

SHERIFF'S
MEADOW
FOUNDATION



A MARTHA'S VINEYARD LAND TRUST

Newsletter

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CEDAR TREE NECK SANCTUARY

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Founded in 1959 by Henry Beetle Hough
and Elizabeth Bowie Hough

“Have you ever lived on an island?”

I poured the rum, and dealt the cards, and pondered that question.

It was a rainy Havana night. Tropical storm Hermine swirled overhead. Raindrops pelted tin roofs in the alley. Stray dogs barked. Boys played marbles on the sidewalk, despite the rain. Water poured onto the marble staircase of this once-elegant building, as all of the windows along the staircase lacked glass, save one pane per floor. Inside the front door, a few pieces of cardboard lay on the floor, sopping up water.

We played Canasta. My daughter, Madeleine, and I were in her apartment in the Vedado neighborhood of Havana. Madeleine had spent the summer in Havana studying Spanish. My wife, Melissa, had done the hard work of traveling to Cuba with Madeleine at the start of the summer and helping her to get established. By summer's end when I arrived, it was easy: Madeleine was fluent in Spanish, and an expert guide to the city.

In preparing for that trip, I read an article by Wendy Gimbel in which she described Cuban people playing Canasta. That intrigued me, as Canasta had always been a favorite game in my family. Melissa and I had spent many enjoyable evenings playing Canasta with my grandparents.

What intrigued me further, however, was something my mother had told me before my trip. She told me that after the untimely death of my great-grandfather, my great-grandmother, in a state of distress, left her two children behind in New York and spent an entire year in Havana. This was news to me. Perhaps, I thought, this tradition of Canasta came from this sojourn to Cuba.

Madeleine and I played cards on the dining room table. I explained the rules of the game, as well as I could remember. While we played, I thought of that question, “have you ever lived on an island?”

That question was posed to me as one of the essay questions when, in 1997, I applied for the land superintendent position with the Martha's Vineyard land bank commission. My response was, “yes – I lived for a year on the island of Manhattan.”

While I did not give much thought to that question at the time, I also never forgot it.

Now, nearly 20 years later, I find that I have spent almost half my life either living on an island or traveling back and forth to one. That simple question has grown in significance over time. Why? What is it about islands?

I think that there are two key aspects of life on an island that make the question significant. First, island life brings one closer to nature. Second, perhaps because of that closeness to nature, island life helps one understand other islanders – no matter which island they live on, or when they lived there – as they share a common experience.

Canasta takes time. As we played, I felt a sense of communion with family members – most of which I never knew – just because they had lived on islands. I thought of my grandmother roller-skating toward the Hudson River in Washington Heights, and my great uncle swimming in the currents of Spuyten Duyvil. I recalled my great-great-aunt's Barbados lilt and the aroma of fish cakes.

And I thought of my distraught great-grandmother, playing cards and drinking rum in 1920's Havana. Had she stayed in an apartment like ours, in a building and a city that was then at the height of its grandeur? Had she played Canasta while a tropical storm swirled overhead, and as the rain beat down, just as it was for me and for Madeleine? What storms swirled in her mind, as she eventually decided to return to her children in Manhattan?

Living on an island, for any length of time, bonds one to other islanders. We know the feeling of hurricanes, whether their winds are doubling over Havana palms or Edgartown oaks. We know the sound of the foghorn and the bell buoy. We know isolation, when the boats can't run; we know what it is to be stranded. We know, too, the wanderlust that islands stir, from the constant sight of travelers coming and going, from planes landing and departing, from ferries docking and sailing off.

Island living forms bonds across the generations. Perhaps a century from now, a great-granddaughter might think of her ancestors, who waited out Atlantic storms by a woodstove in a place called Quansoo, playing Canasta.

Have you ever lived on an island?



Report of the Treasurer

Thanks to the generosity of our many loyal donors and volunteers, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is in good financial condition. The demands on our resources will grow, however, as we protect and maintain more land and expand our stewardship and educational activities. We are confident that with your support we will meet the financial challenges ahead.

The following discussion highlights certain financial information about our fiscal year ended June 30, 2016. Our complete audited financial statements are available on request.

Assets and Liabilities

Our total assets at June 30, 2016 were \$64.59 million, compared with \$63.34 million at the end of the 2015 fiscal year, an increase of \$1.25 million.

The largest component of our assets are the land and land improvements we hold. These totalled \$55.90 million at the end of fiscal 2016, up from \$54.74 million at the end of fiscal 2015, reflecting two gifts of conservation land in West Tisbury. Our land holdings are reflected on our financial statements at their fair value at their acquisition date. Over time the value of our land has appreciated significantly, so that the current value of the land significantly exceeds its balance sheet valuation.

Our investments are the second most important component of our assets. Cash and cash equivalents and investments as of the end of fiscal 2016 were \$6.67 million, compared with \$6.87 million at fiscal year-end 2015. The decrease of \$0.20 million reflected mainly adverse securities markets during the 2016 period, which more than offset higher cash contributions for the period.

As of June 30, 2016, we replaced our previous financial advisor with The Vanguard Group and we shifted a larger portion of our investment assets into broad-based index funds, with the objectives of improving performance while reducing advisory fees. Our current endowment distribution policy provides for the withdrawal of 4.5% of our average available investment balance each year to support our program activities.

Our finance committee reviews our distribution policy at least annually in the light of earnings expectations and cash needs.

Our total liabilities at fiscal year-end were \$0.33 million. We have no outstanding indebtedness.

Revenue and Expenses

Key components of our annual revenue are donations of land and conservation easements, and other donations (mainly cash, but also contributed services).

Land and conservation restriction donations totalled \$1.16 million in fiscal 2016 and \$0.68 million in fiscal 2015. We received two property donations during fiscal 2016. One gift of 31.94 acres abutting Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary was valued at \$0.54 million and other gift of a 1.5-acre property on Seth's Pond in West Tisbury was valued at \$0.62 million.

We received cash donations of \$1.63 million in fiscal 2016 and \$0.96 million in fiscal 2015 (a portion of which were restricted as to use). Cash donations in fiscal 2016 benefited from a generous bequest of \$0.58 million from an anonymous donor. Unrestricted cash contributions are a critical resource for meeting the financial requirements of our land acquisition, stewardship and on-going activities. We depend heavily on the President's Circle, our Annual Fund appeal and

the Summer Benefit to provide our funding, and we continue to look for ways to broaden our support. Our endowment provides funding to supplement annual giving to some extent, but until we can grow our endowment significantly we will continue to rely mainly on our annual donors.

Our functional expenses in fiscal 2016 were \$1.19 million, compared with \$1.21 million in fiscal 2015, reflecting our continuing emphasis on cost management. The components of our functional expenses are shown in the box below.

Our stewardship expenses have increased and will continue to increase as we maintain and enhance more land, improve accessibility to properties, build trails, develop viewing points and strive to provide exceptional management for our properties.

As a result, our total net assets increased \$1.25 million during fiscal 2016, compared with an increase of \$0.46 million in fiscal 2015.

We are enormously grateful to the more than 2,000 donors and volunteers who support Sheriff's Meadow Foundation.

Respectfully submitted,

Walt Looney

Functional Expenses		
	2016	2015
Land acquisition	\$ 44,869	\$149,138
Land stewardship	503,808	450,577
Education and advocacy	31,042	28,201
Administrative and general	429,336	393,606
Fundraising	185,879	186,320



Susan Hughes Joins SMF Staff

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is delighted to announce that, on November 7, 2016, Susan Hughes joined the staff as a Development Associate.

Susan Hughes a third generation summer resident, moved permanently to Oak Bluffs in June. An avid sailor, Susan taught sailing at the East Chop Yacht Club for six years. Following her graduation from college she taught and coached at Colgate University, in the Swansea Public Schools and at Wellesley College. During this time she began running competitively, participating in track, road races, and marathons, qualifying for the 1984 Women's Olympic Marathon Trials. From 1981-1984, Susan served as the East Coast Representative for Nike, Inc.

After raising her two sons, Susan joined the Development Office at the Charles River School in Dover, MA where she worked for the past 19 years. During her tenure at the Charles River School, Susan held many roles, assisting with the Annual Fund and three Campaign efforts, organizing major fund-raising events, and serving on the Development, Marketing and Publication Committees.

As someone who walks the sanctuary trails, sails on the ocean, swims from its beaches and rides along the bike paths, Susan feels fortunate to have access to all the Vineyard has to offer and is very excited to work with Sheriff's Meadow Foundation to help preserve the Island's natural resources for generations to come.

Susan attended Northeastern University, University of Massachusetts, Boston and the Harvard Extension School. She has two sons, Scott, who lives in Berkeley, CA and Erik, who lives in Somerville, MA.

Please join us in welcoming Susan to Sheriff's Meadow Foundation.

Report of the Executive Director

On the year concluded June 30, 2016

The fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2016 was one of significant accomplishment for Sheriff's Meadow Foundation. This remarkable year included two gifts of conservation land, the blazing of a new trail, a generous bequest, and the award of accreditation.

On June 19, 2015, the Board of Directors of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation held its Annual Meeting. New Director Alan Rappaport of Chilmark was elected to the Board for a three-year term. Mr. Rappaport joined a class of Directors that includes Mary Lou DeLong of West Tisbury, who had joined the Board in December of 2014. At this Annual Meeting, the Board re-elected Chris Alley as President and Brien O'Brien as Vice-President, and elected Walt Looney as Treasurer, Susannah Bristol as Assistant Treasurer and Molly Glasgow as Clerk.

Jeanne and Howard Borggaard hosted the Summer Benefit on July 20, 2015 at their beautiful farm on Indian Hill Road in West Tisbury. Beside handsome stone walls and an antique, red Farmall tractor, some 400 supporters of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation gathered to celebrate and to learn about Sheriff's Meadow's work. At the benefit, Mary Pat Hough-Green was recognized for the Hough family's 2014 donation of the George A. Hough Preserve at Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary.

Just two weeks later, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation received word from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission that it has been awarded accreditation and was now an Accredited Land Trust. The accreditation period began on August 1, 2015 and lasts until July 30, 2020. Sheriff's Meadow was publicly recognized for having obtained accreditation at the Land Trust Alliance Rally in Sacramento in October of 2015.

Continued on page 5



Luna moth caterpillar at Quansoo Farm Photo: Adam Moore



Continued from page 4

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation was honored to receive a \$40,000 grant from the Massachusetts Environmental Trust in the summer of 2015. The grant was given for design, permitting and engineering work required to restore the Mill Brook at Roth Woodlands in Chilmark. Funding for this grant comes entirely from sales of the "Preserve the Trust" specialty license plates. Sheriff's Meadow completed the necessary design work over the months that followed the awarding of this grant. The Daniels Wildlife Trust also provided financial assistance for this effort.



Sunrise Service, West Chop Meadow
Photo: Marc Macfarlane

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation offered a number of walks and programs during the summer of 2015. Public walk were held at West Chop Woods and Sheriff's Meadow Sanctuary, a walk for Henry Beetle Hough Society donors was held on Chappaquiddick, and a public lecture entitled "Beautiful Lawns, Healthy Ponds, Productive Farms" was held on August 24, 2015 at the Old Whaling Church in Edgartown.

The Foundation's education program thrived in 2015. In the fall and spring, Education Coordinator Samantha Look led students on field trips to Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary and to Caroline Tuthill Preserve. The students enjoyed learning in the outdoors while using custom-written curricula – "Map Makers," "Math in Nature" and more – that meet state standards and reinforce concepts being taught in the classroom. Stewardship Director Kristen

Fauteux expanded the education program by introducing the eastern box turtle, Johnny Sue, to students at the Edgartown School and the Oak Bluffs School. The eighth-grade students of Leah Dorr, science teacher at the Oak Bluffs School, were so moved by the box turtle that they created an entire program designed to raise awareness of this rare, native reptile and to explain ways to protect the turtle. The students' program included brochures, a display and even a Claymation video. The Riverbend Fund and the Edey Foundation provided invaluable financial support for the education program.

The Foundation's support for local farms took another step forward in fiscal year 2016. In the fall of 2015, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation leased a 4.9-acre section of Wade's Field in Chilmark to Morning Glory Farm. Morning Glory Farm will use this land as an organic hayfield. In the spring of 2016, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation leased a 9-acre field at the Lieberman property in West Tisbury to Morning Glory Farm. This land will also be used as hayfield. Both leases to Morning Glory Farm followed the successful completion of a public request-for-proposals process. In the spring of 2016, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation renewed an existing lease of horse pasture at Nat's Farm with Misty Meadows Farm, and renewed an existing lease of horse pasture at Long Point on Chappaquiddick.



On the new trail at Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary
Photo: Melissa Moore

The year 2015 ended with two significant donations of conservation land. Elizabeth Replier Chase gave her 1.5-acre property

on the shore of Seth's Pond to Sheriff's Meadow Foundation. She wrote that her love of Martha's Vineyard led her to give "something permanent in nature, something unspoiled that will be forever preserved." Mrs. Replier Chase is the grandmother of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation's Property Manager Marc Macfarlane. With a gift of 32 acres of land from an anonymous donor, Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary also grew in 2015. Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary now totals 490 acres, and is Sheriff's Meadow Foundation's largest property.

When 2016 began, work resumed on the repair and restoration of the Hancock-Mitchell House at Quansoo Farm. Led by foreman John Kelley, the expert carpenters of Early New Restorations completed the structural work on the old house. Donors also contributed \$100,000 in memory of Donnie Mitchell, all of which was matched, dollar for dollar, by the Bodman Foundation. As soon as the sawdust settled, school groups from the Montessori School and from the building trades class at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School began using the old house for educational programs.

In May of 2016, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation opened a 1.5-mile new trail at the George A. Hough Preserve at Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary. This trail connects two portions of the Sanctuary that had been donated in 1967 but had never been physically connected. Sheriff's Meadow Foundation was honored to receive a significant and generous anonymous bequest in late May 2016.

On June 17, 2016, the Board of Directors held its Annual Meeting. Elected to the Board to three-year terms were new Directors Patty Favreau of West Tisbury and Hillary Noyes-Keene of Chilmark, and Director John Schaefer of Edgartown was welcomed back to the Board after a one-year hiatus. The Board re-elected Chris Alley, Brien O'Brien, Walt Looney, Susannah Bristol and Molly Glasgow as President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Clerk, respectively.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam R. Moore
Executive Director

National Register Nomination Filed

Hancock-Mitchell House at Quansoo Farm



Photo: Adam Moore

On October 21, 2016, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation nominated the Hancock-Mitchell House at Quansoo Farm for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Architectural Historian Myron Stachiw filed the nomination paper on behalf of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation. The application was submitted to the Massachusetts Historical Commission for review. According to the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the review of the application will take at least one year.

The nomination includes the Hancock-Mitchell House itself and also the original, one-acre building lot on which the house is located. Mr. Stachiw's title research revealed that this building lot was sold by Thomas Cox to James Hancock in 1792. Survey work conducted by Bill Austin of Vineyard Land Surveying confirmed the precise location of this lot. The corners of the lot are now marked with granite monuments.

The nomination paper describes the history of the Hancock-Mitchell House from its initial construction up to the present time. To scientifically determine the age of the Hancock-Mitchell House, dendrochronology was performed on wood samples from the Hancock-Mitchell House and on three other antique houses on Martha's Vineyard - the Parsonage in West Tisbury, the Look-

Quansoo location in about 1793. The half-cape was made into a full Cape sometime between 1793 and 1804. Dendrochronology revealed that the oaks used to frame the east addition were felled between 1800 and 1801. Dendrochronology revealed that the rear ell, framed in hemlock, was built in 1837. This finding was confirmed when the

Oldest section of roof. *Photo: Myron Stachiw*



MaryLou Davis and interns examining wallpaper. Photo: Alison Shaw

Horwitz house in West Tisbury and the Butler-Strock house in Oak Bluffs. The dendrochronological work was performed by architectural conservator William Flynt of Historic Deerfield. In addition, Accelerator Mass Spectrometry Carbon 14 dating was performed on samples of oak from the Hancock-Mitchell House. Todd Lange of the University of Arizona conducted the Carbon 14 analysis.

The dendrochronology and Carbon 14 dating established 1761 as the year in which the oldest, half-Cape section of the Hancock-Mitchell house was constructed. The house was moved to its current,

Early New England Restoration crew found newspaper clippings, stuffed in the walls of the rear ell, from New Bedford newspapers dated 1837.

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation extends its sincere gratitude to the owners of the three other historic houses who offered their homes for dendrochronology and paid for the research work. Anyone wishing to read the National Register nomination paper or the research report from Historic Deerfield may contact Adam Moore for an electronic or printed copy.



Upcoming Activities & Events

GUIDED PUBLIC WALKS

Sunday, December 4, 2016
Moshup Beach and Wallen, Preston & Shands Preserve, Aquinnah
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Join the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation and Martha's Vineyard Land Bank for a guided walk of Moshup Beach and the Wallen, Preston & Shands Preserve in Aquinnah. Meet at the town parking lot at the Aquinnah Circle.

Saturday, February 4, 2017
Phillips Preserve
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Walk the Phillips Preserve on the west side of Lake Tashmoo. Park and meet at the Wakeman Center at 57 David Avenue (off Lambert's Cove Road) and carpool from there. Hopefully walkers will hear the courtship calls of the great-horned owl.

Saturday, May 13, 2017
Toms Neck Farm
10:00 am – 12:00 noon

Walk Toms Neck Farm on Chappy with Sheriff's Meadow Foundation and Land Bank staff. Check Sheriff's Meadow Foundation website for details about parking.

Thursday, July 20, 2017
Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary
9:00 am – 11:00 am

Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary on this guided walk of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation's largest property.

Wednesday, August 9, 2017
Brightwood Park and Ramble Trail Preserve
9:00 am – 11:00 am

Explore these Vineyard Haven conservation areas and the ravine that they straddle. Meet at the parking lot on Causeway Road above Veterans Memorial Park and carpool from there.

Saturday, October 21, 2017
Vineyard Golf Club
10:00 am – 12:00 noon

Hike the all-organic Vineyard Golf Club and explore the unique frostbottom. Meet at the Vineyard Golf Club parking lot.

HENRY BEETLE HOUGH SOCIETY WALKS

Wednesday, July 26, 2017
King Point and Armour Preserves
9:00 am – 11:00 am

Hike the King Point and Armour Preserves on the Edgartown Great Pond. See website at www.sheriffsmeadow.org for directions and parking information.

Tuesday, August 15, 2017
Stonewall Pond Preserve
9:00 am – 11:00 am

Tour lovely Stonewall Pond Preserve and learn about the eastern box turtle. See website at www.sheriffsmeadow.org for directions and parking information.

PUBLIC LECTURES

Saturday, January 28, 2017
Virtual Tour of Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
West Tisbury Library

Saturday, March 11, 2017
Virtual Tour of Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Oak Bluffs Library

Thursday, July 27, 2017
Virtual Tour of Caroline Tuthill Preserve
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Edgartown Library



Quansoo Farm *Photo: Adam Moore*



A MARTHA'S VINEYARD LAND TRUST

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Guided Walk at Moshup Beach and Wallen, Preston & Shands Preserve
Photo: Adam Moore



Stile crossing at Cedar Tree Neck: Bill Maloney and Tess Bramhall
Photo: Adam Moore

Cover photo: Stephen Chapman