



Orleans  
Conservation  
Trust

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Elizabeth Migliore, *Director*  
Leah Mould, *AmeriCorps Cape Cod Individual Placement*

OCT is a recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

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## from the president

Dear OCT members and supporters,

It's hard to believe a whole year has gone by since I wrote my first message. It has been my pleasure to work with a strong, dynamic, creative, and engaged board and staff. We accomplished a great deal but there is always more to be done. Exciting new opportunities await us.

Transitions are always a challenging time, but our new director, Liz Migliore, jumped right in, successfully took the helm, and kept OCT on a steady course. If you visit any of the Trust's properties, you'll see some of the work that kept Liz and Stephen O'Grady, our Dorothy O. Boyle intern, busy all summer—trail maintenance, installing trail markers and OCT property signs, a new split-rail fence at Mill Pond Valley Conservation Area, and a wood duck nesting box at Ice House Pond (join me for a walk there in early December!). We had to bid Steve farewell when he returned to school but look forward to having more interns on board, with the energy they bring. Liz also was successful in her application for another AmeriCorps Cape Cod placement: Leah Mould, a recent graduate from the University of Rochester in Environmental Science, started in October and will be with us through July 2016.

Fundraising is always one of the board's most important responsibilities, if not the most important. In the coming years it's going to be more critical than ever to identify a core group of supporters who can go

above and beyond financially to help us carry out our mission. Our newly launched People to People Campaign will help us achieve our fundraising goals and form a solid base of support for the Trust to do its work. You'll read more about fundraising activities in this issue.

Early in October, the board met for an all-day workshop led by Mark Robinson of the Compact for Cape Cod Land Trusts. Using the Land Trust Alliance Handbook, we looked deeply and critically at our operation. This self-examination gave us a good understanding of what we're doing well and where we need to improve. It was the first step in formulating a strategic plan to guide OCT for the next five years. You'll be hearing more about this effort, and we need you to play a key role in it. Input from an engaged membership is vital as we develop this plan.

Each year in this issue we recognize all our supporters by name. You make all that we do possible, and on behalf of the entire board I thank you for your support and participation.

Bob Prescott  
President



## HELP US MEET THE CHALLENGE!

We're delighted to announce that a generous donor has made a challenge grant to bolster our year-end fundraising: all gifts up to \$25,000 will be matched dollar for dollar. Please keep this in mind when you receive OCT's year-end mailing — help us meet the challenge and more!



On the cover: A great horned owl amid fall foliage, just off the main trail at OCT's Twinings Pond Conservation Area.

Photo by Elizabeth Migliore



## Comings and Goings at the Trust

OCT's Annual Meeting was held on August 27, 2015, at the Orleans Yacht Club. The 56 members in attendance ratified the election of new trustees and nominating committee members, after 340 members cast affirmative votes by mailed ballot, online, or in person. Following the business agenda, attendees heard a fascinating talk by Dr. Jeremy Owens of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute,



Jeremy Owens

who studies the interactions between ocean chemistry, biology, and climate disturbance; he explained how the presence of certain carbon isotopes at different points in the earth's evolution

offers clues to a changing climate. And after that, we enjoyed delicious hors d'oeuvres prepared by Mac's Seafood.

The slate of trustees elected or reelected consists of J. Charles Carlson, Mon Cochran, Sharon Davis, Kevin Galligan, Stephanie Gaskill, Karl Goldkamp, Steven Koehler,

Susan Meisinger, and Judith Scanlon. Their biographies, and a full agenda of the meeting, can be found on the OCT website at <http://orleansconservationtrust.org/annual-meeting/>.

Outgoing trustee Beth Minear, who retired this summer after 15 years of service on the board, was presented with a framed photograph of a baby turtle, one of her conservation passions.



Elizabeth Migliore

### Introducing Our New Director

This annual meeting marked the first time many members had the chance to meet OCT Di-

rector Elizabeth Migliore, who spoke briefly. Liz came to us from the Wildlands Trust in Plymouth, where she was MassLIFT AmeriCorps Regional Conservation Coordinator; her background also includes stints at Cape Cod National Seashore, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, studying the fragile dune habitat of Lake Ontario as an intern. While earning her MS in environmental studies at Ohio University, she gained on-the-ground experience in water quality, wetlands, and fish studies.

Liz looks forward to building on this



Outgoing trustee Beth Minear, who retired this summer after 15 years of service on the board.

professional background in environmental science with the broader work of a land trust: fundraising, land acquisition and management, and education. She notes that "land trusts generally are in transition: moving away from a primary focus on land acquisition, as properties become scarcer and more expensive, toward applying best practices in managing their properties, and expanding outreach and education programs." OCT in particular, she believes, has great strength in its longevity and close community ties, "but we still have a lot of potential for growth, in directions that our new strategic planning efforts will help identify." An avid traveler, Liz is enjoying exploring the Northeast, and after a lot of moves during her training, looks forward to settling in on the Cape.

### New AmeriCorps Staff on Board

One of Liz's first achievements as director was securing the services of another Individual Placement from AmeriCorps Cape Cod. Leah Mould recently graduated from the University of Rochester with a degree in Environmental Science. She loves being outdoors: birding, gardening, hiking, or helping with land management work. Leah will serve with OCT two days a week from October 2015 through July 2016. Members are invited to stop by the office to meet Liz and Leah. More about both can be found at <http://orleansconservationtrust.org/staff-bios/>.

# Celebrating Generosity Through the Seasons

## Fall Fundraising Report

In this season of thanksgiving, we express our gratitude to the many donors and supporters who are the lifeblood of the Orleans Conservation Trust. The last few pages of this issue are devoted to acknowledging each and every one. As our year-end fundraising appeal draws near, it also seems like a good time to share with members some of the current directions of our fundraising activity.

We know that people like to give in different ways. For some, a gift of land or of a conservation restriction on land they own—sometimes in the form of a bequest—is the most meaningful and mutually beneficial way to support the Trust, especially given the generous state tax credit. Others choose to dedicate a gift of money to build our endowment, maintain OCT lands, or support staffing (like the Dorothy Rowe Boyle Memorial Internship) or special programs. Now and then we conduct targeted fundraising campaigns for a land purchase or other major effort. Of course, the most versatile and useful donations are “unrestricted”: funds the organization can use for the ever-growing expense of managing our lands, for our popular educational programs and walks,



and all the myriad needs of a conservation nonprofit.

### PEOPLE TO PEOPLE

Our year-end appeal is the tried-and-true fundraising channel, and OCT members always respond in force. This year one very generous donor has provided a challenge grant of up to \$25,000 to match any gifts (especially new gifts and increased levels of giving) made by the end of 2015.

We’re also pursuing a new avenue. To better inform ourselves about our donors’ priorities—and inform supporters about OCT’s needs—we’ve begun to reach out on an individual, “person to person” level to donors with the means and inclination to help meet our most pressing needs. As Orleans



landowners know, in recent years it’s taken more and more resources to battle the invasive species that threaten the health and best use of our lands. Doing this successfully requires that we add part-time staff in the summer and maintain equipment that’s up to the task. While specific needs evolve, the basic need for committed donors is a constant.

### A VERY SPECIAL BEQUEST

More and more donors recognize that making a charitable gift as part of their estate planning

can help provide financial security for their family, along with tremendous benefits to the Trust’s land-saving mission. Gifts included in wills and living trusts are popular because they are flexible, easy to arrange, and can be changed throughout the giver’s lifetime. (See the sidebar.) This summer, Orleans Conservation Trust learned that longtime benefactor Elizabeth Cullen made such a bequest: a parcel of land just under one acre at 16 Oliver’s Way in East Orleans. The property, near existing OCT land donated by the Cullen family, includes rare waterfront on Mill Pond. We expect title to be transferred to the Trust by year’s end.

When Betty and Jack Cullen decided to retire to the Cape, says their daughter Patty

Cullen, they scoured the Lower Cape for a special home. “Betty always said that she fell in love with the house on Oliver’s Way when they first drove down the dirt driveway,” Patty remembers. During their years on Nauset Heights, they loved sharing the land with wildlife: Jack was always excited when the buffleheads returned to Mill Pond, and Betty loved the swans. Both watched for the fox, coyotes, and deer that cut across the front lawn, and enjoyed the birds from their screened porch.

A vernal pool, bayberry and poison ivy bushes, sea lavender growing along the Mill Pond shoreline, and old stone walls from Oliver Doane’s farm are all part of the land’s history. The Cullens had previously donated three parcels to the Trust and always hoped that the all of their land could be preserved. Two lots remain: we are weighing the feasibility of raising funds to purchase one or both.

### NEW WAYS TO SAY THANKS

We know that people support OCT because they believe in



our work of preserving and thoughtfully managing beautiful and important open space in Orleans—not for any reward. Still, we’ve been on the lookout for creative and enjoyable ways to say thanks. Early this September, on a warm Indian summer day, we hosted a dozen or so donors for a boat trip and picnic on Pleasant Bay, with transportation provided by Blue Claw Tours. Board members Bob Prescott and Mon Cochran provided commentary as we viewed several OCT properties from the water.

First stop was our White’s Lane parcel on Meetinghouse

River, where Bob described ongoing efforts to protect nesting areas for the diamond-back terrapin in collaboration with Mass Audubon’s Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. Then we steamed through Little Pleasant Bay and the Narrows into “Big Bay,” admiring Little Sipson’s Island and its great marsh. Looking north, we had a fine view of the 58 acres of South Orleans upland given to the Trust by Margaret Cochran in 1970. Mon narrated a history of those lands dating from 1907, when his grandparents first bought acreage overlooking the Narrows.

Appetites whetted, we

Opposite: Guests gather for a picnic lunch at Eelman’s Point on Pleasant Bay during the thank-you tour. Above: The Blue Claw at anchor off Eelman’s Point.

disembarked on the beach at Eelman’s Point for a picnic lunch served by other board members and Director Liz Migliore. At tables set with fresh flowers we munched sandwiches and salads while getting to know each other better. Before we reboarded for the trip back to Meetinghouse Pond, Bob offered our guests heartfelt thanks for their support. We hope to make such occasions a regular part of our “people to people” approach.

## Ways to Support OCT through Wills and Trusts

Bequests in one form or another are an ideal way to give to the Trust. A charitable gift requires a simple provision or amendment prepared by your attorney at the time you make or update your will or trust. There is no limit on deductions from federal gift and estate taxes for charitable gifts made by will or trust. You can

- Make a gift of a specific amount, designated for general

use or to fund a special need.

- Provide for a gift of property. Real estate, stocks, and other items of value can all be used to fund charitable bequests.

- Designate a percentage of your estate as a gift to OCT through your will or living trust.

- Give the remainder, or residue, of your estate: what remains after bequests to friends and loved ones are satisfied.

- Name charitable interests to receive a bequest in the event that legacies to other heirs cannot be fulfilled.

To plan any charitable bequest, consult an attorney regarding the best method to suit your circumstances. For information about remembering Orleans Conservation Trust in your will or living trust, please contact Director Elizabeth

Migliore at 508-255-0183, or via e-mail at [emigliore@orleansconservationtrust.org](mailto:emigliore@orleansconservationtrust.org).



## Tending the Terrapin "Gardens"

Back in 2009, OCT used a \$100,000 state grant to restore the White's Lane Conservation Area as field habitat for several species, and especially to encourage nesting by the threatened diamond-back terrapin, a state-listed species. The turtles also require marshland adjacent to the sandy upland. This summer, as in every year since then, staff and volunteers from the Trust and the Mass Audubon Wellfleet Wildlife Sanctuary managed the "turtle gardens" by raking, weeding, and mowing. Right around the nesting areas, grass must be cleared because the roots can act as "predators" of the buried terrapin eggs, growing into and destroying the eggs.

As part of a larger terrapin study on the Cape, Mass

Steve O'Grady, the Trust's outgoing Dorothy Rowe Boyle intern, took part in the White's Lane management work.



Audubon volunteers monitored the nest sites twice daily from May through September. A total of 12 nests were discovered, and 50 hatchlings released. The public was invited to attend a release of 28 hatchlings at White's Lane marsh on September 10, and the Cape Cod Times covered the event. The baby terrapins were recovered from one of three monitored nests, observed overnight at the Sanctuary, then brought back to their birthplace for release.



## Mending Fences at Mill Pond

On August 5, volunteers from the Mill Pond Preservation Association collaborated with OCT to repair the split-rail fence at Mill Pond Conservation Area. The original fencing was in rough shape, with rails eroding away and many posts split down the middle or rotted at the bottom. The replacement took longer than expected, requiring an entire morning of hard labor, but the new fence looks great! Special thanks to Steve Phillips for coordinating this project.

# Monarchs, Migrations, and Milkweed

By Paul Rifkin

Ten years ago I traveled to Michoacan, Mexico, to view one of the great wildlife phenomena on earth: the winter congregation of North America's monarch butterflies. Since time



Paul Rifkin

immemorial, millions of monarchs have migrated 3,000 miles each year, from Mexico to the northern U.S. and Canada, and back again. With a Mexican guide I rode horseback high into the Sierra Madre mountains, where the butterflies "hibernate" in fir trees. Luck was with me, and a sunny April day revealed a sky obscured by countless orange-black-and-white beauties. I broke down crying at the striking spectacle. Since returning to the Cape I've been photographing the monarchs every summer.

Last summer, though, there were none in my garden. Sadly, one of Cape Cod's most beautiful summer visitors may no longer be returning. The reasons have to do with the monarch's unique life cycle and food source: the milkweed plant. During the course of their northward migration, the female monarchs lay their eggs on the milkweed leaves. This cycle is repeated several times over

the summer, as the monarchs move northward, and a new generation of butterflies soon emerges to fly farther north, to Cape Cod and beyond. In the fall, the migration turns south and, just like their forebears, the monarchs (several generations removed) return to the fir trees of Michoacan.

Milkweed is essential for the monarchs to survive the arduous journey and reproduce, but for various reasons, the milkweed plant is vanishing across North America, and so the migration has diminished greatly. Last summer, few monarchs were seen on the Cape. To help replenish the migration—and indeed perhaps to help save the species—the Reverend Nell Fields and congregants of the Waquoit Congregational Church have partnered with other concerned citizens to launch the Monarch Project of Cape Cod.

The group provides and helps distribute milkweed seeds across Cape Cod, for free. We have collaborated with gardeners, schools, faith-based groups, conservation land trusts, and others to educate the community about the threat to the monarchs and promote the planting of milkweed. Last spring, we gave away more than 200,000 milkweed seeds and seedling plugs across Cape



Cod and as far north as Boston. Please join us to learn more and help save the monarchs.

**Paul Rifkin**, is a restaurateur (he owns the Moonakis Cafe in Falmouth), a professional photographer and videographer, a



community organizer, and founder of the Monarch Project of Cape Cod. Visit [www.facebook.com/pages/Monarch-Project-of-Cape-Cod](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Monarch-Project-of-Cape-Cod), and come hear Paul and his colleagues speak about their work on Monday, May 2, 6:45 pm at the Orleans Yacht Club.

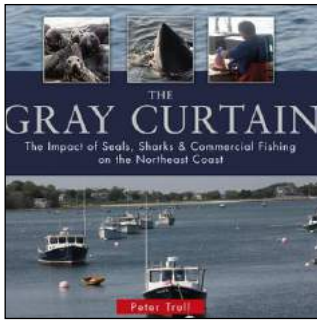
## A Monarch Miscellany

- Unlike other butterflies that can overwinter as larvae, pupae, or even as adults, monarchs cannot survive the cold northern winters.
- Monarchs are the only butterfly known to make a two-way migration, as birds do.
- To find their overwintering site, monarchs probably use a combination of directional aids such as the earth's magnetic pull and the position of the sun.
- Monarchs use a combination of air currents and thermals to travel long distances.
- Monarchs roost for the winter in oyamel fir forests nearly 2 miles above sea level. The mountain hillsides provide an ideal microclimate.
- Tens of thousands of monarchs can cluster on a single tree. Oyamel trees can usually support the clustering butterflies, but sometimes branches break.
- The western population of monarchs in North America overwinters in California.
- Every backyard can become an oasis for monarchs and other pollinators.



# Winter/Spring 2016 Lectures

Join us at the Orleans Yacht Club for the latest in our series of entertaining and **informative talks by local and regional experts. Time, 6:45 – 7:45 pm.** Admission free (cash bar); doors open 30 minutes before the start time..



## The Gray Curtain

Peter Trull  
*Field naturalist and author*

Peter Trull's latest book is *The Gray Curtain: The Impact of Seals, Sharks, and Commercial Fishing on the Northeast Coast* — a topic of great interest here. Peter's talks are always highly informed and entertaining. A short book signing will follow the presentation.

**Monday, January 4, 2016**



## The Lowdown on Terrapins

Bob Prescott and Barbara Brennessel  
*Mass Audubon Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary*

The diamondback terrapin, a state-listed threatened species, is the only salt marsh turtle in the U.S., reaching its northern limit in Wellfleet. You'll learn about the natural history of terrapins, research efforts in Wellfleet, and the restoration work OCT has completed at White's Lane.

**Monday, April 4, 2016**



## Burning in the National Seashore: Why and When

Dave Crary  
*Cape Cod National Seashore Fire Management Officer*

Learn about fire management on the Cape, including fuel reduction and prescribed burning carried out to maintain healthy ecosystems and reduce the risk of wildfire.

**Monday, February 1, 2016**



## Migrating Monarchs

Paul Rifkin, Kathy Koplik, and Vince Puleo  
*Monarch Project of Cape Cod*

The Monarch Project of Cape Cod is a collaboration of concerned residents and groups, organized in response to declining numbers of monarchs globally. They distribute free milkweed seeds, aiming to repopulate the species by providing this valuable food source during the monarchs' migration to Cape Cod. (See story on page 7.)

**Monday, May 2, 2016**



## Are We Losing the Outer Beach?

Greg Berman  
*Woods Hole Sea Grant and Cape Cod Cooperative Extension*

Greg will discuss issues around erosion on the Outer Beach, including a quick glacial history, how the beach formed and how it's affected by coastal processes, the current state of erosion, and the future of the beach.

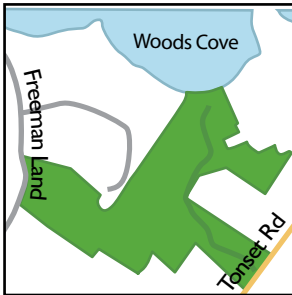
**Monday, March 7, 2016**

To help support the Trust's educational programs, please make a donation at our website, [www.orleansconservationtrust.org](http://www.orleansconservationtrust.org)



# Winter/Spring 2016 Walks

Get to know the **open spaces** of Orleans on our **popular educational walks**. They're **free, fun, and appropriate for all ages**.



## Woods Cove Conservation Area

Short 0.5-mile trail through uplands, wetlands, and a salt-marsh ecosystem  
Meet at 366 Tonset Road, Orleans

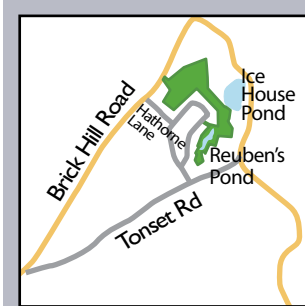
**Tuesday, November 17**  
10:00 – 11:00 am



## Hosea's Swamp

Up-close look at a globally rare Atlantic white cedar swamp  
Meet at 70 Quanset Road, South Orleans

**Thursday, January 28**  
10:00 – 11:00 am



## Ice House/Reuben's Pond Conservation Area

1.5-mile walk around two freshwater ponds, as part of the Cape Cod Duck Census  
Meet at 245 Tonset Road, Orleans

**Saturday, December 5**  
9:00 – 10:30 am



## Three Ponds Walk (Meadow Bog, Sarah's Pond, Twinings Pond)

A 2-hour historical walk and talk through more than 80 acres of OCT-owned conservation land. Be prepared for steep slopes, loose stones, and perhaps some bushwhacking.  
Meet at 135 Quanset Road, South Orleans

**Saturday, February 20**  
9:00 – 11:00 am

See map above



## Help Count the Ducks!

Our December 5 walk around the East Orleans ponds will coincide with the Cape Cod Lake and Pond Waterfowl Survey. Since 1984, the Cape Cod Bird Club has conducted an annual census of waterfowl on Cape ponds and lakes the first weekend in December, on more than 300 water bodies. Join Bob Prescott and other birders for a fun and informative outing.



## Baker's Pond Conservation Area

1.75-mile walk on adjoining conservation lands on Baker's Pond, in Orleans and Brewster  
Meet at 80 Baker's Pond Road, Orleans

**Tuesday, March 15**  
3:00 – 4:30 pm



## Twinings Pond Conservation Area

1.5-mile bird walk through 30-plus acres of pristine woodlands  
Meet at 135 Quanset Road, South Orleans

**Friday, April 29**  
8:30 – 10:00 am



## Putnam Farm Conservation Area

Short walk through a former working farm that's now being managed as an early-succession field habitat  
Meet at 50 Bridge Road, Orleans (behind the courthouse)

**Saturday, May 7**  
9:00 – 10:00 am



# On Reuben's Pond

## The Hopkins Family Legacy in East Orleans

By Stephen A. Hopkins

**A**mong the lands protected by the Trust in East Orleans is the Ice House Pond and Reuben's Pond Conservation Area—just over 25 acres comprising four separate gifts made by two old Orleans families. The acreage around Ice House Pond was donated by the Moore family; the Reuben's Pond gifts came from the family of Steve Hopkins, who describes its history on the land below.

*The conservation area features 1.5 miles of walking trails, with frontage on Ice House and Reuben's Ponds. Once cleared for farming, the land has re-vegetated with both native and invasive species. Encircled by a walking path, Reuben's Pond is an especially popular birding spot. The conservation area and its trails constitute a rare and well-loved stretch of natural habitat preserved from development in this built-out part of town. It's a great place to take a short walk in the woods.*



Reuben Hopkins

Back in 1978, I transferred to the Orleans Conservation Trust a parcel of land off Hopkins Lane in East Orleans, which I had inherited—along with several other lots in the area—from my father,

Reuben S. B. Hopkins, who died in 1974. A pond on this land had been called Goose Pond, but when I had the area surveyed and created a plan, I renamed it Reuben's Pond in memory of my father. Since then, it has been known by that name.

Dad had owned a large tract of land off Hopkins Lane. During his retirement he set up a road called Captain Curtis Way through the area, and divided part of the land along the road as lots, which he sold over time for retirement income. Paths were



Top: Reuben's Pond from the southern shore. Above: The rock and plaque placed by Steve Hopkins at the trailhead.

set up around our pond, and from there through the property donated to OCT by the Moores. My plan for the land laid out a path and steps from Captain Curtis Way down to the existing path around the pond. Preserving this path was my motive for donating the property to the Trust, knowing that I'd be unable to maintain it as I aged, and my children lived elsewhere. Beside the road, at the entrance to this path, I arranged to place a stone with a plaque designating "The Reuben S. B. Hopkins Memorial Trail."

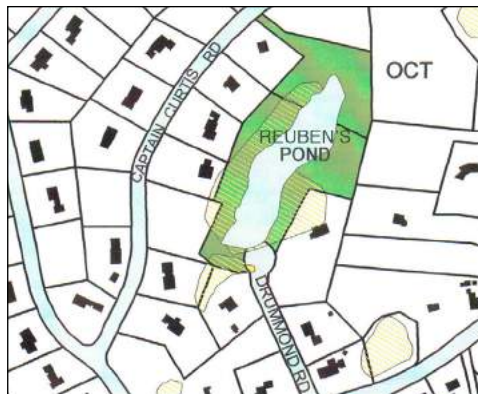
The pond was always a special place for me. Growing up during the early 1940s, while World War II was in full swing, my boyhood friends and I played heated war games around the pond and in the nearby woods. We had an old rowboat, to which we attached a pole with a large sheet, and sailed down the pond while being bombarded by mud bombs thrown by our enemies on shore. On the bank overlooking the pond, we eventually built a hut from fallen logs to use as our "headquarters."

The land around Reuben's Pond had been owned by members of the Hopkins family for many generations. In 1644, Gyles Hopkins and his family were among the first to settle in the South Parish of Eastham, which eventually became Orleans. Gyles was the eldest son of my ancestor, Stephen Hopkins, who came over on the Mayflower with his family in 1620 and settled at Plymouth Plantation. Gyles engaged in fishing and farming on the small property he settled. The Nauset Indians, who had been in the area for centuries, were fortunately peaceful and, unlike the colonists, did not view land as an asset to be owned. Gyles was eventually granted large tracts of land in the Tonset area, apparently by officials in Eastham.

The house Gyles built overlooked what is now the Town Cove. Gyles's sister, Constance, married Nicholas Snow in 1627; their family joined Gyles in the Tonset area several years later. Members of the Snow and Hopkins families have lived in this area

"A pond on this land had been called Goose Pond, but when I had the area surveyed and created a plan, I renamed it Reuben's Pond in memory of my father."

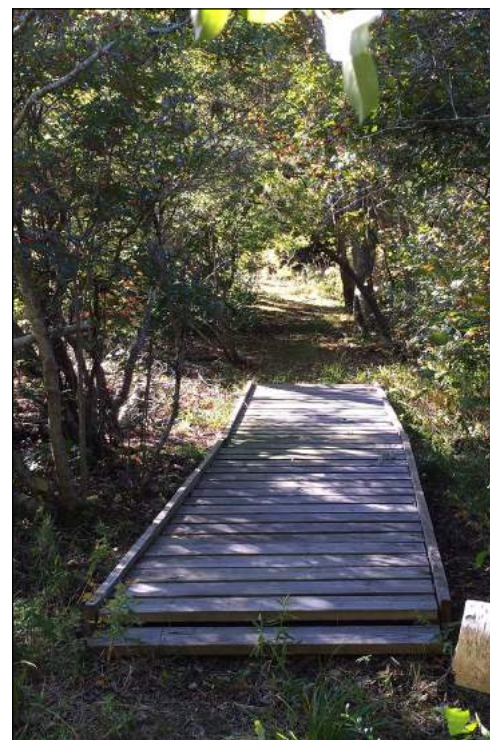
— Stephen A. Hopkins



continuously ever since those early years.

As generations of Hopkinses succeeded to ownership of the Tonset land, parcels were sold off or given away. By 1920, three centuries after the first Stephen Hopkins landed on these shores, only a few family members, including my father, owned land there. The lots I inherited have now been sold, except for the land that we transferred to the Trust. In this way, of course, it has been set aside for the benefit of everybody, including myself. I remember with pleasure walking around the pond with my two Great Danes.

By the way, that place overlooking the pond where we boys built our hut? Much later, in 1970, a young woman named Sylvia McMeen bought a lot from Dad and built a nice, comfortable house just above where the hut had been. We didn't know each other at the time, but I now live in that house on Captain Curtis Way with Sylvia, who became my wife. In this way I am carrying on the family tradition of residing in the Tonset area.




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**Steve Hopkins**, retired in 1998 from his career as a busy trial attorney in Boston. He and Sylvia now spend winters in Anguilla and summers at their house off Hopkins Lane. He is the author of two books; the most recent, **The Memoirs of a Cape Codder**, is available on Amazon.



Andrew De Lory Photo

Secretary Jewell with trustees Mon Cochran and Diana Landau on Pilgrim Lake in Orleans.

### Interior Secretary Visits OCT Lands

On a three-day getaway to Orleans in late September, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and her husband, Warren—dedicated sailors in their home waters of Puget Sound—leaped at the chance for a tour of Pleasant Bay on the catboat *Susurrus* skippered by OCT trustee Mon Cochran. The opportunity arose from a family connection with another trustee, Diana Landau. Secretary Jewell, “a huge fan of land trusts,” as she put it, appreciated the chance to see the many Trust lands in the South Orleans area, mostly from the water.



Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Warren Jewell aboard Mon Cochran’s catboat *Susurrus* on Pleasant Bay. Jewell took the helm more than once.



### Kayak Convoy to Little Sipson’s

One of our most popular “hikes” of 2015 wasn’t a hike at all. On a gorgeous Monday morning in August, 20 or so people in kayaks, canoes, even paddleboards voyaged from the Quanset Town Landing to Little Sipson’s Island on the outer reaches of Pleasant Bay, about a 20-minute paddle. Beaching our crafts, we tramped around the perimeter while Bob Prescott shared his capacious knowledge of the island’s topography, vege-

tation, birds, and the surrounding marine environment, which features some of the healthiest eelgrass beds in the state. Little Sipson’s became an OCT property in 1991, after an October gale swept away the only dwelling on the privately owned island and the Trust raised \$150,000 to acquire it—our very first land purchase. See <http://orleansconservationtrust.org/little-sipson-island-kayak-trip-recap/> for more.



### Hiking Pochet to “Celebrate Our Waters”

By contrast, the first day of autumn was gray and threatening when 35 hardy walkers set out from the Nauset Beach parking lot to Pochet Island, but the prospect of visiting or revisiting this private inholding of the National Seashore kept spirits warm. Our friends at Orleans Pond Coalition arranged with the Payson family for this walk, co-led by OCT’s current and former directors, Liz Migliore and Kris Ramsay. Tim Payson showed us the family dwellings on the island, the 30-plus acres recently cleared of invasives, and the stupendous ocean and bay views from the high point at the south end. This remote piece of Orleans feels preserved in time.

For more details, see <http://orleansconservationtrust.org/pochet-island-walk-recap/>.



# Gifts and Donations

## Membership Year 2014–2015

From July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, Orleans Conservation Trust received support from its members and the community in the form of unrestricted donations and restricted gifts, which specifically support land acquisition, land management, or educational programs. The Trust also received special gifts made in honor or in memory of someone designated by the giver. Gifts “in honor of” recognize a family member, loved one, or friend, sometimes to mark a special

occasion or a milestone or to honor their service. Gifts “in memory of” celebrate the life of someone who has passed away.

Every gift, in whatever amount and for whatever purpose, demonstrates your commitment to conserving land and plays a vital role in helping OCT fulfill its mission— acquire and hold land in its natural state for conservation purposes forever, for the use and benefit of the whole community.

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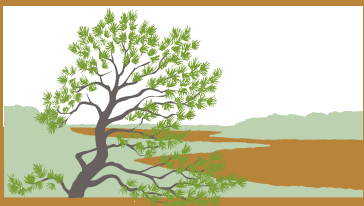
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