



SUMMER 2014

Newsletter

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President's Message

It has been 10 years since the Town of Dennis, assisted by DCT and the state and federal governments, acquired 33 acres at Crowe's Pasture from three real estate developers. The acquisition enabled the town to expand the Crowe's Pasture recreation area in its natural state and protect it from development. The purchase date – July 2003 – was a significant one in the history of Dennis land preservation efforts.

Continued page 3...

*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.*



Fleeting Moments Photography

**Thank you for another successful DCT
Summer Evening!**



President's Message *continued...*

The campaign to save Crowe's Pasture also represented a coming of age for DCT. Until then, through our first 15 or so years, we had worked generally alone in receiving donations, or acquiring individual parcels, of land. But when word circulated that developers had filed plans to create one or more subdivisions at Crowe's Pasture, DCT swung into action alongside the Town. Among other things, we:

- Joined a working group with the Town and other government officials that met regularly and forged a strategy for acquiring the land at Crowe's Pasture;
- Brought in Mark Robinson, Executive Director of the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, as an expert consultant;
- Forged an informal alliance with East Dennis residents to raise substantial funds to assist the Town; and
- Lobbied at Town Meeting for a purchase package that included Town funds, grants from the state and federal governments, and \$450,000 in funds raised by DCT through its East Dennis allies.

The successful Crowe's Pasture acquisition led to other joint ventures with the Town and the state, and community supporters, on complex or expensive acquisitions. Grassy Pond, now the Dorothy Connors Bell Conservation Area, in 2013 is the most recent example.

As we look back at the decade of expanded public open space at Crowe's Pasture, we should keep in mind the sense of alarm that swept through Dennis at the prospect of large scale development there and be proud of the key role DCT played in saving Crowe's Pasture.

Thanks to our many members and supporters who raised funds, made phone calls, or attended Town Meeting to make the Crowe's Pasture acquisition a reality.

Richard A. Johnston



DCT Land Steward Program

Land Stewards play a vital role in helping DCT care for over 375 acres of property. Twice a year, DCT Land Stewards visit assigned properties and report findings. DCT Land Stewards collect information relating to: public access, property line encroachment, natural resources and habitat conditions, and property uses and maintenance needs. We use the information for reference in deciding best management practices.

We are still in need of volunteers. Please contact Katherine Garofoli, via email at katherine@thecomcompact.net, for more information

On May 8, 2014, DCT held a Land Steward Training workshop at the West Dennis School House. The event provided preliminary information about the program and what to expect as volunteers. Over 12 willing volunteers attended and the list continues to grow.

Celebrating Grassy Pond!

A year has passed since the successful purchase of the Dorothy Connors Bell Conservation Area at Grassy Pond by the Town of Dennis. The effort to protect this parcel was a major collaboration by the Town, Community Preservation Committee, the voters, the state of Massachusetts, The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, the Dennis Water District, and the Dennis Conservation Trust. As the anniversary of this unique acquisition approached, DCT wanted to hold a community event that would bring neighbors, stakeholders, and volunteers together.

On June 7, 2014, DCT hosted a Service and Celebration Day at Grassy Pond. Volunteers from all parts of the community came out and cleaned the existing trails, planted milkweed to support monarch butterfly revitalization, and collected trash. The event attracted over 30 people.



Continued on page 5...



Volunteer “Q & A Spotlight” Meet two of our Land Stewards, Michele and Mike Jenness of Yarmouthport.

Why did you become a Dennis Conservation Trust Land Steward?

“The reasons we have become volunteers are numerous. We purchased a home on the Cape three years ago and are proud of the

beautiful area and want to do our part to keep it that way. We get great satisfaction from lending a hand at various projects, especially environmental efforts. Volunteering has allowed us to learn about the geography, wildlife, and natural beauty on the Cape. We have also met new people and made new friends in our volunteer efforts.

What volunteer efforts are you involved in?

“Some other volunteer opportunities we are involved in are Herring Counts, Cape Abilities tomato growing, Salvation Army Christmas efforts, wrapping gifts at Barnes and Noble to raise funds for children's books, Tour de Trash with Senior Corps cleaning local parcels, as well as an annual trip to Monomy Island and a few trips to North Beach in Chatham. I have helped at the Harwich Owl exhibit and seedling disbursement at Dennis Transfer Station.”

Massachusetts’ Conservation Land Tax Credit

In 2009, Governor Deval Patrick signed the “Land Conservation Incentives Act” establishing a Massachusetts state income tax credit for landowners who donate qualifying conservation land to a municipality, the Commonwealth or Land Trust. The MA Conservation Land Tax Credit program provides a substantial tax benefit to Massachusetts taxpayers which can reduce income and real estate taxes.

Continued page 5...

Grassy Pond *continued...*

Like the acquisition, many organizations contributed to make this day successful. Ronald Fenn, a local poet, provided a lovely poetry reading. The Dennis Public Market, the Dennis Inn, and Nirvana Coffee provided refreshments for the day. Ken Foster from Breakaway/Hall Oil graciously cooked all of the food with his X-Grill truck. Nauset Disposal donated portable sanitation facilities for the day. DCT would like to thank all who donated items and all who attended.



Ronald Fenn, Poet

MA Conservation Land Tax Credit *continued...*

The benefits to qualifying taxpayers under the Act are as follows:

- Gifts of land may be made by deed or conservation restriction, as long as they are permanently protected;
- Tax credit is valued at 50% of the appraised fair market value of the gift;
- Tax credit is limited to \$50,000 per gift;
- Tax credit cannot exceed the donor's annual state income tax liability; however, it may be carried forward for 10 consecutive years; and
- The tax credit is a Massachusetts tax credit that may be taken despite of any charitable deductions claimed on the taxpayer's federal income tax return for the same qualified donations of certified lands.

The Act provides taxpayers with a real economic incentive for land stewardship and conservation efforts. The tax credit will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. If you are interested in learning more about the program, please contact DCT at 508-362-3422 ext. 3.

SAVE THE DATE!

August 14th at 3 PM
BACKYARD BIRDING

West Dennis Graded School House
67 School Street in West Dennis



DCT welcomes a MA Audubon Naturalist to discuss backyard birding and techniques. Suggested donation for DCT members \$5, non-members are \$10. Light refreshments will be provided. Please register by calling 508-362-3422 or email Katherine at katherine@thecomact.net.

September 4th at 12:00 PM
Exploring Oysters at Crowe's Pasture
Main parking area at entrance of
Crowes Pasture

Take a walk with DCT through Crowes Pasture and out onto the East Dennis Oyster Farm grant to learn about growing oysters. Oysters will be available at \$1 each. Please register by calling 508-362-3422 or email Katherine at katherine@thecomact.net.



Fleeting Moments Photography

13th Annual DCT Summer Evening!

A night full of fun, food, and spirited bidding was had by all at the 13th annual Dennis Conservation Trust Live and Silent Auction held on July 27, 2014. Bidding was especially lively for golf trips, vacations, and sports tickets.

Many thanks are in order to our corporate, small business, and individual donors, the Sea View Restaurant, auctioneer John Terrio, and all in attendance. DCT would like to extend a special thank you to Auction Manager Connie Mooers, Trustee co-chair Paul McCormick, and an incredible group of dedicated and hard-working volunteers. The funds raised at this signature event allow DCT to fulfill its mission of protecting open space in Dennis. It was a wonderful night for conservation and preservation in Dennis!

Farewell to James McCarthy

The fall 2011 edition of the DCT Newsletter featured a front-page photo of James McCarthy, the Trust's first full-time employee. During his 2+ years as Administrator and Land Manager, James worked tirelessly to expand all facets of our conservation efforts through community outreach, education, land management, and stewardship efforts. James' successes were DCT's successes, among them his collaborations with many Town departments (Conservation, Natural Resources, DPW); land maintenance and improvement projects with AmeriCorps at (Old Fort Field trails, Sesuit Neck Road trail bridge); and his key role in land acquisition and conservation (Dorothy Connors Bell Conservation/Grassy Pond project). We wish James the very best in his new position with the Massachusetts State Department of Fish and Game.



*Thank you to the Hart Farms,
the Dennis DPW, and all of
the DCT
volunteers who made the
annual
2014 Seedling
Giveaway successful this year.*



THE POWER OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORT

Please join the DCT. With your financial support at any level, DCT will confidently embark on the next 25 years with its mission to further preserve the natural beauty of our town.

Become a member online at www.DennisConservationTrust.org or mail your check to DCT at P.O. Box 67, East Dennis, MA 02641.





P.O. Box 67
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www.DennisConservationTrust.org

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Forest Primeval

By Ronald Fenn, poet and longtime DCT supporter

Honey-ward bees of late spring
To the hive with nectar they do bring.
Winds make willows whisper and weep
Sweet sounds of leaves quaking does memory
keep.
Sun drenched immediacies do abound
Cornucopia of senses, predominant is sound.
Red rugosa rose ripe in cultured cantons
Effusing fragrance in nature's creations.
Yet sirens of the wood covert and green
Beckon the ear in hypnotic dream:
Awake to our hiss,
Of ancient song and primeval bliss.

From the Journal and Other Writings of Ronald Harrison Fenn, J. XIII,343. Nature: Collection of Poems, Vol. 1. Copyrighted Material