



SHERIFF'S
MEADOW
FOUNDATION



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2016
Issue No. 51

A VINEYARD LAND TRUST

Libby Repplier Chase Conserves Land on Seth's Pond

"Something permanent...something unspoiled...forever preserved"

As the year 2015 drew to a close, Elizabeth "Libby" Repplier Chase made an extraordinary gift of land to Sheriff's Meadow Foundation. On December 30, 2015, Mrs. Repplier Chase donated 1.5 acres of forest along the shore of Seth's Pond in West Tisbury to Sheriff's Meadow for conservation.

By conserving her land, Mrs. Repplier Chase forever has protected the natural shore of Seth's Pond, a beautiful, kettle-hole pond found in the rugged moraine along Lambert's Cove Road. Had Mrs. Repplier Chase not given her land to Sheriff's Meadow Foundation, it is quite likely that a house would have been built in this location, detracting from the views from the public beach and from the public road, and preventing the possibility of a trail to the shore.

Mrs. Repplier Chase's history with Martha's Vineyard extends over 65 years. She has enjoyed an especially close relationship with the Mohu estate and the surrounding area along Lambert's Cove. In fact, she once owned the Mohu estate, and worked closely with Henry Beetle Hough on the sale of that land to Katharine Graham. In an email to Adam Moore, Executive Director of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation, Mrs. Repplier Chase wrote that her love of the Island "led me to my wanting to 'give back' to Martha's Vineyard something permanent in nature, something unspoiled that will be forever preserved."

"We are delighted that Mrs. Repplier Chase has given Sheriff's Meadow Foundation her land on Seth's Pond,"



said Mr. Moore. "Her gift forever protects this land from development and creates an opportunity for a path out to this beautiful pond. We are especially honored to have received this donation as Libby's grandson, Marc Macfarlane, is a Property Manager for Sheriff's Meadow Foundation."

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation will recognize Mrs. Repplier Chase's generous gift by placing a boulder upon the land with an appropriate inscription. The Foundation is now studying the property and learning about the ecological features of the land. Ultimately, this new Sheriff's Meadow Foundation property can be connected, via a trail, to the nearby Manaquayak Preserve of the Martha's

Vineyard Land Bank Commission and to other Land Bank properties along the Lambert's Cove Road.



Seth's Pond shoreline

Photo by Kristen Fauteux



THE WHIPPOORWILL AND THE FISHING BOATS

One Night in May at Quansoo

"After dinner, when it's dark, let's take a little walk outside," said I to the children. "There is something special I want you to know about."

"How far are we going?" asked Huck, skeptically. The children have trepidation about any nighttime excursion into nature.

"Not far," I said.

"Where are you taking us?"

"You'll see when we get there," I said. "Now put on your shoes. Let's head out."

Two of my children, Ingrid and Huck, overcame their trepidation, laced up their sneakers and zipped up jackets and joined me. Melissa joined me as well, while Isabel, our teenage daughter, stayed behind, as she was already in bed.

We stepped outdoors into the most pleasant night in May. A waxing gibbous moon hung above the osprey nest. Low cumulus clouds drifted over the plain. The moon backlit the clouds, causing them to appear like great bunches of wool, as if shorn off the thousands of sheep that once grazed Quansoo. Melissa pointed out the planet Mars, which shone brightly, just above the picnic woods, despite the passing clouds.

I had intended to walk everyone down the old dirt road, past the Mitchell House, and out along the hayfield, but tonight there was no need. We had taken but a few steps into the front yard before we heard it.

"Listen!" I said. "Can you hear it?"

It was a whippoorwill. It was somewhere just past the hedge of cherry trees and junipers and vines, in the grass on the east side of the Mitchell House. It called incessantly – "whip-poor-will, whip-poor-will..." A nocturnal bird, the whippoorwill is a bird that is in decline throughout its range. At Quansoo, I have heard it on lovely nights of the late spring, and at no other times. It had been some years since I had last heard one here. The whippoorwill's call at night is a sure sign of the summer to come.

We roamed around a bit in the moonlit night, delighting in the dew on the grass, and the stars that shone through gaps in the woolly clouds, and in our nearby planet keeping watch. The whippoorwill called and called, and stopped only for a moment or two as we

ventured a bit too close.

Having heard enough, we went back inside, and we brought the children upstairs to go to bed. Before tucking them in though, we stopped for a moment and gazed out to sea. On such nights, it is worth the time simply to gaze at the plain illuminated in a lunar glow, and to see the silver streak of the moon's reflection on Black Point Pond, and the same silver shimmer on the dark waters of the Atlantic Ocean just beyond. There, though, out in the ocean, we saw one of our favorite sights, and another sure sign of summer. Just to the south, out at sea, shone the lights of two fishing boats.

Typically it is not until June that we see the fishing boats, sometimes a dozen or more, working the waters south of Quansoo. Yet here there were two already, although it was only May. We pointed them out to the children, and they fell asleep thinking of their companions on the fishing boats out at sea.

I stepped back outside for another look at the ships. Living at the edge of the sea, on the edge of a vast wilderness, I sometimes feel a kinship with any other human who comes into range. I see the lights on the boat, and hope that our lights of the house extend a beacon of warmth to those out at sea.

I also feel a sense of communion with the past. Might Sophronia Hancock, who lived in the old house next door, have looked out to the sea on moonlit nights long ago? Might she have spied the lanterns of a vessel offshore, and wondered about the whereabouts of her husband, Captain West Mitchell, a whaling captain and master of the *Bark Massachusetts*?

When I gaze at the sea, especially in the dark, I find that my thoughts stretch across time. The vastness and immensity of the sea, with the constellations overhead, convey a profound sense of eternity. I can cast a baited hook into the darkness, and find that the fishing line leads to thoughts of my grandfather, and the time we caught mackerel off a jetty. His pin from the 1973 Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby is in my tackle box.

But on this night, my thoughts stretched into the future. What might

my children recall of this night? Might the whippoorwill's call or the smell of a dewy night call forth this memory?

In my own grasp for eternity, I found myself imagining my children, decades from now, sitting some evening with their children or grandchildren, and sharing this memory. I hoped that they might think back to a time when they were children on an island, out in the Atlantic Ocean, and they stepped out at night to hear a whippoorwill, and then went to bed, with Mars and the Moon, and the old house, and the fishermen, and the whippoorwill, all watching over them as they drifted off to sleep.

SHERIFF'S MEADOW FOUNDATION



FOUNDED IN 1959 BY
Henry Beetle Hough and
Elizabeth Bowie Hough

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Morning Glory Farm Growing Hay at Wade's Field

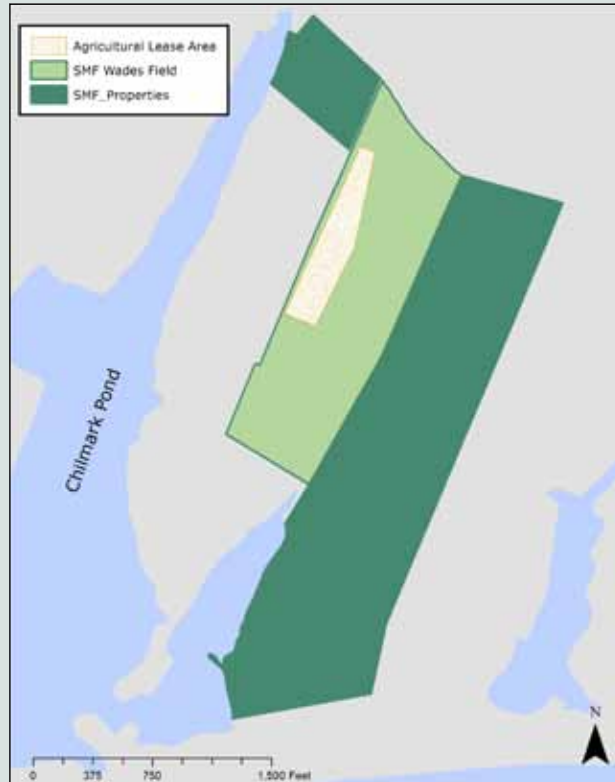
4.9 acres leased

SHERIFF'S MEADOW FOUNDATION is pleased to announce that Morning Glory Farm will be growing hay on a 4.9 acre portion of Wade's Field in Chilmark.

"Wade's Field is one of the few properties where we have prime agricultural soil," said Executive Director Adam Moore. "It also has an agricultural history and heritage, and we are excited that the Athearn family and Morning Glory Farm are out here working the land."

Wade's Field is a 35.4 acre property that John W. M. Whiting gave to Sheriff's Meadow Foundation through several gifts, beginning in 1978 and ending in 1986. A beautiful property, Wade's Field includes a broad swath of the outwash plain. The land stretches along Whiting's Way to the coves of Chilmark Pond, and to a small cove of the pond known as Gilbert's Cove.

Morning Glory Farm is leasing the 4.9 acres of Wade's Field for a term of 9 years. The term of nine years is designed to allow enough time to make the required investment in the soil and the effort worthwhile.



Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary

Photo by Stephen Chapman



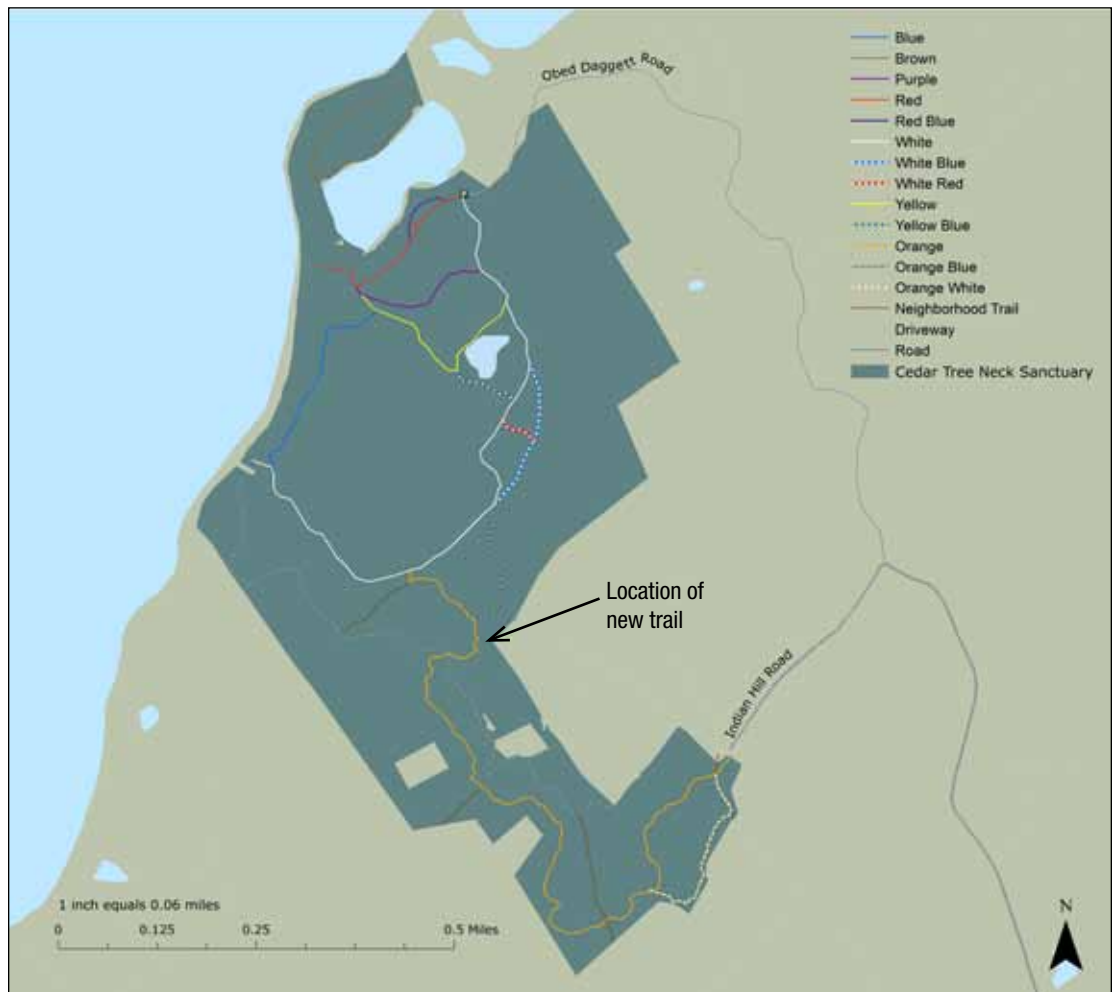
Hike the New Trail!

New Trail at George A. Hough Preserve and Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary

Rising to one of the Island's highest points and reaching the shore of Vineyard Sound, a new trail beckons at Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary. Blazed orange, the new path begins at the traffic circle at the end of Indian Hill Road. From this point, one ascends the high hilltop that Georgina Stevenson donated to Sheriff's Meadow Foundation in 1967. While ascending, one will pass enormous glacial erratic boulders, including a few that are perched upon the very crest of the hill.

At the summit, one might pause for a moment to admire the long-distance views. Thanks to the hard work of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation Board member Tom Robinson and his crew at Island Timber, visitors will now enjoy gazing at Gay Head, Vineyard Sound, and even the distant island of Cuttyhunk. All of the trees that were cut to open these views are being milled into lumber for use on this trail or on other Sheriff's Meadow properties. After having enjoyed the views, one pitches down from the hilltop, winds down a slope, and crosses a stone wall onto the new George A. Hough Preserve.

The crossings of stone walls are key features of this new trail. To avoid creating gaps in the walls, Property Managers Bill Bridwell and Marc Macfarlane built wooden stiles to aid in climbing the walls. These ladder-like steps straddle the walls, and one simply climbs up and down the wooden steps. On the George A. Hough Preserve, the path winds past old cranberry bogs, over earthen berms and dams, and descends through forests of oak and American beech.



Stile made of locally-grown white oak

Photo by Bill Bridwell

The new path leaves the George A. Hough Preserve and enters the "Fish Hook" section of Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary. At Fish Hook, the path curves to the north, and crosses a stream via two very large boulders. This stream offers the closest approximation of a waterfall that one may find on Martha's Vineyard. A thick hemp rope will help steady those of uneasy gait. From this tumbling stream, the trail tumbles as well, eventually connecting with the white trail.

The new path measures a mile and a half in length. If one connects to the blue trail and the white trail, and walks in a loop, one can hike for four miles, over rugged terrain, without crossing a single road.

Challenge Met: \$100,000 given in memory of Donnie Mitchell

Hancock-Mitchell House Structurally Sound

A second successful season of work on the Hancock-Mitchell House at Quansoo Farm has just drawn to an end. As of Memorial Day, the Early New England Restorations crew of foreman John Kelley and carpenters Ethan Cooper, Matthew Frederick, Luke Manzella and Joshua Bublitz had hung up their hammers.

This work was made possible by all those who gave to the repair and restoration of the Hancock-Mitchell House, and especially those who gave in memory of Donnie Mitchell. Mr. Mitchell was born in the house on August 4, 1926. Known to and beloved by many on Martha's Vineyard, Mr. Mitchell died on September 25, 2013.

To honor Mr. Mitchell, Diane and Sam Bodman and the Bodman Foundation issued a challenge. For each gift given in Donnie's memory, the Bodman Foundation would match that gift, dollar for dollar, up to a total of \$100,000. In March of 2016, that challenge was met. Sheriff's Meadow Foundation offers its sincere gratitude to all those who gave in Donnie's memory, and offers a profound "thank you" to Mr. and Mrs. Bodman and the Bodman Foundation for their philanthropic leadership.

Beneath the semi-cylindrical white tent that protects the exposed, antique house from the elements, repair work began in January. This season, the carpenters completed the structural repairs. The entire roof was repaired and shingled. The roof of the rear ell was sound, and required no special care other than the removal of the asphalt shingles and the installation of cedar shingles. The roof of the main house however, was a different matter.

The roof of the main portion of this Cape-style house features wide, pine vertical roofers. The roofers run intact from the eaves of the house to the peak of the roof. For support, the roofers run across purlins that are notched into the rafters. The vertical roofing style is somewhat unusual and the structural method used for this roof is termed a "principal-rafter

system." Centuries of weather and rot however, had rendered the original roofers unsound. What to do?

To address this Mr. Kelley recommended that a new set of white pine roofers cut to length, should be placed directly atop the original roofers. To supply the white pine, the Foundation called upon Gurney's sawmill in East Freetown, Massachusetts, near Fall River. Within two weeks this efficient



John Kelley, foreman *Photo by Adam Moore*

sawmill had sawn standing trees into beautiful, wide, white pine boards.

Mr. Kelley and crew then precisely ripped each board, cutting each one to a width that was just shy of the width of the original roofer that the new roofer was to cover. This created a strong new roof, suitable for nailing shingles onto. Furthermore, it preserved the view of the antique roofers from inside the attic of the house, as the original boards remained intact and one could not see the new roofers through the gaps between the boards.

From the exterior, perhaps the most notable feature of the roof is that it undulates. The bending, waving form of the roof attests to the bending and sagging of the centuries. That the crew was able to preserve such character while strengthening the structure speaks to the skill of the carpenters. In addition to the roof, a new bulkhead entrance was

created, the cistern halfway beneath the rear ell was replaced, exterior doors were built and hung, and the side walls were shingled.

The final major work remaining on the Hancock-Mitchell House is the creation of a new center chimney, with bake oven and fireplaces, and the creation of a new chimney in the rear ell. The plan is to create these chimneys using the appropriate brick and using lime mortar made from oyster shells. If you wish to contribute to this effort, please contact Adam Moore.

Once the masons have built the chimneys, the tent will be removed and the landscape around the house will be restored to a condition approximating that of a farmhouse and garden around 1800.

In a parallel effort, the Foundation is also about to file a paper nominating the Hancock-Mitchell House for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination paper is being written by architectural historian Myron Stachiw. Mr. Stachiw conducted months of research in the Dukes County Registry of Deeds and in the archives of the Martha's Vineyard Museum.

Of particular note is that Mr. Stachiw correctly identified the exact property transfer that created the house site for the Hancock-Mitchell House. Mr. Stachiw identified a transfer of one acre of land in 1792, from Thomas Coxe to James Hancock, as being that which corresponded to the Hancock-Mitchell House. Mr. Stachiw recommended that Vineyard Land Surveying identify and mark this one-acre site on the land. Vineyard Land Surveying did so, and found that, indeed, the Hancock-Mitchell House lies right in the middle of this lot. What's more, Vineyard Land Surveying even found traces of the old ridge lines, ditches and fence lines that once partitioned the vast fields of Quansoo hundreds of years ago. These historic features of the land will all be highlighted, on the ground in the seasons to come.



EDUCATION PROGRAM BLOSSOMING

Riverbend Fund Awards \$10,000 Pre-K Grant

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is very pleased to announce that the Riverbend Fund has awarded a \$10,000 grant to Sheriff's Meadow for nature education specifically for pre-school children.

"We are simply delighted to have received this grant," said Adam Moore. "We look forward to working with all of the pre-schools on the island in the next year."

The grant will be used to create an excellent pre-school nature education program. It will build on the existing program already in place at Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary that is oriented to children in grades ranging from kindergarten through fifth grade.

Samantha Look, Education Coordinator for Sheriff's Meadow Foundation, plans to use the grant for development of the pre-school program base on model programs elsewhere for creation of an appropriate curriculum, for visits to the schools prior to their outings to the sanctuary, and for the support of pre-school field trips to



Students at Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary

Photo by Samantha Look

Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary.

Ms. Look noted that when pre-school students visit Cedar Tree Neck, they are completely engaged by their surroundings. The young children succumb to none of the distractions –

technological or otherwise – that vie for the attention of students even just a few years older.

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation expresses its sincere gratitude to the Riverbend Fund for its confidence and support.

Take a Virtual Tour of Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary

Adam Moore and Kristen Fauteux to deliver
2016 Public Lecture on Monday, July 25, 2016

Experience all four seasons of the Vineyard's favorite nature walk, Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary, in under two hours! Sheriff's Meadow Foundation invites you to join us on a Virtual Guided Walk of this stunning property while seated in the historic Grange Hall. The evening will be a multimedia event geared to both the young and the young at heart.

This multi-media presentation will share the beauty, history, flora and fauna found along the many trails of Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary in West Tisbury. It's perfect for people who'd like an armchair tour, as well as for those who want to deepen their enjoyment when they next visit the Sanctuary.

Adam Moore will be the principal

speaker to guide us through the seasons of Cedar Tree Neck. Mr. Moore has served as the Executive Director of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation since 2008. He previously served as the Executive Director of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, as the Land Superintendent for the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission, and as a forester for Connwood Foresters Inc. He earned a BA in biology from Yale and a master of forestry degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. He is the author of the 2015 book *A Year on Martha's Vineyard*.

Kristen Fauteux will join Mr. Moore in this multimedia presentation. Ms. Fauteux is Sheriff's Meadow's Director of Stewardship and she oversees all

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation properties. Her career with Sheriff's Meadow has spanned over 12 years. She recently earned her Masters in Resource Management and Conservation from Antioch University. Ms Fauteux is an expert on ecological restoration, environmental sciences and botany.

This program is free and open to the public as part of the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation's ongoing Education Programs. The lecture will begin at 7:30 pm and will last approximately two hours.

For more information about the upcoming lecture or other programs, please contact Sheriff's Meadow Foundation at 508-693-5207 or info@sheriffsmeadow.org.

Dick and Nancy Friedman to Host Summer Benefit *2016 Summer Benefit at Oyster Pond*

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is very pleased to announce that Dick and Nancy Friedman will host the 2016 Annual Summer Benefit at their beautiful farm on Oyster Pond in Edgartown. The event will take place on Monday, July 18, 2016 from 6:00 to 9:30 pm. Guests will enjoy the sight of the sun setting over Oyster Pond, and the views of green pastures stretching in all directions, and the convivial company of fellow supporters of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation.

"We are very grateful to Dick and Nancy Friedman for hosting our event and we are so excited to be gathering on such beautiful land," said Executive Director Adam Moore. The Oyster Pond farm is especially important to Sheriff's Meadow Foundation, as it and the neighboring lands are all protected from further development by Sheriff's Meadow Foundation conservation restrictions. These restrictions were all given to the Foundation by Mr. Friedman, Albie and Wilda White and Allen Norton.

"It's especially nice to be holding the benefit on conservation land," said Mr. Moore.

In addition, the Friedman property is notable for historical reasons. During the presidency of Bill Clinton, the Friedmans hosted the First Family at this property for their Vineyard summer vacations.

The Annual Summer Benefit is the chief fundraising activity for Sheriff's Meadow Foundation. The money raised by this event provides a very significant source of the general operating revenues for Sheriff's Meadow. We ask all of our donors to consider sponsoring the Benefit, purchasing a ticket, or making a donation.

Sponsorships are available at the levels indicated below, and they include complimentary tickets and certain associated benefits. Tickets are available for purchase at \$200, and patron tickets are available at \$300, which provides additional financial support for Sheriff's Meadow. Please note that for each ticket purchased or complimentary ticket received, all but \$75 of



Oyster Pond

Photo by Kristen Fauteux

that ticket is tax-deductible.

This year the benefit will be catered by Buckley's Catering. Jessica and Steve Buckley are planning a mouthwatering, Asian-themed menu for the evening.

To sponsor the event, purchase a tick-

et or make a donation, please respond to the invitation that has been mailed, visit the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation website, email the Foundation at info@sheriffsmeadow.org, or telephone the office at (508) 693-5207.

2016 Summer Benefit Sponsorship Levels

Cedar Tree Society - \$50,000

- 8 complimentary tickets and reserved table for 8.
- Private, guided walk of SMF property of your choice led by Adam Moore, Executive Director, for 12 people.
- Private tour of Mitchell House by Brian Cooper for 8 people.
- Exclusive use of Cedar Tree Neck beach one evening in August for a picnic with your friends (limited to 16 people).
- Invitation to President's Circle private reception.

Beetlebung Tree Society - \$25,000

- 8 complimentary tickets and reserved table for 8.
- Private, guided walk of SMF property of your choice led by Adam Moore, Executive Director, for 12 people.
- Exclusive use of Cedar Tree Neck beach one evening in August for a picnic with your friends (limited to 16 people).

- Invitation to President's Circle private reception.

Beech Tree Society - \$10,000

- 8 complimentary tickets and reserved table for 8.
- Private, guided walk of SMF property of your choice for 12 people.
- Invitation to President's Circle private reception.

Sassafras Tree Society - \$5,000

- 6 complimentary tickets.
- Invitation to President's Circle private reception.

Holly Tree Society - \$2,500

- 4 complimentary tickets.

Oak Tree Society - \$1,250

- 2 complimentary tickets.

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation will gratefully acknowledge all of its sponsors onscreen during the event, in Foundation publications and materials and in print acknowledgement advertisements.

Please note that each complimentary ticket has a non-deductible value of \$75.



**SHERIFF'S
MEADOW
FOUNDATION**




A VINEYARD LAND TRUST

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UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL SUMMER BENEFIT

Monday, July 18, 2016

6:00 to 9:30 pm

Land of Dick and Nancy Friedman

Oyster Pond, 100 Oyster Pond Road, Edgartown

PUBLIC LECTURE

Monday, July 25, 2016

7:30 pm to 9:30 pm

Grange Hall, State Road, West Tisbury

**Virtual Tour of Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary by
Adam Moore and Kristen Fauteux**

HENRY BEETLE HOUGH SOCIETY WALKS

Wednesday, July 20, 2016

9:00 am to 11:00 am

Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary – meet at the traffic
circle at the end of Indian Hill Road

Thursday, August 4, 2016

9:00 am to 11:00 am

Oyster-Watcha Midlands Preserve

GUIDED PUBLIC WALKS

Thursday, July 21, 2016

9:00 am to 11:00 am

Middle Road Sanctuary, Chilmark

Thursday, August 11, 2016

9:00 to 11:00 am

Brookside Ridge Preserve, Chilmark

Saturday, October 22, 2016

9:00 am to 11:00 am

**Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary,
West Tisbury**

Sunday, December 4, 2016

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

**Goethals Preserve
West Tisbury**