



THE
DENNIS
CONSERVATION
TRUST



2017 WINTER NEWSLETTER



President's Message

If you came to our annual auction in July, you're already aware that you are a member of the Dennis Conservation Trust's "600 Club."

You probably don't remember joining. It's okay, because there was no formal sign-up. You became a member of this exclusive club because you are responsible for helping the Trust preserve 600 acres of open space within our Town.

You are special! The environment is important to you. You have helped preserve the rural character of our Town, providing space for us to breathe, and habitat for untold fauna and flora.

I'm sure every animal in that open space, although not aware that it was you, is aware of the respite you have provided, aware of the opportunity to live and thrive and raise a family. And the flora? Why I can practically see the goldenrod, Plymouth gentian, bayberry, blueberry, asters and milkweed moving in the wind with a silent nod in your direction.

So, take a second. Reach your arm, either left or right (or both if you are really flexible) over your shoulder and pat yourself on the back. *GOOD JOB*. You are members of the 600 Club and we think that is pretty amazing.

Oh, and by the way, just 32 more acres preserved and we will all be members of the "Square Mile Club." Yup, just 32 more acres and we will have preserved – together – 640 acres, or one square mile, in a town of roughly 22 square miles. And, when we reach the Square Mile Club, *which we will with your help* – we'll go for more. Then we'll all be members of that new club (whatever we call it), too.

It does seem we continue to ask Mother Earth to hold on, to hang in there. We think we need to take just a little bit more. And we promise that someday we'll start to preserve, we'll start to care.

Someday, we promise, we'll be there for you. We know you're important, but somehow, life gets in the way.

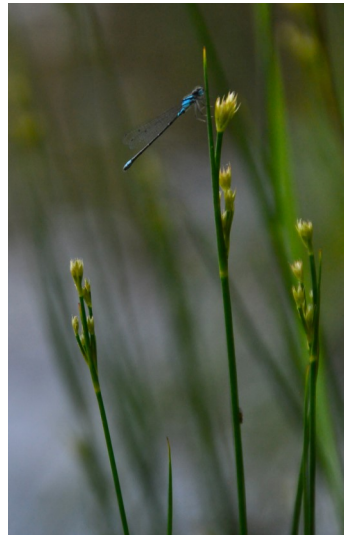


Photo by Zygote Digital Films

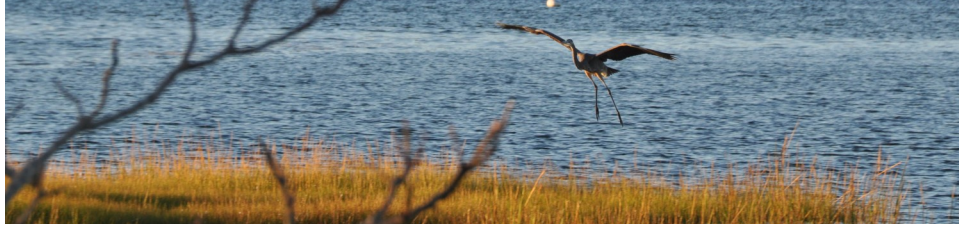


Photo by Zygotte Digital Films

We’ve built an infrastructure that, for the most part, helps us thrive as human beings in our town. We have grocery stores and pharmacies and restaurants. We have highways and byways and parking lots galore. We continue to ask for just a little more, and Mother Earth continues to give.

We respect that we have infrastructure needs as human beings, and we couldn’t live well without much of what we have created. We need it. However, the reason we fell in love with Dennis was *not* for the infrastructure, but for the beaches, warm summer nights, the water (both salt and fresh), the wildlife, and all that green—the woods, the marshes – a place to breathe, to be at peace.

We in the environmental community are sometimes criticized as being over-zealous in our pursuit of all things wild. We have been criticized for “crying wolf.” After all, there’s still so much the earth has left to give. Well, in the words of Joni Mitchell’s song, “You don’t know what you’ve got till it’s gone.”

So we will keep coming to you. We will ask you for your support and your advocacy. We will never stop asking, and we hope you will never stop giving. It would be an awful legacy if all that we leave to those who follow us is a place that *used* to be “special.”

Thank You for being a member.

Joseph W. Masse, President

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Volunteer Spotlight

The Dennis Conservation Trust is grateful for all of the active volunteers that help the Trust with land management, events, and administrative tasks. Without these dedicated individuals, we simply would not be able to do the critical work of land protection.

As many of you know, the DCT Annual Auction is an important financial and community-building event bringing over 200 people together to celebrate the Trust. There are two volunteers who continue to devote their time and energy to make this event successful.

George and Marianne Holland have volunteered with the Trust since 2005 after “gentle persuasion” from our former Auction Manager and Trustee, Connie Mooers.



George & Marianne Holland in their home.

The DCT Director, Katherine Garofoli (KG) spent some time with George and Marianne (G & M) discussing why they volunteer with the DCT.

KG: “Why do you dedicate so much free time to helping the Dennis Conservation Trust?”

G & M: “Once we started volunteering with Connie, we realized how important the mission of protecting open space truly is for the Town of Dennis. We live next to land owned by the Dennis Water District and have seen the Town change over the years.”

KG: “What’s your favorite part of volunteering for the Auction?”

G: “Volunteering is about building relationships and connecting with people. We visit many of the same businesses each year and they know us by name now.”

M: “We have a chance to talk to people about what the Trust is up to. Volunteering feels good and the Auction is a lot of fun!”

Volunteer Spotlight

KG: “You’re both long-time members of the Trust, as well. Why?”

G & M: “Well, if you own property here, you’re proud of this Town. Supporting the Trust is one simple way to make sure the natural areas stay protected for future generations.”

**Thank you George and Marianne!
It is people, like you, who make the
Trust successful.**

Are you interested in volunteer opportunities with the DCT?



Contact the
DCT office for more
information.

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

**We have many
different roles!**

Hearty DCT Volunteers

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!

2017 Rubber Duck Regatta



Photo by Carole Bell

The DCT celebrated another wacky, quacky day at the 3rd Annual Rubber Duck Regatta on September 16, and it was in every way a “WOW!” Attendees from 9 months to 90+ enjoyed the festivities with equal delight. The perfect early fall day and The Sandbar Restaurant and bridge provided a picturesque rustic Cape Cod setting, tucked into the marsh system of West Dennis Beach and the Bass River estuary.

At the starting signal, hundreds of numbered rubber duckies were launched from the bridge and the race was off. Emcee John Todd, of the band Crocodile Tears, added excitement as he called the race. The first three ducks to cross the finish line won cash prizes of \$1000, \$250, and \$100.



Photo by Carole Bell

2017 Rubber Duck Regatta

More than 40 local businesses and organizations entered their decorated larger ducks with their own imaginative personalities, and attendees cast votes for the best “Decked Out Duck.” The winner was Rockland Trust of West Dennis, with a duck totally covered in pennies and dimes, sporting a snappy tie of coin roller papers. (See additional photos on DennisConservationTrust.com or Facebook). Attendees enjoyed face painting, food, kids activities, free duck whistles, an ice cream truck, colorful kayakers, and lots of “quackers” and quacky fun!



Photo by Carole Bell

Many thanks to this year’s sponsors, volunteers, and supporters who purchased the chances, and attendees. With your help, the Trust reaped the bonus of the event – bringing in a tidy sum to the DCT that will help in our ongoing efforts to preserve open space in Dennis – forever!

We hope you'll join us in 2018: volunteer, buy a chance to win, enter the Decked Out Duck contest, be a sponsor, or just come and quack the ducks onto another fun finish.



Photo by Carole Bell

Year-end income tax and charitable planning strategy

This is the time of year when many of us make charitable contributions. Here's one strategy for making these contributions result in greater income tax savings.

For those who have reached age 70 ½ and who are required to take Required Minimum Distributions from their Traditional IRAs:

REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTIONS FROM TRADITIONAL IRAS TO CHARITY

Once you, as the owner of a Traditional IRA (not a Roth IRA), reach age 70 ½, you must begin to take required minimum distributions (RMDs), based on your age and the amount held in your IRA. These RMD amounts are added to your taxable income each year.

Tax law now allows owners to direct that the RMD (or some portion, up to \$100,000) be distributed directly from the IRA account to the charity. These direct transfers are called “qualified charitable distribution” (QCDs).

By transferring the RMD directly to the charity, the RMD distribution amount is never added to the donor's adjusted gross income and, therefore, not subject to income tax.





HOW IS THIS DIRECT TRANSFER MORE TAX EFFICIENT THAN TAKING THE RMD AND THEN WRITING A CHECK TO THE CHARITY?

Compare the following charitable gift scenarios:

You write a \$100,000 check to a charity. Assume that this gift is made to a 50% charitable organization (not a private foundation) and assume that your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) is \$180,000.00, and that \$100,000 of this income was an IRA RMD. Based on these numbers, the amount that will be deductible on your income tax return will be \$90,000 (50% of AGI.) The additional amount not deductible immediately is not lost; you may carry it forward for use on future income tax returns for up to five years.

Instead, if you made a QCD directly from your IRA to the charity, your income would have been only \$80,000. In effect, the QCD operates as a 100% charitable deduction!

Thus, the income tax is less, because 100% of the RMD is “deducted.” And, since this income does not appear on the tax return, less of your social security income is taxable, and your Medicare premium will be lower.

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

2017 Summer Evening – 15th Annual DCT Auction!



Photo by Fleeting Moments Photography

“A perfect, star-lit Cape Cod summer night, filled with familiar faces and enthusiastic new faces.”

“A truly memorable evening!”

“Remarkable job! Thank you!”

These were just a few of the “cheers” we heard for the 15th Annual DCT Auction. Summer Evening 2017 was an event well done by all, from the seasoned veterans to the eager newcomers. Once again, this year’s auction could not have happened without you. A great big **THANK YOU** to our Trustees, loyal Sponsors, many Volunteers, and of course, our honored **Guests**. We hope you had FUN!

We’re thrilled to announce that our 2017 auction had the largest attendance ever and raised over \$80,000, which will help us preserve and protect even more open space in Dennis.

We kicked the evening off with a champagne reception that featured music from Hyannis Sound and very special guest, Elizabeth Mumford. Ms. Mumford was commissioned by Connie and Glenn Bechard and the DCT to create a whimsical watercolor painting of the special places in Dennis. If you didn’t get a chance to see the print, it is on display in the Dennis Town Office lobby.



Photo by Fleeting Moments Photography



Photo by Fleeting Moments Photography

If you are interested in owning one of these limited edition prints, there are a few left. Contact Katherine Garofoli at 508-694-7812. All proceeds go to saving land in Dennis.

2017 Summer Evening – 15th Annual DCT Auction!

The Dennis Inn provided a beautifully renovated venue and also an opportunity to hold our live auction outdoors “under the tent.” We welcomed back a few favorites, such as East Dennis Oysters, Kate’s Lobster Rolls, and our always-entertaining auctioneer (and Selectman) John Terrio wielding the gavel. We had more items than ever at our Silent Auction, and as always, the Live Auction did not disappoint!



Photo by Fleeting Moments Photography



Photo by Fleeting Moments Photography

The “Quickie-Auction Board,” with VIP hosts Selectman Bob Mezzadri and new DCT Trustee Katie Clancy, was lively and lots of fun. And the folks who made it over to the “Wine Toss” table had a special treat with selections that included bottles from Josh/Joseph Carr and Quivett Cellars.

We truly hope that everyone enjoyed a memorable summer evening out with friends. We have already started the “hopes and dreams list” for 2018’s event. We’re looking forward to bringing even more of the event outside, “under the tent,” and we’re planning a bigger and better menu. Be sure to Save the Date for the next DCT Summer Evening on Sunday, July 29, 2018!



Photo by Fleeting Moments Photography

2017 Annual Meeting



Photo by Dorria DiManno

Nearly 60 DCT members and friends gathered in Carleton Hall on October 28 for the Trust's annual meeting featuring guest speaker Jack Clarke. Clarke, the Director of Public Policy and Government Relations for Mass Audubon, shared the challenges faced by the environmental community in today's political climate, and identified the opportunities we all have to preserve and protect our precious resources. Focusing on his legislative work, he noted the importance of furthering our conservation agenda in Washington DC, and "stepping up our game at the state and local levels."

Jack pointed out the economic benefits realized by Cape Cod businesses from the four million visitors who come to the National Seashore annually, thanks to conservation laws passed in the 1960s. He also stressed the value of working closely with other stakeholders including sports and recreational users of conservation lands and the Chamber of Commerce – working together with the DCT and Town to protect lands for public access as well as acting as conservation partners. Preceding the guest speaker, DCT Director Katherine Garofoli and DCT President Joe Masse welcomed attendees and highlighted the past year's successes. Joe congratulated DCT members on being members of the "600 club" – helping to preserve and protect 600 acres of land in Dennis. He added that saving just 32 more acres will bring the DCT to the "square mile club." In our Town of roughly 22 square miles, that is a significant accomplishment!

Among the year's achievements, Katherine recognized Mirande Holl for her commitment for protecting the land around her home and patience through the process. Working closely with the Town, the DCT led efforts

2017 Annual Meeting

to acquire and protect 8+ acres of magnificent land and waterfront property on Scargo Lake. Also of significance for the Trust in 2017 was the signing of a Cultural Respect Agreement on the Old Fort Field property with the Native Land Conservancy – the first such agreement east of the Mississippi.



Photo by Dorria DiManno

The DCT also held its annual elections at the meeting, including: Trustees – Connie Bechard, Carole Bell, Katie Clancy, and Bob Laufer; Advisors: Chris Foley, Beverley LeBlanc, and Edmond Nickerson. Dianne Callan was elected Clerk.

Spooky Stroll at Grassy Pond



On October 20th, the Dennis Conservation Trust and the Cape Wildlife Center co-hosted a Spooky Stroll focusing on Cape Cod's nocturnal critters. Thank you to the AmeriCorps Cape Cod Members and over 30 attendees who joined us that evening.



DCT welcomes Mollie Thompson, the new AmeriCorps Member

Age: 22

Hometown: Buffalo, New York

Position: AmeriCorps Cape Cod Member

I am so glad to be serving on Cape Cod this year! I am currently living in Wellfleet, Massachusetts with thirteen other AmeriCorps members. In addition to completing group service throughout the Cape, I will be spending three days a week working with the Dennis Conservation Trust and the Town of Dennis during my year of national service. I am eager to climb aboard and proliferate the message of stewardship for our natural world.



I graduated from the State University of New York at Geneseo as a communication and psychology double major in May, 2017. I was involved in a variety of extracurricular activities while attending school. I had the honor of holding multiple positions in



my sorority, Phi Lambda Chi, as an active sister. I also lead workshops on inclusivity as a Safe Zone trainer in addition to earning the Opal Certificate from the Gold Leadership Program for diversity and cultural competency. I am a member of the 2016 graduating class of the Women's Leadership Institute where I was awarded the Service Pearl for my dedication to our charitable efforts. Lastly, I traveled to Bahia, Ecuador for a reforestation mission during the winter of 2016.

I've completed a total of three internships throughout my academic career. My

DCT welcomes Mollie Thompson, the new AmeriCorps Member

first was with the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo where I assisted with press events, community outreach programs and wrote articles for their environmental blog. I was also the Communications/Marketing Intern for Buffalo Niagara RIVERKEEPER where I researched advertising opportunities, drafted material for press releases, photographed events, and canvassed the City of Buffalo with promotional material. Lastly, I spent this past summer as the Public Relations Intern for Darien Lake Theme Park Resort where I was responsible for their social media accounts, interacting with media representatives, issuing customer service responses, and handling donation requests.

My hobbies include reading, writing, drawing, hiking, kayaking and exploring Cape Cod. I am looking forward to getting to know everyone as soon as possible!

Mollie is assisting the Dennis Conservation Trust and the Dennis Department of Natural Resources on community outreach and engagement activities. She will also coordinate the next Dennis Conservation Celebration on April 28, 2018 and a walk and talk series for the Trust.

**The Dennis Conservation Trust Family
wishes you and yours a
Wonderful Holiday Season!**





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