



# DENNIS CONSERVATION LAND TRUST

## Summer 2023 Newsletter

[www.dennisconservationlandtrust.org](http://www.dennisconservationlandtrust.org)

### DCLT Finds a Home at Not Enough Acres Farm

After 35 years of land conservation, the DCLT has found its perfect headquarters at 107 Sesuit Neck Road in East Dennis. The property, better known as “Not Enough Acres Farm,” is a 4.2-acre piece of upland and marsh situated between Sesuit Creek and 75 acres of land the DCLT has already protected. Its 1927 home has been modernized and carefully maintained by the long-time owners Jeff and Beth Deck, who have been gracious in working with the DCLT to see their property conserved and used for our land care and community education efforts.



The protection of Not Enough Acres Farm adds a missing piece to an impressive tract of conservation land at the gateway to Sesuit Neck, while propelling the DCLT into a new era of conservation and environmental education. Abutting to its west is the DCLT’s 5.4-acre Cameron Property, which provides an existing trail connection for direct nature access. The house provides offices, and the barn and farming plots will create the perfect space for environmental study and stewardship.

The opportunity to purchase Not Enough Acres Farm came to us quickly, requiring a closing this May and a move-in this summer. The DCLT is seeking to raise final funds for the purchase, as well as improvements necessary to make the property an effective space for environmental learning. Please visit our website to learn more about the project and consider lending your support.

As we complete the move later this summer, we look forward to welcoming our supporters to visit and help create a shared vision for the DCLT at its new home.

### DCLT Launches New Website

After several months working with Morningstar Design in Falmouth, the DCLT is pleased to have recently launched a complete redesign of its website. The goal for the design was to modernize the look while increasing ease of use for our online visitors.

Along with changes to the design, the DCLT is comprehensively updating content to provide information about the DCLT and the ecosystems across our Town. So far, the bulk of this effort has been to provide a list of the publicly accessible waterbodies in Dennis, with up-to-date information on their histories and environmental statuses. Special thanks are due to DCLT’s Community Science Committee volunteer, Betsy Perry, for taking the deep dive into historical archives to draft these pages.

The DCLT will regularly update the site with news, photos, and upcoming Events, while it builds out a repository of local environmental information.



## Studying our Natural World, Together

Community science is a new and important piece of DCLT's work to promote a nature-focused community while protecting natural resources in Dennis and beyond. It brings together scientists, students, and interested community members to collect and analyze data that guide our conservation actions. With early support from the Cape Cod Foundation, the Horizon Foundation, and the Bilezikian Family Foundation, we are excited to share some of our recent activities here.



We recently finished our second year of working with students at Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School (DYRHS) as part of our Water Initiative and Science Fair Program. Our DYRHS summer interns from 2022 – the “Tick Team” – advanced from the Regional Science Fair to compete at the State Fair at MIT this May. Our Science Fair Teacher-Collaborator, Mr. Adam Cutler, hosted a first in-school Science Fair at DYRHS, where seven student groups presented a variety of research projects. We completed a second round of pond health experiments with Mr. Carl DePuy's environmental science courses, and are thrilled to hire him this summer to work with our next cohort of DYRHS summer interns.

This past December, the DCLT assembled a Community Science Committee that will direct and implement DCLT's science activities moving forward. The Committee includes student and teacher representatives from DYRHS, environmental scientists, as well as community volunteers. We began field work this spring by working to certify our town's vernal pools with the State, an effort that provides added regulatory protection to the land surrounding them. Throughout this summer, the Committee will work to monitor water quality at Chase Garden Creek and two Dennis ponds, while providing mentorship support to our DYRHS and college interns. Stay tuned for results!

## Tara Brew's TerraCorps Service Year

This year, despite being a New Yorker (let's go Mets!), the DCLT granted me the wonderful opportunity to serve as their Land Stewardship Coordinator through TerraCorps. During my time at the DCLT, I've been given an inside look into the wide array of projects a local land trust undertakes. I've learned a variety of new skills, including most recently, weed whacking. Under Dave's tutelage, I've also become accustomed to “bushwhacking,” a frequent requirement on our endeavors to place wildlife cameras and study vernal pools.

Some highlights of my service year so far have been working with students, introducing them to the magnificence of our natural world through vernal pools and fairy shrimp, and helping with community programs and events, like the Dennis Conservation Celebration and our StoryWalks™. Among all of these things, however, my greatest joy has been working alongside our dedicated group of land stewards. Immediately upon my arrival, they took me under their wing and were not at all bothered that I sometimes ran around like a chicken with my head cut off. Their warmth and humor have made me feel right at home, and I genuinely look forward to seeing them every Thursday.



In the coming month, I will draft and implement a curriculum for a pond health experiment with the students at Dennis Yarmouth Regional High School, and write a preliminary plan for an accessible “All Persons Trail.” After my service year concludes in July, I will mourn in full Victorian attire. Then, I will take my education award and start knocking out the prerequisites I need to apply to veterinary school.

I am very grateful to the DCLT for giving me the opportunity to work in the field I am passionate about, and for so warmly welcoming me into this community. The DCLT is a special place that takes care, not only of land and wildlife, but of people as well.



## Tobey West Opened for Public Access

With our recent acquisition of two of the parcels comprising Tobey West, at 272 Route 6A in Dennis Village, the DCLT is excited to announce the opening of the property for public access. A sign was installed to mark the beginning of a narrow footpath, which follows the property's open forest understory towards saltmarsh in the rear, with spectacular views of Simpkins Neck. The path continues along the dike of a former cranberry bog, wedged between saltmarsh to the west and what is now a freshwater swamp to the east.

When the DCLT closes on the final piece of the Tobey West Project in January 2024, it will begin plans to formalize and improve a trail throughout the property. Until then, we ask that you park carefully along the roadway of Route 6A as we wait to improve access and parking in the coming year.

We hope that you visit the property knowing that you, as a DCLT Member, Donor, or resident voter, helped ensure its protection.



## Events

Auction tickets available online!

Buy raffle tickets for a trip to Greece.

Can't make the event?

Online Auction starts July 14th!

**THE DENNIS CONSERVATION LAND TRUST**  
*Invites you to a*  
**Summer Auction and "Fundraiser"**  
 Where ... **TOGAS Optional!**  
**GREECE** is the Word!  
*The Dennis Inn*  
 25 Scarsdale Road, Dennis  
**Sunday, July 23, 2023**  
**5-9 pm**  
 For Tickets and Information  
<https://dennisconservationlandtrust.org>

Buy your entries or Sponsorship starting late July.  
 More info online!

**RUBBER DUCK REGATTA**  
**SUNDAY, Sept. 17, 2023 • 11-2** Rain: Sept 24th  
**West Dennis Yacht Club, W. Dennis**  
**1st Place \$500 • 2nd \$150 • 3rd \$100**  
**RACE ENTRY \$10; 3/\$25 • LIMIT 500 ENTRIES**  
 ONLINE ADVANCE SALES ONLY • WINNERS WILL BE NOTIFIED  
**Decked-Out Duck Contest**  
 • Food • Games • Family Fun  
 DECK OUT A DUCK? PURCHASE RACE ENTRIES? 508.694.7812  
[DENNISCONSERVATIONLANDTRUST.ORG/FALL-DUCK-RACE/](https://DENNISCONSERVATIONLANDTRUST.ORG/FALL-DUCK-RACE/)

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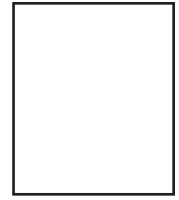
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THE DENNIS  
CONSERVATION  
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Summer 2023 has arrived, and the DCLT is pleased to share its latest newsletter. We hope you enjoy hearing our latest news, including the acquisition of four acres of land and our first headquarters in East Dennis; the opening of a trail at Tobey West; and the launch of our newly designed website.

### In the Issue:

- DCLT Finds a Home at Not Enough Acres Farm
- DCLT Launches New Website
- Studying our Natural World, Together
- Tara Brew's TerraCorps Service Year
- Tobey West Opened for Public Access
- 2023 Annual Events

Before diving in, please read a short message (below) from our Executive Director, David Fryxell.



This year the **Dennis Conservation Land Trust** is celebrating its 35th year of land preservation. In this brief history, we have been able to protect over 675 acres of land across our town. Each part and parcel provides critical protection for the future of our Town's environment and community. That's what makes this work important – ensuring pieces of our environment are protected in perpetuity so our successors can enjoy the beauty and nature of Dennis as much as we do.

In these 35 years, the Trust has never had a place to call home. We moved from living room meetings to rental space in Barnstable, Brewster, and Dennis Village. Each location served our basic needs but never gave us the facilities to truly care for our lands and engage the people throughout our community.

Over the next year, we will finalize two of our most significant property acquisitions. Our Tobey West Project is nearly complete, with the final piece set for closing in January 2024. But earlier this year, we were given another opportunity we could not let pass. From January through June, we worked quickly to acquire 4.2 acres of historic, environmentally sensitive land on Sesuit Neck Road, and with it, a house and barn that will serve as our headquarters and center for environmental study and stewardship.

In the midst of these ambitious projects, we are making a special request for your support. **Now more than ever we are looking to our community to help sustain our operations and raise the funds needed to ensure our future. Please renew your membership, consider making a one-time gift, or donate directly in support of our acquisition of Not Enough Acres Farm.** Visit our website to learn more and contribute.

As you read ahead, we hope you will share in the sense of accomplishment we have felt in preserving these special properties for the future. **We thank you deeply for your ongoing support.**