

SHERIFF'S
MEADOW
FOUNDATION



A MARTHA'S VINEYARD LAND TRUST

Newsletter

Early Fall 2022

NAT'S FARM

Issue No. 78





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Founded in 1959 by Henry Beetle
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From the President, *Adam R. Moore*

Witness Trees



Irvin Trail. Photo by Kate Feiffer

The maple by a stake and stones. The oak by the drilled hole. The pine by the ditch. All are "witness trees."

For surveyors and foresters, the term witness tree describes a tree that is associated with a corner of a property boundary. Generally, a witness tree overlooks a marker such as a stake and stones, a cairn, a hole drilled in a rock, or—in a landscape devoid of large rocks, such as the outwash plain of the south shore of Martha's Vineyard—a boundary defining ditch. Other witness trees might overlook a junction of stone walls, or an iron pipe, or a fence. Witness trees are referenced in surveyors' notes and in property deeds, especially older deeds. A winter afternoon spent at the Dukes County Registry of Deeds tracing the title history of any Island property inevitably leads to a document written in elegant, cursive script with references to witness trees.

In the *Forestry Handbook*, foresters are instructed to find three witness trees around a property corner and paint a blaze on each of these trees so that each boundary blaze faces the corner. By triangulating with these blazes, the forester can more readily find an obscure marker, which has perhaps become

hidden under layers of decaying leaves or piles of fallen branches. Though not a permanent marker, a witness tree may last for a couple of centuries, and it costs nothing to install, and therefore renders itself quite cost-effective.

There is another meaning to witness tree, though. In their own silent way, all trees are witness trees, as the rings of the tree silently record the environmental record of the world in wood. Such a record is familiar to anyone who has ever felled a tree and counted the rings on the stump, or bored a tree with an increment borer and counted the rings on the core. One can first tell the age of the tree, just by counting from the bark to the center.

Yet one can also tell—by the width of the ring—whether the year was a lean one or a good one for that tree. I recall examining the rings of hemlocks cut beside Lake Saltonstall in Branford, Connecticut. Each tree displayed a big, fat ring for the year 1939. Why 1939? Because in 1938, the great Hurricane of '38 felled all the other trees around this young hemlock, flooding the forest with light, and giving the sapling the space it needed to grow.



Using dendrochronology, the science of aging wooden structures through the analysis of tree rings, the tree rings present in the framing timbers of an antique house can precisely date the age of that structure. Dendrochronology performed on the oak timbers of the Hancock Mitchell House at Quansoo Farm revealed that the oak trees from which the timbers were hewn were felled in 1758 and 1759—prompting a reexamination of the history of colonial houses on Martha's Vineyard.

Through radiocarbon dating, the wood of prehistoric trees can reveal the age of an ancient forest. For example, if one strolls the beach between Squibnocket beach and Stonewall beach, one sees the trunks of fallen trees protruding from the bluff, pointing toward the sea. These are actually ancient white pine trees, and Harvard Forest Director Dr. David Foster has studied them using radiocarbon dating. He learned that these

trees, the oldest on the Island by far, are 10,000 years old.

Yet the other meaning of "witness tree" is something different. The other meaning is a tree that has witnessed events. We all have personal witness trees. From time to time, I think of such trees, and the events that they have witnessed over the course of my life.

The eastern red cedar in front of the executive director house at Quansoo has witnessed each of our children heading off for the first day of school in September as my wife, Melissa, and I posed the children for a picture. Not long ago, four children posed for this annual photo; this year, we were down to just one. The tulip poplars at Sheriff's Meadow Sanctuary witness my periodic perambulations of this property. The beeches at Cedar Tree Neck have now witnessed many years of vigorous Moore family hikes. In these cases, the witness trees

are very familiar. The trees and I witness each other frequently, and sometimes daily.

In other cases, though, witness trees are less familiar. When we brought our daughter Ingrid to college at the end of the summer, we paused in the shade of a massive American elm. Gazing up at the elm's arching branches, my son, Huck, pointed out that I had walked beneath this very same tree 34 years ago. Startled, I looked up at the elm, and thought for a bit. That same elm was still there. Silently, the arching elm towered over me, back again. I took a deep breath, and breathed out. The elm breathed in, turned my breath into wood, and witnessed me.

Sometimes, witness trees surprise us.

Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting held on June 17, 2022



Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary. Photo by Kate Feiffer

The Board of Directors of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation held its Annual Meeting on Friday, June 17, 2022. The meeting was held in person, at the Wakeman Center, after a long stretch of Zoom-only Board meetings.

At the meeting, the Board amended the bylaws of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation and elected Officers, Directors, and

members of the Executive Committee and Governance Committee.

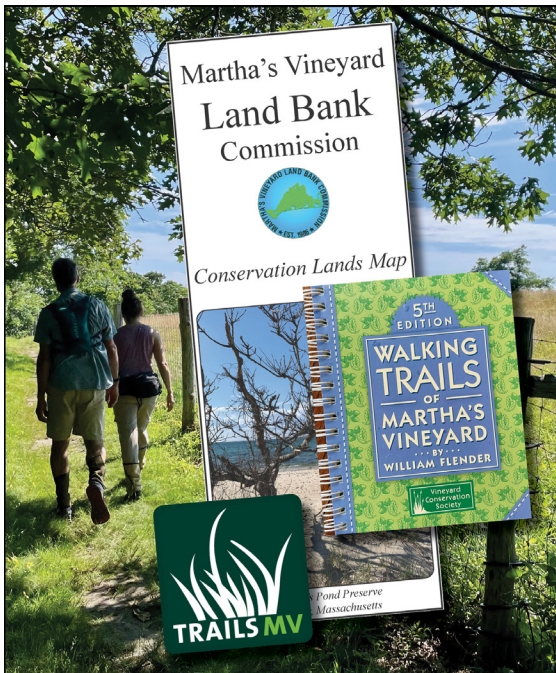
The Board elected Robin Rivera for a first three-year term as a Director. The Board re-elected Stever Aubrey, Matthew Dix, Tom Enders, Geoffrey Lauprete, Tom Rapone, and Amy Weinberg to second, three-year terms as Directors; re-elected Hillary Noyes-Keene and John Schaefer to third, three-year terms as Directors; re-elected Ellen Harley to a fourth, one-year term as a Director; and re-elected Peter Getsinger to a fifth, six-month term as a Director. Adam Moore was elected to a one-year term as a Director.

The Board also elected Peter Getsinger to a six-month term as Chair. Alan Rappaport was elected to a six-month term as Chair-Elect, followed by a six-month term as Chair. Susannah Bristol was elected to a one-year term as Vice Chair; Peter Brooks was elected to a one-year term as Treasurer; and Alec Walsh was elected to a one-year term as Clerk. Adam Moore was elected to a one-year term as President.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Board bade a fond farewell to departing Directors Keith Dodge and Bob Egerton, each of whom served nine years on the Board, and to Susan Crampton, who served ten years on the Board.

Mapping Island Trails

By Nancy Tutko



Fifty years ago, much of the Vineyard was open to ramblers. Miles of dirt roads and paths, winding trails through woodlands and alongside pastures, and long stretches of beach—privately owned as well as public—were generally accessible, at least tacitly. As the Island became better known as a summer destination and the demand for housing increased, however, hundreds of acres were subdivided and built up. Some longtime byways were closed to the public.

In the face of strong development pressure, the land conservation movement on Martha's Vineyard got a big boost in 1986 with the establishment of the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission. The Land Bank, funded by a 2% tax on most real estate transactions, joined Island towns and nonprofit conservation groups in the shared mission to protect and preserve open space for public benefit.

A network of trails began to take shape across the Vineyard landscape. But finding those trails wasn't always easy. While some properties were mapped, there wasn't a single map or guide that included all of them until 1990, when the Land Bank published the first comprehensive map of Island conservation lands.

"The commission hoped to encourage people to enjoy nature and to show voters

a record of how the Land Bank fee was being spent," said the Land Bank's Executive Director, James Lengyel. That map included the commission's first 728 acres, along with the Island's other conserved properties. Over the years, public interest in the Land Bank map resulted in multiple printings, 10,000 at a time. "The map took on a life of its own. We underestimated how many people wanted them," said Lengyel.

In 1996, Will Flender published *Walking Trails of Martha's Vineyard*, a pocket-sized guide of conservation properties that became an immediate bestseller. Flender, who at the time was an intern at the Vineyard Conservation Society (VCS), gathered the data for his maps by rolling a surveyor's wheel

along the trails. For the first two editions, he drew maps by hand, traced and scanned assessors' maps and land bank management plan maps, and pieced them together himself. By 2003, when cartographer Chris Seidel joined the Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC), Flender was ready to go digital. He worked with Seidel and MVC planner Bill Venno, who also does trail planning for the Land Bank.

"Chris gave me a Garmin GPS unit that I attached to my mountain bike," Flender said. "I'd stop at every intersection and drop a data point, then continue on. I rode a lot of the Island's trails that way. Chris downloaded the data I gathered and used it to create the maps."

Seidel came to the MVC with a background in terrestrial ecology and geography. She began using ArcGIS—a digital mapping software—in grad school, then worked in engineering and surveying before moving to Martha's Vineyard. Her geospatial mapping skills have helped facilitate coordinated land planning, and some of the data still in use today is a result of Flender's efforts.

"Thankfully Will was willing to go out with the GPS unit to get all the trail data himself," Seidel said. "It was a win-win.

The centralized trail data that he compiled benefited the MV Commission, the towns, and all the conservation groups."

Seidel, who oversees the ArcGIS data for all three Island trail-mapping tools—the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank map, the *Walking Trails* book, and the TrailsMV app—said they complement each other.

"People love a paper map—they can fold it, make notes on it, put it in their pocket. The impressive thing about Will's book is the thought that went into the structure of it. It gives a nice overview of all the conservation properties; everybody loves it. And with the TrailsMV app, it's easier to see where you are and how all the trails connect," she said. "Together, they help the public see how much land is conserved and how it benefits them."

In 2017, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation (SMF) embarked on an ambitious project with Kate Warner of West Tisbury to create a mobile app that people could carry with them as they explored Martha's Vineyard. Warner, the TrailsMV project manager from 2017 to 2020, played a key role in putting the Island's thousands of protected acres and miles of trails into context.

"Through her belief in the vision for a single, practical, and beautiful trail app for



Eastman & Knapp Preserves. Photo by Catherine Hall



the entire Island, and through her dogged determination, Kate saw the app through to its tremendously successful public launch,” SMF president Adam Moore said, noting that Warner walked all 220 miles of Island trails, documenting them for the first TrailsMV app and subsequent updates.

This fall, the Martha’s Vineyard Land Bank will print an updated version of its paper map, featuring 4,037 acres of its own acquisitions and nearly 17,000 other protected acres across Martha’s Vineyard. Flender, now a real estate lawyer in Burlington, Vermont, plans this winter to update *Walking Trails of Martha’s Vineyard*, published by VCS. And SMF’s new TrailsMV mobile app—recently redesigned using ArcGIS (see related article)—will continue to evolve as the Island’s trail system grows.

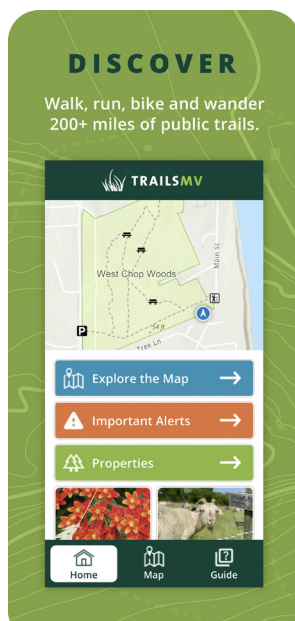
“The Land Bank is working toward a north-south, east-west, coast-to-coast network that will unite the Vineyard’s ‘green archipelago,’” said Lengyel, who is collaborating with the six Vineyard towns and non-profit conservation groups. Bill Veno noted that today’s trail achievements have deep historic roots, built on the decades-long efforts of town boards and committees and organizations like VCS, protecting the public’s right to use ancient ways.

Over the years, the Land Bank map and *Walking Trails* book have played an important role in generating public support for land conservation, inspiring people to explore and learn about the rich diversity of conservation lands and their value to the community at large. TrailsMV’s digital technology adds a new dimension to these longtime favorite maps.

“TrailsMV helps give people the confidence to navigate the Island’s growing network of trails safely because they can see where they are along the way,” said Moore. “By keeping the trails map up to date and accurate in real time, it’s like having a knowledgeable hiking companion as a guide. It opens a new realm of opportunities for people who love the Vineyard’s undeveloped, natural places.”

– Nancy Tutko is project manager for TrailsMV and has been exploring the backwoods and byways of Martha’s Vineyard for 30+ years.

New TrailsMV App



Sheriff’s Meadow Foundation launched the first TrailsMV mobile app, a free interactive guide to the Vineyard’s 220 miles of public trails in 2018. Well-received among walkers, birders, bikers, trail runners, and others, its popularity grew even as our goals for the app outpaced its technology. This past summer we launched a brand new TrailsMV with a dynamic redesign, using the latest in ArcGIS geospatial mapping technology.

The app features easy-to-read trail maps and descriptions for each property, shows your real-time location using GPS satellite technology (no WiFi or cell service needed), and highlights more than 100 conservation properties that are open to the public.

TrailsMV's new features include:

A guide with basic instructions on using the app, with Spanish and Brazilian Portuguese translations.

A resources section with safety tips and helpful links, including the Vineyard Transit Authority’s bus routes.

An events listing featuring nature-related activities open to the public.

More articles about natural history and the outdoors.

An expanded offering of excursions, including the new Aquinnah Headlands walk.

Coming soon:

- Filters to sort properties according to use (and restrictions), such as dogs, hunting, accessibility, horses, family-friendly, bikes, and scenic views.
- Trail segment lengths to better gauge distance.
- A user profile page to save favorite trails, properties, routes, photos, etc.
- An excursion list of accessible properties and trails for people with mobility limitations.
- Individual trail descriptions.

Also in the works:

- Route planning and tracking, so you can monitor and save your progress.
- Enhanced data analytics, so conservation planners can better understand how, when, and where people are using the app to explore the Island’s protected lands and trails.

The new TrailsMV mobile app is made possible through the generous financial support and collaboration of individual donors, the Island’s conservation organizations, the Martha’s Vineyard Commission, the six Vineyard towns, and volunteer photographers. We are grateful to Cape Cod 5, Edey Foundation, Farm Neck Foundation, Martha’s Vineyard Bank Charitable Foundation, and Martha’s Vineyard Community Foundation, for helping underwrite the first phase of the new TrailsMV.

The re-envisioned, updated TrailsMV app, developed in partnership with the Martha’s Vineyard Commission and Blue Raster, is a multi-phase project, with additional features rolling out in the months to come. If you have suggestions or would like to help test the new app, contact trailsmv@sheriffsmeadow.org. We’d love your input!

Note: Download the new TrailsMV mobile app for your phone at the App Store and Google Play. We recommend deleting the old app to avoid confusion, as it is no longer being updated.

2022 Summer Benefit

Approximately 415 people gathered at Nat's Farm, in West Tisbury, on Monday, July 18, for the Sheriff's Meadow Summer Benefit. The following lightly edited remarks were made by SMF Executive Director Adam Moore and Board Chair Peter Getsinger.



Adam Moore

Welcome! Welcome back!

I'm Adam Moore, I am the president of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation, and it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2022 Summer Benefit! Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is the land trust for the island of Martha's Vineyard.

Our mission is to conserve the natural, beautiful, rural landscape and character of Martha's Vineyard for present and future generations.

What we do at Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is simple: We save land, we take care of the land, and we foster a love of nature. What we do is made possible entirely because of your support. Tonight, to you, our supporters, we say thank you.

We are gathered tonight in the area of the Island known as Takemmy, in the town of West Tisbury, on a property called Nat's Farm. On December 28, 1990, Leona Baumgartner Langmuir gave this beautiful land, 50 acres in size, to Sheriff's Meadow Foundation for its permanent conservation. She also gave a Conservation Restriction to the town of West Tisbury and worked closely with the Vineyard Open Land Foundation to create a thoughtful subdivision.

We have been partners in conservation ever since with our neighbors, and especially with Misty Meadows—first under the

ownership of Carol and Jerry Kenney—and then the Misty Meadows Equine Learning Center.

We are gathered on land that Sheriff's Meadow leases to the Misty Meadows Equine Learning Center...

I would like to offer a few additional thank you's. First, I would like to thank our Summer Benefit Committee and especially our Committee Chair, Ellen Harley. I thank Lil Province and Nancy Randall for the beautiful flower arrangements. I thank our volunteers and staff, especially Catherine Hall.

I thank all of the past hosts of our Summer Benefit. Would anyone like to host us in 2023?

Finally, I thank all of our sponsors, donors, and ticket purchasers!



We have just finished a great year. We completed a five-year strategic plan.

We welcomed Tom Hallahan and Catherine Hall to our staff. We congratulate Susan Hughes on her retirement!

With our partners at the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank, we completed a management plan for Squibnocket Pond Reservation and submitted that plan to the Commonwealth for review. We expect approval, and we plan to open the property to the public in 2023.

We upgraded the TrailsMV app. For the new app, I thank Chris Seidel and the Martha's Vineyard Commission, Project

Manager Nancy Tutko, Alan Rappaport for his vision, and all of our financial sponsors and contributors.



We completed our *For Future Generations* campaign. Thanks to the campaign to conserve Squibnocket Pond Reservation, and to generous donations of land, we raised more than double our goal.

In the coming year:

- ◆ We will open Squibnocket Pond Reservation to the public.
- ◆ We will create a universal access trail at Huckleberry Barrens.
- ◆ We will open a new trailhead and trail at Caroline Tuthill Preserve.
- ◆ We will implement our plan for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.
- ◆ We will begin work on a maintenance barn.
- ◆ And we will conserve more land.

Conserving land takes time. It takes patience. And it takes sustaining relationships between landowning families and land conservation organizations.

Tonight, it is my great honor to introduce to you a man who exemplifies the relationships between families and Sheriff's Meadow Foundation that results in conserving land forever. Peter Getsinger and his family have given land to Sheriff's Meadow. Their relationship with Sheriff's Meadow spans decades and spans generations. Peter, we are grateful to you, and to your family, for all that you have done for conservation and for Sheriff's Meadow.



Peter Getsinger

Thank you, Adam, for your introduction, for what you and your family do for Sheriff's Meadow and Martha's Vineyard. Whether it be here, the high school, or the hospital, your commitment is enormous. The board deeply appreciates your fourteen years of service to this organization, and conservation, broadly on these islands.

It is important to thank three individuals who are leaving the board, and to recognize a new board member.

Susan Crampton, in addition to serving on the executive, audit, nomination, personnel, and property management committees, you provided the leadership for us to be initially credited by the Land Trust Alliance, and once again last year to be reaccredited. You have always been a very sharp pencil from an accounting standpoint. You have and will be a valued friend to this organization for years to come. The only regret I have is



that I never had an opportunity to know your husband Steve, a former president of this board.

Keith Dodge joined the board in 2013. He is an avid walker of our trails and served as a dedicated member of our education and property management committees. Keith's perspective as an educator has been immensely valuable to our education program and helped to reshape aspects of our strategic plan implemented recently by the board.

Bob Egerton, you chaired the agricultural committee well for a number of years, and served on the executive, finance, property management, and nominating committees. The board has always counted on your incisive thoughts, attention to governance issues, and detail. Importantly, you have never been a shrinking violet when it comes to difficult decisions that needed to be dealt with. In sum, you have been a guiding hand to this institution, and we thank you.

And we are delighted to welcome Robin Rivera, who now lives on Martha's Vineyard full time with her husband George. Robin is an abutter to the Freeman Hancock Woodlot in Chilmark; she is a member of the Good Soles walking group, and has been a consistent supporter of SMF for many years. Please join me in welcoming Robin to the Sheriff's Meadow board.

It has been a busy two plus years for Sheriff's Meadow, together with our partners at the MV Land Bank, the Kennedy Schlossberg Family, and the very generous contributions from many of you, we were able to conserve Red Gate Farm, protecting over 300 acres in Aquinnah in perpetuity. And we will shortly close on a property on Chappy, partnering again with the Land Bank.

We completed our five-year capital campaign which exceeded our loftiest goals. Finally, this spring, we completed our strategic plan that will guide Sheriff's Meadow Foundation for the next five years after a very thorough and professional process led by Tom Enders and Carla Taylor-Pla. It is important to note that all these projects spanned or will span the terms of multiple presidents.

An enduring strength of Sheriff's Meadow is the quality of our staff and board, and their commitment to follow the organization's mission statement: "to conserve the natural, beautiful, rural landscape and character of Martha's Vineyard." We have board mem-

bers from each of the six towns, who have a wide diversity of experience—whether they be farmers, financiers, lawyers, or landscape designers. And we keep in mind the necessary balance between those that live, work, and raise families here, and seasonal residents. Maintaining that balance, the importance of thinking local, and having a board that is conservation minded and mirrors the Island's interests is foundational to our core.

In the late 1920s my grandfather received a call from his brother-in-law, telling him of



some property that was for sale on Chappaquiddick, and he suggested my grandfather consider purchasing it. There was no ferry in those days, no ferry lines, and no electricity on Chappy. What we called "the Big House" had kerosene lamps, a windmill to drive the water pump, and ice was delivered by boat twice a week. I can only imagine that he bought the property to get his family away from the summer heat, congestion and pollution of Yonkers and New York City.

It was a much simpler life, very different, much more tranquil, and while it seems a matter of course today, almost a responsibility to complain about the crowds, the traffic, and how much things have changed, the essence of what drew my family here almost a hundred years ago, is still what brings us here today, whether to work, experiment with a different environment, or come as summer residents to the beauty this island affords.

There isn't a day that goes by that I don't feel extraordinarily fortunate to be part of this organization and these incredibly fragile and protected islands. Perhaps, the more things seem to change, the more we seem to appreciate the natural beauty and



Event Photos by Sara Piazza

the ongoing importance of conserving more land, so that future generations can enjoy more than what we are able to do today.

Some years ago, I asked Edo Potter, who was one of the principal architects of the conservation movement that took place in the 1960s and 70s: “What would this island do without the forward thinking of her and others of that greatest generation?” Her reply was direct, “What about people like you, Peter?” So, in closing, I want to ask you who are here tonight, “What about you?” The need to conserve land on

Martha’s Vineyard is urgent, and the time to redouble our focus is now. The Red Gate acquisition saved 300 acres of land, but that is only 5% of what we need to do to get to our goal of placing 50% of the island in conservation. The next ten to twenty years will determine the quality of life here for future generations.

So, with that, thank you, for all you all do for this organization, and for the Island. On behalf of Sheriff’s Meadow, I hope you have a very enjoyable evening.

Foundation Elects New Director



Robin Rivera is an Emmy Award-winning media producer and a principal of Digital Laundry, a media production, studio and archiving services company based in New York’s East Harlem community (but now working remotely). A native of Los Angeles, she graduated from Stanford University (B.S. Mechanical Engineering) and the University of Southern California (Master of Urban and Regional Planning). While volunteering for the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, she was invited to move to Lausanne, Switzerland to work for the International Olympic Committee. There, she spent three years as the English-language editor of the Olympic Movement’s monthly magazine, the Olympic Review. Robin then moved to New York in 1989

to work for ABC Sports, first as a features producer, then a programming executive. She was most recently the co-treasurer of the board of Civitas, an organization dedicated to addressing quality of life issues in East Harlem and the Upper East Side of Manhattan. From 2017 to 2020, she served on the Board of Directors of the New York Junior League. She received the NYJL’s Outstanding Volunteer and Outstanding Sustainer awards in 1998 and 2019, respectively. Having purchased their Quansoo (Chilmark) property in 2004, and having enjoyed long weekends to entire summers there, George and Robin moved to Chilmark full-time in early 2020. Currently, Robin is also a member of the Chilmark Town Affairs Council.

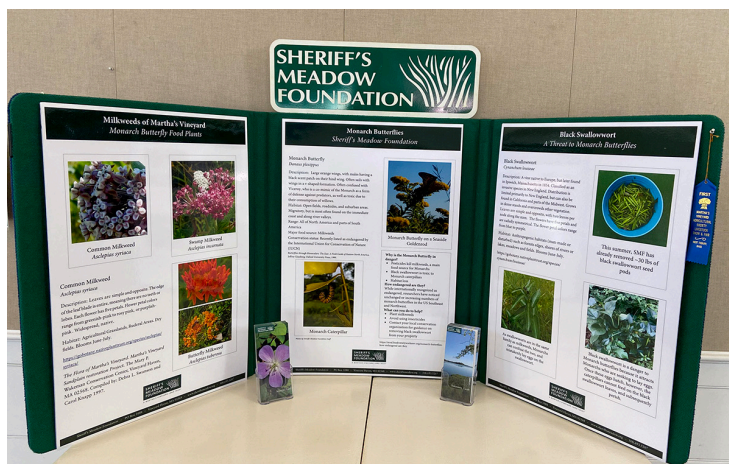


Photo by Catherine Hall

Blue Ribbon Display at Agricultural Fair

Sheriff’s Meadow Foundation is delighted to report that it won a blue ribbon for its display at the 160th Martha’s Vineyard Agricultural Fair! The display was created by Habitat Management Intern Ariane Bretl and Land Conservation Assistant Noah Froh. Featuring compelling photographs and pithy text, the display described the milkweeds of Martha’s Vineyard, monarch butterflies, and a nefarious invasive plant, black swallow-wort. This summer SMF removed 30 pounds of black swallow-wort seed pods to help control the spread of this plant.



On the Trails ~ Oak Galls

By Catherine Hall



Caroline Tuthill Preserve. Photo by Catherine Hall

Have you ever been exploring in your backyard, or perhaps along an SMF trail, and seen curious little orbs on the ground or hanging from an oak tree branch? From

afar they may look like small apples—but they are actually a nursery of sorts for a tiny stingless wasp, *Amphibolips confluenta*, known as the oak apple gall wasp.

Rather than working to construct a nest of her own, in the springtime, a female gall wasp will gently inject her eggs into the wood of an oak tree's limbs. The oak tree then deploys a defense mechanism which causes the area to swell and form what are called galls. These galls provide the larvae with protection and nutrients as they develop inside the structure.

The gall begins as green and spongy in the spring during the larval and pupal stages. It will turn brown and papery after the adult wasp burrows a hole to emerge in summer, and drops from the tree in fall or winter. The galls are considered safe to handle once

they are brown and have a hole (or several) signifying that the wasps have vacated the structure. Aside from being tiny marvels of nature, oak galls have also played a significant role in history.

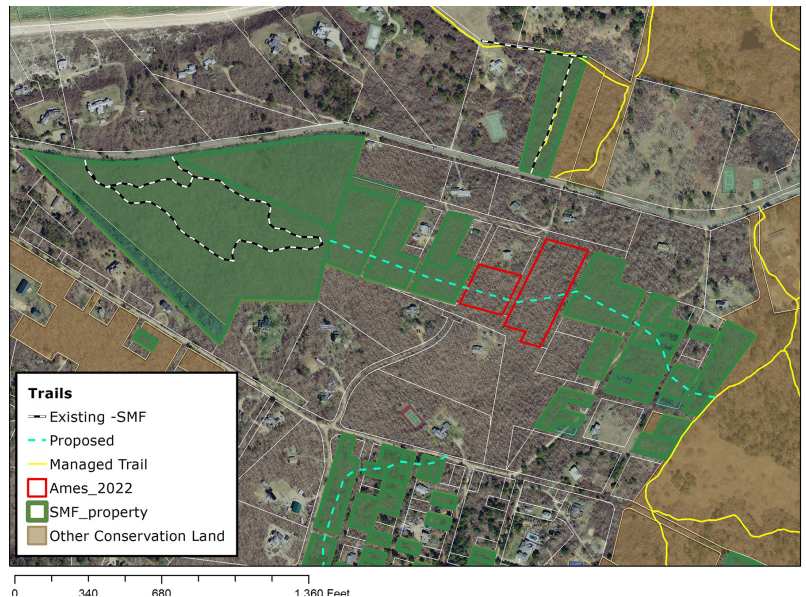
Oak galls have been used to make ink since Ancient Roman times. According to an article in *The Huntington*, "Many medieval scribes walked around with a kit that included a pen knife, several quills, and an inkhorn full of gall ink." Ink from galls was also popular during Colonial times. An article in *revolutionarywarjournal.com* explains how ink derived from galls was used by soldiers during the Revolutionary War: "Many used powdered ink – iron gall ink to be specific, which was made liquid and ready for use by just adding rain water, beer, or white wine."

Ames Property Conserved

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is pleased to announce that, on August 11, 2022, it purchased a three-acre property on Chappaquiddick in partnership with the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission. The seller was David Ames, Jr., and the purchase price was \$677,625. Of this amount, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation paid \$291,625 for a 43% interest in the property, and the Land Bank paid \$386,000 for a 57% interest in the property.

The conserved land will host the last, critical link in the long-planned cross-Chappaquiddick trail. By connecting to other conserved lands, the newly-conserved property will connect the Slater Preserve to the west, with the Land Bank's Three Ponds Reservation to the west. One will now be able to walk on a trail from the Slater Preserve all the way to Wasque Point.

The new property directly abuts some 20 acres of land that David Ames and his family have donated to Sheriff's Meadow Foundation over a period of decades. The Foundation expresses its sincere gratitude to David and his family for their conservation vision.



Conserving this land was made possible by the generosity of donors and partners. Sheriff's Meadow Foundation gives a very special thanks to the Chappaquiddick Open Space Committee and its chair, Rev. Cynthia Hubbard, to Jonathan Cobb for initiating this acquisition, and to all those who donated to this property purchase. We thank our partner, the Martha's Vineyard

Land Bank Commission, for a second successful partnership acquisition. And we thank Katherine Donahue of Sandpiper Realty for bringing this purchase to our attention in 2021.

We anticipate opening a new trail on this property to public use at some point in 2022, following the approval of a property management plan.

Sheriff's Meadow Property Updates

Caroline Tuthill Preserve New Trailhead



This summer, SMF staff created a new trailhead at Caroline Tuthill Preserve. Now visitors are able to park in a safe, eight vehicle parking area off the Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road.

Middle Road Sanctuary

In March 2022, SMF staff installed a new trail at Middle Road Sanctuary. Blazed with green paint, this new trail connects the red-purple trail to the yellow trail, making a new 1.25 mile loop walk possible.

Squibnocket Pond Reservation

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation and the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission completed a management plan for Squibnocket Pond Reservation in December, 2021. After a public hearing in December, the plan was sent to the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs for review and approval. Once approved, we will apply for local permits and commence the needed work. We hope to open the property to the public in 2023. If you have any questions, please contact Adam Moore at moore@sheriffsmeadow.org or Kristen Geagan at geagan@sheriffsmeadow.org.

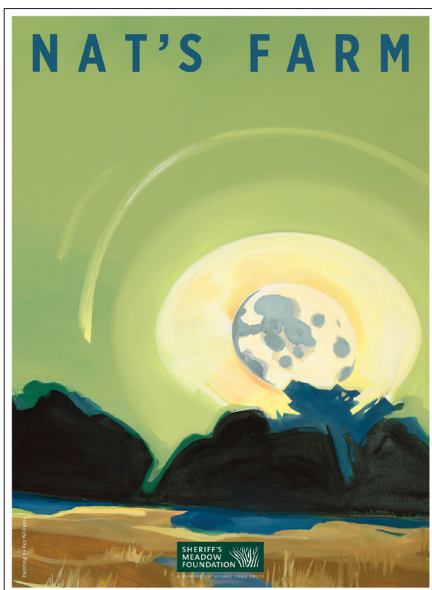
Universal Access Trail Grant

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is pleased to announce that, on June 28, 2022, it was awarded a grant of \$23,700 by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), through funding provided by the federal Recreational Trails Program, for the creation of a universal access trail at Huckleberry Barrens.

This new trail will be created at the Huckleberry Barrens property in the Katama section of Edgartown. It will be designed to be accessible to those who use wheelchairs and other mobility aids. In addition, a permaculture demonstration will accompany the trail. Envisioned by Sheriff's Meadow Board member and landscape designer Tara Gayle, the permaculture demonstration will feature specimens of native plants suitable for growing in home gardens. Such plants include: highbush and lowbush blueberry, beach plum, hazelnut, and various varieties of the property's namesake plant, huckleberry.

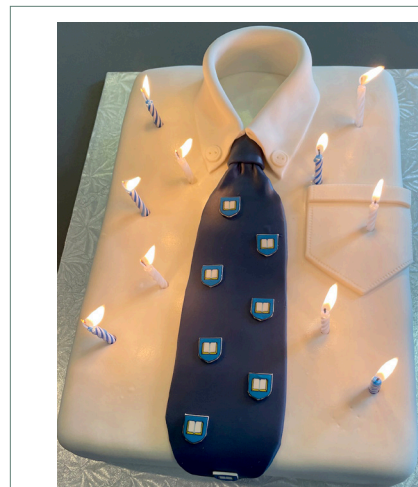
Sheriff's Meadow Foundation anticipates creating the trail in the fall of 2022. We thank DCR for this generous grant.

Newest Rez Williams Poster



Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is pleased to announce that it has created a new poster. The 14" x 19" poster depicts Nat's Farm in West Tisbury. Featuring a section of an oil painting by Rez Williams, the poster was designed by Kathleen Forsythe. The poster is the third in the annual poster series commissioned by Sheriff's Meadow Foundation in 2020.

We are pleased to provide the Nat's Farm poster free of charge to any donor. If you would like a copy of this poster, or of the previous posters featuring Squibnocket Pond Reservation or Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary, please contact Advancement Coordinator Catherine Hall at hall@sheriffsmeadow.org.



Adam Moore extends a sincere thank you to Val Cakes for the wonderfully-designed birthday cake!



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

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Upcoming Events

GUIDED PUBLIC WALKS - Please contact Catherine Hall to reserve a spot and receive parking information at, 508.693.5207 or hall@sheriffsmeadow.org.

West Chop Woods

Saturday, October 15, 2022
10:00 am-12:00 pm

Located less than a mile and a half from downtown Vineyard Haven. Meet SMF staff at the trailhead off of Franklin Street to explore the pitch pine oak forest and old cart paths of West Chop Woods.

Phillips Preserve

Saturday, November 12, 2022
10:00 am-12:00 pm

Join Sheriff's Meadow Foundation staff for a walk at Phillips Preserve in Tisbury. Walk the pitch pine-oak woodlands of Phillips Preserve to the shore of Lake Tashmoo. Take Lower Lambert's Cove Rd., turn right onto Northern Pines Rd., continue and SMF staff will direct you to parking.

Woodger Trail

Sunday, December 11, 2022
10:00 am-12:00 pm

Located on Chappaquiddick Island, this beautiful path skirts the edge of the Royal and Ancient Chappaquiddick Links, the Chappy Golf Course, and connects sections of the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank's Cove Meadow Preserve.

Land Sought for Maintenance Barn

The Sheriff's Meadow Foundation Strategic Plan identified construction of a maintenance barn to house tractors, tools, and equipment as a top priority. This structure will have heat, electricity, hot and cold running water, a bathroom, and office space for the field staff.

We are now seeking a convenient, mid-island location for this barn. Please contact Adam Moore if you have land that you might wish to donate or sell. Furthermore, if you own land that hosts an existing barn, and might be contemplating a sale or donation of your land, please contact us. Thank you.