

WINTER 2015 Newsletter

www.DennisConservationTrust.org

President's Message

Thank you, each and every one of you, for your support as members of our Trust. Without your membership, and the additional contributions you make to the Dennis Conservation Trust, the Town of Dennis would be the poorer in open space preserved.

Because of you, we are able to preserve the land – and in doing so, we preserve a living history. We take what has been here a very long time – a field, a pond, a marsh, a forest, and even an ever-changing coastline – and we pass it along for future generations.



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Photo by Zygote Digital Films

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The Dennis Conservation Trust is a not for profit, member supported organization working to protect open space, water resources and wildlife habitat within the Town of Dennis.

President's Message Continued

In this protected open space, we provide a refuge for humans and for wildlife. We provide a place of peace with room to stretch arms and minds. We provide continuity. We leave this place as it was and can continue to be, a trail through the woods ... a trail through time... where



Photo by Zygote Digital Films

people can watch an osprey make a living, soaring above a family exploring nature.

"We must protect the forest for our children, grandchildren and children yet born. We must protect the forest for those who can't speak for themselves such as birds, animals, fish and trees." ¹

As I walk on the land that we have preserved or helped to preserve, whether that be Crowe's Pasture, Bass River Park, Sea View Playland, Grassy Pond, the open space at Chase Garden Creek, or anywhere among the 600 acres we have conserved, together, I am energized.

Please take the time to wander and wonder at the bounty you have conserved. Please become enthralled in the peace and beauty you have allowed to continue. Turn over a stone, lean on a tree, place your hand in the water, enjoy all that is nature ... and smile, because you, yes you, did it. You preserved this land.

"What are the natural features which make a township handsome? A river, with its waterfalls and meadows, a lake, a hill, a cliff or individual rocks, a forest, and ancient trees standing singly. Such things are beautiful; they have a high use which dollars and cents never represent. If the inhabitants of a town were wise, they should seek to preserve these things, though at a considerable expense; for such things educate far more than any hired teachers or preachers." ²

Thank you for being a member of the Dennis Conservation Trust.

Joseph W. Masse, President

& he house

The DCT has moved!

In July 2015, the Dennis Conservation Trust relocated offices with the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Inc. to the Brewster Conservation Trust's Hay Conservation Center. The property is the former residence of John Hay, one of Cape Cod's most prominent nature writers.

Our new office is situated on over 50 acres of conservation land. The DCT is excited about our new location, particularly with the ability to work side by side with the Compact as well as the Brewster and Harwich Conservation Trusts. Our mailing address is the same, but note our new phone number is 508-694-7812.



Save the date for the 2016 DCT Rubber Duck Race!

This family-friendly event will take place on May 21st along Bass River. Get your ducks in a row by purchasing your duck raffle tickets ahead of time.

Please visit <u>www.dennisconservationtrust.org/2016-dct-rubber-duck-race</u> for information about the event and for online sales.



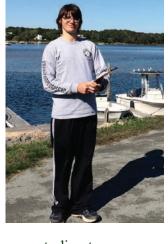
Years from now, when you and your future generations walk the natural paths and places of Dennis, take pride in knowing that your continued efforts preserve them.

Get to know the DCT AmeriCorps Volunteer

AmeriCorps volunteers assist the DCT in many ways. We are delighted to introduce you to our new volunteer, who will be working with us through July 2016. Among the projects he'll be working on are creating baseline reports for publicly-owned properties on which the DCT holds a conservation easement, improving the DCT's reporting systems, and assistance with land management projects.

"My name is Sasha Moser and I am 22 years old, from Saint Louis, MO. I was born in Ukraine, and lived in the city of Mariupol until I was adopted at 14. I graduated from high school in 2012, and have attended college for about year and a half. As of today, I have not yet figured out what I want to become in life, and so I decided to put school on hold for now and joined AmeriCorps Cape Cod to explore some ideas and maybe possible career choices.

AmeriCorps Cape Cod is a full-time, residential program that is funded by Barnstable County and through grants from the Massachusetts Service Alliance and the Corporation for National and Community Service. The program



focuses on environmental natural resource management, disaster preparedness and response, education, and volunteer engagement. In my spare time I enjoy writing fiction, and learning code, and Netflix is one of my guilty pleasures."

Are you interested in volunteer opportunities with the DCT?



Join the DCT on the third Monday of each month from 1-3PM for land maintenance projects. Activities include but are not limited to trail maintenance, litter pick-up, and sign installation.

Contact the DCT Administrator, Katherine Garofoli, for more information.

Call **508-694-7812** or email at **katherine**@thecompact.net

Thank You for your support



Photo by Fleeting Moments Photography

Do you have gently used yard tools that you no longer need?

The DCT would like to increase its tool inventory for land maintenance projects. We are looking for the following:

- Hand loppers
- Rakes
- Pruning shears
- Hand saws

Please contact Katherine Garofoli if you are interested in donating tools. Call 508-694-7812 and we will schedule a pick up.

Thank you!

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The Conservation Area and Hatchery at Chase Garden Creek

Salt marshes and barrier beaches provide essential ecological function without bias, and do not adhere to town lines. When an environmentally sensitive and economically significant property along Chase Garden Creek was threatened, the Dennis Conservation Trust jumped into action.

In 2015, the DCT became an active partner in a \$3 million regional effort that will preserve 29.7 acres of critical habitat while protecting 10 acres of the regional shellfish industry's source of oyster and clam seed. In addition to committing \$325,000 of its own funds, the DCT worked



diligently with state agencies, Barnstable County, the Nature Conservancy, and the Towns of Yarmouth and Dennis.



While closing on the project was scheduled for September 2015, the MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs requested that the conservation restriction be recorded by June, ultimately impacting the DCT's fundraising campaign. To meet its financial commitment, the DCT borrowed \$150,000 from the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Inc. Although the property is protected forever, the DCT is still trying to raise its share of the funds we committed to the project.

Please consider making a contribution to this important effort that the DCT had such an important part in.

Support from Local Businesses

The Dennis Conservation Trust is grateful for the significant support it receives for its signature events, like the annual auction, and other fund-raising and public education initiatives. Please join us in recognizing some of the local businesses that go "above and beyond" to help DCT be successful.



Hart Farm Nursery and Garden Center, owned by Don Kossack, has helped the DCT for several years, from donating seedlings for the Earth Day Tree Giveaway, to advertising in the DCT Auction Book, and supplying plants for the DCT adopted traffic islands. Thank you, Don.

Another huge "thank you" goes to Reeves Landscaping for their assistance in planting the two DCT adopted traffic islands at the Route 134 and Upper County Road intersection.





E.J. McGrath has consistently supported the DCT Annual Auction through its corporate advertisement. But this year, the group has been even more generous, by allowing the DCT to hold its regular meetings in their office in Dennis. We are most appreciative.

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THE POWER OF YOUR SUPPORT

With your financial support at any level, the DCT will confidently embark on the next 25 years with its mission to further preserve the natural beauty of our town. Renew your membership online at www.DennisConservationTrust.org or mail your check to DCT at P.O. Box 67, East Dennis, MA 02641.

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Auction photographs provided by Fleeting Moments Photography





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2015 DCT Auction Donations



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Quan Chinese Kitchen
Red Cottage
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The Dog House The Mercantile The Red Pheasant Inn True Value Hardware Underground Bakery US Foodservice What's The Scoop William Davis Your Reflection

A look back on 2015...



In April 2015, the DCT hosted a press conference along with its project partners to talk about efforts to protect 39.7 acres along Chase Garden Creek.

The DCT introduced the first of four Interactive Conservation Sites at the Dorothy Connors Bell Conservation Area at Grassy Pond.





The DCT completed several land maintenance projects including beach grass planting at its property on Shore Road in Dennis Village.





The DCT hosted several walks and lectures. The very popular DCT oyster walk occurred in October 2015. A big thanks to East Dennis Oyster Farms for providing a demonstration.



The DCT is gearing up for a busy 2016!

We hope you will be a part of it.



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