



DENNIS CONSERVATION LAND TRUST

Summer 2025 Newsletter

DennisConservationLandTrust.org

2025: Prime Time to Think Local

In a time of rising costs and shrinking budgets, when top-down funding for conservation is harder to come by, one thing remains steady: the quiet power of local action. Early this year, three Dennis landowners made remarkable contributions to the future of our local environment by choosing to protect their land.

February 2025 – Saltmarsh Gift at Simpkins Neck

Peter Brennan once bought a half-acre of saltmarsh for a single dollar, explicitly to qualify for a resident beach sticker. Decades later, Peter no longer visits Dennis beaches and decided to permanently protect his land with the DCLT. His gift expands our holdings on Simpkins Neck to 31.6 acres and contributes to the over 246 acres we have protected along Chase Garden Creek.



March 2025 – Forest Protected off Whig Street

Just a short walk from Dennis Village, Alice Perkins has ensured that the forest she and her late husband, Frederick, cherished will remain wild forever. Her donation of a conservation restriction on 3.64 acres honors a family connection to the land that began in 1962, when her parents first acquired the property. Now permanently protected, this woodland borders DCLT's Mashantum landholdings and lies close to the Josiah Dennis Manse.



April 2025 – Rare Habitat Conserved at Eagle Pond

Behind the Dennis transfer station, deep in the woods near Eagle Pond, Bob Fisher has preserved a quiet treasure. His donation of 3.51 acres adds vital protection to a piece of land abutting one of the town's healthiest freshwater ecosystems: Eagle Pond. The site is part of a state-designated rare species habitat and is a state-designated priority area for conservation.

Together, these gifts show that acting local is more than a philosophy—it's a call to action. When public dollars are limited, private donors and landowners can make a difference that lasts forever. We extend our deepest thanks to Peter, Alice, and Bob for their help protecting the natural heritage of Dennis. Their actions remind us all: the future is ours to protect, even if just a half-acre at a time.

"The ultimate test of man's conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks he will not hear." —Gaylord Nelson, Former U.S. Senator & Founder of Earth Day

Home Grown on the Farm

Leeza Barstein

Walking along our headquarters at Not Enough Acres Farm, you may notice relics hinting at its past life as an active farm. Maybe you'll find an old strawberry patch, or a random cluster of rhubarb—all planted long before DCLT moved here in 2023.

But last year, we embraced a new chapter of work by reviving agricultural activity at Not Enough Acres Farm. Our farming project honors the property's history and preserves a patch of our Town's rural, historic character, while also providing opportunities to learn and teach about sustainable agriculture.

In recent years, community gardens—spaces where individuals reserve land plots for personal gardening projects—have become increasingly in demand. And for good reason – public awareness of rising food costs and carbon-emitting supply chains heightens the importance of consuming locally grown food. While the DCLT's collaborative farm plots also aim to connect people with our local food system, they operate differently than traditional community gardens.

Instead of assigning plots for independent use, DCLT's farm is tended by *organizational partners* and our own volunteers—our Farm Committee—who work toward a shared educational vision. Each committee member has tailored their own responsibilities to match their personal interests, eventually taking the lead on these smaller projects. Ranging from growing flowers, herbs, mushrooms, or native perennials, to beekeeping, organic pest management, and composting, our Farm Committee's collective knowledge has been an invaluable resource for expanding the farm's capacity.

But our farm is not just an initiative of the DCLT. We have partnered with the Yarmouth Food Pantry, to whom we will donate 2,000 pounds of produce this year alone. Our new partners at the Brazilian Resource Center (BRC) are also independently managing a plot on our farm. They will return their harvest directly to their very own food pantry. But why give away the fruits of our labor?

The answer is simple: education. This season, at our headquarters and Environmental Study Center, we are hosting another round of science fair interns from D-Y High School, some of whom will be working on agriculture-related projects. We will also be using our space to host public workshops so adults can learn about horticulture, local food systems, and sustainable at-home gardening. Just as our committee members are growing from being curious hobbyists to trusted sources of experience, we hope participants will continue growing their newly learned skills at home.

In partnership with the BRC, Barnstable County 4-H, and the Cape Cod Cooperative Extension, we also piloted a 10-week agricultural education program this spring for BRC youth. Students aged 7-13 learned about local crop production, wildlife, and native and nonnative plants over several field trips to our Farm.

Slowly but surely, the seeds and vision we've planted at Not Enough Acres Farm are coming to life. With the space to experiment with agriculture, learn collaboratively, and share resources, we are hoping a more environmentally literate and sustainable community can take root on Cape Cod.

We would like to thank the Cape & Islands United Way for funding this initiative.



How Does Your Garden Grow?

For many Cape Codders, the garden is a place of joy and fulfillment, a refuge from our worries, and a place to reconnect with nature. It can also provide a happy space for our friends, family, pets, and wildlife. Every spring and summer we have new opportunities to enhance the enjoyment of our gardens in an environmentally friendly way. For example:

Plant non-invasive, pollinator-friendly ground cover, plants, bushes, and trees. They attract butterflies, bees, and other insects that play an important role in our ecosystem, including food production. Many pollinators thrive in Cape Cod's sometimes harsh weather. Pollinator-friendly ground cover and perennials like clover, bee balm, coneflower, yarrow, summer phlox, coreopsis, and primrose add color and texture to your garden in spring, summer, and fall. Shrubs, including bayberry, beach plum, holly, inkberry, pussy willow, and mountain laurel attract butterflies and bees and enhance your landscaping plan. Red maple, white oak, and swamp oak trees provide a perfect shady spot on a hot summer day.

If you need pesticides, go natural. Natural pesticides are relatively safe for pets and wildlife, and can be made from common household products like salt, dish soap and white vinegar. A quick online search will reveal lots of "recipes," and our local garden centers also sell natural products that do not contain chemicals that can harm pets or humans. Some plants, such as marigolds, even discourage bunnies and other critters from chomping on your flowers.

Time in the garden on Cape Cod can be heavenly, and is even sweeter when we know we are helping the environment while we watch our gardens grow.



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SUMMER 2025 NEWSLETTER

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- Upcoming Events (see below)



Upcoming Events - Right Around the Corner!

NOT ENOUGH ACRES FARM PRESENTS:
FRIDAY FARM STROLLS

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NOT ENOUGH ACRES FARM?

MUSHROOM GROWING
CUTFLOWER PLOT
VEGETABLES
NATIVE PERENNIAL PLOT
FRUIT ORCHARD

Join the Dennis Conservation Land Trust for a free tour of our headquarters at Not Enough Acres Farm. Learn about the farm's history, what we're growing, and how we're growing our impact in your community.

🕒 10am on June 27, July 11 • 25: August 1 • 29
📍 107 Sesuit Neck Road, East Dennis 02641

Registration required.
Email terracorps@dennisconservationlandtrust.org

THE DENNIS CONSERVATION LAND TRUST

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Aloha!

THE DCLT INVITES YOU TO "LUAU" AT THEIR 24TH ANNUAL

AUCTION & "FUN"RAISER

Hula On Over To
The Sea View, Dennis Port
Saturday, July 19, 2025 5-9PM

Purchase tickets at
bit.ly/DCLT2025Auction

RUBBER DUCK REGATTA

SUNDAY, Sept. 21st, 2025 NO RAIN DATE
11am-2pm • West Dennis Yacht Club, W. Dennis

1st Place \$500 • 2nd \$250 • 3rd \$100

RACE ENTRY \$20 EACH • LIMIT 500 ENTRIES
ONLINE ADVANCE SALES • WINNERS WILL BE NOTIFIED

Decked-Out Duck Contest
Food • Games • Family Fun

DennisConservationLandTrust.org/Calendar/Fall-Duck-Race/
Deck out a duck? Purchase race entries? 508.694.7812

 Scan Here

From the excitement of bidding at our Summer Auction to watching hundreds of rubber ducks race to the finish line, there's something for everyone this season. We're also thrilled to introduce **Summer Farm Strolls**—a new event series at our headquarters, Not Enough Acres Farm, where you can explore the land, meet the team, and connect with nature. We hope to see you there! Scan the QR Code or visit DennisConservationLandTrust.org/calendar/ to learn more.

