

A Year Worth Celebrating

2024 is far from over, but what a year it has been for Mattapoissett Land Trust. Allow us to reminisce about the highlights so far from our 50th anniversary year. The success of this milestone year is thanks to all of YOU; those who have been with us for years and those who are brand new supporters.

On May 1st, we rolled out our Hike50 Challenge. Over the course of the next four months, sixteen people logged over fifty miles of hiking each and completed the challenge. Kudos to all for pushing yourselves and exploring the beautiful trails of the Southcoast! Hopefully the challenge doesn't stop here - we encourage you to hike new trails, seek out new properties, and enjoy the public lands that are here for your benefit.

We celebrated MLT's half a century of conser-



An ice cold Golden Anniversary IPA

vation on June 30th, toasting to the past, present, and future. Despite less-than-ideal weather over 150 people came together to honor the legacy of MLT at Munro Park. In attendance were some special guests: founding MLT members Brad Hathaway and Don Fleming, Representative Bill Straus, Town Administrator Mike Lorenzo, and Water & Sewer Board Chairman Dan Chase. The entire event was made possible by amazing collaborations between local businesses and the hard work of our dedicated volunteers. Thank you to Chase Canopy, Ever-source, On The Go Catering, Uncle Jon's, and Artisan Bakeshop.

The excitement from our anniversary party paved the way for new collaborations this year. Thanks to Buzzards Bay Brewing, you can still find our Golden Anniversary IPA at local pack-



A Successful Community Picnic with the Mattapoissett Museum



Celebrating the 50th anniversary



Mike Huguenin introducing our special guests at the celebration

age stores and a few local restaurants too (Rustico and Turks), while supplies last. We also collaborated with Jim's Organic coffee, and the Town Wharf General Store now sells bags of MLT 50th anniversary coffee as a fundraiser for MLT. Whether it's coffee or a cold one in your cup, cheers to 50 years!

During Harbor Days weekend in July our special 50th anniversary merchandise was flying off the shelves. The beautiful new hats and shirts designed especially for this year were a huge hit. Though supplies and sizes are limited, you still have a chance to purchase merchandise later this year; find MLT at the Mattapoisett Museum's annual holiday craft fair this winter with our remaining anniversary merchandise. If you can't make it to the sale, please contact MLT to inquire about making a purchase at info@mattlandtrust.org.

The Great Community Picnic, our annual fundraiser with the Mattapoisett Museum, was a perfect summer night at the Munro Preserve in August. Friends, live music, cold beer and local oysters – it doesn't get better than that! And with the added element

of our 50th anniversary, it felt even more festive than usual. The centerpieces were fantastic, with the Kentucky Derby ladies taking first prize for most creative centerpiece. A great turnout from the community and sponsorship from Eastern Bank made the fundraiser a great success for both organizations.

Finally, we unveiled a very special project on social media this summer. With the help of many we were able to craft visually stunning videos about some special MLT properties with beautifully written scripts detailing the history and story of each location. Special thanks to our local and expert narrator: Sam Waterston. The 6-part miniseries, "Mattapoisett Land Trust: Explore," was released on social media with wonderful reception. If you haven't seen these videos, we urge you to go watch. All the videos can be found on Facebook, Instagram, and our 50th anniversary webpage. This series was a fun and beautiful way to distill 50 years of progress into 20 minutes of compelling vignettes.

The year is far from over, so watch MLT's webpage and social media for more events as we close out our 50th year.



Harbor Days 2024 with Don Cuddy, Brad Hathaway, and Colleen Andrews

Operations Support Endowment Off and Running

Last spring we announced formation of the Operations Support Endowment (OSE), with the goal of raising \$1,000,000 over the next five years. When fully funded, earnings from the OSE will provide roughly half of MLT's annual operating budget. Remaining annual operating costs will be supported by member dues and annual gifts.

We believe funding the OSE is critical to MLT's long-term sustainability, and will allow us to weather storms and continue to care for our lands while building capabilities in perpetuity, as we have promised to do for 50 years now.

We are delighted to announce contributions to date totaling roughly one-third of our target, or \$330,000. Sincere thanks to everyone who has celebrated our 50th year by contributing to date. If you have not yet contributed, we hope you will consider doing so. For more information or a pledge form, please contact info@mattlandtrust.org. With your support now and in coming years, we are well on pace to reach our goal of \$1,000,000 by 2029!

MLT Announces Henry Dunseith Society

Have you considered including a charitable contribution to MLT in your will or estate plans? By making such a legacy gift you can ensure your lasting support for the lands we protect and programs we provide, while maintaining the flexibility to take care of your family and reducing the estate tax burden on your heirs. There are many ways to make such legacy gifts.

Henry Dunseith was well-known for his gift shop on Route 6 and North Street, marked by the iconic Salty the Seahorse. This property is now MLT's Dunseith Preserve, thanks to Henry's foresight in leaving his land to MLT in his will. To honor Henry and others who include MLT in their planning we announce formation of the Henry Dunseith Society. Members will include those who include MLT in their plans, and membership can be anonymous if desired.

If you already have included MLT in your will or estate plans, please notify us so we can recognize and thank you. And if you would like to learn more about the many methods and advantages of making a legacy gift to MLT, please email us at info@mattlandtrust.org.

New MLT Board Member George Mock III



George Mock III may appear to be the most recent addition to the board of the MLT but he is actually a former president, serving in that capacity while still in his twenties from 1982-89. He followed Dave Hewitt. His father George Mock II was one of our organization’s founding members, along with Dave, so George grew

up very much in the milieu, so to speak, and is very happy to be back. “If my father knew what this has become he would be beyond ecstatic. This was the dream,” he said.

George grew up in Mattapoisett and, after attending Tabor Academy and Princeton, obtained an MBA from MIT. He then went to work for IBM before joining the family business, NYE Lubricants, in 1986, where he spent the rest of his career. He served as CEO from 2000 to 2020 and, after selling the company to FUCHS, a global player in the lubricants industry, remained onboard during a three-year transitional period before retiring last year. Throughout his life George has always been actively engaged with, and supported, numerous community groups and organizations. He has served as a trustee at Tabor, was on the board of the Mattapoisett Casino and the Lloyd Center in Dartmouth. His major contribution, however, was to the Whaling Museum in New Bedford, where he was a trustee and capital campaign co-chair for twelve years.

After retiring George began to spend time exploring the MLT trail system and was mightily impressed both by the scope of our acquisitions and the amount of stewardship invested in them. “I’m glad to be back on the board,” he said. “I know we can’t preserve everything, but I believe we can partner with developers to mitigate and create a win-win so that part of a property does get preserved. I think we have the size, scope and credibility to do that.”

2024 Hunting Seasons Are Here!

Hunting seasons in Mattapoisett open on October 7 and continue through the end of the year, with limited small game and waterfowl hunting continuing into January and February 2025. Hunting activity will peak from December 2 to December 14. Detailed information can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/2024-hunting-season-summary/download>.

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!

MLT Pine Island Pond Program and Nantucket Visit to Brant Point Shellfish Hatchery

by Ellen P. Flynn

ORR High School Marine Biology students met at the MLT Pine Island Pond Preserve with Harbormaster Issac Perry and the Natural Resource Agent four separate times to learn about aquaculture. Marine Biology students scientifically measured the water quality where the oysters were being placed into the pond and measured each oyster. Students got to work with the upweller from Mattapoisett Wharf, clean the oyster cages, and even loaded them into the water while wearing wet suits.

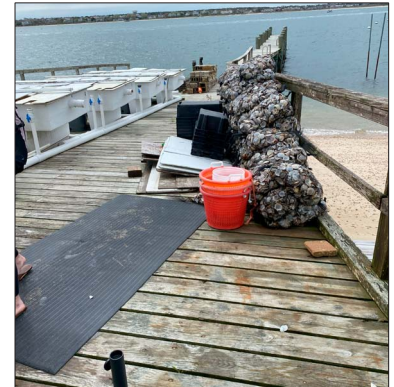
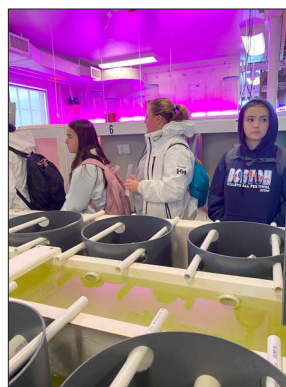
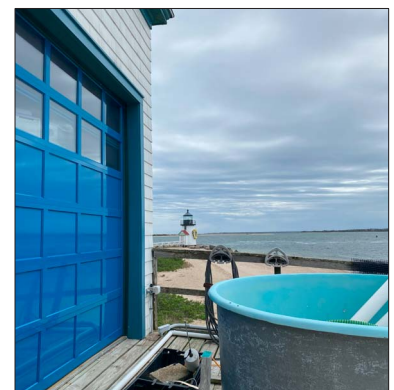
After completing their research and program at the Pine Island Pond Preserve the 60 ORR High School Marine Biology and AP Environmental Students took a May 10th trip to Nantucket, with teacher Lynn Connor, MLT Board Member Mary Cabral (retired Biology teacher and Education Committee Member), and Ellen P. Flynn (Board Member, and Chair of Education) who planned the field trip.

Once on the Island the Students visited the Brant Point Light House and met the staff for a tour of the Brant Point Oyster Hatchery.

The Nantucket trip for the ORR students not only provided them with marine science knowledge; it also gave them an opportunity to freely experience the downtown area.

The students met many of the island people, including Leah Cabral Hill, Coastal Resilience Coordinator for the Town’s Natural Resources Department and learned about what life is like living on the island 30 miles out to sea.

Here are the photos from their experience.



WPI Offers Andrew Porter a Faster Learning Pace

By Ellen P. Flynn, MLT Education Chair



I caught up with Andrew Porter, MLT Board of Directors' student delegate for the past three years. He was digging deep into his midterms at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI).

WPI curriculum follows a unique schedule with four seven-week terms during the academic year. "This carries a faster learning pace with extra time to take more courses," said Andrew. "Presently I am enrolled in physics, chemistry and calculus, and

as a Freshman, I take 'Great Problems Seminar,'" says Andrew. This is a project-based course with a "focus on tackling real issues in the local community and the world," to which Andrew can easily attest, since he has been honing his skills in community service in the Tri-Town area all during his secondary school years.

Andrew's ORR High School accolades are impressive. Andrew traveled to Washington DC with his National Honor Society for research. At Old Rochester Regional High School, he was also Chapter President of DECA, an International Distributive Edu-

cation Club of America. As President of DECA, Porter tested his skills in business and marketing in professional spaces and was able to think about marketing strategies. Andrew was also Executive Secretary to Student Council where he had the chance to visit the Massachusetts State House. He is well prepared and on top of his game at WPI when it comes to hands-on practice, as opposed to learning in a traditional classroom environment.

I asked Andrew, "What might be interesting to you that you have not yet discovered?" He explained that one topic which he hopes to explore at WPI, "is that of sustainability, especially in regards to building construction, as I am majoring in architectural engineering."

Presently for sport and physical activity, Andrew plays pickleball when he is not studying, going to class, or exploring the area with friends. He joined the Pickleball Club and likes exploring nearby hiking areas with the Outing Club. He has started serving as a senator for WPI's Student Government and works in the Student Activities Office too. He looks forward to getting involved with the Greater Worcester Land Trust.

Andrew says that living on a campus with a population roughly that of Mattapoisett is certainly different from life back home. "With a school of this size [95 acres], there is always something going on, making the campus lively." With regard to the environment, "Worcester is primarily an urban area, while many of my friends were surprised to hear that we have a lighthouse located downtown."

I asked Andrew, "whether the idea of 'Changing the World' was a reasonable goal for young students starting out in their college career?" He said it is a reasonable goal for young students to have, "because every person is capable of making a positive change in the world, and that should be a strong motivator for wanting to do well throughout college and beyond."

For Andrew's future at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, he plans to participate in the Junior Year global travel program: Interactive Qualifying Project (IQP). It involves traveling to another country with other Juniors and he hopes to select a Spanish-speaking country where he can develop a solution to an actual issue that affects some part of community living. He is interested in minoring in Spanish.

We at the MLT Education Committee and the Board of Directors wish Andrew much success in his college career and look forward to hearing more about his experiences.

Trail Maps ... Paper Or On Your Phone

Find our trail maps on the user friendly app, AllTrails. 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.

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

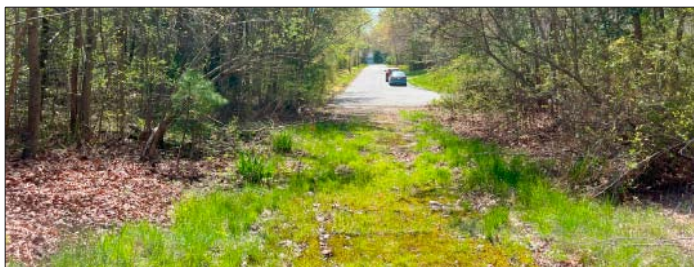


Photo by
Marc Anderson

The Kindness of Strangers

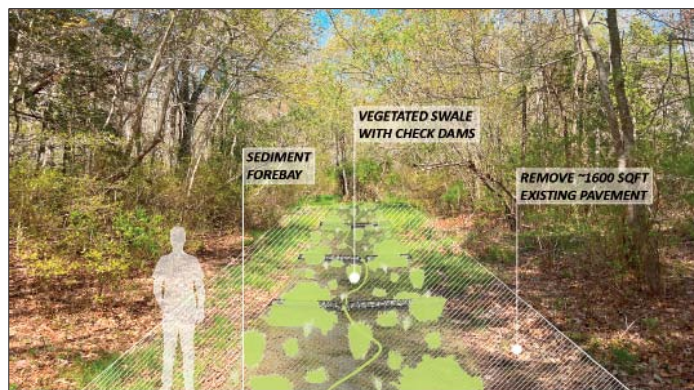
On a quiet Thursday in August, MLT received a phone call and then a visit from a long-time Mattapoisett resident we did not know. The hale-and hearty 90-something had moved here long ago with her husband in their 20's, raised a family, worked many years in the local schools, and remained here in the Village in retirement. This summer our new friend became aware of MLT through publicity surrounding our 50th Anniversary. She decided it was high time she joined MLT and brought us an anniversary gift of **\$50,000**, one thousand dollars for each of our 50 years! We were thunderstruck and delighted by her good nature and generosity. Our sincere thanks to our newest Lifetime Member! And may we all take comfort in the kindness of strangers.

MLT Implementing Salt Marsh Restoration Actions



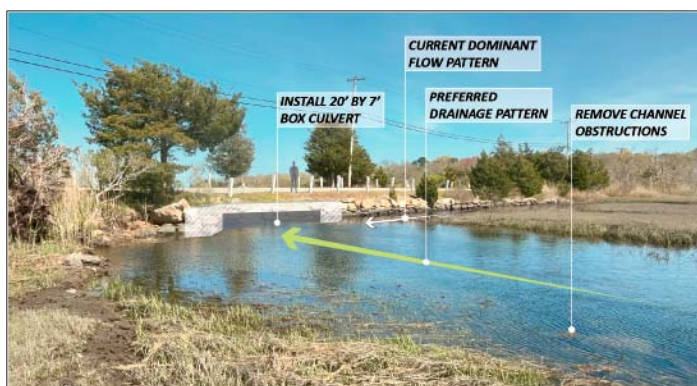
Area of wetland paved over during the extension of Anchorage Way circa 1960's

MLT is applying for grant funding to support implementation of the priority recommendations included in the June 2024 “Mattapoissett Neck Salt Marsh Restoration Plan.” MLT and the Town of Mattapoissett are working with the Massachusetts



Rendering of a plan to restore natural wetland features.

Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP) recently issued guidance suggesting how to design and permit such projects. MLT is reviewing the guidance and looking for potential sources of funding to allow us to pursue the recommended drainage improvements in 2025.



Rendering of culvert replacement at Molly's Cove and plan to improve marsh drainage under Mattapoissett Neck Road

Coastal Zone Management Office to seek \$3.5 million of Federal funds to replace the failing culvert carrying Mattapoissett Neck Road over the tidal creek at Molly's Cove. In addition, these funds would allow further study and design for replacement of two additional culverts under Mattapoissett Neck Road near the Town Landing. Because these culverts restrict the tidal flow of salt water into and out of the marsh, replacement with larger culverts was one of the top three priority actions identified in the Plan. And replacement of the culverts will build climate resiliency for critical infrastructure. If the application is successful, final design work would begin in September 2025 with construction at Molly's Cove following roughly a year later.

In addition, MLT and the Town have applied for a \$95,000 grant from the Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program to allow restoration of freshwater wetlands badly degraded in the

1960's by the extension of Anchorage Way into a wetland area east of Tara Road. If successful, this grant will allow restoration of natural flow and infiltration in this area and help remedy several large areas of phragmites on the western edges of the Mattapoissett Neck marshes. This work also will better prepare this area for migration of salt marsh into low-lying areas as sea levels continue to rise.

The full Salt Marsh Habitat Restoration Plan can be read and downloaded on MLT's website: mattlandtrust.org (QR code is above). Please contact us with any questions or comments on the Plan.



Help Us Save Paper

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 19th 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 Karen Chace to delight you with stories around the campfire. 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 Mattapoisett Land Trust.

In memory of Martin Hudis:

Gary P. Johnson & Luana Jøsvold
Mattapoisett, MA

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Burgmann
Mattapoisett, MA

Gary P. Johnson & Luana Jøsvold
Mattapoisett, MA

Gene & Susan Pizzolato
Wareham, MA

In honor of Gary Johnson's birthday:

Virginia Johnson
Williams Bay, WI

Luana Jøsvold
Mattapoisett, MA

In memory of Priscilla Hathaway:

Susan and Leo Giguere
Mattapoisett, MA

Judy C. Harriman
Hendersonville, NC

The Brad Hathaway family
Mattapoisett, MA

Gary P. Johnson & Luana Jøsvold
Mattapoisett, MA

Sara Savage
Middleboro, MA

Kenneth Schackmann
Oak Lawn, IL

In honor of Lindsey Ketchel:

Elizabeth Smith
Maynard, MA

In memory of Annette Moran:

James Moran
Mattapoisett, MA

In memory of Robert L. Norton:

Merle Brown
Mantua, OH

Nancy Callahan
Pebble Beach, CA

William Dunn
Mattapoisett, MA

Nancy Griswold
Walpole, MA

Maria & Jim Guyer
Northborough, MA

The Hill Family
Mattapoisett, MA

Joan Lake
Norwood, MA

Maryann Maynard
Sutton, MA

Christopher Morss
Sherborn, MA

Elin Neiterman
Naples, FL

Robert Norton Jr
Wellesley, MA

Ed Ottensmeyer & Anne Donnelon
Mattapoisett, MA

In memory of Tim O'Connor:

Betty O'Connor
Mattapoisett, MA

In memory of Fred & Ila Ruston:

Brian Butler
Acton, 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.

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, such as contributions to the Operations Support Endowment 50th anniversary fundraiser!

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

Set up a recurring annual contribution today!

Kids' Corner

Mattapoissett's Smelly Resident

There is one resident of Mattapoissett that nearly everyone tries to avoid, the striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*). But there's a lot more to these black-and-white creatures than just their stink!



Striped skunk in the fall

What do skunks look like?

Striped skunks are small, cat-sized mammals with shiny black fur and two white stripes running down their back. These stripes act as a warning to other animals. Their bushy tail is another signal to keep away. Skunks don't like to spray unless they must, but if a predator like a fox or coyote, or a careless person, comes too close, they won't hesitate to defend themselves!

The power of the spray

A skunk's spray comes from special glands under its tail. It's a powerful liquid that can travel up to several meters and is so smelly that it can make animals run away! The spray contains chemicals that can also cause temporary blindness and make it hard to breathe, which gives the skunk time to escape. Their most feared predators are birds of prey such as eagles or great horned owls. Skunks don't spray unless they feel threatened, and before they do, they'll try to scare off predators by stomping their feet, hissing, and raising their tail.



Female with kit in den

Night-time hunters

Skunks are nocturnal, meaning they are active at night. You might spot one wandering around your yard or a forest at dusk, sniffing the ground for food. Skunks have an excellent sense of smell and hearing, but they don't see well, so they rely on their noses to find meals. They are omnivores, so they will eat insects like beetles and grubs, as well as small animals, fruits, and nuts.

Important for Nature

Though people often think of skunks as pests, they actually have an important role in the environment. By eating insects, rodents, and harmful bugs, skunks help control pests that might otherwise damage crops or gardens. They are a major carrier of rabies, however. So next time you see (or smell) a skunk in Mattapoissett, remember—they just wish to be left alone! If you see a raised tail, give them plenty of space!

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The Heron

Calendar — Fall and Winter Activities

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

DATE	TIME	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
September 29	8:00 AM to 10:00 AM	"Big Sit" Birding	With Nasketucket Bird Club. Accessible birding for all levels.	Grace Meadow
October 19	5:30 PM to 7:30 PM	Salty's Soiree	Featuring storyteller Karen Chase	Dunseith Gardens
November 9	10:00 AM to 2:00 PM	Holiday Craft Fair	Last chance for 50th anniversary merchandise	Mattapoissett Museum

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, Karen Borges, Mary Cabral, Wendy Copps, Don Cuddy, Arthur Damaskos, Ralph Eustis Jr., Ellen Flynn, Sandra Hering, Gary P. Johnson, Jenn Kaiser, Tim Ladd, George Mock III, Kristen McCormack, Paul Osenkowski, Charles Radville, Michael Taubenberger, Caitlin O'Donnell, ORR student representative and Mike Huguenin, President.

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

Mattapoissett Land Trust, Inc., P.O. Box 31, Mattapoissett, MA 02739

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