



SHERIFF'S
MEADOW
FOUNDATION

A MARTHA'S VINEYARD LAND TRUST



Newsletter

Spring 2017

MOSHUP BEACH

Issue No. 55



A MARTHA'S VINEYARD LAND TRUST

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Founded in 1959 by Henry Beetle
Hough and Elizabeth Bowie Hough

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, *Adam Moore*

Reunion and Remembrance

Cambrai. Argonne. Somme. Chateau-Thierry. Ypres. St. Mihiel. Marne.

So inscribed on the Memorial Colonnade at Yale's University Commons are the names of these battles of World War I. Before the colonnade stands a cenotaph, inscribed with these words:

*In memory of the men of Yale who, true to her traditions, gave their lives that freedom might not perish from the earth.
1914 ~Anno Domini~ 1918.*

A few steps further stands the Rotunda of Woolsey Hall, where all of its curving walls are inscribed with the names of those alumni who perished in each of the nation's wars. Well-worn from repeated rubbing is the carved name of Captain Nathan Hale, Class of 1773.

I had returned to Yale with Melissa and our three younger children for my 25th Reunion. The reunion began on a Thursday afternoon, with a gentle spring rain dripping from the elms on High Street and on the Old Campus. Over the ensuing days the reunion built, as more and more friends gathered in New Haven. The event culminated in a massive dinner in the Commons, where 1,150 people dined beneath the lofty timbers and the rows of flags and oil portraits and near the Memorial Colonnade and the cenotaph, and the memorial Rotunda—a stately place of remembrance.

The reunion invigorated me. Being among old, true friends with whom I have shared a common bond, and being in the same familiar places causes one to assess one's life, and to feel inspired and renewed. Overall the reunion was full of joy and mirth, even jubilation.

Yet at this reunion I noted that, on the evening's dinner program, the list of classmates who have died had grown longer and now included people whom I knew. And the names of those alumni carved into the walls seemed even more important, especially for an institution older than the United States, now in the throes of change. As the reunions progress over the decades, the remembrance aspect grows in significance. These are happy occasions, yet they are also poignant. People face each other and wit-

ness truths, some of them difficult. Who did not attend? Who is ill? What changes hath time wrought?

We returned to the Island on the 5:00 pm ferry on Sunday. The next day was Memorial Day. It was cold, and raining hard, and the annual Memorial Day observance ceremony had been moved to the Tisbury School gymnasium. I was attending with the Boy Scouts and we joined the Girl Scouts and a Coast Guard honor guard, and veterans in uniform, and representatives of various fire and police departments from around the island.

The Memorial Day event on Martha's Vineyard is a meaningful ceremony that is well worth attending. Natalie Wood sang a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem, and my son led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. Commander Virginia Doonan of the 102nd Intelligence Wing of the Air National Guard gave a speech, explaining what it means to be a Gold Star family and related the story of a Constellation airplane that crashed in the waters off Nantucket, sacrificing the crew to avoid a greater loss of life that would have occurred had it crash-landed on the island. The ceremony concluded with a reading of the names of those veterans who had died in the past year. A lunch at the American Legion hall next door followed the program.

Memorial Day on the Island is solemn, especially so on a rainy day. And when this day of remembrance passes, so begins the joyful reunion that is summer on the Vineyard. Familiar faces from far away return. Neighbors stroll the path around Sheriff's Meadow Sanctuary, resuming a beloved morning routine. Families make an excursion to Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary and spend the day renewing family traditions of scrambling over boulders and exploring the rocky beach. Anglers fly-fish Little Beach and surf-cast on the south shore. We find the reunion with the Island invigorating, too, and we approach autumn renewed and refreshed.

Yet as with each passing college reunion, so with each passing summer reunion the feeling of remembrance grows in importance. For a nation that is also in the throes

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50th Anniversary of Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary



Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary, Photo: Stephen Chapman

The year 2017 marks 50 years since Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary was established. At 490 acres in size, Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary is the largest of all of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation's properties.

The first donation of conservation land at Cedar Tree Neck actually occurred more than 50 years ago. In 1962, Henry Beetle Hough donated a one-acre property containing a little pond to the nascent Sheriff's Meadow Foundation. Mr. Hough named the pond on the property Lake Elizabeth in honor of his wife, Elizabeth Bowie Hough.

In 1967, however, the real conservation effort at Cedar Tree Neck began. Along with Allen Morgan, president of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, Henry Beetle Hough led a campaign to conserve Cedar Tree Neck as a nature preserve. He solicited donations from all those who cared and each week reported the campaign progress in the pages of the Vineyard Gazette, of which Mr. Hough was the editor.

The Cedar Tree Neck effort was a great success. By the end of the year, Mr. Hough and his brother, George Hough, had donated their land at Fish Hook, the Norton family had donated its land as the A.S. Reed Bird Refuge, Georgina Stevenson had donated her hilltop land at Norton's Circle, and the Daggett family had sold, through a bargain sale, its land as the Obed Sherman Daggett and Maria Roberts Daggett Sanctuary. Together, these lands, and all the lands given since, compose Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary.

The anniversary will be celebrated this year and explored with maps and photographs in future issues of the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation newsletter.

Join us for a guided walk of Cedar Tree Neck on Thursday, July 20, 2017, 9:00 - 11:00 am

Reunion and Remembrance
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of change, it seems especially important that on the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation conservation lands, much remains the same, intentionally so. The path over the dunes to Cedar Tree Neck will be there forever. The trails at Middle Road Sanctuary shall always remain. This permanence of the land and of the institution that owns the land, makes these sanctuaries a fitting backdrop for the summer reunion, with each other and with the Island. It can feel as if we never left, yet we also feel the absence of those no longer with us.

What I noticed this year, for the first time, is that the college reunion ended and the summer reunion began on a day and in a place of remembrance. For me, whether beneath New Haven elms or Island oaks, reunion and remembrance embrace, and that embrace tightens with each passing year.

Harvesting of Wood Policy Adopted

At its meeting of May 19, 2017, the Board of Directors of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation adopted a new policy concerning the harvesting of wood on Sheriff's Meadow Foundation properties. The policy establishes a permitting process by which Sheriff's Meadow Foundation can issue permits to cut trees that have been marked by Sheriff's Meadow Foundation staff.

The policy is intended to guide and encourage the sustainable gathering of wood and other forest products from Sheriff's Meadow Foundation lands. The Foundation hopes that the forests can provide firewood to those who both heat their homes with wood and wish to procure the firewood themselves. The Foundation also hopes to be able to work with those who make bowls, furniture, utensils, lumber, boats and other objects that come from trees. It should be noted that the oak joists and sills for the Hancock-Mitchell House

came from Cedar Tree Neck in West Tisbury and the white pines used in the sheathing and subflooring of the house came from the land of Ed and Ellen Harley in Edgartown.

Any harvesting of wood under this policy, whether from a dead or living tree, will not occur during summer months, will occur only with respect to marked trees, and will occur only subject to a written permit.

To build on this new policy, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is also creating a new volunteer program for its properties and will be writing a community forest management plan to address all of the issues surrounding the Foundation's extensive forest holdings.

Those with questions about the new policy are encouraged to contact Adam Moore at moore@sheriffsmeadow.org or at (508) 693-5207.

Fields Leased

at the Lieberman Property



Hay Field at Lieberman Property, Photo: Marc Macfarlane

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is pleased to announce that it has entered into two agricultural leases for portions of the Lieberman property in West Tisbury. The Foundation has leased a five-acre hayfield to Morning Glory Farm and a one and a half-acre section of field and woodlands to Richard Anderson.

"We had been hoping to make the Lieberman property available for farming for some time," said Executive Director Adam Moore, "as it is one of the few Sheriff's Meadow Foundation properties to have prime agricultural soil."

The Lieberman property is a 9.6-acre property found off Blackthorn Road in West Tisbury. It was given to Sheriff's Meadow Foundation in 1998 by William and Mary Lieberman. The Natural Resource Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture has mapped and described the various soil types on Martha's Vineyard. It applies the term "prime agricultural" to only the very best soils for farming. After tilling the earth and smelling the soil of the Lieberman property, farmer James Athearn concurred as to the quality. "It smells like West Tisbury," said Mr. Athearn.

Sheriff's Meadow staff members helped prepare the land for farming by removing invasive autumn olives from the perimeter. The Foundation was assisted in this effort by Morning Glory Farm staff members, who cut and dragged brush, and by Tom Robinson, who chipped the piles of brush.

Morning Glory Farm will grow hay in the field that it has leased. The lease of an abutting section of land to Richard Anderson will allow for pasture for horses and will provide access for farm equipment.

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation expresses its gratitude to all those who helped to make possible the farming of this land, including Morning Glory Farm and Rick Anderson, Lil Province, Chris Greulich, and the Sheriff's Meadow Agriculture Committee.

Riverbend Fund Grant Awarded

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is very pleased to report that it has been awarded a grant of \$10,000 from the Riverbend Fund. The grant will support Sheriff's Meadow Foundation's nature education programs. The Foundation's formal, nature education programs serve schoolchildren ranging in age from pre-Kindergarten to the fifth grade.

"We've had particular success in the past year with all of our education programs, and we have really been happy to see the growth in our pre-K programs," said Executive Director Adam Moore. "That growth is a direct result of the support and encouragement of the Riverbend Fund."

The pre-K program consists of several elements, including visits to the classroom from Sheriff's Meadow Foundation Education Coordinators Samantha Look and Kendra Buresch and field trips to Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary. The K-5 programs consist of curricula designed for Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary and Caroline Tuthill Preserve and written to comply with state standards. The curricula include "Map Makers," "Soil Sleuths," "Math in Nature" and more. Information about all of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation's education programs may be found at www.sheriffsmeadow.org.



Photo: Samantha Look



Land Saved!



Land Purchased from VCS, Photo: Adam Moore

Thanks to generous donations from you, the supporters of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation, and thanks especially to Anne Lewis and her very generous gift of stock, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation has purchased and conserved the land on Moshup Trail that was featured on the cover of the 2017 Winter Newsletter.

On receiving the last newsletter in the mail, Ms. Lewis opened the envelope and read the piece about the 2.5-acre property on Moshup Trail in Aquinnah. Moved by the cover photograph, Ms. Lewis felt compelled to act. She emailed Sheriff's Meadow Foundation and asked if she could give a gift of stock to help and asked

how much money needed to be raised. The Sheriff's Meadow staff responded at once and with enthusiasm.

"She read the newsletter, saw the photo, emailed the office, and gave a gift of stock," said Executive Director Adam Moore. "We were overjoyed. We offered our heartfelt thanks, and then we sold the stock, put all the donations together, and bought the land."

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation bought this land from the Vineyard Conservation Society for \$50,000 on June 5, 2017. The Vineyard Conservation Society is using the money to defray the costs of its successful legal campaign to protect additional rare heathland on Moshup Trail. Sheriff's Meadow Foundation now hopes to conserve additional land in the neighborhood, and to connect all of the land together with a trail.

"We can't wait to put in the trail and open this land to the public as the newest Sheriff's Meadow Foundation nature preserve," said Mr. Moore. "Thank you."

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation expresses its sincere gratitude to:

- Jason and Julie Andris
- Peter and Susan Bernard
- Robert and Lynn Coffman
- Natalie Conroy
- John Davis
- Jones Deady and Laura Norris
- Jack and JoAnn Fruchtman
- Suzi Harrod and Dan Donahue
- Anne Lewis
- Sarah and Dennis Thulin

Orchid Discovered, Listed

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is very pleased to report that an orchid discovered by Kristen Fauteux, the Director of Stewardship for Sheriff's Meadow Foundation and Julie Russell, the Ecologist for the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission, has been listed by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program as threatened in Massachusetts. The orchid is named *Neottia bifolia*, and its common name is southern twayblade.

Ms. Russell first discovered the species in 2003 on a private property in Chilmark. In 2012 Ms. Fautuex discovered the same species, this time on a different property in Chilmark. The two botanists reported their discovery to the commonwealth and subsequently conducted a detailed investigation of the orchid and its habitat. Prior to these discoveries, this plant had never before been observed in Massachusetts. The two have also just discovered another population of southern twayblade in a wetland in West Tisbury.

In addition, both Ms. Fauteux and Ms. Russell, along with co-author and State Botanist Paul Somers, published a report about their findings in *Rhodora*, the journal of the New England Botanical Club. The report was first published online on March 23, 2017 and is found in *Rhodora*, Vol. 119, No. 977, pp. 44-48. Sheriff's Meadow Foundation will be pleased to email the copy of *Rhodora* to anyone with an interest.

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation congratulates Ms. Fauteux and Ms. Russell on their findings and on their publication.



Southern Twayblade, *Neottia bifolia*
Photo: Kristen Fauteux

Unveiled

The tent comes down!

On a glorious May afternoon, John Kelley, Matthew Frederick and Luke Manzella slipped the cover off the giant, semi-cylindrical tent that had enclosed and protected the Hancock-Mitchell House for some two years. Unveiled, the antique Cape Cod style home revealed its new coat of cedar shingles and the ancient panes of its windows reflected the green grass of the Quansoo plain.

The removal of the tent marks the completion of an extensive two-year restoration project made possible through generous donations from individuals, foundations and the Town of Chilmark. All of the necessary structural repairs and exterior repairs have been completed, and the house is tight to the weather and ready for centuries more.

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation will now convene a Quansoo Committee to address the historic landscape surrounding the house, to plan for the public use of Quansoo Farm and for the Hancock-Mitchell House and to repair and restore the interior of the old house, one room at a time.



Hancock-Mitchell House at Quansoo Farm facing south, Photo:Alison Shaw

John Kelley Makes and Donates Windsor Chair



Photo:Chris Alley

In an act of generosity and a labor of love, John Kelley made a beautiful “sack back” Windsor chair and donated it to Sheriff's Meadow Foundation for use in the Hancock-Mitchell House.

“We are profoundly grateful to John for this beautiful, elegant chair, which he made himself,” said Executive Director Adam Moore. “And I am especially grateful that the care of this house over the past three years has been in his experienced, hard-working hands.”

John Kelley served as the foreman for the crew from the Cooper Group and Early New England Restorations and he led his team in the expert, *in situ* repair of every single beam, sill, joist, rafter, purlin, plank and timber of the old house.

“This is called a sack-back chair,” said Mr. Kelley. “You would have sat in the chair while facing the fireplace, and you would have put a burlap sack on the back to keep your back warm against the draft of cold air that would be heading toward the fireplace.”

Mr. Kelley fashioned the chair in his own woodshop. It is made in the Massachusetts and Connecticut style of such chairs, and is a reproduction of such a chair circa 1770. Mr. Kelley made the crest rail, arm rail and spindles of Connecticut red oak. The oaks were cut on the Woodstock, Connecticut land of Matthew Frederick, one of the master carpenters who restored the Hancock-Mitchell House. The legs, stretchers and arm posts are all made of red maple, and the seat is made of white pine. Mr. Kelley hand-rived the arm rails, turned the spindles on his lathe and steam-bent the curved pieces of the chair.

Glossy and black, Mr. Kelley's gift sits in the parlor of the Hancock-Mitchell House, awaiting anyone who wishes to sit in it to write a letter in pen and ink, or read a book, or sit by the fire and think.



Summer Benefit at Flat Point Farm

Monday, July 17, 2017

Arnie Fischer, Eleanor Neubert, and their families will host the 2017 Annual Summer Benefit at Flat Point Farm in West Tisbury. The benefit will take place on Monday, July 17, 2017 from 6:00 to 9:30 pm. Guests will enjoy a delicious dinner prepared by Buckley's catering and stroll the wide, grassy path along Town Cove and the Tisbury Great Pond.

The Summer Benefit is the chief fundraising event for Sheriff's Meadow Foundation. It provides a significant amount of our operating revenues. One reason that this event is so enjoyable and so successful is that it is essentially a "thank you" event, where all the money is raised beforehand and no fundraising occurs at the event itself.

To keep it that way, please consider sponsoring the event at the highest level that is possible for you. Below you may find a table of the various levels and the corresponding benefits. Please contact Office Manager Nevenka Daniels at daniels@sheriffsmeadow.org with any questions at all. Thank you.



Flat Point Farm, Photo: courtesy Peter Simon and the Vineyard Gazette

2017 Summer Benefit Sponsorship Levels

Cedar Tree Society - \$50,000

- 16 complimentary tickets and reserved tables for 16.
- Private, guided walk of SMF property of your choice.
- Private picnic at Hancock-Mitchell House at Quansoo 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

- 12 complimentary tickets and reserved tables for 12.
- Private, guided walk of SMF property of your choice.
- 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.

Cherry Tree Society - \$17,500

- 10 complimentary tickets and reserved table for 10.
- Private, guided walk of SMF property of your choice for 12 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.

Pine Tree Society - \$7,500

- 6 complimentary tickets.
- 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.
- Tickets, \$200 per person.

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

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 notify us if you wish to remain anonymous.



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Upcoming Events

ANNUAL SUMMER BENEFIT

Monday, July 17, 2017, 6:00 pm–9:30 pm
Flat Point Farm, West Tisbury

Support Sheriff's Meadow Foundation by sponsoring or attending our Annual Summer Benefit. See this newsletter and visit www.sheriffsmeadow.org to sponsor or buy tickets.

GUIDED PUBLIC WALKS

Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary
Thurs, July 20, 2017, 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.

Brightwood Park & Ramble Trail Preserve
Wed, August 9, 2017, 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 the Veterans Memorial Park and carpool from there.

Vineyard Golf Club
Sat, October 21, 2017, 10:00 am–12:00 pm

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

King Point and Armour Preserves
Wed, July 26, 2017, 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.

Stonewall Pond Preserve
Tues, August 15, 2017, 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

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

Enjoy a multimedia presentation by Adam Moore and Kristen Fauteux that will guide you through the marshes, forests, ponds and trails of Caroline Tuthill Preserve in Edgartown. See www.sheriffsmeadow.org for more information.