distance.

Habitat: Red foxes are incredibly adaptable and can be found in a variety of habitats across North America, from forests and grasslands to urban areas. They prefer areas with a mix of open spaces and dense vegetation, where they can feed on rabbits but also other small mammals, birds, insects and even some fruits and berries.

Behavior: These cunning creatures are primarily nocturnal, meaning they are active during the night, but they are most active during dawn and dusk. During the late winter and spring breeding season they form family packs to raise the young, called kits. The rest of the year they are largely solitary hunters. They communicate with each other through a variety of vocalizations, including barks, yips, and howls.



Distribution: The red fox is the most widely distributed carnivore in the world. In countries where it was introduced for recreational hunting, such as Australia, it has created significant environmental damage to native species. Global climate change has also permitted the red fox to extend its range north where it has successfully encroached on the habitat of the arctic fox, an endangered species.

The North American red fox is a remarkable creature; with its cunning nature and adaptability it is likely to remain a resident of Mattapoisett forever. So, keep your eyes peeled the next time you're out exploring nature – you never know when you might catch a glimpse of a red fox darting through the forest. Or through the village!

Photos: Adobe stock photos



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The Heron

Calendar — 2024 Spring and Summer Activities

Check our social media and the events calendar on MLT's website for updates and to see more programs not listed here.

date	time	event	description	place
April 20th	1 PM	Vernal Pool Visit	Learn how a vernal pool is certified	MLT Holmes Foundation, Prospect Road
April 28th	4 PM	Annual Membership Meeting	Elections, updates and volunteer appreciation	Rustico, Route 6
May 5	8:30 AM	Spring Birding Walk	For beginners and experts alike, led by Nasketucket Bird Club	Brandt Island Cove District
May 19th	All Day	Tour de Creme	Three bicycle tours, ice cream, and a waterfront party after	Town Beach and Munro Park
June 30th	11 AM	MLT 50th Anniversary Bash	Celebrate 50 years of conservation; food, drinks and music	Munro Park
August 1	5 PM - 8 PM	The Great Community Picnic	Picnic by the waterfront with beer, oysters and live music	Munro Park

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, Ralph Eustis, Jr., Ellen Flynn, Sandra Hering, Gary P. Johnson, Jenn Kaiser, Tim Ladd, Kristen McCormack, Paul Osenkowski, Charles Radville, 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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