



Summer 2009 NEWSLETTER

www.DennisConservationTrust.org

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 helped preserve them.



WHO'S NEW?

Welcome Kris Ramsay, our new part-time Administrator and Land Specialist. A 2008 graduate of Colby-Sawyer College with a degree in Environmental Science, Kris is working on a variety of projects, including the Land Stewardship program, leading an AmeriCorps trail construction project on Sesuit Neck Road, and using a Geographic Information System (GIS) to document all of the DCT properties.

Visit the DCT website and you'll see the results of Kris's work so far. It's a "work in progress," but a wonderful step towards giving everyone access to our properties on the web. Check them out at www.dennisconservationtrust.org Click on "Acquired Properties" to see lands, by village, preserved by the DCT in relation to other greenspace in Dennis.

OLD MEETS NEW AT THE SEA VIEW ... AND YOU'RE INVITED: SUMMER EVENING 2009 DCT AUCTION

Join us on Sunday, July 19 at 5 p.m. at The Sea View on Chase Avenue in Dennisport for our 8th Annual Live and Silent Auction. We know you'll enjoy what is now an annual tradition – amazing food, music, fun and friendship, along with spirited libations and a chance to bid on some terrific auction items. Don't forget the raw bar with those succulent Dennis clams and oysters, and everyone's favorite, the **Restaurant Gift Certificate** table!



You'll find both old *and* new at the Auction, including art and antiques, handmade furniture, Box seats at Fenway for the Red Sox, New England Patriots tickets, deep sea fishing, a whale watch, and new this year, a trip on a 75-foot charter boat.

We promise you a few surprises and what we hope will be some wonderful "new traditions." You can count on lively bidding with Auctioneer John Terrio, and yes, we're looking forward to being at The Sea View – especially the great facilities and the beautiful views of the new Sea View Park and Nantucket Sound.

Watch for an invitation in the mail, but if we missed you, please call Auction Manager Connie Mooers (774-212-3525) or send an e-mail to DCTAuction2009@comcast.net for reservations and information. Tickets are \$60 in advance and \$65 at the door. Visit our website for item updates and more information. Summer Evening 2009 promises to be the "not-to-be-missed" event of the season.

LAND STEWARDS OFF AND RUNNING

Thanks to the great efforts of our Administrator Kris Ramsay and Trustee Lisa Hendrickson, and the enthusiasm of 24 volunteers, the DCT Land Stewardship program is underway. Kris and Lisa have conducted two training sessions and most of the stewards have already conducted their baseline property surveys. Each steward is responsible for one or more of our 51 properties which he or she visits at least twice per year to complete a property survey. You may also notice that most of our properties can now be identified from public roads due to Kris's recent efforts with sign installations. Whether you're a Land Steward or not, here's how you can help us keep our properties in good condition: if you see something amiss on a DCT property, contact Kris Ramsay at 508-362-3422, ext. 3 or compactk@cape.com

AMERICORPS STAFF WORKING HARD BETWEEN THE RAIN DROPS

On June 5, 2009, ten AmeriCorps members helped the DCT restore an existing trail at 89 Sesuit Neck Road in East Dennis. Despite the steady rain coming down, AmeriCorps staff were busy removing brush and replacing an unsafe, dilapidated bridge with a new, sturdy one. The DCT couldn't have accomplished this project without the help of AmeriCorps.



NEW ACQUISITIONS MEAN MORE LAND PRESERVED, THANKS TO YOU!

Thanks to Judy Dubin for her recent donation of land on Old Bass River Road in South Dennis! The DCT now owns, and/or has conservation restrictions on, more than 490 acres of land throughout the town.

THE DCT SPRING WINE DINNER: C'ETAIT MAGNIFIQUE!

Sumptuous food and extraordinary wines were the 'carte du jour' for the Trust's Boutique French Wine Dinner fundraiser at the Blue Moon Bistro in Dennis on May 17. Thanks to Trustees/Hosts Connie Bechard, Paul McCormick, and Paul Prue for their efforts, and especially to Lisa and Peter Hyde, our Blue Moon hosts for the evening.



Brett Webber (Patriot Spirits) highlighted the wine for each course of the meal with informative commentary about each wine, and even challenged attendees to a "wine trivia contest." By evening's end, the bids were flying (fittingly spirited) for a bottle of 1975 Chateau Lafite Rothschild, ultimately won by Patty and Joe Antonelli (pictured). Thanks to all our guests for joining us and showing their support for the Trust. The Trust holds fall and spring fundraiser wine dinners at various restaurants throughout the town each year. Watch our website for updates regarding the fall wine dinner.

LENDING A HAND ACROSS THE MARSH: Quivett Marsh Benefits from Dennis – Brewster Collaboration



Looking over Quivett Marsh and
Crowes Pasture on the left.

Once again, the Dennis and Brewster Conservation Trusts have partnered to protect the Quivett Marsh that separates the two towns. The Brewster Conservation Trust provided crucial support when it came to assembling the Crowes Pasture Conservation Area. The Dennis Conservation Trust, with a donation of \$15,000, was among the first contributors in the drive to protect the old marsh-side Skyline Motel property from re-development. The motel was a remnant of the 1950s that had fallen into disuse, and was finally demolished two years ago. Once removed, it opened up a broad view of the marsh

WANT TO PRESERVE YOUR LAND AND LOWER YOUR TAXES?

Would you like to preserve your land, while retaining ownership and lowering your taxes at the same time? If so, a Federal tax incentive that has been extended through 2009 may be your answer. It involves establishing a conservation restriction (CR) on your property, and allows donors to receive a 50% federal income tax deduction for up to 16 years. A CR may also reduce the estate tax on a property so it is less likely to be sold by the heirs. This may be the last year for this tax incentive so ACT NOW! We can set up the CR for you. Contact Kris Ramsay at 508-362-3422 or compactk@cape.com for more information. We are a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization, so all donations made to the DCT are tax-deductible.

FROM BASS RIVER TO SEA VIEW PARK ... DCT/TOWN CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS

If you haven't done so already, take a ride down Lower County Road to the new Sea View Park, ribboned with walking trails, a butterfly garden, osprey nest, children's playground, and community garden. Best of all, watch the people, couples and kids, seniors and teens, families and visitors, enjoying this beautiful new green gem in Dennisport.

Then head west toward the Bass River Bridge to see what's happening at the gateway to West Dennis, Bass River Park. The infrastructure and preliminary construction work for a boardwalk, picnic shelters, and landscaping is now underway, and is just the beginning of what will be another gem for Dennis, a waterfront park for all ages.



We can all take pride in these conservation successes. The DCT partnered with the Town for the acquisition of both properties, and in doing so, created "greenspace" instead of more development.



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HELP THE DCT “GO GREEN”



We’re looking at ways for our organization to be “greener” in its daily operations. Distributing our newsletter electronically to those of our members and supporters who would like to receive it that way will save paper, ink, and postage – a winning approach all-around! If you would like to receive the DCT newsletter electronically, please e-mail Kris Ramsay at compactk@cape.com.

REMEMBERING SOMEONE WITH A GIFT TO THE TRUST

A gift to the DCT is a special way to honor a friend or family member, to celebrate a birthday or anniversary, or to honor the memory of a friend or loved one. Please consider a donation to the Trust, knowing that your gift will have lasting value in helping preserve our natural environment. Contact our Administrator, Kris Ramsay, for more information. Call 508-362-3422 or compactk@cape.com.

THE POWER OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORT

Please join the DCT. Your \$30 membership dues and other contributions help the Trust in its operations and land preservation efforts. Mail your check to DCT P.O. Box 67 East Dennis, MA 02641. For donations of land, contact Kris Ramsay, 508-362-3422 or compactk@cape.com.