

SHERIFF'S
MEADOW
FOUNDATION



A MARTHA'S VINEYARD LAND TRUST

Newsletter

Spring 2024

LITTLE BEACH

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A MARTHA'S VINEYARD LAND TRUST

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From the President, *Adam R. Moore*

“Woven With Wood: Trees and Interdependence”



Pimpneymouse Farm. *Photo by Adam Moore*

This talk was given at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard, on April 21, 2024, in celebration of Earth Day.

Trees are my favorite subject. Fruit trees. Shade trees. Timber trees. Elms and oaks and cedars and sumacs. But what do we do about trees? How do they relate to each other?

How do we relate to trees? I think about trees all the time. In the morning, at work, at the dinner table – they even wake me up at night.

Let's think about trees in three ways. First, how do we depend on trees? Second, how do trees depend on each other – how are they interdependent? And third, are we agents of their interdependence?

If it is any comfort, questions about trees are nothing new. To consider how we depend on trees, let's go all the way back. You know this story. It's about a couple who had trouble with trees. It comes from Genesis.

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying,
“Of every tree of the garden thou mayst freely eat,
but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil,
thou shalt not eat of it, for in the day thou eatest thereof
thou shalt surely die.”

We all know how this worked out. The devil took the form of a serpent. The serpent tempted Eve and Adam, and convinced them that, if they ate the apple, they would not die, but rather, they would have knowledge, and would be like God, and God did not want that.

They chose. They ate the apple. That was the wrong choice. And so that they would not eat from the Tree of Life, and therefore live forever, they were cast out of the Garden of Eden.

We like to believe that we are wise now, and that we would make the right choice.



Would we? If Eve were to offer me that tempting apple? I must say, I would make the wrong choice, and take a bite.

The trees in the garden were planted for our sustenance. We may have had to learn that the hard way, but we now know that, whether the trees are planted in a garden or living wild in the woods, we utterly depend on them.

We know that, through photosynthesis, trees produce oxygen. The very air that we breathe comes from trees. There may not be a Tree of Life, but trees give us the breath of life.

Trees give us fruit: apples and pears and peaches and plums. Trees give us nuts: chestnuts and walnuts and almonds. Trees give us



West Chop Woods. Photo by Alice June Thompson

medicine – tea from the sassafras and aspirin from the willow. Trees give us chocolate! Trees give us coffee!

Trees give us water. They break the force of the rain, and the water drips gently into the humus of the forest floor, which soaks up the water like a sponge. We tap this filtered water with our wells.

Trees give us wood. Wood is good. I feel good, about cutting trees that ought to be cut. When a pitch pine, like the ones right over there at West Chop Woods, is infested with the southern pine beetle, you can sense the suffering of the tree.

Up and down the tree are a thousand globs of sap, and in each glob is a tiny, tiny beetle. This is the tree's effort to fight off the beetle infestation. It tries to pitch the beetle out, from under the bark. Imagine if you were that tree, with all of those beetles crawling under your skin! That is what is happening beneath the bark of the tree.

But there are so many beetles, burrowing around under there, that the tree is overwhelmed, and dies. Cutting the tree – and the other ones about to suffer that fate – is an act of mercy.

And I feel good about sawing those logs and using that wood. We didn't want the trees to die, but they did, and the wood is a gift.

Even though it is good to leave a few standing dead trees, here and there, for wildlife habitat, when so many are dying or about to die, that is a different matter.

I think it is frankly disrespectful not to try and use that tree. It is disrespectful, and perhaps immoral, not to do so, when every day we bring over truckloads of lumber from who knows where.

So, we know that we depend on trees. Yet how do trees depend on each other? Well, the trees are here, quite on their own. They evolved long before humans did, first the conifers, and then the deciduous trees.

Back to Genesis, the story of Adam and Eve the tree of knowledge is actually the second story of creation. The first story is different. In the first story, God created people on the sixth day, but God created trees on the third.

On the third day, God said,
 “Let the earth bring forth grass,
 the herb yielding seed,
 and the fruit tree yielding fruit after its kind,
 whose seed is in itself,
 upon the earth,
 and it was so.”

I think of the first story of creation as the story of evolution, where the days represent epochs of time, during some of which time the trees evolved. In evolution, and in this first story of creation, trees were here long before we were.

Trees depend on each other. They are interdependent. Peter Wohlleben, in his book *The Hidden Life of Trees*, best describes the way trees interact with each other, generally, in a helpful way. It is important to note, though, that many of the interactions between different species of trees are competitive, not cooperative.

How do we know that they compete? Well, in the forest, they grow upwards, toward the light, each striving to be taller than its neighbor. And they have different strategies for growth. The pitch pine,



American Beech, Cedar Tree Neck. Photo by Stephen Chapman

for example, aims to be the first. The wind blows tiny seeds from its cones. These scatter, and sprout upon any sunny patch of bare soil. Cut the tree, and it sprouts from the stump.

Fire? They are ready for that. They have sealed cones. In a fire, the sap that seals the cone melts, and the seeds are released, making it the first tree to grow after the fire.

Continue on page 6.

Species Spotlight: Hazelnuts

Corylus americana and *Corylus cornuta*

By Kristen Geagan



Beaked hazelnut. Photo by Julie Russel



American hazelnut. Photo by Kristen Geagan



American Hazelnut. Photo by Kristen Geagan

Two species of hazelnuts (American hazelnut – *Corylus americana* and Beaked hazelnut - *Corylus cornuta*) grow on the Vineyard.

Although smaller than the European species that is commercially produced, both of our native hazelnuts are edible. The shrubs have two different types of flowers borne on the same shrub. The male flower are catkins, and the female flower are small red filaments that look like little starfish. Both species often grow in thick shrub thickets and bloom early in the spring, the nuts ripen at the end of the summer into the fall. Each individual red filament is a separate

flower, and if pollinated becomes a nut. It's amazing that such small flowers become large tasty snacks! Beaked hazelnut is commonly found growing on Chappaquiddick at the Packard Preserve and American hazelnut is common islandwide. Quansoo Farm is one of the best places to find American hazelnut. Rarely do both species grow together; however, you can find them growing side by side at Tilghman Preserve on Chappaquiddick.

Beware: the beaked hazelnut pods are covered with irritating prickly hairs, so wearing gloves is advised!

Newest Trail Opened on Chappaquiddick

Ames Preserve

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is happy to report that it has opened a new trail on the Ames Preserve on Chappaquiddick. This trail connects the Slater Preserve to the west with the Land Bank's Three Ponds Reservation to the east, by Brines Pond. The trail connection was made possible with the 2022 purchase of the land of David Ames by the Land Bank and by Sheriff's Meadow, with the support of Chappy Fund donors, and also made possible by the additional lands that David Ames and his family donated to Sheriff's Meadow over many years. The creation of the Ames trail closes a critical missing link in the cross-Chappaquiddick trail system. We hope that you enjoy hiking the new trail!





Summer Benefit at Stonewall Farm

Monday, July 15 ~ 6:00 to 9:30 pm



Please join Sheriff's Meadow Foundation and our hosts, Ellen and Ed Harley, at their beautiful West Tisbury property for the 2024 Annual Summer Benefit. Enjoy the pastoral hills and meadows of enchanting Stonewall Farm, while reconnecting with friends and fellow supporters of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation.

The cocktail reception will begin at 6pm, with dinner to follow at 7:30pm. Guests will enjoy a rustic Vineyard-inspired dinner prepared by Buckley's Gourmet Catering and there will be brief remarks from Board Chair Alan Rappaport and President Adam Moore.

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.

Contact Advancement Coordinator Catherine Hall at hall@sheriffsmeadow.org with any questions regarding the Summer Benefit. Thank you!

2024 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 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 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 advertisements. Please notify us if you wish to remain anonymous.

“Woven With Wood: Trees and Interdependence”



White Oak, Quansoo Farm. Photo by Stephen Chapman

Continued from page 3.

The beech has another strategy. The beech is patient. It waits. It is shade tolerant, so its seedling will grow, from a beech nut, in the shade of other trees. When a tree above it dies, the beech grows upward, reaching for the light. And then, it begins to grow outward. It grows branches, up and down its stem, that cast shade.

Its roots send out shoots that grow into other beech trees. The single beech becomes a grove of beeches. And these beeches cast shade so deep, that no other plants can grow beneath them. In addition, their roots produce a toxin that is poisonous to other plants. Beeches help each other, but they don't necessarily help other trees.

Yet trees do cooperate. When they grow in tight quarters, they shelter each other from the wind. They cause each other to grow, straight, upward, towards the sky. They share nutrients with their roots. One tree that is thriving can, through its roots, transfer nutrients to a neighboring tree that is suffering. A tree that has plenty of water can offer water to one that is thirsty.

They form mycorrhizal associations with soil fungi. Through their mycelia, the fungi vastly expand the absorbing capacity of the tree roots. The fungi extract a price from the tree, but for the tree, it's worth it.

And – this is really fascinating – trees communicate. By emitting ethers, trees speak, with these scented gases, and help each other out. Let's say a family of giraffes begins to eat the leaves of a group of trees. The trees don't like this. So, they give off a scent, and other trees, downwind, notice. These downwind trees produce chemicals that make their leaves taste bad. So when the giraffes reach these other trees, they try a few leaves, they are disgusted, and walk off, and leave them alone.

So, trees are interdependent. Yet they also engage animals in that interdependence. Do they engage us in that interdependence? Let's return to Genesis for a final time.

God said to the man and woman:
“Have dominion over the fish of the sea,
and over the fowl of the air,
and over every living thing
that moveth upon the earth.”

But not over the trees. What is significant here is what is left unsaid – that we were not given dominion over the trees.

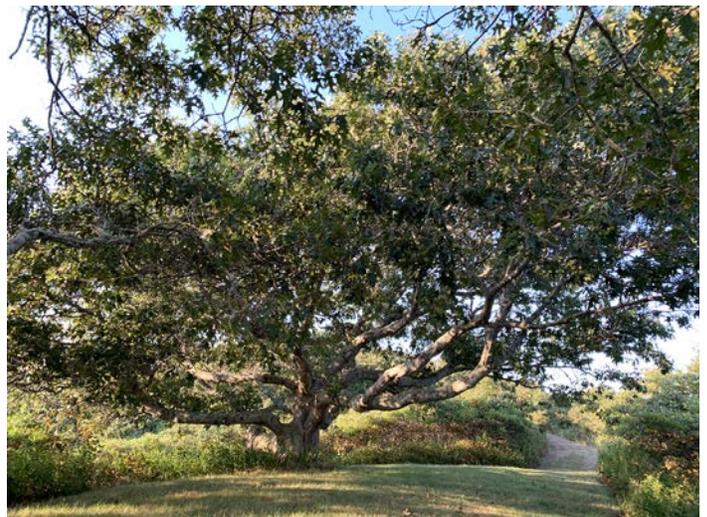
And here comes the fascinating part about the interdependence of trees. Trees use animals to do their work. Let's consider oak trees and squirrels. In the fall, oaks drop acorns. Squirrels scurry around, gather acorns, and bury them, saving them for later.

The squirrels actually remember where they buried these acorns. They spend the winter eating the acorns. The ones that the squirrels forget, are the ones that germinate, and grow into oaks.

But there's more to it than that. If the oak tree produced the same number of acorns each year, the squirrels would adapt, and have enough babies so that there are always enough acorns for all of the squirrels, and the squirrels would live happily ever after.

But if that were the case, none of the acorns would survive and grow into oaks.

To overcome this, the oaks have what are called “mast” years. In a mast year, all the oaks in a given area – the island, for example – decide to produce a bounty of acorns. We don't know how they mutually agree to do this, and we don't know when they will have a mast year, but that is what they do.



Black Oak, Squibnocket Pond Reservation. Photo by Kate Feiffer

In that mast year, the ground will be strewn with acorns. Walking on a path is like walking on the living room rug when the kids are playing marbles. The squirrels bury the acorns, but there are so many acorns, that there are more than the squirrels can eat. So these forgotten acorns sprout, and begin growing into oaks. The squirrels, then, have more babies than usual, because life is so



good. But they have made the wrong choice. For the next fall, the oaks have a dearth of acorns. And the squirrels go hungry, and many of them die. The squirrel population crashes. So the oaks use the squirrels to plant the acorns, and they also keep the squirrel population in check. This is how trees use animals to do their bidding.

How about that? I remember learning that, and thinking, wow, the oaks are using those squirrels. And I felt quite superior. But then, many years later, I started to think, wait a minute...I wonder if those oaks...are using me? After all, the squirrels ate the acorn, but we ate the apple...

Do plants use people? They do. Michael Pollan explores this theme in the *Omnivore's Dilemma*, where he describes the society that we have built up around cultivating one plant – corn. We are not really cultivating corn. It is corn that is using us to propagate itself.

I started to wonder this about trees. Consider one of our native oaks – *Quercus alba*, the white oak. White oak is the wood for tight cooperage, and white oak is the wood for whiskey. The rules for bourbon require that it be stored in new barrels... made only of white oak. Well, the oaks are on to this. And those who make whiskey realized that, in the not too distant future, there will be a shortage of white oaks, if we keep going at the rate we are going. So there is now a new, multistate program, with a Board of Directors, and a conservation plan, called the White Oak Initiative.

This might be the forward thinking of the whiskey makers. But on the other hand, this might really be the subtle way that oaks, through whiskey, use people to plant and grow and conserve and sustain more white oaks.

I've started to wonder if the trees use me. I was going to go to law school, but then

I went to forestry school. Then I thought about going to business school, but then I ended up working for a conservation organization. Could the trees be using me? I've come to conclude that maybe they are. And I submit. I yield. I have no dominion over trees. And I am happy to do their sylvan bidding, in whatever way I might discern that that is.

Trees are greater than we are. They are bigger. They are older. They have their wooden ways that we are only beginning to know, and will never fully know.

So with awe, with gratitude, with humility, and with reverence, on this Earth Day, and on this Arbor Day, may we all be the servants of trees.

Curious about Walking Poles?

Learn about Walking Poles * Wednesday, June 12, 10-11:30 a.m. * Polly Hill Arboretum, West Tisbury

By Nancy Tutko



Judy Buss on Chappaquiddick. Photo by Nancy Tutko

Learn how to use walking poles for greater stability, strength, and balance on Wednesday, June 12, at Polly Hill Arboretum in West Tisbury. Sheriff's Meadow and Trails-

MV will present two hands-on learning sessions, free and open to the public.

The morning one, from 10-11:30, is geared toward people who are interested in learning more about walking poles and how to use them. No admission fee or advance registration is needed, and all skill and ability levels are welcome. Refreshments, maps, and suggestions for easy island walks will be available.

The afternoon session, from 1-2:30, is geared toward professionals and volunteers who work with councils on aging, balance classes, and other support services, an informal "train the trainer" overview. The instructors for both sessions, certified by the American Nordic Walking Association, are Lauren DeLong, owner of York Nordic, and Carla Fogaren, founder of Cape Cod Nordic Walking Club.

The Martha's Vineyard Bank Charitable Foundation this year awarded Sheriff's Meadow Foundation and TrailsMV a grant to purchase specially designed walking poles to help seniors and people with mobility limitations get around more safely on the island's conservation properties and other outdoor areas. The walking poles will be available for use through the island's Councils on Aging.

Polly Hill Arboretum is located at 795 State Road in West Tisbury. Other event sponsors include the Martha's Vineyard Falls Prevention Coalition, Healthy Aging MV, NAACP of Martha's Vineyard, Edey Foundation, Cape Cod Five Foundation, The Pawnee House, Tisbury Printer, BeWell-MV, and Hanschka Fine Metalwork. For more information on the June 12 event, email trailsmv@sheriffsmeadow.org.

Bravo!

Stewardship of the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation Properties

By Susan Hughes with Staff input

Did you realize that Sheriff's Meadow Foundation owns 77 preserves encompassing 2,402 acres? Sheriff's Meadow also holds 42 conservation restrictions over an additional 986 acres.

The public enjoys access to most of these beautiful properties, free of charge, year-round. We consistently strive to add new trails and upgrade the existing ones. Where appropriate, we are making

changes to certain trails to make them more accessible.

How does this happen? The staff at SMF includes a team of decidedly caring, smart, talented, and conservation-loving individuals. They have varied backgrounds ranging from environmental science, to resource management and conservation, to forestry, to expertise in invasive plant management. SMF also has

capable design and building personnel with experience operating heavy machinery and specialized equipment.

On any given day, the staff could be mowing fields and meadows, surveying land for a new trail, building bridges or repairing boardwalks, clearing trails of debris, inspecting property for invasive species or monitoring shorebird habitat.



Kristen Geagan, Director of Stewardship, and Julie Russell, MV Landbank Ecologist, are working on the permitting for Squibnocket Pond Reservation. The 320 acre property is a mosaic of various habitats, undulating from dune to cranberry bog to shrubland to woodland. All of the activities proposed in the management plan have to be mapped and calculated in relation to the resource areas protected under the Wetlands Protection Act.

They have worked tirelessly to prepare a project description that includes details on trails, boardwalks, trailheads, habitat management and views and reduces any adverse impacts to the rare species and sensitive habitats present on the reservation.



Liz Loucks, with intern Alexa Thorne, checking for southern pine beetles.



Joe Rogers and Peter Rodegast repair the bridge over the Tiasquam river.



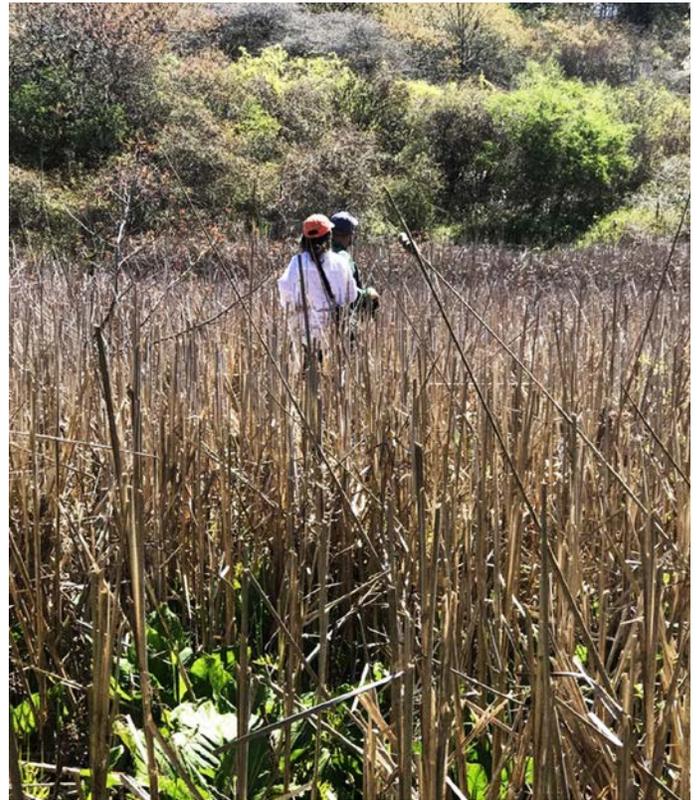
Noah Froh working with BiodiversityWorks to install predator-detering gridlines to protect shorebirds at Little Beach.



Liz Loucks mowing the meadow at Priscilla Hancock Meadow. SMF follows best practices for timing the mowing of its fields and shrublands. The timing is affected by the natural community type, rare species presence, habitat goals, and historic use.



Staff laying down straw-based erosion control blanket at Champ Family Preserve.



Kristen Geagan and Harrison Kiesel, MV Land Bank Land Superintendent, performing the alternatives analysis for siting trails within the riverfront at Squibnocket Pond Reservation.



Joe Rogers preparing the universal access trail at Huckleberry Barrens.



Tick Safety on the Trail: What to Know Before You Head Out

By Nancy Tutko

The 200+ miles of public walking, hiking, and biking trails across Martha’s Vineyard are a welcome sanctuary, offering ocean breezes, open vistas, the wonder of flora and fauna changing from season to season, and the ability to enjoy time outdoors with friends and family.



Summer is high season for ticks, however, and they abound here. Though ticks have long been on the rise in New England, joining deer ticks and wood ticks out on the trails, meadows, beaches, and woodlands these days are lone star ticks, a relative newcomer with potentially serious consequences. But it’s possible to avoid Lyme and other tick-related diseases with a little advance planning and vigilance about tick safety when you’re outdoors.

- Wear light-colored clothing to spot ticks more easily.
- Treat shoes, clothing, and gear with permethrin.
- 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 with soap and a washcloth 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 Off, Cutter, and Ben’s.

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-greasy, and does not dissolve plastics or other synthetics.

Many land managers, wildlife biologists, landscapers, and others who spend a lot of time outdoors have turned to permethrin, a chemical treatment for clothing, boots, and other gear.

What is permethrin?

It’s a highly effective pesticide, a synthetic chemical similar to the natural insecticide pyrethrum, found in chrysanthemum flowers. In its commercial form, permethrin is applied to clothes and shoes to kill ticks 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. Biologist Richard Johnson carries a lint roller to quickly sweep ticks off his legs when he’s out in the field, and views permethrin-treated socks as an excellent first line of defense.

“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,” he 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.”

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 well too.

- 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 possible.
- 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 experience fever and/or chills, aches and pains, or rash.

For more information about tick safety, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/index.html>.

Information sources for this article include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Consumer Reports, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Prevention Magazine, and Wikipedia.

Tick chart courtesy of the CDC.

TrailsMV downloads hit the 10,000 mark!

Since its launch in July 2022, the free TrailsMV mobile app has reached thousands of people interested in walking, cycling, running, and exploring the island’s conservation properties. This spring, the app surpassed 10,000 downloads. Nearly all TrailsMV users hail from the United States, followed by the U.K., Canada, Germany, and Australia. The vast majority—about 9,400—use Apple devices, with some 700 Android users. The interactive map is the app’s headliner, naturally, and other popular features include property descriptions, excursions, and events. Look for expanded features, including new excursions and accessibility info, in the months to come.



Sheriff's Meadow Foundation's Second Annual Trail Run Saturday, September 7, 2024

This year's race will take place at Caroline Tuthill Preserve and is open to all runners and walkers. The run will cover a 5k route within the Preserve, over our trails, across hilly terrain, with a short stretch along the bike path. More information and applications will be available later this summer.

Timing will be performed by Martha's Vineyard Running Company.

Winging It! Year in Review

By Catherine Hall and Noah Froh

In partnership with the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society (MVAS), Sheriff's Meadow Foundation's 4-H club *Winging It!* began its second year in November



Winging It! Middle Road Sanctuary. Photo by Catherine Hall

2023. Led by staff members Catherine Hall and Noah Froh, and volunteer Sophie Pittaluga, the crew (ages 8-11) expanded their topic from birding to a broader focus on trail stewardship, conservation, and environmental science.

Kicking off the year, the crew met at Caroline Tuthill Preserve in Edgartown. Here, they learned the basics about navigating the trails and being good stewards of the land.

In December, the crew met at Sheriff's Meadow Sanctuary in Edgartown for a

loop walk to view birds on Eel Pond. They braved the cold to learn more about reading and utilizing maps, and even navigated their way to Little Beach for some exploration.

In January and February, the group met at the Wakeman Center where we participated in lessons, art projects, and games about birds and tracking animals. We played Bird Song Hero (a group favorite!), examined various specimens like skeletons, owl pellets, and otter scat, and walked around Cranberry Acres in search of animal evidence.

In March, the crew met at the Phillips Preserve in Tisbury to learn about forest health and management. They were able to see first-hand the devastation being caused by the southern pine beetle to the pitch pine forests and SMF's quick response to the outbreak. Noah described all of the work that SMF has been doing to take inventory of the forest, marking trees for cutting, and the plans for the sawing of the felled trees. He taught the group how to use calipers for measuring the diameter of a tree; explained how plot inventories are recorded; and showed the curious group how the pitch comes out of the tree to trap the beetles as a response to injury.

Starting the spring off at Middle Road Sanctuary in Chilmark, the group met in April to install a new book for the storybook walk featured on the Red Trail. Working in pairs, members took turns using a drill to disassemble and reassemble the boards and attach the pages of the new

book, *The Second Life of Trees* by Aimée Bissonette. We were very fortunate to have a special guest with us that day - Lucy Grinnan, 4-H Coordinator for MVAS! Lucy had a wonderful time meeting all of the kids and getting to experience a day of *Winging It!*

One of our favorite group outings took place the first weekend in May, at Little Beach in Edgartown. Silas Beers, Wildlife Technician for BiodiversityWorks, joined us to teach us about migratory beach-nesting birds. Noah and Silas escorted the group to the nesting grounds where each member placed a wooden, A-frame chick shelter - built by members of last year's *Winging It!* - on the beach intended to offer protection to tern chicks from predators and the elements after they hatch.

We finished off our 4-H session in June with a family hike at Cedar Tree Neck! Crew members invited their families to join us on a long hike through the West Tisbury property and along the beach, where they were able to showcase new skills and share information about the trails and wildlife that they learned throughout their experience in *Winging It!*

The *Winging It!* Crew along with Catherine, Noah, Sophie, and all of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation would like to thank the MV Agricultural Society, Lucy Grinnan, and the Plymouth County 4-H Extension Office for making this amazing experience possible. SMF is honored to be a part of the Island's 4-H network and we look forward to another great year in the fall!



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Upcoming Guided Public Walks



For more information and to register, please scan the QR code.

Nat's Farm, West Tisbury
Saturday, June 15, 2024
10:00am-12:00pm

Join SMF staff for a guided walk at Nat's Farm, including fields leased by Misty Meadows Equine Learning Center. Explore a combination of pasture land and native grasslands. Park at Misty Meadows Equine Center.

Caroline Tuthill Preserve, Edgartown
Tuesday, July 23, 2024
9:00am-11:00am

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

Huckleberry Barrens, Katama
Tuesday, August 13, 2024
9:00am-11:00am

Come walk our brand new universal access trail loop, funded by MassTrails, and learn about the distinctive history of this property. The Trailhead is located on Edgartown Bay Road.

HENRY BEETLE HOUGH SOCIETY WALKS

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

Sheriff's Meadow Sanctuary and Little Beach, Edgartown
Thursday, July 18, 2024
9:00am-11:00am

Accompany SMF staff on a unique walk from Sheriff's Meadow Sanctuary (our namesake property), across Ox Pond Meadow, and out to Little Beach. This walk offers sweeping views of Eel Pond and Nantucket Sound, as well as the opportunity to learn about and view rare nesting shorebirds through spotting scopes.

Oyster Watcha Midlands, Edgartown
Thursday, August 8, 2024
9:00am-11:00am

Join Director of Stewardship Kristen Geagan to explore our native sandplain grassland species at Oyster Watcha Midlands. Take Edgartown-West Tisbury Rd. Turn onto Oyster Watcha Rd, continue for one-mile. SMF staff will direct you to parking.

Stonewall Farm Trail, West Tisbury
Thursday, September 19, 2024
9:00am-11:00am

Come walk one of our newest trails in West Tisbury. This trail offers stunning views of the pastoral landscape and the sound of the Tiasquam River babbling to the south.