

AmeriCorps Cape Cod

Working to Improve the Dennis Community



AmeriCorps Cape Cod (ACC) provides invaluable services to over 100 Town, County, State, Federal, non-profit, and community based organizations and groups across the Cape. ACC has been extremely successful, resulting in community improvements that range from environmental education and stewardship, to increased public safety and disaster preparedness.

This year DCT has had the pleasure of working with ACC not once, but twice, to improve the Dennis environment through natural resource management service projects.

DCT and ACC partnered on April 6 to conduct beach nourishment activities on three Trust properties. Two of the project areas were in Dennis Village on Cape Cod Bay, and the third was in West Dennis on Nantucket Sound. Collectively, their efforts helped to improve and expand coastal dunes, prevent soil erosion and storm damage, and enhance the surrounding ecosystem as a whole.

Also, the 2012 AmeriCorps Week of Service was held in Dennis this year. ACC partnered with the Dennis Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and DCT for the 2012 service week from Tuesday May 15 to Saturday May 19. This year, the signature site was the Shoop-Johnson Community Gardens on Rte. 6A in East Dennis. However, projects were successfully completed in nearly every village of Dennis. From Sea View Park in Dennis Port to DCT's Old Fort Field in Dennis Village, and to the Indian Lands Conservation Area in South Dennis, ACC had a positive impact on the entire community. Projects included: historical stone wall restoration, beach fence and split-rail fence installation, building bird boxes, invasive plant species removal, trail maintenance and improvements, gardening and compost bin construction, memorial bench installation, trail marker creation, and more!

On behalf of the town of Dennis, DCT sends a sincere thanks to ACC, the Dennis DNR, and everyone that participated for the major successes realized through this year's partnerships.



ACC members Matt Cannon, Ben Fairbank, Ken Mullins, Sarah Hildebrand, and Ally Taveniere planted more than 1,500 American beach grass stems and installed drift fencing at three DCT properties.



The work would not have been possible without the help of several local school groups, the Cape Cod Bird Club, and many volunteers.

Earth Day Tree Give-Away



Trustee Beverley LeBlanc gives trees to appreciative residents.

On April 21, DCT celebrated Earth Day by giving away more than 450 tree seedlings at the Town's transfer station. DCT used the opportunity to strengthen our bond with community members, and to increase awareness for environmental stewardship and land conservation. The saplings were given to hundreds of Dennis residents, and they were accepted with genuine cheer and excitement.

We offer our sincere thanks to Hart Farm Nursery and Garden Center for their continued support in sponsoring our annual tree give away, to Dennis Department of Public Works for their hospitality in providing the space, to the Register Newspaper, and to all who helped. DCT administrator James McCarthy was assisted by volunteers Kerry Cassin and Marilyn Mooers, and Trustees Connie Mooers, Beverley LeBlanc, Dorria DiManno and Jim Wick.

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JULY 29, 2012 AT THE SEA VIEW IN DENNIS PORT: A DATE TO REMEMBER



This year marks the 11th DCT live and silent auction

Our Annual "Summer Evening" has been, year after year, a great place to eat, drink and bid! Thanks to our corporate sponsors, many local shops and restaurants, our volunteers, and everyone who attends, we've had great success with our fundraiser. And, the auction is one of the best social events of the year, so bring your friends; everyone is sure to have a great time.

Tickets are \$60 per person in advance or \$65 at the door. This includes a raw bar, appetizers, clam chowder, desserts, beer, wine, the martini bar, and back this year, Champagne. WHAT A GREAT EVENT!

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Partnership to Protect Dennis Open Space: The Grassy Pond Woodlands



A view of Grassy Pond, July 2011. Photo: James McCarthy

In December of 2010, DCT embarked on a collaborative mission with the Town of Dennis to preserve the pristine 11-acre property bordering Grassy and Clay ponds off Setucket Road in South Dennis. This critical natural habitat is densely forested with a mix of pine and oak uplands, and offers serene wooded trails sloping gently down to unique pondfront wetland areas along nearly 1200 feet of shoreline. Connecting to 250 acres of protected open space, the Grassy Pond Woodlands is one of the few remaining large, unprotected, developable parcels of land in Town.

The Grassy Pond Woodlands is probably the most important acquisition project since the completion of Crowes Pasture, and environmental champions like the DCT, and like you, are more important than ever. Opportunities to protect parcels like the Grassy Pond Woodlands continue to decrease, while the need for open space and recreational opportunities becomes increasingly important to our community. This may be our last chance to save this land.

Preserving this natural, woodland habitat enhances hundreds of acres of adjoining open space lands. Together, we can preserve important wildlife habitats and a globally rare coastal plain pondshore. We will help protect public water supply wells and maintain the quality of the town's drinking water supply. And, we can help preserve the natural character of Dennis. At the same time, we will be opening the property to the public – for all of us and for our future generations – to enjoy the woodlands and ponds. Unquestionably, this is an important natural resource area in the Dennis, and a critical parcel to protect.

DCT has partnered with the Town of Dennis on multiple conservation projects over the past several years. We can attribute the success of each of these projects to vital public/non-profit partnerships, which have resulted in the permanent protection of properties for the community to enjoy. From Crowe's Pasture at Quivet Creek in the northeast corner of Town to Bass River Park in the southwest corner, this type of cooperation reflects the ever-increasing understanding that we all must work together to accomplish our goal of preserving the best remaining unprotected open space. The Grassy Pond Woodlands now tops this list of properties that are crucial to preserve.

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Coles Pond Bog Gathering

A dedication to Marjorie Milano



Left to Right: Dennis Corcoran, Carol Griffin, Sheila Agranat, James McCarthy (DCT), Lois Tatarian, Carole Bell (DCT Vice President), Mary Kurtz, Trish Faggianno, Susan Foley, and Barbara Flaherty.

On May 30, friends and loved ones of the late Marj Milano gathered at DCT's Coles Pond Bog property in East Dennis, a significant land acquisition that was made possible by a generous donation from Ms. Milano. Standing by the memorial plaque mounted on the stone at a trailhead to the property, we reminisced about Marj, a longtime East Dennis resident, and the vision that led her to help preserve a culturally, historically, and ecologically important piece of land in the Quivet Neck area. That vision will be her legacy – the gift of conservation land, preserved forever, for the residents of Dennis and their future generations to enjoy.

Hosta Garden Party

Trustee Jim Wick and his wife Helen welcomed nearly 200 guests to a "Hosta Garden Party" at their West Dennis home on June 30. Visitors toured Jim's magnificent Hosta gardens, enjoyed light refreshments, and learned more about the work of the DCT. Guests voted for their favorite Hostas and the winners were #1 June, #2 Blue Mouse Ears, #3 Paul's Glory, #4 Paradigm, and #5 Patriot. The winner of the drawing for a beautiful Krossa Regal Hosta plant was Ginny Gifford of West Dennis. Our thanks to Jim and Helen, and to the DCT volunteers who assisted.



SPECIAL GIFTS 2012

The DCT gratefully acknowledges the following contributors:

In Memory of...

Mary & John Subak
Vera Dahm
Donald Day
John Carey
Elinor Kingsbury Emslie
Spence Rochefort

Ray Urquhart
Janice H. Pring
Patricia Downing Johnston
Ann Glaze Price
Ted & Amelia Vozzella
Murray Howe
Barbara Burleigh Howe
Sylvia Howe Thompson

In Honor of...

Carol Hunt
Cynthia Gage
Richard A. Johnston
Jane McGinnis
The SanClemente Grandchildren

UPCOMING EVENTS

DCT Annual Meeting

Sunday, October 14 at the Jacob Sears Memorial Library in East Dennis at 10am.

Carnivores of Cape Cod

Free wildlife presentation - Friday August 24, 7pm in the Dennis Police Station's Tom Martin Community Room (South Dennis). Susan Ingalls from MassWildlife will discuss the different species of carnivores you can expect to find on the Cape.

Saturday Walk-Abouts

(free and open to the public)

August 25 at Flax Pond Conservation Area in Dennis Village

September 22 at the Shoop-Johnson Community Gardens in East Dennis

October 20 at Indian Lands Conservation Area in South Dennis

Guided Kayak Tour

Coming this fall (date and time TBD), join DCT and Jonathan Palino of Cape Kayaking for a guided kayak tour of Chase Garden Creek in Dennis. Pre-registration required. Contact DCT at james@thecomact.net or 508-362-3422 ext. 3 for more information.

Birds of Prey Live Animal Show

Coming this winter (date and time TBD), join DCT and meet Marla Isaac from New England Reptile & Raptor Exhibits and her live animals. Marla will put on an exciting and educational presentation that aims not only to show our native Birds of Prey, but also teach about their biology, physiology, and function in the ecosystem. Contact DCT at james@thecomact.net or 508-362-3422 ext. 3 for more information.



THE D.C.T. TRUSTEES

Richard Johnston PRESIDENT	Beverley LeBlanc
Carole Bell VICE-PRESIDENT	Emily Levine
Joseph Masse TREASURER	Paul McCormick
James Wick ASSISTANT TREASURER	Coonie Mooers
Connie Bechard	Edmond Nickerson
Dianne Callan	Paul Prue
Dorria DiManno	John Todd
	Chris Wadsworth
James McCarthy ADMINISTRATOR / LAND MANAGER	

A Series on Wildlife

This year, DCT hosted a series of free presentations geared towards wildlife education. Susan Ingalls, Biologist for the MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, offered talks on three wildlife topics of special interest to Cape Codders.

The January "What's Hopping?" talk provided insight into the ecology and habitat requirements of the New England Cottontail, a species native to the Cape. Ms. Ingalls shared her experience and research with the animal, including why it is so difficult to distinguish between a New England and an Eastern cottontail.

"Living with Wildlife," held in March, was a very well-attended presentation that focused on the ways for homeowners to interact harmoniously with the wild animals making use of their properties. While the protection of open space provides wildlife habitat, development can often force wild animals to seek our backyards for food and shelter. Ms. Ingalls discussed some of the natural ways to attract and provide for wild animals, and also offered several ways to safely discourage nuisance behavior.

In June, the "Oh, Deer!" nature talk served to teach about White-tailed Deer biology, behavior, population management, and public concerns, as well as the ecological and societal values deer provide to our community.

All three presentations were very informative, and DCT is grateful to Susan for lending her expertise. Stay tuned for additional talks, which we'll publicize in the Register Newspaper, Cape Cod Times, local television bulletin boards, and on the DCT website.

Stew N' Brew

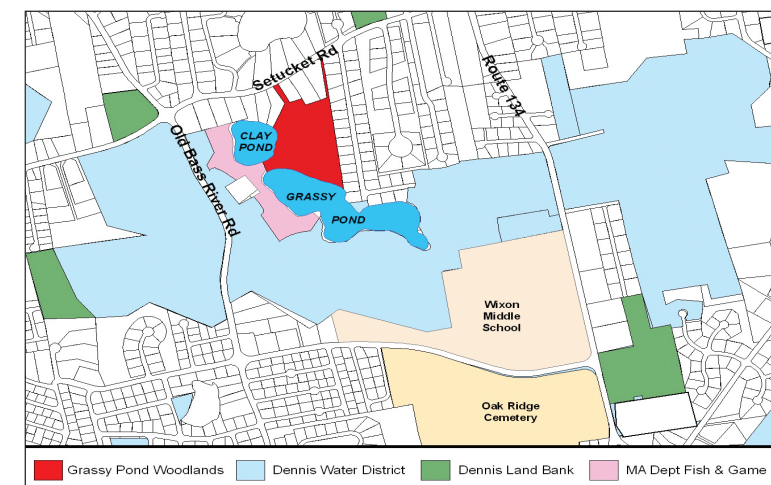
A Fun Evening for All!



DCT hosted a casual dinner event on Friday, April 27 at The Red Cottage Restaurant in South Dennis, co-sponsored by Cape Cod Beer. Red Cottage chef/owner Dan Rosenbach, served a scrumptious beef stew, and Cape Cod Beer co-owner Beth Marcus served the brewery's signature creations.



The event provided a terrific opportunity to mingle with friends, learn more about the importance of land conservation, and enjoy food and drink from locally owned establishments. Thanks to all who attended to help make for a warm and pleasurable atmosphere, to the many volunteers who practiced their "wait staffing skills," and an especially big thanks to The Red Cottage and to Cape Cod Beer.



Annual Summer Evening CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE



During the evening, you'll mingle with old friends and meet new ones. Bid on over 100 restaurant gift certificates, and at our silent auction. New this year, don't miss the "Wine Pull." You're guaranteed to go home with a bottle of wine – but you may go home with a bottle of wine valued at over \$100. Then settle down for the main event. If you've never seen John Terrio, our spirited auctioneer, this part of the evening is sure to be a treat. He'll have you rolling in the aisles.

We have a very special guest this year, and IT'S NO MYSTERY who it is (MHC). We'll be auctioning off her unique and exciting item, or should we say, "opportunity." It's a once-in-a-lifetime chance, so don't miss this one!

We'll be there for all the fabulous fun, food, and friends of the auction – but we'll also be there because the auction supports the critical preservation work of the DCT. And this year, just as in the past 10 years, we simply cannot do it without YOU! See you at the Sea View on Sunday, July 29, at 5PM.

We hope you received your invitation in the mail, but if we missed you, or if you have questions, contact us at 774-212-3525 or DCTAuction2012@comcast.net. Visit www.DennisConservationTrust.org for electronic reservations and updates about items and sponsors.

Corporate sponsors so far include: AAA Southern New England; Bank of America; Bayside Realty; Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank; Cooperative Bank of Cape Cod; Doane, Beal & Ames; Dunkin Donuts; Encore; The Froude Family; Galvin Brothers Design & Build; Gina's By The Sea; Hallet Funeral Home; Hart Farm; Lomenzo Properties; Mary Higgins Clark; Merrill Lynch Wealth Mgmt; Mid Cape Home Centers; Patriot Square; Peter McDowell Associates; Quivet Cellars; Sesuit Neck Property Owners; Singer & Singer, Atty.; True Value of Orleans.

Auction items to date include: Sports tickets, Hand-crafted Items, Boat Trips, Fabulous Dinners, and much, much more!

The Grassy Pond Woodlands

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Our combined goal is quite simple -- preserving a special place in Town for conservation and water resource protection, while providing a place for the public to enjoy. But success will not come easy and will require the leadership and vision of conservation activists to champion the project.

We hope that you will recognize the importance of this acquisition, and join in our collaborative effort to preserve this parcel. If you would like to make a pledge or donation towards the acquisition of the Grassy Pond Woodlands, please contact DCT at **508-362-3422 ext. 3**, or contribute online at www.DennisConservationTrust.org.