



WELLFLEET CONSERVATION TRUST

Spring 2018 • www.wellfleetconservationtrust.org

WCT GAINS TWO NEW TRUSTEES

The Trust welcomes two new Trustees to our Board. Jane Baron and David Koonce are two people who add their special skills and love of nature and conservation to the Trust.

Introducing Jane Baron

Some of you may know Jane Baron for years as your insurance agent at Benson, Young and Downs or simply recognize her as that woman who walks down Main St. at noontime every day. In fact, walking everywhere – Great Island, along the Herring River, Conservation trails – is Jane's favorite Wellfleet activity. Her appreciation for these special places led to her interest in joining the Conservation Trust.



Jane Barron

Jane was born in Salt Lake City and moved to Worcester, Massachusetts, where she lived until she was 9 years old. Her family moved from there to Eastham, where she lived until she was 11. Next, she moved to Wellfleet, where she has been ever since. Her wedding took place right in the backyard of her parents' Railroad Ave. home. She and her husband Walter moved to Old Wharf Rd. While their two boys were young, she began working for the insurance agency part time. When the Barons moved to Old Chequessett Neck Rd., she could walk to work on Briar Lane. She retired from Benson, Young and Downs after a 37-year career. Jane also retired from long term position as an elected Trustee of the Wellfleet Public Library.

Retirement has given her plenty of time for walking and to relax with a good book, another favorite pastime. Other groups she has become involved in are the Farmers' Market, transitioning to a new location behind the Congregational Church and Mass Audubon's Diamondback Turtle Propagation Program at the Head of Duck Creek and other locations. She was thrilled to release her first diamondback hatchlings last year. After the storms this winter, she helped clear Conservation Trust trails of downed trees.

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TWO NEW TRUSTEES, CONTINUED

Jane Baron, continued

Growing up and having her sons grow up enjoying the unspoiled open spaces and natural beauty of Wellfleet led to her great appreciation of conservation and to joining the Conservation Trust. Jane hopes to see a future where conservation of trees and nature remain a part of Wellfleet's essential character. You may have seen Jane's and Walter's photos on the WCT Facebook page for which Jane now administers.

We are pleased that Jane has chosen to make the Conservation Trust a big part of her retirement activities.

Getting to Know David Koonce

For David Koonce, a perfect day in Wellfleet would be getting outside and enjoying whatever nature has to offer. After a 40-year career travelling around the world, over twenty of them for General Electric, he is happy to have retired to Wellfleet with his wife to the home he built next door to the first house he rented around twenty years ago.

His interest in WCT was sparked by a number of his people who serve with him on Friends of the Herring River, the AIM Thrift Shop and the Mustard Seed Kitchen. Even if they had not been there to guide him towards the Conservation Trust, he is drawn to participating in something that produces tangible results. He believes in getting involved with conservation efforts that make things better today and into the future for generations to come.



David Koonce

David enjoys canoeing here and in Canada. A little-known fact he supplied was his experience as an Eagle Scout in his younger days. As a project, his troop created a working car. Ask him sometime about driving it! He missed most of our winter storms this year with the arrival of a new grandchild off-Cape, but felt drawn back to Wellfleet and his activities here.

Asked what he would envision ten years from now, David replied, "More property in the Conservation Trust. This is a gem of Wellfleet some people don't even realize we have." He'd love to have more awareness of the efforts of the many organizations working to improve Wellfleet. Foremost in his wish is seeing progress on the Herring River Restoration Project. His hope is that people recognize the value of the project to shellfishermen, the health of the river and the whole town.

Welcome, Jane and David. We are looking forward to working with you for many years to come.

ANNUAL GUIDED WALK SET FOR SEPTEMBER 15

Time and tide considerations moved the Twelfth Annual Guided Walk to Saturday, September 15th, a week later than usual. The WCT walk organizers needed to schedule the date in order to take advantage of low and 'tween tides since the route would be impassable at high tide. Start time will be 9 a.m. Low tide is at 10:34 a.m.

The walk, featuring Indian Neck, will begin and end at the breakwater parking lot at the end of Nauset Rd. Topics planned for stops along the way include, the breakwater, a midden/ossuary, Burton Baker Beach, shellfishing, terrapins and modernist houses.



The planned walk route is almost entirely on the beach, so wear appropriate footwear, sunscreen and hats. Water will be provided, but you might want to bring more. Drivers will be available at check-points if you do not wish to do the entire 3.5 mile walk.

We hope to see you on September 15th whether you are a veteran of our Guided Walks or it is your first walk with the Trust.

ANTHONY FAMILY COMPLETES CONSERVATION RESTRICTION AT HAMBLÉN FARM

A big THANK YOU to the Anthony family for completing the first of what we hope will be several phases of conservation for Hamblén Farm. WCT recorded



the first Conservation Restriction in the Barnstable Registry after final approval by the State. This is a special CR since the late Steve Anthony was one of our long-time Trustees, and his daughter Susan is a current Trustee. It was with her assistance with both family and Trust that the CR became a reality.

The first two acres preserved by this CR includes the “new” barn on the Farm, dating to c.1812 (see photo.) This is a tremendous gift to the natural resources and the history of Wellfleet. Steve Anthony would be pleased.

SHORT TAKES

Back on the Road Again

Adopt a Highway program is back in action cleaning up Route 6 from Pilgrim Spring Road to the Marconi lights. Volunteers were back on the road again April 18th. Look for us every month and wave. Better yet, join us by meeting at the South Wellfleet Post Office at 7 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month.

APCC Walk

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod in conjunction with the Wellfleet Conservation Trust walked the Pilgrim Springs/Fox Island Marsh Conservation area on March 27. WCT President Dennis O’Connell led the group down to Whalebone Point.

Earth Day Turns 48



EARTH DAY

The Conservation Trust once again spread awareness of Earth Day on April 22 with yard signs featuring the WCT logo and celebrating Sunday, April 22, the annual day commemorating 48 years of Earth Day. The Trust participated in the 2nd Annual Non-Profit Fair at Preservation Hall on April 21 as a part of Earth Day in Wellfleet.

We’re In the Book

The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts has created a booklet called *50 Years of Land Conservation Success on Cape Cod*. Look for the Wellfleet Conservation Trust on page 30. The interactive booklet may be viewed on The Compact website: www.thecompact.net.

TRUST ADDS TO DUCK CREEK HOLDINGS

The Conservation Trust recently acquired additional marshland that abuts our existing WCT holdings on Duck Creek. The 3.35 acre marsh area between the Head of Duck Creek property and other parcels on Pine Point Rd. and Alves Rd. opens up new possibilities for a trail connecting from Hamblen Park to the Head of Duck Creek.

This marsh that abuts the reclaimed Head of Duck Creek property had long been an object of desire for our Trust. Dennis O'Connell, current President remembers his predecessor, Robert Hankey, introducing him to Francis Leonard over 10 years ago in an effort to acquire the marsh at that time. Mr. Leonard, a resident of New Jersey and Eastham, had known of our interest even before that meeting, but wanted access to Wellfleet's features as a taxpayer. So when Mr. Leonard contacted WCT earlier this year, we were pleased to get a reasonable deal done within our capabilities.

This area of marshland is a haven for waterfowl and other birds oriented to feeding there, including blue herons, dabbling and sea ducks, brandts, Canada geese and raptors. On flood tides, kayaks venture into the area. Over the 16 years that WCT has owned the Head of Duck Creek site, we have transferred many a hatchling diamond back terrapin into what is now our marsh. There is a surprising array of wildlife so close to the hustle of Route 6 and the downtown.



We are grateful to Mr. Leonard for completing the agreement with the Trust.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

We appreciate your donation using the enclosed envelope.

SPOTLIGHT ON... A FEROCIOUS LION

There is a ferocious beast lurking along our sandy trails, but you needn't worry unless you are an ant. *Mymerlionedes*, the antlion, sets deadly traps for ants and other small insects who haplessly stray into them. The fierce antlion in its larva stage lurks with its sharp mandibles wide open at the bottom of the sand funnel it has carefully constructed. If the ant or other victim doesn't fall directly into its clutches and tries to scramble up the sides



of the trap, the antlion tosses sand at it to prevent its escape. The sand walls collapse sending the victim right back to the antlion. Look for the conical sand pit clusters under the shelter of an overhang along old roads and trails to locate antlions.

If you have time and patience, you might observe what's happening in an antlion's larval home and even try to trick it into action with a blade of grass since the antlion is extremely

sensitive to ground vibrations. It's best to leave them alone, however. Of less disruption to the antlion and with more explicit visuals to be seen are a number of online videos of prey being captured, subdued by venom, their innards sucked out and lifeless bodies flung out of the pit. Antlions remain in their stout, bristled state about the size of a human fingernail for two or three years before their metamorphosis.

After about a month in a pupa state, the adult antlion emerges from its cocoon with an elongated body and double wings. It is sometimes confused with a dragon or damselfly, but is a nocturnal creature. You might see one attracted to a light by your doorway. It can eat small flies, obtain water and excrete, something that was impossible during its larval years when it lacked an anus. Its adult role is to mate and lay eggs. Having achieved this, the antlion's life is over in 25 to 45 days. Females that have returned to the sand pit area to lay eggs sometimes end up as nourishment for another generation.

In Southern states, antlions are known as doodlebugs. Over a hundred species of antlions live in North America. Where there are ants, there are antlions.



Adult Winged *Mymerlionedes*

ANNUAL MEETING SLATED FOR SATURDAY, AUGUST 18

Kristy Senatori, Acting Executive Director of the Cape Cod Commission, will be the featured speaker at the Wellfleet Conservation Trust's Annual Meeting to be held August 18 at 10 a.m. at the Wellfleet Senior Center.

Ms. Senatori is a graduate of Hamilton College and holds a law degree from Vermont Law School. She was hired as the Chief Regulatory Officer of the Cape Cod Commission in 2008. She became Deputy Director in 2012. In January, Kristy Senatori was named Acting Director when Executive Director Paul Niedzwiecki announced his departure from the Commission. Ms. Senatori's specialties include communications, economic development and strategic information.

WCT's annual review and business meeting will precede her talk. Light refreshments are served at this free event.

GIVE TAX FREE FROM YOUR IRA TO HELP WCT

If you are 70½ years old or older and have required minimum distributions (RMD's), you can transfer funds from your tax deferred Individual Retirement Account (IRA) as a gift to the non-profit Wellfleet Conservation Trust (WCT) and pay zero tax on the IRA withdrawal. You may donate up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA to qualified charitable groups, including WCT. The charitable gift counts as part of your required IRA minimum distributions. The Funds must be transferred directly from your IRA institution to WCT. The gift does not generate taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize on your tax return. Contact the financial institution that manages your IRA and ask to make a gift to the Wellfleet Conservation Trust.

This would make a nice tax break for you, and WCT would be most grateful for your support of the Trust's conservation work. If you need any information, send an e-mail to info@wellfleetconservationtrust.org.

WINTER STORMS THAT BLEW THE BARK OFF THE TREES

We learned this winter that it was not just a figure of speech to say that the wind blew the bark right off the trees. The series of Nor'easters that swept through also broke the tops of pines and toppled others in Conservation Trust areas. WCT crews, supplemented by crews from AmeriCorps of Cape Cod, cleared trails that were obstructed by the downed trees, but you will see the other trees left in their natural condition to decompose in place.

At our ocean-front property in South Wellfleet, donated by the Meyer family, about five feet eroded from the top of the dune in two months. Like the other damaged pines along Ocean View Drive, the pine needles on the small trees at 70 Cliff Road, turned brown from being blasted by the sand and salt off the ocean.



At our Head of Duck Creek property, the waters rose over the banks, but there was no damage to the location.

Two of the March storms, Toby and Riley, had the cozy sounding names, but the January 4th storm termed a "bomb cyclone" best describes our winter of four Nor'easters.

Check out the "Wellfleet Open Space and Conservation Lands" map on our website to see what your support of WCT has preserved. Click on the map under the "Conservation Land and Trails" tab and then expand the map on your browser.



UPCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18

Annual WCT Meeting, 10 a.m.

Wellfleet Senior Center

Doors open at 9:30 for socialization and goodies.

Featured speaker: Kristy Senatori, Acting

Executive Director of the Cape Cod Commission

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

12th Annual Guided Walk

9 a.m. Indian Neck Breakwater (gathering place)

Closer to the date, more information will be provided on our website and by our e-mail blast.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 8

CoastSweep

9 a.m. Mayo Beach

Want to receive emails from WCT?

Send an e-mail to:

info@wellfleetconservationtrust.org

MAY 3 PRESENTATION EXAMINES HERRING RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT'S IMPACT ON WILDLIFE

The WCT co-sponsored with the Wellfleet Natural Resources Advisory Board, the Friends of the Herring River, and Massachusetts Audubon an exciting and informative conference about the effects of the Herring River Restoration Project on Wildlife. The event, held on May 3 at the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, offered scientific presentations by biologists, zoologists, and ornithologists about the history of Wellfleet's river herring fishing industry, the marsh, birds, box turtles and terrapins that inhabit the Herring River's diverse environments. WCT Trustee Virginia Page represented the WCT in addressing the conference (see photo.) Other WCT Trustees who participated included Gary Joseph (a WCT Founding Trustee), David Koonce, and Michael Fisher.



The WCT works effectively to cooperate with and support other governmental and non-governmental organizations with parallel goals for land conservation. Wellfleet's ongoing Herring Restoration Project is New England's largest current salt marsh recovery undertaking. Several of WCT's properties will be affected by this project since they are within the Herring River watershed. For these reasons, the WCT has been deeply supportive of the Project's scientific study and adaptive engineering planning for the restoration process.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER - SPRING 2018

Dear Members and Friends,

After a tough end of the winter in Wellfleet, the signs of spring are now dominant. In my family, we have a shorthand for the special days at this time of year - "GYB" - meaning Green, Yellow and Blue. The grasses have finally turned spring green, the forsythia and daffodils are bursting yellow, and the sky is a perfect blue. These GYB days are really invigorating and show how special Mother Nature can be. Soon the full verdant beauty of Wellfleet will come.

Early spring is when our all-volunteer trustees go out for property inspections and trail cleanup becomes a priority. We also start finalizing our plans for the warmer times. I hope you will be able to join us for our **Annual Meeting on August 18** - Ms. Kristy Senatori, the Acting Director and long term counsel of the Cape Cod Commission, will be our guest speaker this year. She will be discussing the role of the CC Commission, the recent work they have done in coordinating the Cape's response to managing water quality, and how the Commission's work is progressing under the special NOAA grant studying and planning for the resiliency of Cape Cod. Resiliency was a hot topic around here this winter with flooding associated with the Nor'easters, but more especially with the focus on climate changes that we are experiencing with rising temperatures and sea levels.

Your Wellfleet Conservation Trust continues to protect more land in Wellfleet. We now have approximately 400 acres under our conservation management, mostly in our ownership, but conservation restrictions are effective, too. Our work is important for protecting the land, water quality and biodiversity of Wellfleet, all of which are appreciated here - thank you! We always have targets for more conservation. We continue to work with property owners with similar interests, but there are some big targets that remain, so your financial support is always needed and appreciated.

We continue our efforts for conservation work with the Town with an effective a partnership with the Open Space Committee and Conservation Commission. Wellfleet is fortunate to have lands focused at conservation through the Cape Cod National Seashore and Mass Audubon. In this very fragile and limited area, wise and efficient development and protection of the lands are both needed.

Thank you,

Dennis (Denny) O'Connell, President, Board of Trustees
508-349-2162 or dennyoc@comcast.net



WELLFLEET CONSERVATION TRUST

PO Box 84 • Wellfleet MA 02667

www.wellfleetconservationtrust.org

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The Wellfleet Conservation Trust is an IRS qualified 501(c) (3) non-profit land trust.