

SHERIFF'S  
MEADOW  
FOUNDATION



A MARTHA'S VINEYARD LAND TRUST

# Newsletter

Fall 2018

Issue No. 61

CEDAR TREE NECK SANCTUARY





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Founded in 1959 by Henry Beetle  
Hough and Elizabeth Bowie Hough

## Bulwarks

"There are 200 cellar holes at the Yale Forest."

Cellar holes? So I wondered as I ventured into the woods for my first week of "mods," the mandatory field program for all incoming students at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies. I spent the first week of mods at the Yale-Myers Forest in rural, northeastern Connecticut. We slept in rustic bunkhouses, hiked around timber sales and clambered over logging "slash," measured the diameter of white pines, and learned to eyeball the height of a 16-foot butt log. I learned to forego insect repellent, because if I were to stoop down and pick up a newt, as forestry students are wont to do, the poison on my hands would be absorbed through the skin of the amphibian, killing it. In the afternoon we swam in the cold waters of Bigelow Pond, and in the night we roasted marshmallows over a fire.

Of all that I learned that week, however, the thought of 200 cellar holes remains foremost in my memory. It startled me that more people lived in this area before the Civil War than do so now. Until that week, I had more or less believed that the woods had simply always been there. Yet after scrambling over stone walls, and seeing the remnants of paddocks, and climbing down into depressions where moldering leaves were slowly filling what once was the root cellar of a Connecticut family, I saw the forest quite differently. These farming families eventually gave up farming. Some moved west, to better soils, some moved to Hartford or Willimantic for work in factories, others eked out a hard living as long as they were able. As soon as they set aside the plow, the wind-scattered seeds of the white pine found a ready seedbed, and sprouted.

On Martha's Vineyard, on most any ramble through conservation land one spies a similar story of change. At Quansoo Farm, for example, a lone spruce tree grows near the trailhead. Approach the tree, and look down, and one will see a gentle depression in the earth. This is the cellar hole of Thomas and Sarah Cox, who lived there with their five children. Thomas was a laborer and a seaman, and Sarah a seamstress who spun flax into linen. The Coxes sold a one-acre lot to the south to James Hancock, and that is where the Hancock-Mitchell House

now sits. Near the Lower Coomb, a small pond at Quansoo beside the Tisbury Great Pond, a lone cedar tree marks the site of another cellar hole. At Huckleberry Barrens, on the windswept Katama Plain, a lilac grows beside what once was a farmhouse.

Cellar holes are just the beginning. At Sheriff's Meadow Sanctuary, next to the pond, one finds the ruins of an old ice house. Dikes and berms and a maze of earthworks that once dammed a bog for cranberries now cross the sodden red maple swamp of the George A. Hough Preserve, at Cedar Tree Neck. Peer through grass and fallen leaves, and one finds actual railroad tracks in a Vineyard Conservation Society parcel just beyond the Edgartown village. And at the Land Bank's Peaked Hill Reservation, there is a concrete bunker and cemented sandbag fortifications ringing the summit of "Radar Hill."

All of these features came from great forces of economics and of politics, forces that swept over the land, over centuries of time, and left their mark. Failed farms left behind cellar holes and stone walls. Tourism left behind railroad tracks. Wars left behind bunkers and sandbags. Such forces continue to wash over the landscape of Martha's Vineyard, and of everywhere else in America, except on conservation land.

Conservation land creates bulwarks against these powerful forces. On conservation land, only the forces of nature leave their mark, along with the guiding hand of the land steward. Just as the mighty forces of the sea sweep around the island, so the forces of economics and politics sweep around the conservation land. Conservation spares the land from whatever might otherwise pass over it, and alter it irrevocably.

At Yale I hiked through a forest of what once was a farm, some 150 years ago. On Martha's Vineyard, however, we can all take heart, because in 150 years, our descendants will walk the very same trails that we walk today. They will see the boulders of the moraine and the wind-sculpted beeches. Pines may yield to oaks, and oaks may yield to hollies, and fires and winds and plagues of insects may lay low some of the forests, but these are the powerful forces of nature at work. Conserving the land is what allows nature, and nature alone, to take its course.



# Report of the Treasurer

During fiscal year 2018 Sheriff's Meadow Foundation focused on making our properties more accessible to the Vineyard community, by building or enhancing trails, developing our new trail app, constructing benches and look-outs, and opening more properties to local farming. We also cleaned up extensive wind damage in our forests after destructive storms, as well as carried on our regular property stewardship and program activities. Thanks to the generosity of our many loyal donors and volunteers, we met these challenges and finished the year successfully and in a strong financial position.

The following discussion highlights certain financial information about our fiscal year ended June 30, 2018. Our complete audited financial statements are available on request.

## Assets and Liabilities

Our total assets at June 30, 2018 were \$67.07 million, compared with \$65.96 million at the end of the 2017 fiscal year, an increase of \$1.11 million

The largest components of our assets are the land and land improvements we hold. These totalled \$55.95 million at the end of both fiscal 2018 and fiscal 2017, since we made no new acquisitions of land during fiscal 2018. 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 largest component of our assets. Cash and cash equivalents and investments (both short and long term) as of the end of fiscal 2018 were \$8.45 million, compared with \$7.54 million at fiscal year-end 2017. The increase of \$0.91 million reflected both favorable securities markets and strong support from our donors during the 2018 period. Our current endowment distribution policy provides for the withdrawal of about 4.5% of our average available investment balances 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 \$0.56 million, compared with \$0.45 million at the end of the previous fiscal year. We have no outstanding borrowings

## Revenue and Expenses

Our total support and revenue in fiscal 2018 was \$2.51 million, compared with \$2.45 million during fiscal 2017.

We received donations (including support for our Summer Benefit) of \$1.93 million in fiscal 2018 and \$1.71 million in fiscal 2017 (a portion of which were restricted as to use). Unrestricted cash contributions are critical for meeting our land acquisition, stewardship and on-going program needs. 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.

The other major component of our revenue was gains on our investments, which were \$0.36 million in fiscal 2018 and \$0.54 million in fiscal 2017. Our endowment provides support to supplement annual giving, but until we can grow our endowment significantly we will continue to rely mainly on our annual donors.

Our expenses in fiscal 2018 were \$1.51 million, compared with \$1.19 in the preceding fiscal year. The components of our expenses are noted below:

During fiscal 2018 our trail work and storm clean-up, among other activities, resulted in higher stewardship costs. The early stages of potential land transactions contributed to increased general and administrative expenses. Although we carefully control our expenses, we expect stewardship costs will increase in the future as we maintain and enhance more land, restore the ecological values of certain properties, improve accessibility, build trails, and strive to provide exceptional management for our properties.

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

*Respectfully submitted,*

Walt Looney

Treasurer



Sheriff's Meadow Sanctuary

Photo: Stephen Chapman

## Functional Expenses

	2018	2017
Land acquisition	\$ 23,713	\$ 75,562
Land stewardship	718,521	482,274
Education and Advocacy	28,671	26,616
Administration and general	501,979	429,770
Fundraising	236,794	179,940

# Report of the Executive Director

*On the year concluded June 30, 2018*

On June 30, 2018, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation concluded its fiscal year on a strong and optimistic note. The Foundation launched TrailsMV, a groundbreaking trail app for mobile devices, adopted a new, five-year strategic plan, and continued to grow its assets and improve its finances.

Joining the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation Board of Directors at the annual meeting of June 16, 2017 were Peter Brooks, Lisa Foster, Bill Plapinger, and Peter Rodegast. Brien O'Brien was elected President, succeeding Chris Alley, and Peter Getsinger was elected Vice-President. Walt Looney, Susannah Bristol, and Molly Glasgow were re-elected to the positions of Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Clerk, respectively. Directors bade farewell to Rob McCarron, who retired from the Board after nine years of service, and Terry Guylay, Alley Moore, and Sarah Thulin, who retired after ten years of service.

On the lovely summer evening of July 17, 2017, over 400 supporters of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation gathered for the Annual Summer Benefit on beautiful Flat Point Farm in West Tisbury. Arnie Fischer and Eleanor Neubert and their families hosted the event. Prior to dinner, guests enjoyed strolling along the shoreline of Tisbury Great Pond on trails maintained by the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission.

Following the summer benefit, the Foundation held a wide variety of events and outings over the rest of the summer. Guided walks were held at Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary in West Tisbury, Brightwood Park in Vineyard Haven, the King Point



*Photo: Susan Hughes*

and Armour properties on the Edgartown Great Pond, and Stonewall Pond Preserve in Chilmark. The series of virtual tours also continued, with Kristen Fauteux and Adam Moore offering a virtual tour of the many and diverse habitats of the Caroline Tuthill Preserve.

As summer turned to fall, the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation Board began work on a new, five-year strategic plan for the organization. Led by Director Samme Thompson, the Board of Directors held a daylong retreat and planning session at the West Chop Club on October 6, 2017. The well-attended session yielded an enthusiastic consensus, and the Board voted to approve the five-year plan at its December Board meeting.

In the fall of 2017, the Foundation was fortunate to hire Kate Warner as the Project Manager for the TrailsMV trail app. With dogged persistence and a belief in the goals of TrailsMV, Ms. Warner immediately made a difference in this effort. One special and notable effort regarding TrailsMV concerned photography. In October, Cassie Murray hosted an event at her West Tisbury home to invite all interested photographers to photograph the trails for the trail app. Some 23 photographers joined this effort, ranging in skill from Martha's Vineyard Regional High School photography students to leading professional photographers. With help from volunteers, cartography assistance from Chris Seidel of the Martha's Vineyard Commission, assistance from island conservation organizations, various departments of many towns, the Vineyard Transit Authority and Steamship Authority, local banks, and generous contributors, Ms. Warner led TrailsMV to a successful launch on June 2, 2018, National Trails Day.

Through the winter restoration efforts at Sheriff's Meadow Sanctuary continued. Invasive plants were removed, public views were enhanced, wet meadow areas were seeded and planted, and native plants were planted to screen abutting structures from the trails. In March, a series of very strong northeasters buffeted the island, causing extensive tree damage at West Chop Woods



*Photo: Kristen Fauteux*

and Sheriff's Meadow Sanctuary, among other properties.

Guided walks continued through the winter and spring. Staff led walks along the various, interconnected trails and paths on North Neck on Chappaquiddick on a bright and cold St. Patrick's Day, and an informative walk along the Ed and Ruth Brooks Trail at Sheriff's Meadow Sanctuary on a rainy morning in May.

In the spring, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation continued its efforts to broaden its outreach to donors and supporters by holding off-island receptions. On April 4, 2018, the Foundation held a reception at the MIT-Endicott House in Dedham. The event was well-attended by those who reside in the Boston area, and supporters lingered to converse well after the event had officially ended. On May 2, 2018, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation held a similar event at the Harvard Club in New York City. This event was also well-attended by a spirited, enthusiastic crowd of supporters and neighbors.

In spring, Marc Macfarlane left his post as Property Manager for Sheriff's Meadow Foundation after three dedicated years of service and hard work. Shortly after the departure of Mr. Macfarlane, the Foundation found itself very fortunate to hire Liz Loucks as a new Property Manager. Ms. Loucks joined Sheriff's Meadow Foundation with relevant experience with The Nature Conservancy and with a Master of Science in Forestry from the University of Kentucky and a B.A. in Environmental Studies from Warren Wilson College.

The year ended on a very high point.





Photo: Cassie Murray

On June 2, 2018, National Trails Day, the Foundation officially launched the TrailsMV app for iOS. TrailsMV provides accurate maps and information about all of the 200 miles of open-to-the-public trails on Martha's Vineyard. The app uses GPS technology to find one's location on the trail, offers beautiful photographs and informative descriptions of all of the trails and conservation lands on the island, and offers information about curated outings and upcoming events.

On June 2, Featherstone Center for the Arts in Oak Bluffs hosted a photography show entitled "Exploring the Vineyard." This show featured the best work from each of the photographers who contributed to TrailsMV. The show was attended by perhaps 300 people, who parked cars from the Arts Center all the way to the roundabout and beyond in order to get to the show. The show was a genuine celebration of the trails, of the TrailsMV trail app, and about the island-wide good will that this project has generated from the start.

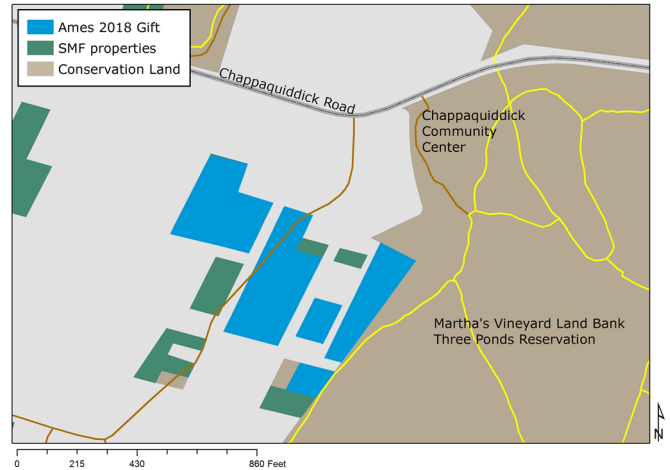
On June 15, 2018, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation held its Annual Meeting of the Board. Elected to new, three-year terms on the Board were Liz Packer of Vineyard Haven, Sara Tucker of Washington, DC, and Jim Vercruysse of Aquinnah. At that meeting, the Board re-elected Brien O'Brien, Peter Getsinger, Walt Looney, and Susanah Bristol to one-year terms as President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer, respectively. Bill Howell was elected to a one-year term as Assistant Treasurer, and Hillary Noyes-Keene was elected to a one-year term as Clerk. The Board bade a fond farewell to Jennifer Blum and Samme Thompson, who retired from the Board after ten years of dedicated service.

## Land Conserved on Chappaquiddick

On October 11, 2018, the David and Elizabeth Ames Irrevocable Trust and Elizabeth Ames gave to Sheriff's Meadow Foundation 5.2 acres of land on Chappaquiddick for conservation. The land conserved is illustrated on the accompanying map.

"We are very grateful to David and Elizabeth and to the Ames Family for their longstanding, generous, dedicated support for conservation," said Executive Director Adam Moore. "The land will be forever conserved, and will help build the network of conservation land in this area. This latest donation continues the strong conservation legacy of the Ames family that began with a first donation of land in 1974."

### Chappaquiddick - Ames Gift



The land recently donated further expands the conservation of land in the area of Sampson's Hill. These recent Ames gifts directly abut the Three Ponds Reservation of the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission, and either abut or make connections to a wide variety of other Sheriff's Meadow Foundation conservation land in the near vicinity.

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation plans to continue to conserve land in the area of these gifts and elsewhere across Chappaquiddick. Plans for the management of the land include regular monitoring, care for rare species, native plants, and wildlife habitat, connecting trails, and actions to reduce the risk of wildfire.

Those interested in learning more about land conservation are encouraged to contact Mr. Moore at [moore@sheriffsmeadow.org](mailto:moore@sheriffsmeadow.org).

## TrailsMV Android version



Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is pleased to announce that TrailsMV is now available on Android devices. In October 2018, the Android version of this

app for mobile devices was released. The app is now available for free download at both Google Play and the App Store. Over 6,000 people have downloaded TrailsMV since its release on June 2, 2018.



# Gifts and Volunteers

## Memorial Gifts

*Gifts were made in memory of the following people from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.*

Jason Andris  
Doris and Kurt Blumberg  
Ruth and Ed Brooks  
Mary Murray Brown  
Roberta Brown  
William and Dorothy Caldwell  
Avery Catlin  
Catherine and Tom Chamberlain  
Judith Anne Clough  
Laura Clausen Coelen  
John H. Coit  
Steve Crampton  
R. Dennis Cutler, Jr. and Prudence P. Cutler  
Molly Flender  
Pearl Fournier  
Judith Ballou Freeman  
Judy Geoghegan  
George Gomez  
Donald Hart  
Marcy Higham  
Sandra Fales Hillman  
Thomas Hunter  
Cathy Janson  
Wellons Jeffreys  
Edward Leonard  
Mary Ann Lewis  
Richard Lindner  
Miko Matsui  
Donnie Mitchell  
Dr. Joseph E. Murray  
Robert Potter  
Edo Potter  
Robert Potter  
Edo Potter  
Andrea Quigley  
Marie Quinn  
Chris and Lana Righter  
Kathleen Conway Roberts  
Leland Scott  
Ronald L. Stewart  
Nancy A. Taylor  
Hal and Olive Tilghman  
Paul and Christopher Trider  
Rusty Walton  
Rusty Walton  
Charles Zufferey

## Honorary Gifts

*Gifts have been made in honor of the following people from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.*

Bill Bridwell  
Rob McCarron  
Alison Cannon  
Catherine and Tom Chamberlain  
Emma, John, and Robert Daggett  
Nevenka K. Daniels  
Amanda Dickinson  
Dan Duffy  
Peter Getsinger  
Ursula Goodenough  
Terry Guylay  
Flora Hamish  
Ellen Harley  
Philip Henderson  
Bill and Nina Howell  
Issac, Sam and Miriam Janson  
Stephen Zachary Lee  
Walt Looney  
Lisa and Mike MacKenty  
George Mead  
Adam Moore  
Foster Story Osborne  
Bill Plapinger and Cassie Murray  
Edo and Bob Potter  
Alex Pyle and Family  
Jill and Alan Rappaport  
Dick and Pam Sauber  
Joanna and Hal Scott  
John Schaefer  
Sue Silk  
Jennifer Smyth  
Hal and Olive Tilghman  
Anne Simon Werner  
Douglas West  
David Willoughby

## Corporate Matching Gifts

*The following organizations provided matching gifts between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018.*

Pfizer  
Select Equity Group  
Salesforce.org

## Volunteers

Chris Alley  
Janet Bayley  
Rick Bayley  
Michael Berwind  
Jennifer Blum  
Caitlin Borck  
Susannah Bristol  
Peter Brooks  
Heidi Bryan  
Kendra Buresch  
Nancy Cabot  
Eva Carlson  
Ann Charnley  
Wendall Clough  
Susan Crampton  
Margaret Curtin  
Mimi Davisson  
Marie Doebler  
Angela Egerton  
Bob Egerton  
Audrey Egger  
Elaine Eugster  
Annie Fisher  
Alice Franklin  
Allyson Getsinger  
Molly Glasgow  
Dorie Godfrey  
Terry Guylay  
Grace Hall  
Ellen Harley  
Lyn Herrick  
Carol Hillenbrand  
Susie Himel  
Bob Huss  
Liz Huss  
Sharon Johnson  
Jack Korpi  
Kate Lauprete  
Debby Lewis  
Samantha Look  
Diane Looney  
Walt Looney  
Paula Macfarlane  
Ali Merritt  
Bob Merritt  
Emily Moore  
Huck Moore  
Ingrid Moore  
Isabel Moore  
Melissa Moore

*continued on page 15*





# Make a Gift today and for the Future:

*Consider including Sheriff's Meadow Foundation in your estate planning.*



Caroline Tuthill Preserve, Photo: Steve Chapman

To help us accomplish our mission to conserve the natural, beautiful, rural landscape and character of Martha's Vineyard and to leave a legacy of conservation for future generations, please consider making a planned gift to Sheriff's Meadow Foundation. There are many types of planned giving and we would be pleased to discuss the options with you.

For more information contact:

Adam Moore  
Executive Director  
PO Box 1088  
Vineyard Haven MA 02568  
508-693-5207  
moore@sheriffsmeadow.org

## **Volunteers** *continued from page 14*

Nina Moore  
Joohee Muromcew  
Karen Ogden  
Greg Palermo  
Jackson Parker  
Mary Lou Perry  
Lil Province  
Nancy Randall  
Phil Regan  
Tom Robinson  
Peter Rodegast  
Mike Saunier  
Martha Schmidt  
Sarah Shepard  
Dan Smythe-Temple  
Pamela Speir  
Happy Spongberg  
Sarah Thulin  
Sara Tucker  
Olive Tomlinson  
Penny Uhlendorf  
Meg Verret  
Anne Vose  
Nancy Weaver



Guided walk to introduce TrailsMV App



Family Walk at Sheriff's Meadow Sanctuary



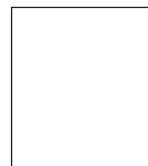
June Reception at the home of the Lewis Family on East Chop



PO Box 1088  
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568  
[www.sheriffsmeadow.org](http://www.sheriffsmeadow.org)

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## Upcoming Events

### GUIDED PUBLIC WALKS

**Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary**

Saturday, February 2, 2019  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Join us for a guided walk over the wooded hills of our largest property. Prepare for a strenuous hike over rugged terrain. Please park at the Taylor Gate parking area off of Indian Hill Road.

**Caroline Tuthill Preserve, Edgartown**

Saturday, May 18, 2019  
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Join us for a guided walk and find spring ephemerals, while exploring 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.

### RECEPTIONS

**Washington, DC**

Thursday, March 7, 2019  
6:00 - 8:00 pm

Save the date for a reception in Washington, DC. Please plan to join us for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres and to meet Executive Director Adam R. Moore and members of the Board of Directors and Staff. Details to follow.

**Boston, MA The Country Club**

Wednesday, April 10, 2019  
6:00 - 8:00 pm

Save the date for a reception in Boston, MA. Please plan to join us for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres and to meet Executive Director Adam R. Moore and members of the Board of Directors and Staff. Details to follow.

**New York, NY**

**The Yale Club of New York City**  
Wednesday, May 1, 2019  
6:00 - 8:00 pm

Save the date for a reception in NYC. Please plan to join us for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres and to meet Executive Director Adam R. Moore and members of the Board of Directors and Staff. Details to follow.

### PUBLIC LECTURES

**Virtual Tour of Quansoo Farm**

Sunday, February 3, 2019  
3:00 pm–5:00 pm, West Tisbury 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](http://www.sheriffsmeadow.org) for more information.