

SHERIFF'S
MEADOW
FOUNDATION



A MARTHA'S VINEYARD LAND TRUST

Newsletter

Early Summer 2021

CEDAR TREE NECK SANCTUARY

Issue No. 73



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Kate Feiffer

Founded in 1959 by Henry Beetle
 Hough and Elizabeth Bowie Hough

Coming Home



Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary, Photo: by Kate Feiffer

I had just attended a parents' meeting for those who had enrolled their children in the sailing summer programs of SailMV. It was a misty evening in the spring of 2008. I had recently moved back to the Island to come to work for Sheriff's Meadow Foundation. I had lived on the Island some years earlier, when I was the land superintendent for the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission. SailMV was the first community program that we joined after returning. Stepping into that gentle air, I felt that I had, after a long absence, come home.

What I distinctly remember about this evening, though, was the smell. The air was redolent with lilac. Nearby, a lilac was blossoming, and the fragrance of the purple lilac flowers perfumed the air.

In my travels through the woods of Martha's Vineyard, from time to time I discover something unexpected. Perhaps "stumble upon" is a more apt phrase than the word "discover." This spring, while doing a forest inventory in West Tisbury, I happened upon a large witch hazel. I spotted it by its distinctive crenate leaves, which have wavy edges. Witch hazel grows to be a large shrub, and it is indeed the plant from which the astringent witch hazel product is distilled. Witch hazel grows in abundance in the woods of Connecticut, yet until this spring, I had not encountered it on Martha's Vineyard (although others certainly have).

Later this spring, I found a few patches of paper birches. One patch was in West Tisbury, another was at Squibnocket Pond Reservation. Paper birches have distinctive white peeling bark. Once, while an apprentice forester at the Yale-Myers Forest in the woods of northeastern Connecticut, I peeled a bit of birch bark, wrote a message on one side of it, placed a stamp on it, and mailed it to my wife, Melissa, as a sort of postcard. I see paper birches only rarely on the Island, and when I find them, I remember them.

What I most love to find in the woods, though, is a lilac. I recall finding one, years ago, at the Land Bank's Chappy Five Corners Preserve. The lilac grew beside a depression in the ground, a cellar hole. This particular hole was once the cellar of the home of "Governor Handy," a legendary Chappaquiddick resident. Though Governor Handy was blind, he is reputed to have trained his horse so well that the horse could find the way home from the ferry landing on its own.

Another lilac grows at the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation Huckleberry Barrens property in Edgartown. Flanked by Katama Road and the Edgartown Bay Road, the Huckleberry Barrens was once a farm, but now the land sports a blanket of huckleberries, a copse of pitch pines and oaks, clumps of bayberries, and one very large lilac. I visited Huckleberry Barrens in Katama this



Welcome New Staff Members

spring with SMF board member Nancy Randall. She spotted the lilac, which had just blossomed, and we approached it for a closer look. There beside the lilac was a depression, just like at the Handy homestead. It was another cellar hole, and this one was quite deep. Here, too, was once a farm home. Long ago, some family stepped outside on some spring morning, set a shovel in the ground, and planted this lilac to adorn their home. The lilac lasted.

In the woods, lilacs typically grow beside cellar holes. Lilacs are not native to Martha's Vineyard, but people quite often planted lilacs beside the sides of their houses, just as people do today. In these woodlands, the lilacs outlasted the structures, and continue to grow, even when all around them has become a forest or a thicket of shrubs. Though non-native and long-lived, lilacs are not invasive, as they do not spread and crowd out native plants.

I love stumbling upon lilacs, because when you have found a lilac, you have found a home. I think that's what I found so striking about the fragrance of lilac in the air on that June evening, years ago. When you smell lilac, you've come home.

Welcome home.



Vanessa Dos Santos and Guilherme Moraes at Sheriff's Meadow Sanctuary. Photo: by Kate Feiffer



NOAH FROH, Land Conservation Asst. Born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Noah left home to attend Bennington College in Vermont, where he studied Environmental Science and Visual Art. He has had several internships with the National Park Service, which helped to further solidify his interest in the field of Conservation and Land Management. After graduating college, he began to work seasonally for Sheriff's Meadow Foundation as a Summer Ranger, which is how he first arrived on the Island of Martha's Vineyard. After two years of seasonal work, Noah returned to Milwaukee, only to pack his bags and turn around, after accepting a full-time position at SMF. He enjoys trail running, swimming, comedy, and music.



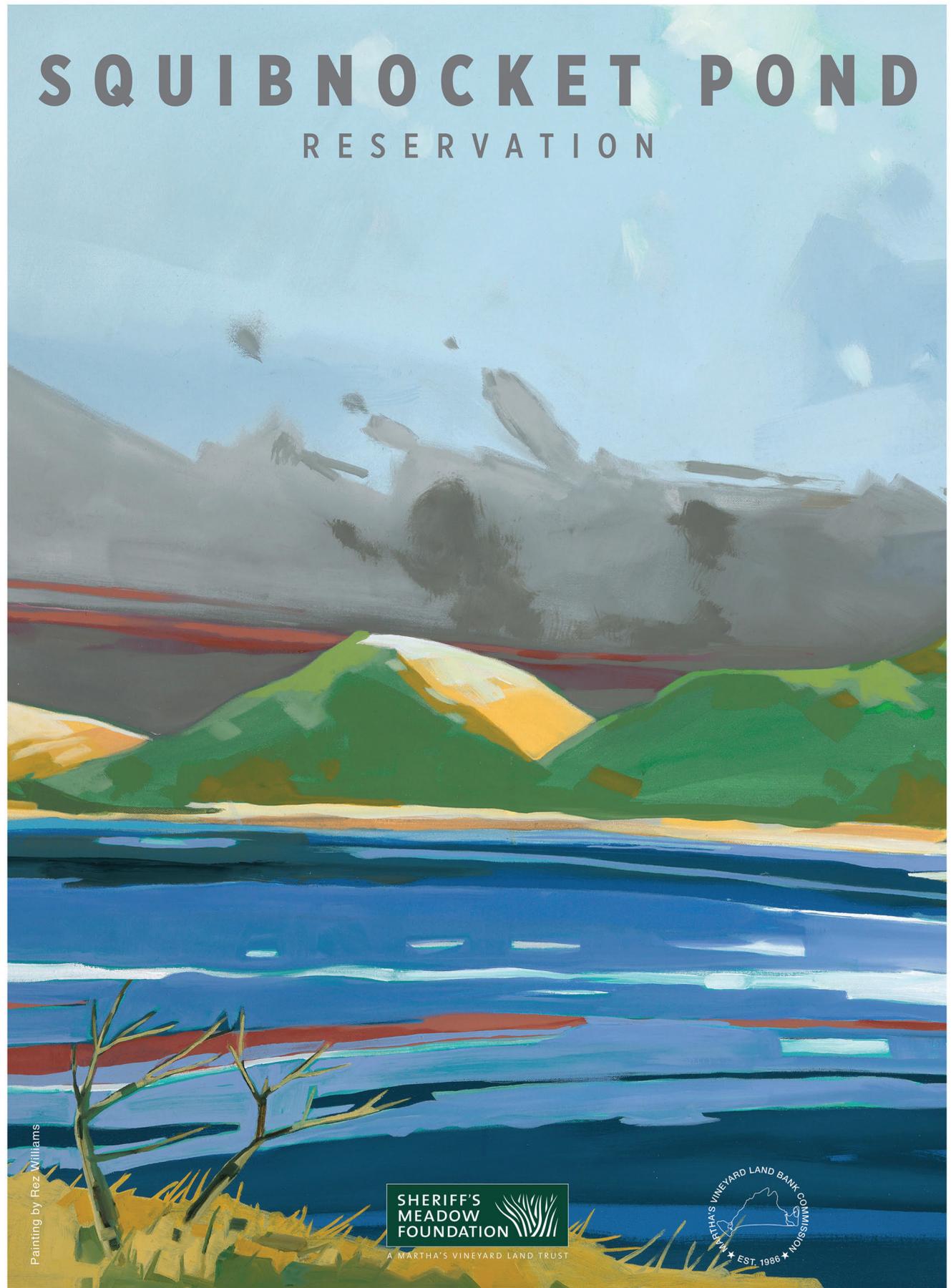
LIA POTTER, Habitat Management Asst. Lia Potter is in her last year at Rollins College, in Florida, and is majoring in environmental studies. Her love of nature and the outdoors started as a young child and continued to grow throughout adulthood. Being raised on the Island gave her the ability to explore the many beaches and trails and has been a major contributor towards her focus in school. Lia's love for the outdoors has driven her to learn the names of the native plants of Martha's Vineyard, which she also enjoys sketching.



JULES STUBER, Land Steward Asst. As a lifelong resident of Martha's Vineyard, as well as a lover of the outdoors, Jules is a strong advocate for preserving the natural spaces that make our island so unique. Following this passion, he attended the University of Vermont where he majored in Community Development and minored in Environmental Studies. Upon graduation, Jules worked as a Food Rescue Coordinator for Island Grown Initiative, as well as several non profit organizations in the Greater Boston area such as Save the Harbor Save the Bay, Thompson Island Outward Bound, and Lovin' Spoonfuls. Jules is incredibly excited to be joining the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation as Land Steward Assistant, and hopes to work towards making public land more accessible for all.

SQUIBNOCKET POND

RESERVATION



Painting by Rez Williams

SHERIFF'S
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A MARTHA'S VINEYARD LAND TRUST





Rez Williams Poster - 2021

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is delighted to announce that Rez Williams has completed a set of six new oil paintings. The paintings depict landscapes on several Sheriff's Meadow Foundation properties, including the new Squibnocket Pond Reservation, a view point along the Elinor Moore Irvin Trail, a vista along the white trail at Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary, the Eastman Preserve, Nat's Farm, and Sheriff's Meadow Sanctuary. The paintings will ultimately hang in a place of honor in a future Sheriff's Meadow Foundation headquarters building.

Graphic designer Kathleen Forsythe is creating the posters using a section from each of Rez's paintings. These posters will be the next in a series of original art and posters inspired by the WPA posters that promoted National Parks.

"My objective was to work with Rez's composition and place format elements so as not to obscure or overpower the painting. Each poster will have a different painting and each poster has a property name as a main format element. So the typographic

configuration and placement has to work with the painting composition while remaining consistent with the format design of the series," Forsythe explains.

The newest poster in the series features Squibnocket Pond Reservation, and is available now. To receive a poster, simply make a donation to Sheriff's Meadow Foundation and contact Susan Hughes at hughes@sheriffsmeadow.org.

Painting Sheriff's Meadow Foundation's Properties

By Rez Williams

Created by the remains of the convergence of two major glaciers, the Vineyard's land mass has remarkable complexity—especially when compared to eastern Long Island and Nantucket. Sheriff's Meadow properties are enduring examples of this singular diversity. In this series of commissioned paintings I have endeavored to explore and magnify these specific qualities, abstracting salient features for emphasis while also trying to adhere to the graphic flatness of circa 1930's silk screen printed WPA posters, the original stylistic objective.

The six new paintings are horizontal in format, which is normal for the subject of landscape. They each measure 48" x 38". The posters, which are beautifully designed by Kathleen Forsythe, are (and will be) vertical, so while some of the information in the original paintings will be lost, the impact of the posters are enhanced by being so edited.

It was a bright, humid early spring afternoon when Lucy Mitchell, my wife, and I went with Adam to Squibnocket Pond Reservation. We were on the uplands, returning from the beach. When I looked back there was an ominous dark fog bank rapidly moving in from the ocean over the dunes, casting them in brighter light due to the contrast. As a sailor, I have a visceral respect for fog and the tricks and dangers it can deliver. The scene basically painted itself very quickly but ended up needing some important tweaks over time. It was the first painting in the series and the last to be finished.

Perhaps the most abstract of these paintings is "Sheriff's Meadow Sanctuary," in Edgartown, which shows the beginning of the entrance path looking East. I had originally thought there was not much of visual interest here—that it was just a mass of verdant overgrown greensward. However, on second inspection weeks later, I began to see viable elements for a strong, bouncy composition and I now feel it is one of the more successful

images in the series. It also includes an allusion to the SMF logo, designed by Lucy Mitchell, in the grasses of the middle ground.



The "Full Moon Over Nat's Farm" was something that caught my eye while driving up Old County Road in West Tisbury and I returned a few days later to sketch the adjacent tree line marking the State Forest's western bound. Since I don't paint en plein aire for various reasons, I usually take photos (one click and you have captured the moment) and print them purposefully on very poor equipment to study later in the studio. This allows me to allay the tyranny of the imagery, and the time to think about what needs to be abstracted or emphasized from the original source material. The process starts with a simple charcoal sketch on gessoed stretched canvas and proceeds in fits and starts from there.

State Forest Update

I am pleased to let you know that Sheriff's Meadow Foundation has reached an agreement with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation ("DCR" – the agency that manages the State Forest) on a plan to restore certain unpermitted trails in the Manuel F. Correllus State Forest. The plan calls for the closure of certain trails, monitoring of these areas over time, and monitoring for invasive plants.

We have refrained from issuing a public statement until now in order to allow for cooperative discussions with DCR and the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP). Now that a sound plan for restoration has been reached, however, we want to share with you our perspective on what happened, and to let you know how we have responded.

In 2018, SMF agreed to support volunteer efforts to help with trails in the State Forest and to form a formal partnership with DCR. At that time, the Foundation had just completed a strategic planning effort that envisioned helping other organizations with trails, improving cross-Island trail connectivity, and forming strategic partnerships with other organizations, including the Commonwealth. Several Board members already had existing volunteer roles at the State Forest, and in 2018, we entered into a volunteer stewardship agreement with DCR. Pursuant to this agreement, we provided support to these volunteer efforts while working toward a more formal and comprehensive agreement.

During the time of this trail work, we asked DCR whether approval or permits from the NHESP were required, and offered our help in applying for them, as necessary. We asked that NHESP approvals be provided to us, and were told that these would be forthcoming. Had we understood that our work was not properly permitted, we would not have undertaken it. In hindsight, I realize that I should have communicated directly with NHESP in 2018 to explain what we hoped to accomplish, and to make certain that all necessary permits were in place.

During 2018 and 2019, we met with a variety of senior officials at DCR to establish a formal partnership. As SMF lacks a proper garage for equipment storage and repair, we had hoped to enter into a long-term lease that could enable us to add on to the exist-

ing equipment garage at the Forest. Short of that, we were also interested in gaining permission to erect a temporary storage structure. As part of a formal agreement, we offered to help DCR with rare species monitoring and permitting, forest management planning, trail maintenance, forest monitoring, and other areas where our expertise could potentially be helpful.

Our work with DCR also included a volunteer effort to assemble "Take a Break" wooden benches and to place them at intervals along trails. The purpose of the program was to help make trails more accessible to people who have difficulty walking. To help, DCR hosted a Park Service Day at the State Forest in April 2019, when the benches were assembled by volunteers. We also formed an all-Island trail working group and invited DCR to participate, which it did. We posted maps and photographs of completed trails on the TrailsMV app. In addition, we loaned DCR our Ford tractor, as for a period of time, DCR lacked a tractor of its own. We also mowed firebreaks in the Forest, at the request of the fire department and at the direction of DCR, when DCR was unable to do the mowing itself.

In the spring of 2020, we learned that the volunteer trail work we had been conducting in the State Forest since 2018 was not permitted by NHESP. We immediately stopped all work. We then received a letter of non-compliance from NHESP.

Since that time, we have worked extensively with NHESP and DCR to return to compliance and reach an agreement that is beneficial to the State Forest. This effort included a complete review of all trail-related work undertaken by anyone associated with Sheriff's Meadow Foundation from 2018 to 2020. We submitted that review to NHESP and DCR on July 17, 2020, and subsequently submitted an invasive species monitoring proposal for review.

On June 3, 2021, we reached agreement with DCR on a collaborative plan for the closing and restoration of certain trails identified by DCR, as well as monitoring the regrowth of those areas and preventing the spread of invasive species. This plan was approved by NHESP. As a result, DCR has now closed certain of the unpermitted trails, and these will be restored. DCR is also keeping certain sections of trail and is obtaining NHESP permits to maintain

them. We have recently received a number of expressions of concern about closure work performed to date. Please be advised that none of the closure work performed to date in the Forest has been conducted by SMF. Please note that SMF has conducted no tree-felling, and SMF is not authorized under the plan to fell trees.

SMF will conduct monitoring over a five-year period. The updated trail information is available on the Sheriff's Meadow website and the TrailsMV app. We look forward to implementing this plan in collaboration with DCR and under the oversight of NHESP.

We are making a number of changes intended to prevent such an unfortunate oversight from happening again. We have initiated quarterly meetings with NHESP to review all permitting requirements. We are addressing governance issues related to the roles of board and staff members. We are instituting requirements to ensure that, when working on the land of another landowner, we follow the same compliance rules as those we follow on Sheriff's Meadow lands. We are addressing the roles and responsibilities of volunteer committees within the organization.

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation takes its role in the conservation of Martha's Vineyard flora and fauna seriously. On all the land entrusted to us, we are rigorous with respect to environmental compliance. We are proud of our record and relationships with regulatory agencies and partner organizations. We pledge to do all that we can to preserve and protect the State Forest. In addition, because we place a high value on cooperation with other groups, we are committed to learning from this experience to ensure that our coordinated efforts with others are conducted in compliance with all applicable requirements and in a manner that promotes the good of the Island.

If you have any questions, please contact me. I would be very pleased to speak with you. During the fall of 2021 our Board will begin to develop our third five-year strategic plan. We will start by considering the accomplishments of the past five years as well as the challenges. None of our plans could come to fruition without the continuing support you provide. Later this year, we look forward to sharing our vision for the future. Thank you.

Adam Moore, Executive Director



Goats Arrive at Cedar Tree Neck



Photos: by Lia Potter

Goats from Native Earth Teaching farm have returned to Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary for the summer. They were brought over the pond by canoe on June 2nd. The goats are useful in helping to reduce non-native invasive plants, primarily bittersweet but also

bush honeysuckle, and autumn olive, as we work to restore the neck to an open meadow. The goats are given fresh water daily, grain for minerals, and hay on rainy days. Since they don't like to get wet, they stay in their huts during inclement weather.



June walk at Caroline Tuthill Preserve.

Photo by: Susan Hughes

June Guided Walk

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation was delighted to offer a guided walk at Caroline Tuthill Preserve for the first time in a year due to Covid-19 precautions. Kristen Geagan led the walk and pointed out many native species of trees, shrubs and flowers.

We were delighted to have 12 enthusiastic walkers join us in June.

Please be on the lookout for the guided walk schedule for the summer and fall. We do ask that you register so that we can keep the groups at a reasonable and safe size.

For more information email Susan Hughes at hughes@sheriffsmeadow.org or call 508.693.5207.

Tick safety on the trail: what to know before you head out

By Nancy Tutko

The public trails and conservation lands across Martha's Vineyard have offered an especially welcome refuge during the coronavirus pandemic. The Island's diverse natural landscapes, their seasonal transformations, open vistas, and the ability to gather safely outdoors with friends and family have helped keep us resilient through difficult times.

And now, just as the pandemic is finally on the wane, the many ticks we see (and many more that we don't) remind us that we still need to safeguard our health.

Summer is high season for ticks. Joining deer ticks and wood ticks out on the trails, meadows, beaches, and woodlands these days are lone star ticks, a relative newcomer to the Vineyard. Luckily it's possible to avoid Lyme and other tick-related diseases with advance planning and vigilance about tick safety when you're outdoors.

What you should do:

- ✓ Wear light-colored clothing to spot ticks more easily.
- ✓ Treat shoes, clothing, and gear with permethrin or an EPA-approved insect repellent. Follow application instructions carefully.
- ✓ Avoid wooded and brushy areas, tall grass, beach dunes, and leaf litter.
- ✓ Walk in the center of the trail away from vegetation.
- ✓ Inspect yourself and companions carefully for ticks afterward.
- ✓ If you know you've been exposed to ticks, shower vigorously as soon as possible afterward with soap and a wash cloth to help dislodge any ticks that may not yet be fully attached.

What helps keep ticks at bay?

The longtime gold standard to repel biting insects was the chemical DEET, created in the 1940s for use by the military and used in repellents made by Cutter, Ben's, and OFF! These companies and others such as Repel are now gravitating to picaridin-based sprays, a chemical repellent that works like DEET but is odorless, non-



Photo: by Nancy Tutko

greasy, and does not dissolve plastics or other synthetics.

Some people prefer products that rely on natural essential oils to ward off insects. Breezy Pines Farm in West Tisbury sells an herbal bug spray, for example, and Cape Cod Naturals sells insect repellent and sunscreen, along with dryer sheets and pet shampoo.

However, many land managers, wildlife biologists, landscapers, and others who work outdoors have turned to permethrin, a chemical treatment for clothing, boots, backpacks, and other gear. SBS in Vineyard Haven covers all the bases, selling herbal, picaridin, and permethrin-based spray products.

What is permethrin?

It's a highly effective pesticide, a synthetic molecule similar to the natural insecticide pyrethrum, which is extracted from the chrysanthemum flower. In its commercial form, permethrin is applied to clothes and shoes to kill ticks and other insects on contact. You can buy it as a liquid spray, such as Sawyer, to treat your own clothes, or purchase clothing that's factory pre-treated with permethrin, which lasts for 60-70 washings. Insect Shield, REI, and other

outdoor-gear suppliers sell permethrin-infused clothing.

Tick-repellent gaiters, such as those made by Lymeez, are an effective way to help stop ticks from moving up your legs. Keep a pair in your car for on-the-go, easy-to-wear protection. Kristen Geagan, director of stewardship at Sheriff's Meadow Foundation, wears tick gaiters over her pants and socks, topped with rubber boots. She also carries a lint roller, a quick way to gather up crawling ticks on your clothes.

Biologist Richard Johnson, who leads the Martha's Vineyard Tick Program, also carries a lint roller when he's out in the field, and is a fan of permethrin-treated socks, available at Brickman's in Vineyard Haven and Basics in Oak Bluffs.

"Wearing treated socks, with long pants tucked into the socks, is the single most important thing you can do to avoid tick bites and tick-borne illnesses," Johnson says. "Because they are so small and hard to see, most cases of tick diseases are caused by the larvae and nymph life stages. Since both tend to be down low close to the ground, they have to crawl across your socks to reach your legs, and contact with the permethrin in the socks will slow them down and eventually kill them before they can bite you."

For more information about using permethrin to combat ticks, visit:

• Centers for Disease Control and Prevention— https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/avoid/on_people.html

• Consumer Reports— <https://www.consumerreports.org/insect-repellent/how-to-use-permethrin-on-clothing-safely/>

• Section Hiker— <https://sectionhiker.com/treating-your-clothes-with-permethrin/>

What to do about a tick bite?

If you find a tick attached to your skin, there's no need to panic – the key is to remove the tick as soon as possible. There are several tick removal devices on the market, but a plain set of fine-tipped tweezers work very well.



- Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible.
 - Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick; this can cause the mouth-parts to break off and remain in the skin. If this happens, remove the mouth-parts with tweezers. If you are unable to remove the mouth easily with clean tweezers, leave it alone and let the skin heal.
 - After removing the tick, thoroughly clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol or soap and water.
 - Never crush a tick with your fingers. Dispose of a live tick by putting it in alcohol, placing it in a sealed bag/container, wrapping it tightly in tape, or flushing it down the toilet.
- Contact your doctor if you've been bitten by a tick, especially if you show any of these symptoms:
- Fever and/or chills
 - Aches and pains
 - Rash

Identifying ticks on Martha's Vineyard

The dangers of tick-borne illnesses should not be underestimated. Their symptoms are highly variable and sometimes difficult to diagnose. Ticks commonly found in the Northeast that can cause disease in humans include:

American dog tick (wood tick), *Dermacentor variabilis*

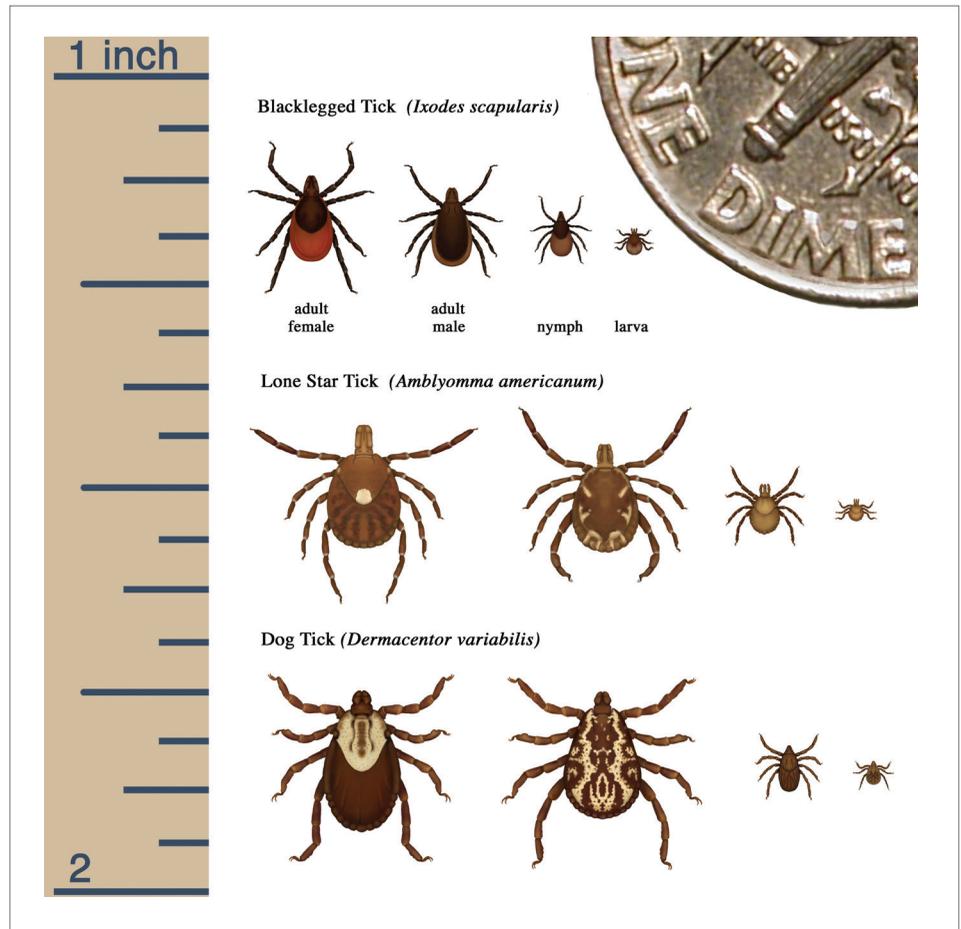
Transmits: tularemia and Rocky Mountain spotted fever

Comments: The highest risk of being bitten occurs during spring and summer. Adult females are most likely to bite humans.

Black-legged tick, *Ixodes scapularis*

Transmits: *Borrelia burgdorferi* and *B. mayonii* (which cause Lyme disease), *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* (anaplasmosis), *B. miyamotoi* disease (a form of relapsing fever), *Ehrlichia muris euclairensis* (ehrlichiosis), *Babesia microti* (babesiosis), and Powassan virus disease.

Comments: The greatest risk of being bitten exists in the spring, summer, and fall. However, adults may be out searching for a host any time winter temperatures are above freezing. Stages most likely to bite humans are nymphs and adult females.



Lone star tick, *Amblyomma americanum*

Transmits: *Ehrlichia chaffeensis* and *Ehrlichia ewingii* (which cause human ehrlichiosis), Heartland virus, tularemia, and STARI (Southern tick-associated rash illness).



Lone star tick

Comments: A very aggressive, fast-moving tick that bites humans. The adult female is distinguished by a white dot or "lone star" on her back. Lone star tick saliva can be irritating; redness and discomfort at a bite site does not necessarily indicate an infection. The nymph and adult females most frequently bite humans and transmit disease. These tiny ticks nest in clusters, sometimes numbering in the hundreds, along the trails. Lone star ticks on Martha's Vineyard are common on Chappaquiddick and in Aquinnah, but populations are growing in other towns, too.

Important developing news about lone star ticks and alpha-gal syndrome:

Alpha-gal syndrome (AGS) (also called alpha-gal allergy, red meat allergy, or tick bite meat allergy) is a serious, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction, increasingly linked to lone star tick bites. Read more about alpha-gal syndrome at <https://alphagalinformation.org/>.

Congratulations to Michael Noel, Jr



Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is pleased to congratulate Michael Noel, Jr. upon earning the rank of Eagle Scout. The Foundation offers its sincere gratitude to Michael for his Eagle Scout service project, which involved completely rebuilding a footbridge on the orange trail, installing new cedar decking on another footbridge on the orange trail, and installing a series of "check" logs to control erosion on the final, gullied portion of the white trail, where the trail descends the bluff and reaches the beach.

The work involved coordinating several work parties of volunteer labor from Scouts BSA Troops 93 and 193, raking yards to raise money for hardware, rough carpentry work, carrying logs over rough terrain to the work site, and doing the trail work with pick-mattocks and sledgehammers.

"Michael's hard work and leadership will help people to continue to enjoy these beautiful trails long into the future," said Adam Moore. "We congratulate Michael on his accomplishment and thank him and Troops 93 and 193 for their work."



More Storybooks Walks



Maya and Milan Nikolic

Photo by: Kate Feiffer

"Everyone Poops" by Taro Gomi, the bestselling picture book that became an unexpected classic, was on display in the storybook walk at Sheriff's Meadow Sanctuary in Edgartown from May 29-June 16. The book shows how creatures throughout the animal world, including humans, deal with the products of digestion and has been called "part biology textbook, part sociological treatise and all a celebration of a very natural process." Kristen Geagan, SMF Director of Stewardship, designed a match-the-scat and match-the-tracks activity for this exhibit. Pictured here are Maya and Milan Nikolic holding a match-the-animal-to-the-scat worksheet, part of a related activity bag from the Edgartown Library.

"Outside In" by Deborah Underwood, with illustrations by Cindy Derby, is the current book on display. A 2021 Caldecott honor book. "Outside In" is a mindful contemplation on the many ways nature affects our everyday lives, even when we're stuck inside.

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is partnering with the Edgartown Public Library to bring storybook walks with related activities to the sanctuary. Take home craft bags, with additional activities, will be available at the Children's room take-out window at the Edgartown Library, which is open Monday-Saturday from 10-4:30.



Summer Benefit at Ashakomaksett Farm

Four cocktail parties July 21, 22, 23 and 24 ~ 6:00 to 8:00 pm

We are delighted to announce that the 2021 Summer Benefit will take place as an in-person event. Ellen and Edwin Harley have graciously agreed to host the Benefit on their beautiful land at Ashakomaksett Farm on Meetinghouse Road in Edgartown. The event will provide an opportunity to learn about the work of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation, and to reconnect with friends and supporters once again in a safe, outdoor, open-air setting.

In order to provide an elegant outdoor event for all, that considers your safety, we will hold the event on four successive nights, each with limited attendance: Wednesday through Saturday, July 21, 22, 23, and 24. Each night will feature the same beautiful setting and same lovely decor. There will be brief, in-person remarks from Executive Director Adam R. Moore and President, Peter Getsinger.

The Summer Benefit is the chief fundraising event for Sheriff's Meadow Foundation. It provides a very significant amount of our operating revenues. Please consider sponsoring the event at the highest level that is possible for you. Information about sponsorship opportunities is included below, and is available on our website.



2021 Summer Benefit Sponsorship Levels

Cedar Tree Society - \$50,000

- 16 complimentary Summer Benefit reservations.
- 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.

Beetlebung Tree Society - \$25,000

- 12 complimentary Summer Benefit reservations.
- 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 - \$15,000

- 10 complimentary Summer Benefit reservations.
- Private, guided walk of SMF property of your choice.
- Invitation to President's Circle private reception.

Beech Tree Society - \$10,000

- 8 complimentary Summer Benefit reservations.
- Private, guided walk of SMF property of your choice.
- Invitation to President's Circle private reception.

Sassafras Tree Society - \$5,500

- 6 complimentary Summer Benefit reservations.
- Invitation to President's Circle private reception.

Holly Tree Society - \$3,000

- 4 complimentary Summer Benefit reservations.

Oak Tree Society - \$1,500

- 2 complimentary Summer Benefit reservations.

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation will gratefully acknowledge all of its sponsors 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

GUIDED PUBLIC WALKS - Please call to reserve a space, 508.693.5207

eDNA Walk

Thursday, August 5, 2021
8:30 am-10:30 am

Meet scientist Jesse Ausubel* at the parking lot for MV Regional High School and join us for a walk through MVLB Southern Woodlands Reservation to the herring run by Lagoon Pond. There Jesse will speak about the innovations in marine environmental DNA and how, with a liter of water, it is possible to detect which vertebrates have been in the water.

Quansoo Farm, West Tisbury

Thursday, September 2, 2021
9:00 am - 11:00 pm

Join us at Quansoo Farm for a walk with horticulturalist and botanical scientist Tim Boland, Executive Director of Polly Hill Arboretum. Travel across the meadows, shrublands, and forest of sculpted oaks that extend to the shores of Black Point Pond and Tisbury Great Pond. From Chilmark/West Tisbury town line, take South Rd. and turn left onto Quansoo Rd. and follow 1.4 miles and look for the SMF signs for parking.

Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary

Saturday, September 18, 2021
9:00 am-11:00 am

Join us for a guided walk at Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary, with Island geologist Bill Wilcox to learn how glaciers shaped the land we see today. Meet at the main trailhead at the bottom of Obed Daggett Rd.

*Jesse Ausubel is the Director of the Program for the Human Environment and Senior Research Associate at The Rockefeller University in New York City