



Newsletter

Spring 2018



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 R. Moore*

Mackerel and Memories

It happens when I fish.

Perhaps it is because I fish at night, in the starlight, with my phone tucked away, with little to distract me. Perhaps it is because I fish with bait, and spend most of the time silently waiting. Or perhaps it is because most of the time that I fish, I fail, and therefore find other reasons to be fishing. Whatever the reason, when I fish, I find myself in silent communication with my late grandfather, Ray.

I knew him as Pop-Pop, and when I was a kid, he took me fishing. The time I most remember was on a rocky breakwater on Block Island, right beside the Coast Guard station. Here the changing tides caused the water to flow in and out of the New Harbor, and the falling or rising tides made for good fishing. Ray was patient, and loved the outdoors, and loved fishing. I still have his 1973 Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby pin in my tackle box.

We were on Block Island for a week's vacation. I was feeling somewhat self-conscious, as I had found myself tangled up in poison ivy about a week or so earlier, and by the time the vacation had arrived, my entire face had become a swollen mess of poison ivy blisters. Ray didn't mind, however. We drove down the long, sandy dirt road that leads to the Coast Guard station, and walked with our rods and tackle boxes to the breakwater.

We caught an Atlantic mackerel. I don't remember whether I caught it, or he caught it, but I do remember the spray of the waves and the sight of the fish. Though mackerel is neither a rare nor uncommon fish, this particular mackerel still remains the only mackerel that I have ever seen. We took it back to our rented cottage, a summer house with knotty pine boards for walls and lobster pots for coffee tables. We cleaned the fish, cooked it, and ate it. Ray warned me that it would be oily, which it was, but I loved it.

That was decades ago. Now when I fish, I prepare by placing some frozen squid in an old Styrofoam box that I had rigged into a very cheap bait cooler. I grab the bait, the

tackle box, rod, waders, inflatable life vest, and a chair, and drive to the Quansoo beach parking lot. There I don the waders, and then walk over the footbridge to the beach. At the beach, if I am energetic, I walk to rips at either the left or the right, and set up.

I unfold the chair, and then drive a PVC "sand spike" into the sand, and set the handle of the rod into the spike. I grasp the hook, slide it through the body of the squid, fasten a pyramid sinker to the line, and walk to the surf to cast. I let a few waves break over my knees, and then cast the bait as far into the sea as I can. I pause, and then splash back up the beach through the flowing waves, slide the rod into the spike, and then sit.

Sitting upon the barrier beach at night, one senses that one is upon a lofty perch, despite being as close to sea level as one can be without treading water. To the east, I can see the distinctive beams of the Gay Head lighthouse. To the west, I see a distant glow, from far-off Nantucket. Planes fly overhead, coming in low as they approach the Martha's Vineyard airport. At times, especially in June, the New Bedford fishing fleet gathers in the Atlantic, due south of the Vineyard, and I sit and count their lights. I have seen NASA experiments in the sky – once I observed a study of high altitude clouds, another time I saw five rockets lift off at once.

Mostly, though, I watch the stars, and the shimmering glow of the moon upon the black waves. With fishing can come a sense of communion. Often this communion is very physical – a communion with nature, with the sea creature that is tugging on the other end of a taut line. Some times, however, the communion is spiritual.

After a few minutes of stargazing, I unfailingly find myself fishing once again with my grandfather. I find a sense of communion with him, and with other lost loved ones. He feels as present to me as if he were really right there, sitting in a folding chair beside me. He is there as we grasp the line, and listen to the wind, and watch the moonlight, and wait for a fish to strike, together.



Sheriff's Meadow Sanctuary Restoration



2008 boardwalk, John Butler's mudhole



2008 wet meadow restoration



2010 invasive species removal



2018 boardwalk, John Butler's mudhole



2018 wet meadow restoration



2018 invasive species removal

Photos: Kristen Fauteux

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation completed a number of restoration projects at Sheriff's Meadow Foundation Sanctuary over the past spring and fall. The Foundation planted native trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers in certain locations around the Sanctuary. In selecting plants, the Foundation sought to use natural Island vegetation in a way that would accomplish ecological goals while offering screening to walkers and scenic enhancement.

Wet meadow habitats were restored along the edges of the Sheriff's pond, while native viburnum shrubs were transplanted, on-site, to use for screening beside the Ed and Ruth Brooks Trail. The

Foundation continued its efforts to control such invasive plants as porcelain berry, Japanese knotweed, and bittersweet. The Foundation conducted a well-attended public walk of the Sanctuary on May 19, 2018 to explain the restoration work and answer questions.

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is very grateful to the many generous donors who have supported the restoration of Sheriff's Meadow Sanctuary. If you have any questions about the Sanctuary and its management, please contact Executive Director Adam Moore at moore@sheriffsmeadow.org.

Elizabeth Loucks Joins the Staff



Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is very pleased to announce that Elizabeth Loucks has joined the staff as a Property Manager.

Ms. Loucks resides in Vineyard Haven and has lived on Martha's Vineyard year-round since 2005. She grew up in the northwest corner of Connecticut. Ms. Loucks has a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from Warren Wilson College in North Carolina, and a Master's degree in Forestry from the University of Kentucky.

Before moving to the Island to work as the Land Steward for The Nature Conservancy (TNC), she held three seasonal positions with TNC (in Missouri, South Carolina, and Maine) and four positions with the National Park Service across the United States. She has expertise in invasive plant management, field botany, prescribed fire, and preserve stewardship. Liz enjoys watching wildlife, gardening, wild food foraging, swimming, and snorkeling.

Ms. Loucks began her new position on May 29, 2018. She may be reached at loucks@sheriffsmeadow.org.

TrailsMV Launches on National Trails Day

Photo: Cassie Murray



Francine Kelly Gallery

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is very pleased to report that, on Saturday, June 2, 2018, it successfully launched the TrailsMV app. The launch of TrailsMV was timed to coincide with the annual Cross-Island Hike—the longstanding hike organized by the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission—and the celebration of National Trails Day.

To celebrate the launch, the Foundation created a photography show entitled “Exploring the Vineyard.” Featherstone Center for the Arts hosted this show at the Francine Kelly Gallery at the Featherstone Campus in Oak Bluffs. The show featured a beautiful selection of the work of the 22 volunteer photographers who illustrated the app. These volunteers accomplished the feat of documenting, for the first time, all of the conservation lands on Martha's Vineyard that are open to the public. Each photographer was represented in the show, as was each of the six towns on the island.

The show itself lasted from June 2 through June 17. Featherstone hosted an opening reception on the evening of June 2 that hundreds of people attended.

The TrailsMV app is available for the iPhone via the App Store, and the app is free. An Android version is underway, and should be released later in the summer. By using the Global Positioning System technology present in every mobile device, the TrailsMV app allows the user to find one's location upon the trail and upon any given property on the island. TrailsMV also contains photographs, maps, and information about each conservation property, about all of the different towns, and about all of the different partner organizations.

Over 1,000 people downloaded TrailsMV in the first week. Information about the app is posted upon kiosks on conservation lands across the island. Future plans for TrailsMV include the release of the Android version later in the summer, a tracking feature, an enhanced Outings feature for curated routes and rides, and a social media component aimed at growing a community of people who love the trails on Martha's Vineyard.

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation expresses its sincere gratitude to the many generous people and organizations who worked together to bring TrailsMV to life. These include all those who made financial contributions, our volunteer photographers, our Beta-testers, our marketing committee members, our steering committee members, our working group members, and our partner organizations and landowners. Sheriff's Meadow Foundation extends a very special thank you to Project Manager Kate Warner and to cartographer Chris Seidel of the Martha's Vineyard Commission, without whose diligent effort over the past year TrailsMV would not be possible.

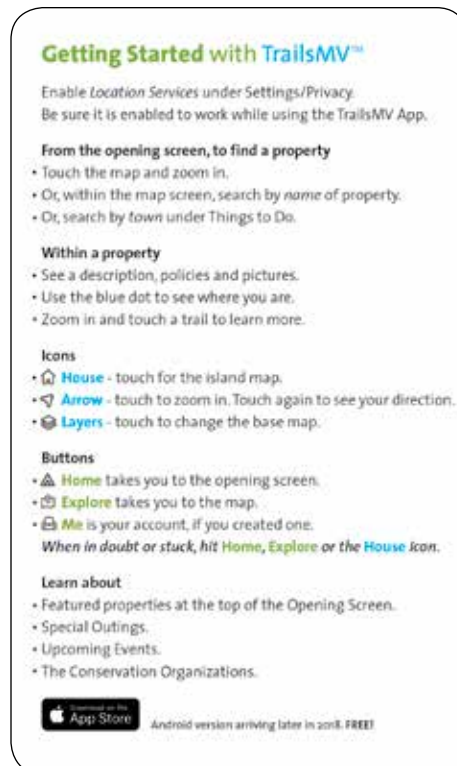




Photo: Cassie Murray



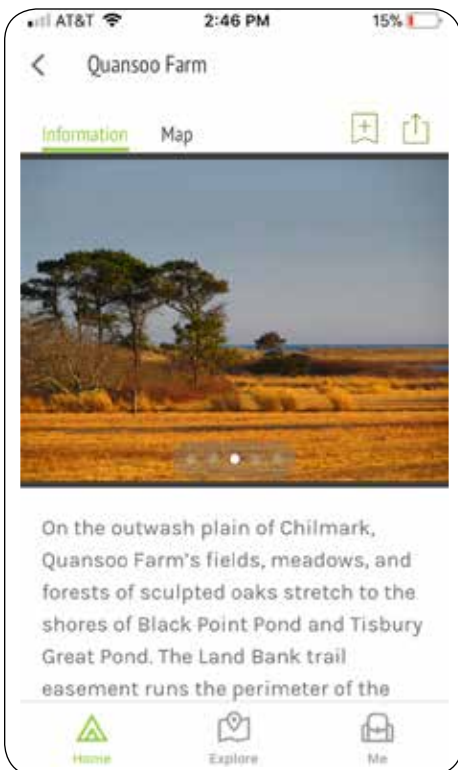
Kate Hancock hangs photos



Photo: Melissa Moore



Photo: Adam Moore



Many Thanks

to the photographers who donated their time to TrailsMV. They made the App a thing of beauty.

Randi Baird
 Stephen Chapman
 Jocelyn Filley
 Molly Glasgow
 Larry Click
 Bob Gothard
 Chris Mazzaferro
 Isabel Moore
 Virginia Morris
 Cassie Murray
 Kathy Newman
 Luke O'Brien
 Barbara Reynolds
 Christine Sargologos
 Felice Shapiro
 Alison Shaw
 Jeanna Shepard
 Max Skjoldebrand
 Anne Speakman
 Alice June Thompson
 Vineyard Colors
 Monina Von Opel

We thank the following individuals and organizations for their generous support of the App.

Clifford and Amy Aronson
 Eric and Sheryl Berke
 D. Michael and Carol Berwind
 Jennifer and Jonathan Blum
 Everett and Judy Bramhall
 Laura and Tim Bryan
 Neil and Marcy Cohen
 George G. and Doris B. Daniels Wildlife Trust
 Jack Davies
 Edey Foundation
 Tom Enders and Elise Thoron
 David Epstein and Betty Banks
 David and Nina Fialkow
 Jesse and Betsy Fink
 Lisa and Gary Foster
 Myron and Cathy Garfinkle
 Molly and Eric Glasgow
 David and Lisa Grain
 Terry and Wesley Guylay
 Mary Hasten Foundation
 Allan and Shelley Holt
 Cassie Murray and Bill Plapinger
 Peter and Gwen Norton
 Alan and Jill Rappaport
 Felice Shapiro and William Cress
 John Schaefer and Pamela Zilly
 Mark and Gwen Snider
 Amy and John Weinberg
 Adam and Elizabeth Zoia

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation Holds Events in New York City and Dedham, Massachusetts

In an effort to reach out to supporters in the off-season, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation held two spring events in mainland locations. The first event took place at the MIT-Endicott House in Dedham, Massachusetts on April 5, and the second event took place at the Harvard Club in New York City on May 3. Each event featured a welcoming reception, a brief slide show and talk by Executive Director Adam Moore, a question and answer session, and a convivial gathering of supporters of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation.

"These events are great opportunities for us to meet with our supporters ahead of all of the rush and excitement of the summer," said Mr. Moore. "Next year, we hope to repeat these events and hold another reception in Washington, D.C."

The Foundation invites anyone interested in helping to host, organize, or attend such a reception to be in touch. Sheriff's Meadow Foundation invites suggestions as to appropriate venues for such receptions, and to additional cities where a significant number of supporters or prospective supporters may live.

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation thanks all those who took the time to attend these receptions and learn about our work. The Foundation also offers special thanks to Barbara Emery, Bill Howell, Nancy Randall and Kim Burns for their help with the Dedham reception, and to Bill Plapinger and John Schaefer for their help with the Harvard Club reception.



Huckleberry Barrens

Photo: Felice Shapiro

Celebration for the Birds

Save the Date: Saturday, November 24, 2018

In the fall of 2016, Elizabeth (Lizzie) Glidden Boyle approached Sheriff's Meadow Foundation about hosting an event for families at Sheriff's Meadow Sanctuary. She suggested we provide an opportunity for children to observe and learn about birds on the property. Our Education Coordinator, Samantha Look, organized materials for making bird feeders that could be brought home, could be strung from a tree, and could provide a site where families could watch the birds in their own back yards. Ms. Boyle also suggested that we invite a bird expert who could lead a walk and identify the various bird species that are found at the Sanctuary.

Inspired by Ms. Boyle, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation held the first of these family events in December of 2016 and 2017. Local bird expert and columnist Robert Culbert joined us for the afternoon and led guided birding tours. Refreshments for people of all ages were provided by Atria.

This year the "Festival for the Birds" event will take place in November over the Thanksgiving weekend, on Saturday, November 24 at 1:00 pm at Sheriff's Meadow Sanctuary on Plantingfield Way. If you plan to be on Martha's Vineyard for the Thanksgiving holiday, please come to the Sanctuary to learn about birds and wildlife and celebrate the season. For more information, please visit our website and our forthcoming newsletters. We express our sincerest gratitude to Lizzie for her support of this event and for her support for Sheriff's Meadow Sanctuary.



Greer Thornton and Lizzie Glidden Boyle



Children hang handmade bird feeders

Photo: Nevenka Daniels



Summer Benefit Hosted by Lisa and Mike MacKenty

Monday, July 16, 2018

Mike and Lisa MacKenty will host the 2018 Annual Summer Benefit at their beautiful land along Wintucket Cove in Edgartown. The benefit will take place on Monday, July 16, 2018 from 6:00 to 9:30 pm. Guests will enjoy a delicious dinner prepared by Buckley's catering and hear remarks by President Brien O'Brien and Executive Director Adam Moore.

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.



Wintucket Cove, Photo: courtesy of Ed MacKenty

2018 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.

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 - \$3,000

- 4 complimentary tickets.

Oak Tree Society - \$1,500

- 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 in Foundation publications and materials and in print acknowledgements. Please notify us if you wish to remain anonymous.



A MARTHA'S VINEYARD LAND TRUST

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Permit No. 125
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Upcoming Events

ANNUAL SUMMER BENEFIT

Monday, July 16, 2018, 6:00 pm - 9:30 pm
Wintucket Cove, Edgartown

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

Caroline Tuthill Preserve, Edgartown
Thursday, July 26, 2018
9:00 am - 11:00 am

Join us for a guided walk and explore the woods, salt marshes, and shoreline at one of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation's largest sanctuaries. Plan to meet at the kiosk which is located 0.4 miles west of the Triangle in Edgartown.

Middle Road Sanctuary, Chilmark
Tuesday, August 14, 2018
9:00 am - 11:00 am

Hike the rugged moraine at Middle Road Sanctuary. Explore this property's oak forest, enjoy views of glacial erratics, and enjoy a long-distance view of Tisbury Great Pond. Meet at the trailhead on Middle Road, and please carpool as parking is limited.

HENRY BEETLE HOUGH SOCIETY WALKS

The Henry Beetle Hough Society walks are offered for donors who contribute \$500 or more in a given fiscal year.

West Chop Woods and Meadow
Tuesday, July 24, 2018
9:00 am - 11:00 am

Enjoy a guided hike of the ancient pitch pines of West Chop Woods and a walk to the Vineyard Haven Harbor shoreline of West Chop Meadow. Meet at the Franklin Street trailhead. Please carpool, bicycle or walk to the trailhead, if possible, as parking is limited.

Sunset Walk, Cedar Tree Neck
Thursday, August 9, 2018
6:30 pm

Join us for an evening guided walk of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation's largest property. We will watch the sunset from the beach, overlooking the Elizabeth Islands and the Vineyard Sound.

PUBLIC LECTURES

A Virtual Tour of Quansoo Farm
Wednesday, September 5, 2018
5:00 pm - 6:30 pm, Chilmark Library

Enjoy a multimedia presentation by Adam Moore and Kristen Fauteux that will guide you through the history and landscape at Quansoo Farm. See www.sheriffsmeadow.org for more information.

CELEBRATION FOR THE BIRDS

Saturday, November 24, 2018, 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Sheriff's Meadow Sanctuary, Edgartown

Plan to come to the Sanctuary to learn about birds and wildlife and celebrate the season. Seasonal nature crafts for children and refreshments for all ages. See www.sheriffsmeadow.org for more information.