



A MARTHA'S VINEYARD LAND TRUST



Newsletter

Summer 2017

CEDAR TREE NECK SANCTUARY

Issue No. 56

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Founded in 1959 by Henry Beetle
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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, *Adam R. Moore*

The Meaning of a Sanctuary



Photo: William Bridwell

What does it mean to be entrusted with a sanctuary?

At Sheriff's Meadow Foundation, some of our properties – Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary, Sheriff's Meadow Sanctuary, Middle Road Sanctuary – include the word “sanctuary” in their official names. Really, each one of our properties is a sanctuary, whether or not the name for the land bears the word itself.

Those involved in land trusts or in any conservation organization can become quite accustomed to the word “sanctuary.” The word is one of several that are commonly used to describe conservation lands, words such as “refuge,” “preserve,” “reservation,” and “park.” I tend to think of lands that are “sanctuaries” as refuges, and I tend to think of refuges mostly as refuges for wildlife.

There are greater meanings however, to the word sanctuary. A sanctuary does indeed mean a safe haven or a refuge. Yet even the seemingly straightforward concept of a wildlife refuge becomes complex upon consideration. First of all, what kind of wildlife are we providing a refuge for? Piping plovers? What about the native species of crows that quite happily devour the just-hatched chicks? What about the great-horned owls that eat the crows?

To complicate the matter further, limiting a sanctuary just to wildlife limits diminishes the value of the sanctuary. How about a refuge for plants? How do we provide refuge for rare plants from browsing deer and rabbits, a refuge *from* wildlife? Consider invasive plants: in a sanctuary, do we save one plant from the aggressions of another?

Providing sanctuary and refuge for rare plants and animals is an important reason that we protect land, yet it is just one reason of many. At Sheriff's Meadow Foundation, we have a list of criteria for which land is conserved. In addition to sanctuary for wildlife and rare plants, these criteria include aquifer protection, access to the water, farmland, prime agricultural soils, forestland, land that abuts existing conservation land, wetlands, and so forth.

These criteria are important. They help an organization judge whether a gift of land ought to be accepted and whether funds ought to be spent to purchase land. Most land conservation organizations have such criteria, and sanctuary for plants and wildlife is very often a critical component. Yet for Sheriff's Meadow Foundation, and maybe for most organizations, the definition of sanctuary that is used to guide land acquisition always misses the deeper meaning of the word.

Sanctuary also means a sacred place. As we have conserved land, and created sanctuaries, have we also protected sacred places?

I think that sanctuaries, whether called sanctuaries or not, do offer something spiritual. Cedar Tree Neck offers a beech grove, where one may walk in silence and mourn a loved one. Or one might stand upon the sanctuary's rocky shore and tug one's jacket tight and stand dumbstruck at the sublime sight of an approaching storm. One might visit Quansoo and give thanks for the blue claw crabs that he has plucked from the pond and will boil that night.

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The Meaning of a Sanctuary
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In the 2015 book *Inherit the Holy Mountain: Religion and the Rise of American Environmentalism*, author Mark Stoll explores the relationship between religion and the leaders of American conservation. A well-researched, thought-provoking book, the book explores conservation history from colonial times, to Thomas Cole and his painting “View from Mount Holyoke, Northampton, Massachusetts after a Thunderstorm – The Oxbow,” to the writings of John Muir, who was the son of a Presbyterian minister, to the environmental movement of the present day. Mr. Stoll ends on a note that references the 2004 article by Michael Shellenberger and Ted Nordhaus entitled “The Death of Environmentalism” and questions the vigor of American environmentalism today.

Yet Mr. Stoll does not explore the fact that a great legacy of American conservation has been the creation of millions of acres of conservation land which, to varying degrees, are also millions of acres of sanctuaries. Some of these sanctuaries are National Parks and National Forests, others are lands owned by local land trusts like Sheriff’s Meadow Foundation. All of them offer some kind of spiritual connection to nature.

I think that our sanctuaries have some spiritual value, regardless of whether those who visit are religious. They offer places for quiet reflection, or for jubilation, or for thanksgiving, or for awe and reverence. I don’t think that these spiritual values need to be included on the list of criteria and perhaps they are best left unwritten.

Being the steward of a sanctuary might also mean being the steward of a sacred place, and this role might be more significant than we think.



Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting held on June 16, 2017

The Board of Directors of Sheriff’s Meadow Foundation held its Annual Meeting on Friday, June 16, 2017 at the Wakeman Conservation Center in Vineyard Haven. At the meeting, the Board elected Directors, Officers, and members of the Executive Committee and Nominating Committee and thanked those Directors who completed their service on the Board.

The Board elected four new Directors. Elected to a first, three-year term on the Board were Peter Brooks, Lisa Foster, William Plapinger and Peter Rodegast. Biographies and photographs of each new Director are included in this newsletter. The Board re-elected Molly Glasgow, Carol Hillenbrand, Nancy Randall and Tom Robinson to second, three-year terms as Directors, re-elected Walt Looney, Brien O’Brien and Phil Regan to third, three-year terms as Directors, and re-elected Jennifer Blum and Samme Thompson to fourth, one-year terms as Directors.

The Board elected Brien O’Brien to a one-year term as President and elected Peter Getsinger to a one-year term as Vice-President. Walt Looney and Susannah Bristol were re-elected to one-year terms as Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer respectively, and Molly Glasgow was re-elected to a one-year term as Clerk. Executive Director Adam Moore was re-elected to a one-year term as a voting, appointed Director.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Board bade a fond farewell to departing Directors Terry Guylay, Rob McCarron, Alley Moore and Sarah Thulin. Later that day, in the evening, Director Bill Howell and his wife, Nina, hosted a welcome reception for the Board at the Howell family home in Harthaven, in Oak Bluffs.



Left to right: David Lewis, Adam Moore, Anne Lewis, Ray Malone and Jeff Lewis celebrating the conservation of the Moshup Trail Preserve, thanks to Anne’s very generous donation.



TRAILS MV trail app in Beta-Testing Stage

The TRAILS MV trail app being created by Sheriff’s Meadow Foundation is now in the Beta-testing, trial stage. Kate Warner has been hired as the Project Manager for the trail app, and she will guide the project to its completion. The public launch for the app is now planned for National Trails Day which is June 2, 2018.

The app will contain maps of all of the open-to-the-public trails on the island, along with a series of curated rides spanning several different conservation properties and covering many miles of trails, photographs of all of the trails and conservation lands, information about points of interest and points of confusion and more. The app will also show the user one’s location upon the trail, or off the trail if one has wandered, and the direction in which one is heading. The app will also contain a tracking feature and links to social media networks.

Those with questions about the app are encouraged to contact Adam Moore at moore@sheriffsmeadow.org or Kate Warner at trailsmv@sheriffsmeadow.org.

The TRAILS MV icon, designed by Kathy Forsythe.

Foundation Elects New Directors



PETER BROOKS is a Managing Director and Co-Founder of CornerStone Partners LLC, a Charlottesville based CIO firm managing the assets for twelve endowment and foundation clients, with total firm assets of approximately \$10 billion. CornerStone's largest and oldest client is The Nature Conservancy, based in Washington, DC. Peter has over three decades of investment management, management consulting, business development and corporate management experience in Asian and US markets. Prior to establishing CornerStone in 1997, he founded and managed his own private equity firm, Naushon Capital LLC, Boston, through which he participated in the acquisition, financing or restructuring of over twenty companies in a variety of businesses ranging from sophisticated medical research to high technology and innovative sports equipment manufacturing. Before establishing Naushon Capital, Peter was a management consultant at McKinsey & Company in their Washington D.C. and New York offices. Peter graduated from Harvard College and received his MBA and MA degrees from Stanford University.



Oldfield-toadflax, Nuttallanthus canadensis



LISA FOSTER founded 1 Bag at a Time in 2005 to offer reusable shopping bags to American consumers. Foster was among the first to advocate for reusable bags and to publicize the damage of disposable bags in our environment and our economy. She served on the Los Angeles County Task Force for Plastic Bag Reduction as well as the Polystyrene Waste Reduction task force. Lisa currently serves on the Corporation for Northeastern University. A graduate of the Putney School and UC Berkeley, she earned her Ph.D. from USC and was an English teacher at Harvard Westlake School for 10 years. With her husband Gary, she has a house in Aquinnah and spends winters in Los Angeles.



WILLIAM A. PLAPINGER is Of Counsel to the international law firm Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, and prior to that was a corporate partner and associate of the firm for more than 35 years, including 25 years based in London. Bill and his family have been seasonal residents of the Vineyard since 1968, and he and his wife Cassie Murray built a home near Cedar Tree Neck in the mid-1990s and now split their time between New York City and the Vineyard. Bill and Cassie are long-time supporters of Sher-

iff's Meadow Foundation, and for many years have enjoyed hiking the SMF trails with their family. Bill recently completed a two-year Fellowship at Harvard University in the Advanced Leadership Initiative, and holds an AB from Vassar College and a JD from New York University School of Law. He is chair of the board of trustees of Vassar College, a commissioner on the US-UK Fulbright Commission, a national director of The Posse Foundation, and a director of the American School in London Foundation. He is currently working on a venture to provide finance to students from Africa studying in the United States. Bill and Cassie have three grown children who spent their childhood summers on Martha's Vineyard and who return to the Vineyard as often as they can.



PETER RODEGAST has lived in West Tisbury year-round since 1978. He was a summer kid before that: his parents bought a house on Old County Rd in '55. He has worked as an architectural designer and occasional builder of a variety of projects throughout the island. His wife, Nancy Cole, is the Edgartown School librarian and they have two grown children. He has served on various town boards including nearly 20 years on the West Tisbury Conservation Commission. Peter works hard to enjoy the outside as often as possible, biking, hiking, running and getting out on the water. Trails and hiking have been an interest for much of his life. He has hiked extensively throughout the northeast and anywhere else he travels. Last fall he completed a hike of the entire Appalachian Trail. Having accomplished that he resolved to give back and volunteer for trail work of all kinds.



Delightful Summer Benefit at Flat Point Farm



Photo: Sara Piazza

On the beautiful summer evening of July 17, 2017, over 400 supporters of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation gathered at Flat Point Farm in West Tisbury for the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation Summer Benefit. Brother and sister Arnie Fischer and Eleanor Neubert and their families hosted the gathering.

Flat Point Farm occupies a peninsula, known as Great Neck, that extends into Tisbury Great Pond. The event took place on a hayfield on a corner of this peninsula, found where Pear Tree Cove flows into Town Cove. Guests had the chance to enjoy appetizers while walking the trails beside the waters of the cove.

Dinner prepared by Buckley's Catering followed a convivial welcoming reception. During the dinner, Executive Director Adam Moore offered remarks on the mission and activities of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation. He introduced host Arnie Fischer, who welcomed all those gathered and shared a bit of history about Flat Point Farm. Mr. Fischer's remarks are included in this newsletter.

Following Mr. Fischer's remarks, Mr. Moore recognized Benefit Chair Ellen Harley. Ms. Harley thanked the Summer Benefit Committee members and gave a special thanks to Sharon Johnson, Lil Province and Nevenka Daniels. Mr. Moore then completed his remarks by saluting Chris Alley, the immediate past President of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation, for his enthusiastic three years of dedicated service as President. Mr. Moore then introduced the new President of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation, Brien O'Brien. Mr. O'Brien addressed those gathered and offered his vision and

his thoughts on the importance of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation's work.

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation thanks its hosts, sponsors, supporters, guests, donors, and volunteers for making the 2017 Summer Benefit the most successful Sheriff's Meadow Foundation event ever. The Foundation gives a special thank you to Summer Benefit Committee Chair Ellen Harley and to Committee members Susannah Bristol, Angela Egerton, Audrey Egger, Allyson Getsinger, Terry Guylay, Carol Hillenbrand, Sharon Johnson, Kate Lauprete, Lil Province, Joohee Muromcew, Nancy Randall and Anne Vose.

The Foundation gives a special thanks to Mike Saunier of Heather Gardens for traveling off-island and patiently procuring the perfect lavender specimens for each of the table arrangements. The Foundation gratefully acknowledges Ellen Harley for her leadership, Sharon Johnson, Lil Province, and Angela Egerton for their assistance with planning during the off-season, and volunteers Janet and Rick Bayley, Nancy Cabot, Susan Crampton, Bob Egerton, Elaine Eugster, Allyson Getsinger, Susie Himel, Ellen Harley, Sharon Johnson, Jack Korpi, Simon Lindström, Samantha Look, Paula Macfarlane, Emily Moore, Huck Moore, Ingrid Moore, Nina Moore, Jackson Parker, Mary Lou Perry, Martha Schmidt, Sarah Shepard, Happy Spongberg, Olive Tomlinson and Penny Uhlendorf for their help.

Finally, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation offers a very special thank you to Office Manager Nevenka Daniels for her excellent work coordinating the entire event, and to Summer Intern Bridget Schiff for her invaluable assistance to Ms. Daniels.

Remarks by Brien O'Brien



Brien O'Brien, President Photo: Sara Piazza

So when I was asking Adam for directions on this talk tonight he suggested three things to me

1. Don't drink anything until after you speak;
2. Keep it short and...
3. Don't talk about politics... at all!

Adam, I want you to know that we are all good on two of your three directions.

Martha's Vineyard is a special place for all of us. I know that is true with this group especially...as you have all parted with your precious time and your treasure, to be together with the Sheriff's Meadow community tonight, and we are grateful for that.

While Adam has already mentioned his appreciation for Chris Alley and all he has done for Sheriff's Meadow Foundation, I want to join Adam in a special thank you to Chris for the leadership you have brought to our board over the years. The benefits of your wisdom and thoughtfulness will continue to guide us for many years to come.

I would also like to take a moment to give special recognition to our outgoing board members who have completed their tenure with our board this past June. Please join me in thanking Terry Guylay, Rob McCarron, Alley Moore and Sarah Thulin.

Your many years of service to our board, and our mission to maintain and enhance the beauty of the three thousand precious acres which we are entrusted with preserving for future generations are most appreciated. We look forward to your continued partnership with us in the years ahead.

I would also like to give a special welcome to our new board members who joined our board this past June: Peter Brooks, Lisa

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Brien O'Brien
continued from page 5

Foster, Bill Plapinger, and Peter Rodegast.

And now, I'd like to take a moment to ask everyone here to go on a journey with me for a few moments this evening. I'd like each of you to think back to your very first memories, of your time on Martha's Vineyard.

That memory may take you to a stroll down the beach as a toddler in your parent's hand, or your arrival in Vineyard Haven after a ferryboat ride that was filled with anticipation, as you wondered what type of place awaits as you sailed across Vineyard Sound.

For me, my first journey started in a Chestnut Hill dorm room in mid-September of 1978....where, with a group of friends we hatched a plan to hitchhike to this island I never had heard of before that night.....

We boarded a ferry where we would disembark on the Oak Bluffs waterfront.... And then, the journey "up-island" to spend a sun-kissed autumn day at a NO-NUKES benefit concert at Allen Farm, with four or five thousand others and the music of Carly Simon, Kate Taylor and the Pousette-Dart Band.

On that beautiful September day so many years ago, I realized I was in one of the most special places ever. I hoped I would have the opportunity to return someday.... but in no way could I have ever imagined that I was in THE PLACE that would become the foundation to my family and my friendships for the next forty years.

Over these past forty years I have come to treasure the ever unfolding beauty of this island - Middle Road Sanctuary in Chilmark, Cedar Tree Neck in West Tisbury, the coastal sand plains of Sheriff's Meadow Sanctuary in Edgartown.

And while it is the beauty of the island and the environment that brought me —and many of you—here, it has also been increasingly important, and obvious, to realize that relationship that we each have with the land, which Sheriff's Meadow Foundation and others work so hard to preserve, to protect, and to enhance, is also the stage for the human relationships that keep us all here.

Yes, it is this land that is the keeper of the culture for our families and for those close friendships on this island at the edge of the Atlantic Ocean.

Remarks by Arnie Fischer



Photo: Sara Piazza

Good evening. Isn't this great? Are we having a good time?

On behalf of the family, I want to say how happy and proud we are that Sheriff's Meadow [Foundation] wanted to have this dinner here tonight. Welcome, it is a pleasure to share this special spot with you.

I bet many of you have not been to Flat Point Farm before. A show of hands if this is your first time on the property. A special welcome to you and a big welcome to all.

Born in 1915, my dad, Arnold Fischer Sr. grew up in Vineyard Haven. He wanted to be a farmer. As a young man, in 1939, he bought this land -- 120 acres with a big farmhouse on it. The farmhouse was about 100 years old. The previous owner was Jim Look. Jim and Prudy Look called it Loggerhead Lodge, it was a gunning lodge. Hunters from off island would come down to shoot ducks and geese. Back then, you couldn't give this land away!

Jim and Prudy Look raised foster children who were offered the land. They turned it down. "Who would want to live way down there in that God forsaken place?"

The house sat vacant through the depression years of the thirties, before dad bought it. So a barn was built, fields cleared, fences strung and dad started milking cows.

So.... Let me again say thank you for all you have given to us and let us also, individually, say thank you to this island for all we have received from this wonderful place

All of us from Sheriff's Meadow Foundation invite you in the days and weeks ahead to continue tonight's celebration and take the time to hike one of your Sheriff's Meadow Foundation trails near you.

Or be adventurous even...and go to one of the Sheriff's Meadow trails or special places in another town, or maybe even venture across to that faraway island and visit some of our Chappaquiddick Trails!

All the best for a fabulous evening. Thank you.

Dad married Priscilla Pettingell of Boston in 1945. A schoolteacher, Priscilla would eventually become principal of the West Tisbury School. I had four older sisters. My parents raised the five of us kids on the property. Weren't we lucky to grow up on the pond immersed in farm life?

Dad milked up to 26 cows through the 1940s and 1950s, selling milk to the Island's own cooperative dairy in Edgartown. He grew vegetables, strawberries, raspberries and grapes. At one point he made his own wine! In the sixties, the dairy operation evolved to raising beef, sheep and hay.

My sister Eleanor and I have been fully involved in the farm operation for nearly 30 years. We still raise beef, sheep and pigs, and sell eggs and hay. And now my daughter Emily and husband Doug have goats. Emily makes goat milk soap and lotion and sells it at the farmers market and other retail outlets.

Though we have other jobs to earn a living, we are very lucky and appreciate living here and enjoy the farm lifestyle. We tried for years to conserve the farm. We talked to all the groups that conserve land on the Vineyard. We are very fortunate. We have sold nothing out of the family except to the Land Bank. Twelve family members live year-round on the property.

In 2013, we finally made a deal with the Land Bank [and sold] 13 acres and a trail easement and permanently protected another 25 acres with an agricultural restriction. With public parking off Tiah's Cove Road, the Land Bank created a two-mile looping trail around protected Flat Point. So, don't be strangers. Come and enjoy the trail.

Isn't it great that we are all here tonight? We all share a passion for protecting and enjoying special places on Martha's Vineyard.

Thank you very much.



2017 Summer Benefit Sponsorship

We are very grateful to the following individuals and businesses for their generous sponsorship.

Beetlebung Tree Society

Anonymous
Brien O'Brien and Mary Hasten
Jill and Alan Rappaport Family
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Upcoming Events

GUIDED PUBLIC WALKS

Pocketpaces Preserve, Edgartown

Saturday, October 21, 2017
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Explore the unique frostbottom and hiking trails of this property. Meet at the State Forest Parking lot opposite Pohogonot Road.

Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

Friday, December 1, 2017
12:00pm - 2:00pm

Sheriff's Meadow invites its volunteers to enjoy a festive lunch at the Wakeman Center.

Holiday Event, Edgartown

Sheriff's Meadow Sanctuary
Saturday, December 9, 2017
2:00pm - 4:00pm

Enjoy seasonal nature crafts for children and holiday refreshments for all ages. Bring the children and enjoy the Sanctuary! Free and open to the public.



50TH ANNIVERSARY WALK AT CEDAR TREE NECK SANCTUARY

Cover photo: Stephen Chapman