



SHERIFF'S
MEADOW
FOUNDATION



NEWSLETTER

Fall 2015
Issue No. 50

A VINEYARD LAND TRUST



Quansoo Farm

Photo by Stephen Chapman

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation Awarded Accreditation

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation has been designated as an accredited land trust by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance. On July 28, 2015, the Foundation received word that after two years of intense preparation, the submission of records on land and financial matters and scrutiny by the Commission, accreditation had been awarded. The accreditation period lasts for five years, from August 1, 2015 to July 31, 2020. Sheriff's Meadow Foundation was publicly recognized for this achieve-

ment at the Land Trust Alliance Rally in Sacramento in October.

"Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is honored to have achieved accreditation," said Executive Director Adam Moore. "Accreditation demonstrates to our community that we adhere to the highest national standards. Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is a much stronger organization today from having gone through this rigorous program."

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation was founded in 1959 by Henry Beetle Hough and Elizabeth Bowie Hough and it is the

local land trust for the island of Martha's Vineyard. The mission of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is to conserve the natural, beautiful, rural landscape and character of Martha's Vineyard for present and future generations.

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation was awarded accreditation this August and is one of 317 land trusts from across the country that have been awarded accreditation since the fall of 2008. Accredited land trusts are authorized to display a seal indicating to the public that they meet

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FOUNDED IN 1959 BY
Henry Beetle Hough and
Elizabeth Bowie Hough

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Samantha Look, *Education Coordinator*

Ann Barros, *Bookkeeper*

Foundation Elects Officers and Directors

At its Annual Meeting of June 19, 2015, the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation Board of Directors elected a number of new Officers and Directors, reelected certain Officers and Directors, and elected the members of the Executive and Nominating Committees.

The Foundation Board reelected Chris Alley to a one-year term as President of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation and reelected Brien O'Brien to a one-year term as Vice-President. Walt Looney was elected to a one-year term as Treasurer, and Susannah Bristol was elected to a one-year term as Assistant Treasurer. Mr. Looney succeeds Terry Guylay, who had served as Foundation Treasurer since 2010. Molly Glasgow was elected to a one-year term as Clerk, succeeding Alley Moore, who had served as Clerk since 2008.

The Board elected Alan Rappaport to a first, three-year term as a Director. Mr. Rappaport joins Mary Lou DeLong, elected in December of 2014, in the same class of Directors. Biographies and photographs of Mr. Rappaport and Ms.

DeLong follow in this newsletter.

The Board reelected Michael Berwind, Susan Crampton, Peter Getsinger, David Grain and Bill Howell to second, three-year terms as Directors, and reelected Chris Alley, Susannah Bristol and Kathy Ham to third, three-year terms as Directors. Directors Emily Bramhall, Christian Halby and Lil Province were elected to fourth, one-year terms as Directors, and Adam Moore was elected to a one-year term as a voting, appointed Director.

The Board also elected the members of its Executive Committee and Nominating Committee at this meeting. Elected to one-year terms on the Executive Committee were all of the Officers, and also Jennifer Blum, Susan Crampton, Bob Egerton, Peter Getsinger and Samme Thompson. Elected to one-year terms on the Nominating Committee were Chris Alley, Jennifer Blum, Susannah Bristol, Bob Egerton, Ellen Harley, Rob McCarron, Alley Moore, Phil Regan and Sarah Thulin.

New Trail at Eastman and Knapp Preserves in Aquinnah

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is pleased to announce that it has created a new trail on the Eastman Preserve and the Knapp Preserve in Aquinnah. The trail leads from a discreet, two-vehicle trailhead on the Knapp Preserve on East Pasture Road, along East Pasture Road, down the Eastman driveway, onto the Eastman Preserve, and down to the shore of Menemsha Pond.

"This is a beautiful trail with great views of Menemsha, and it showcases a property that many people have never

seen before," said Adam Moore. Over the winter, some additional work on the trail is planned. The additional work will result in a loop with enhanced long-distance views.

The Eastman Preserve is 11.3 acres in size. The land was given to Sheriff's Meadow Foundation by Yvette Eastman in three separate donations in 1984, 1989 and 1990. The Knapp Preserve is 7.74 acres in size. The land was given to Sheriff's Meadow Foundation by Jean Knapp in 1994.



Executive Director's MESSAGE

Thanksgiving

From October, where our common lot is the glory of scarlet beetlebung and red sumac and yellow hickory, from that month's refuse pile of orange sassafras leaves and compost heap of spent Jack-o'-Lanterns, emerges November.

November emerges and the beating autumn ocean waves carve a scarp into the beach, the scallopers ply the Cape Poge Bay, the archers perch in branches of beeches and there they wait. Lichens cling to the gravestones and the stone walls and the great gray boulders left here by the glacier.

Left here by the glacier was this entire Island, and so passes this eleventh month of this year, on this outpost seven miles out to sea. Clutches of hockey players board the steamship, the ferry sounds its steam whistle, and its organ-pipe blast sounds through the empty woods off Lake Tashmoo. Veterans and young scouts form up on New York Avenue, and march off to the Civil War statue on

the edge of Ocean Park in Oak Bluffs.

In Oak Bluffs at Camp Duarte, fair weather comes and children frolic on the grass in the fleeting light of afternoon. The father splits firewood in a Chilmark backyard, and the mother walks the dog down the ancient way, strewn with fallen leaves. The cold returns, and the Island shivers at dawn to frost on the switchgrass, and the hollies and the pitch pines and junipers hint at the season of mirth that is yet to come. Then the winds blow, and they strip the russet oak leaves from their branches, and sweep across the great open plains, and scour the bluffs of Cedar Tree Neck.

From Cedar Tree Neck one spots the ferries coming to and from Woods Hole through the waters of Vineyard Sound. The fourth Thursday of this month approaches, and the pace quickens. Schools let out early and families set forth to visit family and friends in America, or set forth from America to gather here, at this Island home.

To our Island home Thanksgiving comes. We gather, and then we pause.

We pause, and from the cliffs of Gay Head, we look to the shores of

Buzzard's Bay to the west, to the tall towers of the bridge binding Newport to Jamestown, to the broad shores of the great American continent beyond, and with our fellows in America on this day we join.

We join to give thanks that we have again been delivered to this national day of Thanksgiving, and for the laden table and for the bounty of farm and forest and field and sea. We give thanks for those gathered together at our hearth and for those gathered only in our hearts.

In our hearts we give thanks for the very refuge that this Island is, a refuge from the tempests and the surf, a sanctuary safe and dry amid the cold waters of the mighty Atlantic. And we give thanks for those who gave so that, on this Island, our meadows and plains, our marshes and moors, our bogs and fens, our forests and frostbottoms, shall forever be our common lot.

Adam R. Moore

An homage to Governor Wilbur L. Cross of Connecticut and his Thanksgiving Proclamation of 1936.

New Directors Welcomed



Alan Rappaport

Sara Piazza

Alan Rappaport is an Adjunct Professor at the NYU Stern School of Business, Lecturer at the Stanford University Graduate School of Business, and Advisory Director of Roundtable Investment Partners. Mr. Rappaport spent his career in the financial services industry at Oppenheimer, the Beacon Group and Bank of America and currently serves on a number of corporate boards. He has served on the boards of a number of non-profit organizations including the

American Museum of Natural History, the NYU Langone Medical Center, as Chair of the board of GuideStar, and as Co-Chair of the Parents Committee of Duke University. He received his BA from Harvard College and MBA from Stanford University. A life-long resident of Martha's Vineyard, he lives with his wife Jill and two children in Chilmark and New York.

Mary Lou DeLong recently retired as Vice President and University Secretary of Boston College, a post she held from 2004 until 2012. Appointed Vice President of University Advancement at BC in 1992, she was the first woman to head a vice presidential department. In this capacity, she was responsible for the areas of Development and Alumni Affairs. Her previous positions include Director of Major Gifts at Harvard Medical School, Director of Planned Giving at Phillips Academy, Director of Annual Giving at Stevens Institute of Technology and Director of Programs and Events at Boston College. In 2012

she received an Honorary Degree from BC. Ms. DeLong served five years as a Trustee of Boston College and as a Trustee of Newton Country Day School of the Sacred Heart. She was a Board member of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and President of the Planned Giving Group of New England. Ms. DeLong and her husband, Jeff, live full time on Martha's Vineyard and she also serves on the Boards of Mink Meadows Golf Club and Deep Bottom Pond Owners Association.



Mary Lou DeLong

Stephen Chapman



“Preserve the Trust” License Plates Fund Stream Restoration at Roth Woodlands



Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is very pleased to announce that on July 24, 2015, it was awarded a \$40,000 grant from the Massachusetts Environmental Trust. This grant was awarded to help restore the Mill Brook at the Foundation's Roth Woodlands property in Chilmark.

The award was officially presented at a ceremony at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy by Lt. Governor Karyn Polito and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Massachusetts Environmental Trust, Bob Durand. Sheriff's Meadow Foundation President Chris Alley and Executive Director Adam Moore represented the Foundation at the awards ceremony.

According to Trust Program Director Bill Hinkley, the Trust provided roughly \$500,000 in grants to 12 organizations this year, thanks to motorists who have chosen to purchase one of the Trust's specialty license plates. “Trust plates, including our signature Whale Plate, are the only specialty plates that exclusively fund environmental initiatives,” said Mr. Hinkley. “When you purchase a specialty plate from the Registry of Motor Vehicles, the \$40 specialty plate fee is donated to the Trust to fund water-

focused environmental programs.”

“We are thrilled to have received this generous grant from the Massachusetts Environmental Trust,” said Mr. Moore. “This grant will help us to design a proper culvert for the Mill Brook, one that will allow for unimpeded passage for brook trout and other native fish.”

The grant will ultimately help to restore a section of the Mill Brook that has been plugged up with two undersized, improperly sited corrugated steel culverts. These culverts have created an impoundment on their upstream side in which the water gets so hot in summer that it kills fish. In addition, the culverts are so high on the downstream end that fish cannot jump up from the stream into the culvert. The grant will enable Sheriff's Meadow Foundation to complete the design and permitting of a new concrete box culvert that will allow for the proper passage of fish and water. The new culvert will meet the Massachusetts stream crossing guidelines.

The Massachusetts Environmental Trust grant adds to other financial support that Sheriff's Meadow Foundation has received. The additional support includes a grant of \$7,500 from the Daniels

Wildlife Trust and considerable financial and staff support from the Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration.

Those with interest in this effort or questions about it are asked to contact Sheriff's Meadow Foundation's executive director Adam Moore at (508) 693-5207 or at moore@sheriffsmeadow.org.

Supporting the environmental programs funded by the Trust in Massachusetts is easy: choose one of three environmental plates – the Right Whale & Roseate Terns, the Leaping Brook Trout, or the Blackstone Valley Mill – when purchasing a new car or renewing a registration.

The standard registration fee for a Massachusetts plate is \$60. The special plate fee is an additional \$40 (\$28 is tax-deductible; \$12 is for the manufacturing of the plate). The total first-time cost of a Specialty Plate is \$100. There is a renewal fee of \$100 every two years. Visit the local Registry of Motor Vehicles or order a plate online at www.mass-rmv.com or log onto www.mass.gov/eea/met to learn more about the Trust, the programs it supports, and the specialty license plate offerings.



Successful Summer Benefit at Borggaard Farm

On the summer evening of July 20, 2015, Jeanne and Howard Borggaard hosted supporters of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation for the 2015 Annual Summer Benefit. The benefit took place on the beautiful Borggaard Farm on Indian Hill Road in West Tisbury.

Guests arrived to enjoy cocktails, food and conversation with the 400 people gathered for the occasion. During the cocktail hour and following the dinner, a slide show was projected onto screens within the dinner tents. These shows featured a series of photographs of Quansoo Farm and Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary taken by Stephen Chapman, and also featured a variety of other photographs of various Sheriff's Meadow Foundation properties.

Prior to dinner, Executive Director Adam Moore and President Chris Alley delivered remarks. Mr. Moore recognized the hosts, Jeanne and Howard Borggaard, and recounted a brief history of the property. He summarized the Foundation's activities over the past year, noting in particular the effort to restore the historic Hancock-Mitchell House and the effort to attain accreditation. Mr. Moore thanked the entire Hough family for the donation of the George A. Hough Preserve in 2014, and personally recognized Mary Pat Hough-Greene, who was present at the Benefit. Mr. Moore concluded by thanking all of the donors for their generous support over the past year.

Mr. Alley began his remarks by recognizing Board members John Schaefer

and Leah Smith, who had just completed ten years of service on the Board and were stepping down as Directors. He then introduced new Directors Mary Lou DeLong and Alan Rappaport, noting the enthusiasm that both new Directors had brought to the organization. Mr. Alley then spoke about the importance of the “foundation” beneath Sheriff's Meadow Foundation. Mr. Alley's remarks are included in this newsletter.

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation expresses its sincere gratitude to Jeanne and Howard Borggaard, to all of the Benefit Sponsors, Patrons, and Supporters, to the Summer Benefit Committee and all of the volunteers, and to all who attended and contributed to make the Summer Benefit such a success. Thank you.

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation Awarded Accreditation

From Page One

national standards for excellence, uphold the public trust and ensure that conserva-



Adam Moore, Tammara Van Ryn, Susan Crampton and Kristen Fauteux.

tion efforts are permanent. The seal is a mark of distinction in land conservation.

"This round of accreditation decisions represents another significant milestone for the accreditation program; the 317 accredited land trusts account for more than three quarters of the 20,645,165 acres currently owned in fee or protected by a conservation easement held by a land trust," said Commission Executive Director Tammara Van Ryn. "Accreditation provides the public with an assurance that, at the time of accreditation, land trusts meet high standards for quality, and that the results of their conservation work are permanent."

Each accredited land trust submitted extensive documentation and underwent a rigorous review. "Through accreditation, land trusts conduct important plan-

ning and make their operations more efficient and strategic," said Van Ryn. "Accredited organizations have engaged and trained citizen conservation leaders and improved systems for ensuring that their conservation work is permanent."

According to the Land Trust Alliance, strong, well-managed land trusts provide local communities with effective champions and caretakers of their critical land resources, and safeguard the land through the generations.

"We are proud to display the accreditation seal," said Mr. Moore. "I give special thanks to Susan Crampton, who chaired our Accreditation Committee, and to our Accreditation Committee members Bob Egerton, Kristen Fauteux and Bill Howell for their hard work and dedication."

About Sheriff's Meadow Foundation

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is the local land trust for the island of Martha's Vineyard. The Foundation owns 2,035 acres of conservation land and protects an additional 823 acres of land with conservation restrictions. Sheriff's Meadow Foundation properties include Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary, Sheriff's Meadow Sanctuary, Quansoo Farm, West Chop Woods, Caroline Tuthill Preserve and more.

About the Land Trust Accreditation Commission

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, based in Saratoga Springs,

N.Y., awards the accreditation seal to community institutions that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. The Commission is governed by a volunteer board of diverse land conservation and nonprofit management experts from around the country. See a complete list of all recently accredited land trusts online at <http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/land-trust-locator>. More information on the accreditation program is available on the Commission's website, www.landtrustaccreditation.org.

About The Land Trust Alliance

Founded in 1982, the Land Trust Alliance is a national land conservation organization that works to save the places people need and love by strengthening land conservation across America. The Alliance represents 1,200 member land trusts supported by more than 5 million members nationwide. The Alliance is based in Washington, D.C., and operates several regional offices. More information about the Alliance is available at www.landtrustalliance.org.



Instilling a Sense of Community

Unlike many of its colleague conservation organizations such as The Trustees of Reservations or MassAudubon, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is not a membership organization. Instead of members, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation has supporters. Supporters contribute to the Foundation and participate in its activities but do not have a governance role described in the Foundation's articles or organization or bylaws.

Nevertheless, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation believes that it can do much to build a positive sense of community among Foundation supporters and can create a greater feeling of belonging to a conservation organization. The Foundation will begin making such efforts in 2016. We encourage you to contact us with any ideas you have about building this sense of community and belonging. Thank you.



HBH Society hike on Chappy



Beautiful Lawns, Healthy Ponds, Productive Farms

On Monday, August 24, 2015, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation held the third lecture in its public lecture series at the Old Whaling Church in Edgartown. The talk was entitled "Beautiful Lawns, Healthy Ponds, Productive Farms," and it featured three short presentations and a panel discussion following the presentations.

Speaking at this lecture were Russell Norton, Extension Educator with Cape Cod Cooperative Extension, Matt Poole, Agent for the Edgartown Board of Health, and Jeff Carlson, Superintendent of the Vineyard Golf Club.

Executive Director Adam Moore introduced the evening program, offering a brief commentary on the agricultural heritage of Martha's Vineyard and the agricultural work of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation. Following this introduction, Mr. Norton began the

program with a presentation on nitrogen and phosphorus. He described how these two nutrients are both critical to plant growth and are also the culprits in the decline in water quality in island ponds. He strongly recommended that property owners take advantage of laboratory soil testing that can be conducted by the University of Massachusetts.

In the next set of remarks, Matt Poole described the new rules, enacted in each of the six towns on Martha's Vineyard, that regulate the application of fertilizer to turf. He began with the political and legislative history behind these rules, and then explained the remarkable effort that resulted in the adoption of nearly identical sets of rules at six town meetings in 2014. Mr. Poole also explained the educational work that he has done to train and license landscaping professionals in

the application of fertilizer.

Jeff Carlson offered the third presentation of the evening. He presented a slide show depicting his work as superintendent of the all-organic Vineyard Golf Club, which is one of a very few all-organic courses in the United States. Mr. Carlson shared his experiences growing native grasses and finding organic ways to deal with pests. He also offered recommendations useful to any Vineyard property owner on when to water and when not to water, what species to plant, when to plant, what constitutes a healthy lawn, and more.

The session concluded with a lively panel discussion and a question and answer session with the audience. Sheriff's Meadow Foundation thanks Mr. Norton, Mr. Poole and Mr. Carlson for their participation in this public lecture.

Dendrochronology

If you own an antique house on Martha's Vineyard, please consider performing dendrochronology on your house. Dendrochronology is the science of dating houses by microscopically examining the tree rings in the timbers of the house. In England and in New England, dendrochronology has successfully and conclusively dated many antique houses.

On Martha's Vineyard, however, the only place that dendrochronology has been performed is in the Hancock-Mitchell House at Quansoo Farm. In this structure, only the rear ell of the house could be conclusively dated. The rear ell is framed in hemlock, and the ring sequences in the hemlock timbers matched other hemlock sequences from hemlock elsewhere in Massachusetts. These matches determined that the hemlock timbers of the house were felled in 1837. As if to confirm this result, while restoring the rear ell, the carpenters found scraps of newspaper from New Bedford, stuffed into the walls. These newspapers bore the date 1837.

The samples taken for the older parts of the Hancock-Mitchell House

were inconclusive, though. The house is framed in oak, and the ring sequences of these oak timbers did not match any other sequences from elsewhere in Massachusetts. They may however, match sequences of other houses on Martha's Vineyard. If some houses with known dates of construction can be sampled, enough matches could be made that firm dates of construction may be able to be established.



White Oak Tree at Quansoo Farm Photo by Stephen Chapman

Dendrochronology is performed by William Flynt of Historic Deerfield. It is not very expensive. It requires 10 to 15 samples per house for each historic phase of interest, and each sample costs \$100 each, with a \$750 minimum, in case fewer than 8 samples are taken, plus travel expenses. The timbers must be oak, pitch pine, hemlock, chestnut or white pine, and the timbers must have a waney

edge (the edge that was right beneath the bark). To yield results, the timbers must have 55 to 60 growth rings.

Sampling your house will really help Sheriff's Meadow Foundation answer the historical questions that have been posed about the Hancock-Mitchell House in a factual and scientific manner. If you have questions, please contact Adam Moore at moore@sheriffsmeadow.org or Bill Flynt at wflynt@historic-deerfield.org.

Chris Alley's Remarks at the 2015 Summer Event

GRAVITY: Its not just a good idea – it's the law.

Because it's the law, when you build a house you cannot start with the roof – nor the walls – nor the floor. When you build or restore a house you need to start with the foundation. When we began work in earnest on the Mitchell House project, Phil Regan and I performed a quick survey of the existing stone foundation. Because a portion of the house had rotated over time pulling away from the rest of the structure, we initially thought that a portion of the foundation had settled. When we surveyed it, we found that the foundation was sound and stable at all of the important points and that it was a rotting floor system that was causing the problem. Phil, being an architect, was impressed with the foundation's performance over the centuries and felt it was important to keep the principal original sections in place as part of the house's story. There is no doubt the Mitchell House - surviving centuries of wind, rain, snow and hurricanes - owes part of its longevity to the solid foundation on which it was built.

Of course the importance of a sound, strong, secure foundation translates to any building project whether it be a argument, an organization, or a business. Clearly the house of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is built on a just such a foundation. The blocks consist of our endowment, our mission statement, our strategic plan, our articles of incorporation and by-laws, our operational policies ranging from finance to poison ivy. The mortar holding it all together is our staff, our interns, and our volunteers.

The house built on this foundation, the part that we get to live in and enjoy through the continued support of everybody here tonight... the house consists of all of Sheriff's Meadow's properties and opportunities. It's the fields and meadows... it's the streams, lakes and ponds...it's the trails and beaches...it's the open vistas of farm and ocean... it's the guided walks and sponsored talks... it's the school trips to Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary and the

Caroline Tuthill Preserve.

And as with our homes, these are the elements we enjoy and share with friends. However, though taken for granted, we need to maintain the foundation if we want our house to stand tall, straight, and strong.

Anyway...it is neither the Mitchell House foundation that I want to speak about tonight, nor is it the foundation of Sheriff's Meadow. While on a bike ride this past spring from Palm Beach back to Woods Hole, I had a lot of time to ponder. Appreciating where I was but anticipating a return to the island, I thought about what makes the Vineyard



Chris Alley

Photo by Sara Piazza

the special place that we know it for...at its core, or foundation, what is it about the Vineyard that has kept some of us here or brought the rest of us here? I think that, for all of us, it is some aspect of what we consider the Vineyard Community. Certainly there are myriad aspects of this community, each appealing to us according to our personal interests. Individually, the arts community, the agricultural island, the social support infrastructure, a family's sense of security, the hustle and the bustle of summer and quiet of winter; any of these facets may mean everything to some of us or they may mean nothing to others but we have all found enough to love about the Vineyard to keep us here.

However, as I thought through these community elements, I realized that they are - for the most part - derivative of those of us who live here. We are the artists, we are the farmers, we are the volunteers, and we are the hustlers and

bustlers. I felt that there must be a more foundational reason that drew and draws us to the Vineyard.

Of course, the answer is the Vineyard itself. Notwithstanding our Wampanoag brothers and sisters, the island itself got here before any of us. Ultimately, it is the island earth - the terminal moraines of Cedar Tree Neck, the Eastman Preserve, and Middle Road Sanctuary; the mantled moraines of the Phillips Preserve, the Caroline Tuthill Preserve, and Sheriff's Meadow Sanctuary; the outwash sands of Quansoo Farm, Priscilla Hancock Meadow, and Huckleberry Barrens - that called to us or our ancestors.

Foundationally, it is the island waters – inland ponds such as Daggett Pond at Cedar Tree Neck, Lily Pond at Caroline Tuthill Preserve and Dodger's Hole; coastal ponds such as Black Point Pond, Lake Tashmoo, and Sengekontacket Pond; streams such as the Mill Brook, the Tiasquam River and Blackwater Brook; and the open waters of Vineyard Sound, Nantucket Sound, and the Atlantic Ocean - that set the hooks that keep us here.

In the end, when you strip away all of the constructed elements of our community, the foundation is of made of this earth – [Mr. Alley holds up a jar of earth] - and this water – [Mr. Alley holds up a jar of water].

As with the foundations of our homes, we can be tempted to take these for granted while we enjoy the house built upon them. But the smart man knows that the tallest tower can reach for the sky only if set on a sound cornerstone. Sheriff's Meadow Foundation, which includes all of you sitting in front of me, is the maintainer of our communal foundation. With your continued support, through acquisition and protection of open space, sound management of existing conservation lands, protection of habitats, appropriate agriculture, and education of the next generation, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation will continue to do our part to expand and maintain our community's foundation.

Thank you all, and enjoy the evening.



George Anthony Hough III

George Anthony Hough III of West Tisbury, died Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2015, at Massachusetts General Hospital, after surgery to repair a hip injured in a fall. He was 94.

George is survived by his wife of 72 years, Mary Lu Hough, and his daughter Mary Pat Hough-Greene; his grandson Neil Greene, his wife Amy and great-grandson Harper; his granddaughter Lydia, her husband Patrick Harmer, and great-grandsons P.J. (Patrick Jr.) and Declan. George was the nephew of Henry Beetle Hough, former editor and publisher of the Vineyard Gazette, and son of George and Clara Hough, editor and publisher of the Falmouth Enterprise.

George attended the Lenox School, Lenox. He worked summers as a reporter for the Falmouth Enterprise, and graduated from the University of Wisconsin, where he became a member of Sigma Nu fraternity, with a degree in journalism in 1943. Shortly after his graduation, and two weeks after marrying Mary Lu, he received his commission in the Navy, serving aboard a Land Ship, Tank (LST). He earned a Navy and Marine medal when he went to rescue a soldier who was "floundering helplessly due to heavy clothing and equipment, with complete disregard for his own safety and despite extreme darkness, [he] plunged into the cold strong waters and affected his rescue."

After serving in the Navy, George was a reporter with the Detroit Free Press for five years. He and his wife became editor and publisher of the weekly Vernon County Censor (Viroqua, Wis.) from 1950 to 1955, where, without regard for his career, he wrote editorials about Sen. Joseph McCarthy. In 1955, he became managing editor of the Grant County Independent, in Lancaster, Wis. In 1957 the family relocated to East Lansing, Mich.

George earned his master's degree in general communication arts, followed by a Ph.D. in linguistics, at Michigan State University. He continued his career as a professor of journalism, spending a total

of 22 years at Michigan State. In 1979, he became head of the news-editorial sequence at the Henry W. Grady School of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Georgia. He was appointed professor emeritus upon his retirement.

George received the Atrium Award, presented by the Grady School and AmericasMart in Atlanta, Ga., for "diligent pursuit of excellence in fashion journalism" in 1991. He was the author of two books, "Structures of Modification in Contemporary American English," published in 1971, and "News Writing," published in 1975.

Upon retirement in 1990 to the Vineyard with his wife Mary Lu, George continued his life of gardening, reading, and genealogy. He also continued his Uncle Henry's legacy of preserving open space on Martha's Vineyard as a member of the board of directors for the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation. This culminated in the recent creation of the George A. Hough Preserve in West Tisbury. He is remembered by his family as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and proud great-grandfather who loved to tell entertaining stories about his travels around the world with his grandfather, George Anthony Hough, known as Pat.

George's grandson, Neil, flew from Albuquerque, N.M., to be with his grandfather. He wrote, "George had just recovered from hip surgery, a major medical intervention for anyone, let alone a 94-year-old. I thought he was

doing pretty well. We read the Sunday *New York Times* together. We talked about seeing each other again this coming Christmas season. George was many things — a war hero, a husband and father — but first and foremost, to me, he was my grandfather. I'll always remember going fishing and camping, and making blueberry pancakes on the beach with him, and diving off protruding rocks in the sounds while stepping over barnacles and looking off to the ever-so-far-away, but still visible, Elizabeth Islands. I'll always remember his skill as a gardener, and the blue ribbons he won at the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Fair for his garlic, tomatoes, and squash. Getting garlic for Christmas was the best. In return, when we asked what he wanted, he would tell us, 'Manure.' I don't know that he ever got it for Christmas. George lives on, too. I'm working on my doctorate because of him. I never would have persisted without his example. I care about inequality, civic participation, and community because of him. George would often say that you just have to keep plugging away. We will, and we will always remember him. Thank you for everything, George."

A memorial service for George will be held at some time in the future. Donations in his memory may be made to the The Sheriff's Meadow Foundation, 57 David Avenue, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568.



Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary

Photo by Stephen Chapman



SHERIFF'S MEADOW FOUNDATION



A VINEYARD LAND TRUST

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Saving Box Turtles

With the help of a \$5,000 grant from the Edey Foundation, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation and Johnny, the eastern box turtle, have been helping Island students learn about protecting this rare species of reptile. Both the Oak Bluffs School and the Edgartown School have been working closely with Johnny during the fall semester. The Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program lists the eastern box turtle as a species of special concern.

Leah Dorr teaches science to seventh and eighth graders at the Oak Bluffs School. This fall, her students created an exceptional educational program aimed at educating the public about ways of protecting box turtles. The students created pamphlets specifically for landscapers, explaining that fields should be mowed in a pattern of concentric circles, beginning from the center and spiraling out, thus giving turtles a chance to escape to the edges of the field.

The students also worked closely with obedience trainer Karen Ogden and her golden retriever, Max, who has been trained to find box turtles in the field by scent. To illustrate the work of the golden retriever to children, the students created a sniff test, where children could sniff different, covered scents, and thereby imagine being the dog charged with the task of sniffing out the turtle. The students made posters and displays, and staffed a display at the Living Local Harvest Festival in October. Finally, the students even made a Claymation movie about the box turtle. In true stop-action Claymation form, this film depicted in stark terms the real peril that mowers pose to box turtles, and the real benefits that result from more thoughtful mowing patterns. The students of Ms. Dorr

have done an excellent job in educating members of the public and have been superb representatives of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation and its education program.



Bella Arias holding Johnny

At the Edgartown School, enrichment program director Sue Costello has also created an educational program based on the eastern box turtle. For this program, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation's Director of Stewardship Kristen Fauteux and Education Coordinator Samantha Look, Ms. Costello, Ms. Ogden, Martha's

Vineyard Land Bank Ecologist Julie Russell and Johnny the turtle have been meeting with students once a week. This program will culminate in field trials for Johnny the turtle, Max the dog and all of the students at the meadow at Caroline Tuthill Preserve.