SHERIFF'S MEADOW FOUNDATION

A MARTHA'S VINEYARD LAND TRUST

Newsletter

Fall 2024

COMET OVER QUANSOO FARM

Issue No. 84

What...Is That Smell?

Pitch pines and cedar trees at Quansoo Farm. *Photo by Huck Moore*

It was fragrant, really, and not at all unpleasant. Invisibly it enveloped me. I had just opened the car door and stepped into the woods of the Phillips Preserve, the 69-acre forest on the west side of Lake Tashmoo. The smell was familiar, and I pondered it as I walked.

Huckleberries and pitch pines at King Point, Edgartown. *Photo by Adam Moore*

I often describe forests visually: the elegant arch of an elm, the brilliant fall foliage of the sugar maple, the doughty form of wind-sculpted oaks. And I measure the physical attributes of trees and forests: the diameter of the trunk, the height of the tree, the amount of board-feet in a log, the acreage of the land. Yet what of that intangible, powerful, aspect of forests: what of their smell?

Forests smell. They emit ethers and gases and pheromones. Trees communicate with each other this way. And they communicate with us, too, through this olfactory means.

Last month, I visited Rocky Mountain National Park while in Colorado for the national convention of the Society of American Foresters. My rented Chevy Malibu ably handled the ascent to 12,000 feet and the drive to the Alpine Visitor Center along Trail Ridge Road. On my descent, I had my windows open, and noticed a familiar smell. Fir? Yes, it was fir indeed, as the aroma of a grove of sub-

Pitch tubes. *Photo by Adam Moore*

alpine fir, *Abies lasiocarpa*, welcomed me as I descended below the tree line.

Forest smells stir strong memories. When I smell the summer sun on the fallen needles of pitch pine, my thoughts instantly return to a childhood camping trip in the Province Lands of Cape Cod National Seashore. Walk in the woods after a summer rain? I can't help but recall the smell of a canvas platform tent at Camp Mattatuck, and a walk through the forests to the trading post.

Today's woodland scents will stir future memories. Walk through West Chop Woods on a hot summer day, and smell the sun ripening the huckleberries at your feet. Ramble beside any tangled hedge of Concord grapes in September, and savor the redolent air of the vine. Stroll the Steve Crampton Trail at Brookside Ridge Preserve in October, and delight in the sweet and gentle smell of decaying maple leaves.

Now, not all sylvan smells are pleasant. Fallen gingko fruits stink. Ailanthus trees reek of cat urine when in bloom, and when cut (and so also does white spruce, sometimes known as "cat spruce"). Snap a black cherry twig and peel back the bark, and encounter a distinct smell. I love it, but others recoil at it. The curious thing about the black cherry is that its bark (and pits) contains trace amounts of a potent poison: cyanide. I think about that every time I smell it.

Back to the Phillips Preserve, after a minute, I placed the smell. When first investigating the southern pine beetle outbreak here, I would slice off the bark with my hatchet to see the beetle activity underneath. With the bark removed, I could see the white larvae, the eggs, and the twisting tunnels and galleries packed with orange frass. All of this was fragrant, a mix of the resin of the pitch pine and the frass of the beetle.

And that was the smell. The frass of the beetles, the symbiotic fungus beneath the bark of the trees, the oozing sap of the pitch pines - all combine to perfume the air with an unmistakable scent. This is the distinct smell of a plague of a billion southern pine beetles at work. Walk in the pitch pines during a beetle outbreak, and smell a force of nature.

Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting held on June 21, 2024

The Board of Directors of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation held its Annual Meeting at 78 Campbell Road in West Tisbury on Friday, June 21, 2024. This was the inaugural meeting at the new office for Sheriff's Meadow Foundation, and the meeting was held on the ground floor, pre-renovations.

At the meeting, the Board elected Officers, Directors, and members of the Executive Committee.

The Board elected Larry Band, Matt Flanders, Ellen Harley, Travis Lenkner, and Shipley Salewski to first, three-year terms as Directors. Biographies of new Directors are included in this newsletter.

The Board re-elected Barbara Cole, Sevda Kleinman, Wanda Moreis, and Brien O'Brien to second, three-year terms as Directors, re-elected Sara Tucker to a third, three-year term as a Director, and re-elected Alan Rappaport to a fourth, one-year term as a Director. Adam Moore was elected to a one-year term as a Director.

The Board elected Alan Rappaport to a one-year term as Chair. Susannah Bristol was elected to a one-year term as Vice Chair and Chair Elect; Peter Brooks was elected to a one-year term as Treasurer; Alec Walsh was elected to a one-year term as Clerk;

Lily Pond, Caroline Tuthill Preserve. *Photo by Susan Hughes*

and Adam Moore was elected to a one-year term as President. These Officers, with the exception of the President, were elected to serve on the Executive Committee, along with Directors Sevda Kleinman, William Plapinger, and Sara Tucker. Directors Chris Alley, Sevda Kleinman, Hillary Noyes-Keene, Brien O'Brien, Alan Rappaport, Carla Taylor-Pla, and Amy Weinberg were all elected to a one-year term on the Governance Committee.

The Board bade a fond farewell to departing Directors Mary Lou DeLong, Geoffrey Lauprete, and Liz Packer.

Foundation Elects New Directors

Larry Band is an independent consultant to non-profit organizations on finance and market-related issues in environmental policy; and to impact investors, assisting with identification, diligence, structuring and monitoring of investments. His work has focused on fishery, agriculture, and land use issues, as well as clean energy and energy efficiency deployment. In addition to his consulting work, Larry serves as senior advisor and board member of the California Fisheries Fund, a revolving loan fund that invests in the fishing industry on the West Coast.

Previously, Larry worked for 20 years at Lehman Brothers as an investment banker advising corporations on a wide variety of strategic and financing transactions. Larry graduated from Stanford University with a B.S. in Biology and a B.A. in Political Science, and from Harvard Graduate School of Business with an M.B.A.

Footbridge, Stone Wall Farm. *Photo by Susan Hughes*

Matt Flanders has been providing quality property services to discerning clients, both on Martha's Vineyard and elsewhere, over the past twenty years. As an individual with island roots many generations deep, Matt's integrity and reputation are well known and he considers them to be the foundation on which his company stands. His reputation for being dependable, honest, trustworthy and detail-oriented has led to a company built primarily upon referrals from existing clients.

Matt was born at the Martha's Vineyard Hospital, was raised in Vineyard Haven, and attended the Tisbury School. He graduated from Proctor Academy in Andover, NH in 1994, then continued his education at the University of New Hampshire's Thompson School of Applied Science. He earned a degree in Urban Forestry and in 1996 became a Certified Arborist.

Since the age of 14, Matt has worked actively in the green industry, and currently is the Owner of M.B. Flanders & Company and Operations Manager of Beetlebung Tree Care. He is an ISA Certified Arborist, an IA Certified Irrigation Contractor, a MA Certified Commercial Pesticide Applicator, and holds a MA Unrestricted Construction Supervisor's License. Matt oversees the completion of all projects, some with total costs in excess of half a million dollars. He is responsible for the oversight of 25-30 employees, fleet management, facilities maintenance, logistics, hard-goods purchasing, green-goods purchasing, and project scheduling.

Ellen Harley holds a Master's degree in City and Regional Planning from the University of Pennsylvania and holds a B.A. in English from Monmouth University. In 2004, she founded and chaired the Southern Women's Campaign School, a non-partisan organization that provides training and information for women seeking to run competitive campaigns. In 1995, she founded the Center for Regional Cooperation in Philadelphia and directed the Center from 1995 to 1998.

Ellen served as a Pennsylvania State Legislator from 1990 to 1994, during which time she served on many committees, including: the Local Government Committee, Urban Affairs Committee, State Government Committee, Health and Welfare Committee, as well as the Pennsylvania State Planning Board. She co-authored the Pennsylvania Land Use Plan and also the Federal Standards for Manufactured Housing. Ellen and her husband, Ed, reside in West Tisbury and also in Charleston, South Carolina. She has served on the boards of many charitable organizations, including her current service at the Gibbes Museum of Art. Ellen served on the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation Board from 2013 to 2023.

Travis Lenkner is an entrepreneur who has built and led organizations at the intersection of law and finance. He invests in law-and technology-related ventures while also providing strategic counsel to law firm leaders and litigation-finance investors. Travis previously co-founded and was Managing Partner of a national law firm and its European counterpart. He also launched a litigation-related investment advisory business and then served on the global leadership team of the company that acquired it. Before starting his own enterprises, Travis was Senior Counsel at The Boeing Company and an attorney at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP. Travis was a law clerk for Justice Anthony M. Kennedy at the Supreme Court of the United States and for then-Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. He was born and raised on a farm and ranch in rural Kansas, but is now based in London and Chilmark with his wife and their two children.

Shipley Salewski is an educator and consultant. She most recently served as a member of the Academics Team at KIPP NorCal Public Schools, where she coached instructional leaders in the areas of literacy and disciplinary literacy. Prior to this, she was the Dean of Instruction at Everett Middle School, a public school in SFUSD. She has taught English, humanities, world religions, and Latin to grades 6–12 in public, private, and charter schools.

Shipley received her master's in theological studies from Harvard Divinity School and her B.A. from Duke University. She currently serves as vice-chair of the board of trustees for The Tipping Point Community.

Sheriff's Meadow Sanctuary. *Photo by Kristen Geagan*

Photo by Stephen Chapman

Forestry Update

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation continues to address the southern pine beetle at various properties around the island.

By Adam Moore

Joe Rogers stands beside felled pines trees at Phillips Preserve. *Photo by Adam Moore*

Phillips Preserve

At the Phillips Preserve, Sheriff's Meadow is in the midst of a large operation aimed at reducing the risk of wildfire. For this work, the Foundation has been issued a permit from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection for the use of a device known as an "air curtain burner." In using this device, Sheriff's Meadow is following the recommendations of the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, which has observed air curtain burners being used successfully in forestry work in the western United States. Our project is the first permitted use of an air curtain burner in Massachusetts.

Air curtain burner. *Photo by Bill Edwards*

The work is proceeding as follows. First, all of the trees being processed were already cut as part of the forest cutting plan that Sheriff's Meadow Foundation wrote, filed, and implemented earlier in 2024. This resulted in the felling of over 2,000 trees, most of them mature pitch pines. These trees are skidded to a "landing" area just off of Army Road. There, the logs are bucked, so that the tops - the flammable slash - are severed from the logs. An excavator then places the tops into the air curtain burner. In the burner, the slash and small, crooked logs are placed throughout the day and burned at a high temperature. The burning process is virtually smoke-free. A fire engine and water tank are on-site, to extinguish any spot fires. At the end of the day, the burner is shut off. The contents then sit for the night. The next morning, the char is removed from the burner, and set aside.

We estimate that on a good day, we can process about 200 trees. These trees yield about three to five cubic yards of char. The char is useful. It may be sold to farmers, and some of it may be used in efforts to remove nitrogen and phosphorus from waters of island ponds. The good sawlogs will be set aside for milling into lumber over the winter, and the smaller logs will be left in the woods to naturally rot into the soil. The result will be an oak-dominated forest, with a vigorous young component of pitch pines and oaks, and a significantly reduced fire hazard. When all the work is complete the Phillips Preserve trail will be restored and the entire property reopened to the public.

This work is expensive. We hired Star Tree Wildfire Protection, LLC, to conduct and supervise the work. The operation includes a grapple skidder, excavator, air curtain burner, and a 24/7 onsite presence. The estimated cost of this effort is $125,000 per month, and we figure that it will take 2 months to complete the job. We have received a $35,000 USDA Forest Service grant that will help with this effort, as well as $25,000 in donations, but have another $190,000 left to raise. If you can help at all with a donation for this effort, please give. Your help is needed and appreciated.

Air curtain burner and skidder. *Photo by Adam Moore*

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation extends its sincere thanks and appreciation to the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) for its help at the Phillips Preserve. Acting upon a request from the Tisbury Fire Department, DCR has helped

Char from burner. *Photo by Adam Moore*

by providing an on-site fire engine and has offered help with cutting logs on most days of this operation. For the invaluable help that DCR has provided, and for the request of the Tisbury Fire Department, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is most grateful.

West Chop Woods

Unfortunately, there is a burgeoning southern pine beetle infestation at West Chop Woods. Over this fall and next year, we expect this infestation to kill all of the pitch pines at West Chop Woods. We may attempt a thinning operation over the winter in hopes of sparing the larger, majestic pines, but our experience at the Phillips Preserve gives us little hope that the beetles will overlook any large, appealing pitch pine.

Caroline Tuthill Preserve

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation has drafted a forest stewardship plan for the Caroline Tuthill Preserve in Edgartown. This plan calls for thinning various areas of pitch pines. We expect to thin parts of the forest beginning in 2025.

Continues on page 11

Species Spotlight

Baccharis halimifolia – eastern false willow

By Kristen Geagan, Director of Stewardship

Sheriff's Meadow Sanctuary. *Photo by Kristen Geagan*

Baccharis halimifolia has many common names: groundsel tree, salt marsh elder, sea-myrtle and hightide bush.

Baccharis is often confused with *Iva frutescens* which is also called hightide bush. Both species of shrubs are members of the aster family and grow on the edges of saltmarshes and other coastal habitats. Unlike Iva that has opposite leaves and inconspicuous flowers, *Baccharis* has alternate leaves and female flowers that are showy, white, fluffy puffs that bloom in fall as summer's farewell. *Baccharis* is dioecious, meaning individual plants are either male or female and have corresponding flowers. You can easily spot them in the fall lining the marshes along Beach Road or when you look out at John Butler's Mudhole from the boardwalk at Sheriff's Meadow Sanctuary.

Female flower

Male flower

2024 Summer Benefit

Approximately 475 people gathered at Stone Wall Farm, the home of Ellen and Ed Harley, on Monday, July 15, for the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation's Summer Benefit. The following lightly edited remarks were made by Board Vice Chair Susannah Bristol, President Adam Moore, and Director Chris Alley.

Remarks of Susannah Bristol

Good evening and welcome to our Summer Benefit. My name is Susannah Bristol and I am Vice Chair of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation.

You may have expected to see Alan Rappaport up here tonight, but I am filling in for Alan who is recovering from a serious bike accident. Thankfully, he is doing well, and we wish him a speedy return to the island.

Tonight, you will hear from three of us. My role is to make introductions and offer thanks. Following me, President Adam Moore will share an update on our organization and accomplishments. And to conclude, former Chair, Chris Alley, will outline goals for the year to come.

This evening, here we are at the remarkable Stone Wall Farm—home of Ellen and Ed Harley. A special nod goes to Ellen, who has chaired and elevated this important summer benefit for many years. This evening sparkles because of efforts of the Committee. A dinner for 475 people, with beautiful flowers, food, and drink show the careful thought and energy they have put into this evening. Thanks to all, but especially to Ellen and Ed.

Now, I would like to introduce and acknowledge the outstanding Sheriff's Meadow staff—please raise your hand so we can see you. I'll start alphabetically:

Noah Froh
Kristen Geagan
Catherine Hall
Tom Hallahan
Liz Loucks
Peter Rodegast
Joe Rogers
Nancy Tutko

Our properties excel because of this team—we value your commitment to Sheriff's Meadow Foundation.

A second thank you goes to our Board—35 of us—both a year-round and seasonal population with a broad range of expertise dedicated to our mission.

Tonight, we also welcome our new board members: (Please raise your hand or stand)

Larry Band
Travis Lenkner
Matt Flanders
Shipley Salewski

In addition to these four, Ellen Harley returns to our Board as well.

We hope you will enjoy your time as directors; we already value your service, insights, and generosity.

Ed and Ellen Harley

Remarks of Adam Moore

Good evening! Thank you, Susannah.

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is the local 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.

We are gathered here tonight at Stone Wall Farm, in West Tisbury, beside the Tiasquam. We gratefully acknowledge the thousands of years of stewardship of this land by the Wampanoag people, and the stewardship today of Carol and Jerry Kenney, and of our hosts, Ellen and Ed Harley.

Tonight, I begin on a somber note. Sheriff's Meadow Foundation mourns the passing of Ronald H. Rappaport. Tonight, we offer our deepest condolences to Ron's family, and especially to his sister, Susan Cohen, and her husband, Fred, who are here tonight, as well as those who could not be here, especially Jane Kaplan and Alan and Jill Rappaport.

Ron was our most trusted advisor. His influence, however, extended far beyond conservation. His sage advice and community service reached every aspect of Island life. Ron cared for every town and the Island as a whole. His words of guidance offered

a clear compass. His calls of congratulations offered the greatest compliment. His wit and sense of humor made him a joy to speak with. Wise counselor, community leader, public servant - Ron was a great man whom we shall dearly miss. Ron, we thank you.

I would like to offer a few comments on the past year. We are busy conserving land. We are now under contract to purchase 167 acres of Pimpneymouse Farm, with the Land Bank. We are still raising money, so if you wish to help, please call me. Every donation of every size counts—especially from residents of Chappaquiddick.

We completed two conservation restrictions at Hidden Cove and created what will be our first public trail in Oak Bluffs. We bought land at 78 Campbell Road in West Tisbury for our new office and maintenance facility. This property is over the footbridge, right next door. It has a garage and workshop, office and lab space, and staff housing. Of our $3 million goal for this project, we have only $200,000 left to raise. I will ask you for help in meeting this goal.

Last year we held our first-ever trail run! This year, the run will take place on September 7, at Caroline Tuthill Preserve.

Thanks to MV Glassworks and Andy and Susie Magdanz, we will again host "Treasure on the Trails!" with a brand-new style of gorgeous glass globe: If you find it, you keep it!

I also thank MV Glassworks for the donation of glass vases atop the tables tonight. Each vase is unique. Each vase is beautiful. And each vase…can be yours…In time for the holidays, we will make all of these vases available for purchase, with the funds going to benefit the renovation of the Campbell Road office. Please join me in giving a huge thanks to MV Glassworks.

We are busy with beetles! The southern pine beetle is coming to a pitch pine forest near you. We are doing our duty, as a forest landowner, to thin the forest, reduce the risk of wildfire, use the wood, and sustain pitch pine forests for generations to come.

We do a lot of work with a small staff. We appreciate your support, and put your donations to good use. Your support matters. Tonight, we thank you.

Benefit Photos by Sara Piazza

To complete our program, and to deliver Alan's remarks, it is my honor to recognize Alan's dear friend and Sheriff's Meadow Board member Chris Alley.

Remarks by Chris Alley
"Three Legged Stool"

Good evening. My name is Chris Alley and I did not expect to be up here tonight. However, Susannah and I are happy to help convey Alan's thoughts while he recovers. I want to thank Ellen and Ed Harley; not only for hosting us tonight, but for the grant of a trail easement running around the perimeter of this property, Stone Wall Farm. With the adjacent Land Bank property, it creates a mile-long loop trail. Also—via a footbridge over the mighty Tiasquam River—it connects to our new Campbell Road property and the King's Highway trail network. This trail will be known as "Ellen's Path." It has been cut and is open to the public every day of the year for you to explore.

As Adam outlined, we have accomplished a lot together but there is still much to do. Simply put, we continue to pursue three principal goals:

1. We will **Continue Conservation of Amazing Properties:** The impacts of winter storms and climate change, the fragility of our ponds and the incredible popularity of the island make it clear that we need to continue conserving environmentally sensitive properties for future generations. We have a number of existing initiatives underway and as they develop, we will keep you informed and seek your engagement.

2. Secondly, we will **Continue to Maintain Our Current Properties:** The more lands we conserve, the greater the effort required to manage and maintain them. Our new Campbell Road project, though not glamorous, is incredibly important to the future of the organization. It provides for equipment storage and maintenance, office and meeting space with elbow room, environmental laboratory space, and workforce housing. We are tailoring it to our needs and I invite you to check it out.

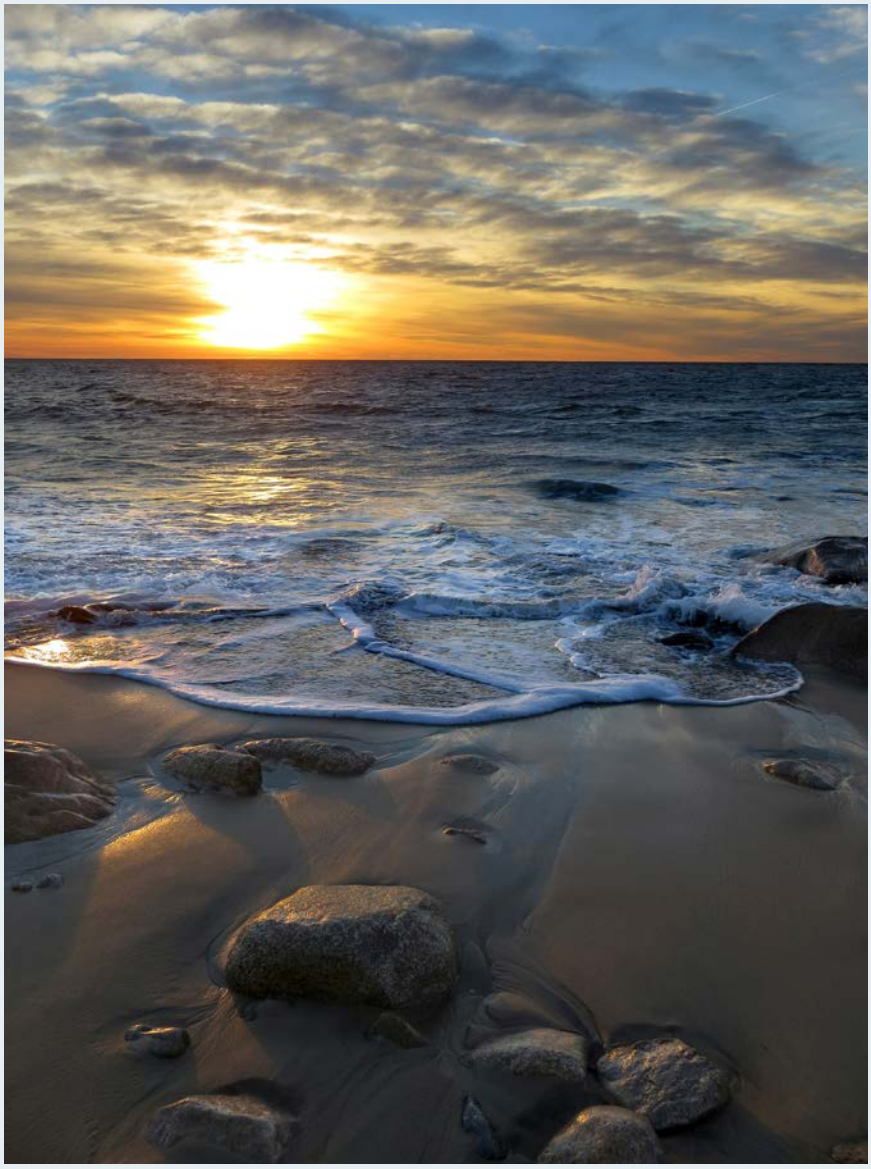
3. And thirdly, we will **Continue To Broaden Our Network of Those Interested in Conservation:** SMF functions as a three-legged stool—The Staff, The Board, and You. The stool fails in the absence of any one of these legs. You are critically important to the organization; you are ambassadors, promoters, and supporters. Please help us to extend our reach by introducing friends, volunteering for projects, or joining the Board.

SMF does not operate through a membership model. However, absent a card to put in your wallet, you all know who you are and you should not feel that you support from without, but rather from within as an integral part of the whole system. Every one of you is Sheriff's Meadow Foundation.

With that, enjoy the evening and we will meet on the trails.

Sheriff's Meadow Sanctuary. *Photo by Susan Hughes*

Planned Giving at Sheriff's Meadow Foundation



Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary. *Photo by Stephen Chapman*

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is creating a program to encourage planned giving to the organization. This is critically important, as planned gifts are essential to growing Sheriff's Meadow's endowment, and the endowment is essential to the Foundation's perpetual duty to care for the lands entrusted to it.

Your gifts, as individual donors, comprise the primary means of support for all of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation's endeavors. Through the Annual Fund, the Summer Benefit, and through other general purpose giving, these unrestricted individual gifts support about 70% of our annual operating budget. Only 20% of our operating budget comes from transfers from the endowment, subject to a conservative spending policy, or from restricted gifts. It is a strategic goal of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation to grow the endowment so that it can ultimately provide half of our operating support.

Planned giving offers the best opportunity to grow the endowment. The planned giving program we create will be simple. We wish to focus on:

- straightforward bequests, where donors recognize Sheriff's Meadow in their wills;
- gifts of conservation land, that would not be sold, and would be discussed with Sheriff's Meadow Foundation in advance;
- gifts of asset land, which could be sold, and may or may not be discussed with Sheriff's Meadow Foundation in advance;
- naming Sheriff's Meadow Foundation as a beneficiary of a retirement plan, IRA, or insurance policy; and
- inclusion of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation in succession plans for Donor-Advised Funds.

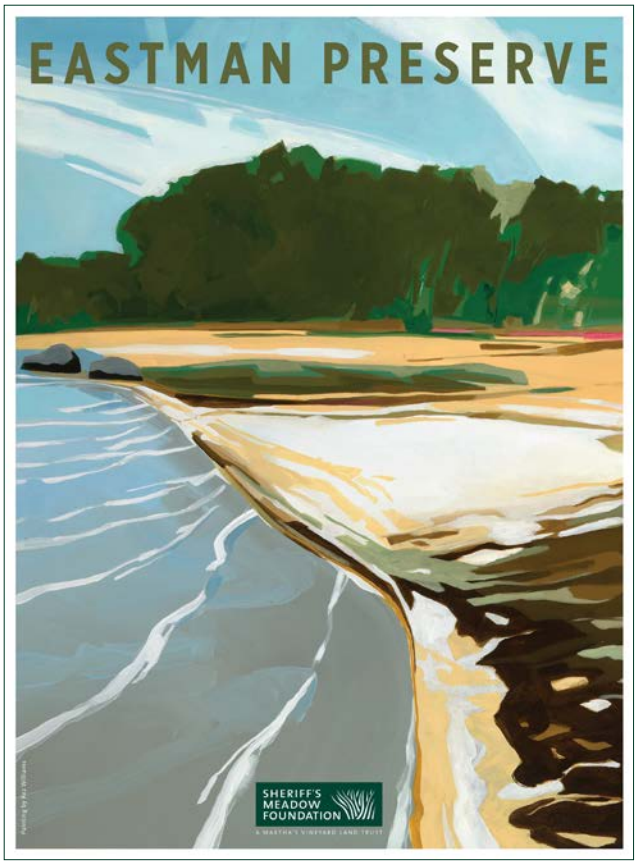
We do not plan to offer services that would help donors create gift annuities or charitable remainder trusts, however donors may certainly choose to use these vehicles independently and to name Sheriff's Meadow as a beneficiary.

We anticipate creating a legacy society to honor individuals who have included Sheriff's Meadow Foundation in their estate plans and have let us know that they have done so. We would list the members of this society in a prominent place in our new office, list the names in our Annual Report, and hold an annual gathering. We will also begin a newsletter feature of profiling donors who have made a bequest.

If you are interested in making a bequest, bequeathing land, or giving another type of planned gift, please contact the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation office.

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation Happenings

Rez Williams Poster, #5 of the Eastman Preserve



Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is pleased to announce the availability of the newest poster. The fifth in a series of seven, the poster features the shoreline of the Eastman Preserve in Aquinnah.

The 14"by19" poster was designed by Kathleen Forsythe. It features a reproduction of a portion of an oil painting of the Eastman Preserve by Rez Williams. An artist and conservationist, Rez Williams served as President of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation and served on the Board of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation as a Director and later as an Honorary Trustee.

To provide the material for the poster series, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation commissioned Rez in 2020 to paint seven landscape paintings of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation properties. The original paintings will be displayed in the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation office at 78 Campbell Road in West Tisbury, once the renovation is completed. One of these paintings—depicting a view from the white trail at Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary— is currently on display at the Martha's Vineyard Museum in its exhibit "Human/Nature: Art and Conservation on Martha's Vineyard." The painting is on display through January 12, 2025.

We are pleased to provide the Eastman Preserve poster free of charge to any donor. If you would like a copy of this poster, or one of the previous posters, please contact Advancement Coordinator Catherine Hall at hall@sheriffsmeadow.org.

Forestry Update, continued from pg. 7

Reynolds Property

Sheriff's Meadow has drafted a forest stewardship plan for the Reynolds Property. This property is found along Meetinghouse Way in Edgartown, and includes dense areas of pitch pines. We expect to thin this property in the future.

King Point and Armour

The King Point and Armour properties are found along Turkeyland Cove Road in Edgartown. The properties include dense areas of pitch pine forest. A forest inventory has been conducted, and a stewardship plan will be prepared in the winter of 2025.

Wasque Reservation

As a partnership effort, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation has volunteered to help our colleague organization, The Trustees of Reservations, by preparing a forest cutting plan for the pitch pine forests of Wasque Reservation, on Chappaquiddick. Sheriff's Meadow will mark the trees to be cut and file the forest cutting plan, while the actual tree cutting work will be performed by the Trustees.

Steam rising off doused char. *Photo by Adam Moore*

We've Moved!

Stone retaining wall made by Millers Pro Landscape. *Photo by Adam Moore*

Campbell Road, outside renovation. *Photo by Peter Rodegast*

Campbell Road, inside renovation. *Photo by Peter Rodegast*

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On a beautiful Saturday morning in October, President Adam Moore and Director of Stewardship Kristen Geagan led a tour of Pimpney-mouse Farm on Chappaquiddick. *Photo by Noah Froh*

While attending the National Convention of the Society of American Foresters, Adam Moore made acquaintance with Woodsy Owl and Smokey Bear.

Squibnocket Pond Reservation Update

Fall Colors at Squibnocket Pond Reservation. *Photo by Kate Feiffer*

Squibnocket Pond Reservation. *Photo by Kate Feiffer*

We have now obtained the needed regulatory approvals for Squibnocket Pond Reservation. Over the fall and winter, we will create the trailhead, trails, footbridges, steps, and other items needed to open the property to the public. We anticipate opening the property to the public prior to the summer of 2025. We will be in touch regarding any special tours prior to opening so that we can thank our donors in person and offer a preview. Thank you very much for your patience during this lengthy process.

Walking Poles Available

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.

Fifty members of the public joined TrailsMV at Polly Hill Arboretum in June to learn how to use the walking poles for greater stability, strength, and balance. The enthusiastic response led several island Councils on Aging to begin new walking programs.

Each of the town's Councils on Aging has two pairs available to borrow. Healthy Aging MV, Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary, Polly Hill Arboretum, and Vineyard Independence Partnership each have one pair, and Sheriff's Meadow Foundation has three pairs.

Accessible trail at Huckleberry Barrens. *Photo by Kristen Geagan*

Other sponsors of the walking poles event include: the Martha's Vineyard Falls Prevention Coalition, Healthy Aging MV, NAACP of Martha's Vineyard, Edey Foundation, Cape Cod Five Foundation, The Tisbury Printer, Pawnee House, Stop and Shop, Cronig's Markets, BeWell-MV, and Hanschka Fine Metalwork.

SMF Annual Trail Run

The runners are off! *Photo by Kristen Geagan*

Photo by Jon Malone

Chris Cajolet runs along Sengekontacket Pond.

Chris Miller crosses the finish line. *Photo by Kristen Geagan*

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation hosted the Second Annual Trail Run on Saturday, September 7th at Caroline Tuthill Preserve. Forty-four runners crossed the finish line. The three-mile loop course runs through pitch pine forests, beside salt marshes, down to Sengekontacket Pond, and back.

Thanks to the generosity and dedication of our sponsors, committee members, staff, and volunteers (many of whom are runners themselves) the Trail Run was a wonderful success! We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors, Cronig's Markets and Island Source, for their continued support of this event; and to Reann Steenkamp and Dianne Booth of MV Running Company for providing their incredible knowledge and timing services. We also recognize Jon Malone of Edgartown Bikes for leading the way for the runners, from start to finish, on his mountain bike.

Each participant received a blaze orange SMF hat, as well as a commemorative poster created by Melissa Nellis Patterson, a local designer.

Congratulations to Chris Cajolet of Edgartown, who crossed the finish line first! Congratulations also goes out to Bryn Willingham, who was the women's overall champion for the second year in a row. We look forward to seeing all of the runners return next fall for our Third Annual Trail Run!

Photo by Kristen Geagan

Women's overall champion, Bryn Willingham (second from left) with friends

2024 Sheriff's Meadow Foundation Annual Summer Benefit

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

Hosts

Ellen and Ed Harley

Cedar Tree Society

Graham Lewis
John Schaefer and Pamela Zilly

Beetlebung Tree Society

Susannah and Brian Bristol
Barbara and Christopher Cole
Thomas Enders and Elise Thoron
Jeremy and Angie Flug
Jill and Alan Rappaport Family
Amy and John Weinberg

Cherry Tree Society

Eric Green and Carmin Reiss
Sevda and Blake Kleinman
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Upcoming Guided Public Walks

New Year's Day Hike

Cedar Tree Neck, West Tisbury
Wednesday, January 1, 2025
9:00 am-12:00 pm

New Year's Day Hike: Join Sheriff's Meadow Foundation for a special 3-hour, 5+ mile hike at Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary on Wednesday, January 1, 2025 to start the New Year off on the right foot! We will hike the full 5+ mile loop which follows the Orange Trail to the Green Trail, including parts of Indian Hill Road and our newly opened Stevenson Trail. Put on your hiking boots, dress in layers, and join us for a refreshing hike at our award-winning property to jump start 2025. Register using this QR code!

Cover Photo by Melissa Moore