



Wildlife Land Trust

25th Anniversary

Spring/Summer 2011

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- *Paypal now available at our website!*

Orenda provides habitat for New England Cottontail study!

Though much of the habitat has been lost, there are still preserved wild places on Cape Cod that provide the environment needed by the New England Cottontail; one of these places is the Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge. The partnership of Orenda Wildlife Land Trust, National refuge land and other sanctuaries have allowed access to the habitat needed for the project. The study which looks at the population of the cottontail in the refuge, is being conducted by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife with assistance from members of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. Please visit our website for further updates!

Orendalandtrust.org

Where were you in 1986?

Ronald Reagan was president (2nd term). The top Oscar that year went to the film, *Platoon*. And Dionne Warwick was pleasing us with her new hit single, *That's What Friends are For*.

And speaking of friends, it's time to thank each and every Orenda Wildlife Land Trust member and donor, past and present! Together, we're working hard to save as much undeveloped land as possible here on Cape Cod and in Eastern New England. And that's why we need you in 2011!

As a non-profit land trust, our own list of wildlife-related "Academy Awards" is very impressive:

- 4 Acres - The Ledges Sanctuary, Southbridge, MA *May 1986*
- 9 Acres - The Cedars Sanctuary, West Barnstable *April 1988*
- 14.5 Acres - David Nelson Sanctuary, Plymouth *December 1991*
- 2 Acres - Scudder Bay Sanctuary, Osterville/Centerville *October 1992*
- 46 Acres - Mary De LA Vallette Sanctuary, Phillipston, MA *June 1994*
- ½ Acre - Nalebuff Sanctuary, Waquoit Bay-Falmouth *March 1996*
- 27 Acres - No Bottom Pond Sanctuary, Brewster *June 1996*
- 2 Acres - Mashpee River Woodland Sanctuary, Mashpee *December 1998*
- 8.5 Acres - Austin Smith Sanctuary, Orleans/Eatham *August 1998*
- 5 Acres - Smith's Dock Sanctuary, West Barnstable *March 1998*
- 50 Acres - Mercy Lowe Sanctuary, Mashpee *December 1998*
- 86 Acres - Makepeace Sanctuary, Mashpee *December 1998*
- 35 Acres - Ashumet Pond Sanctuary, Mashpee *June 1999*
- 34 Acres - Fowler-Eames Sanctuary, Washington, MA *June 2000*
- 18 Acres - Quashnet River Sanctuary, Mashpee *March 2001*
- 1 Acre - Redbrook Sanctuary, Mashpee *August 2003*
- 20 Acres - French Family Sanctuary, Middlefield, MA *September 2008*



Orenda Wildlife Land Trust founder Barbara Birdsey (left) and Ellie Monge widow of past Orenda President Carl Monge at the sanctuary dedication in Mashpee.

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PayPal Is now available at the Orenda Website just search for Orendalandtrust.org to renew your membership or make a donation with PayPal the most trusted credit card site. Your financial security is our highest priority.

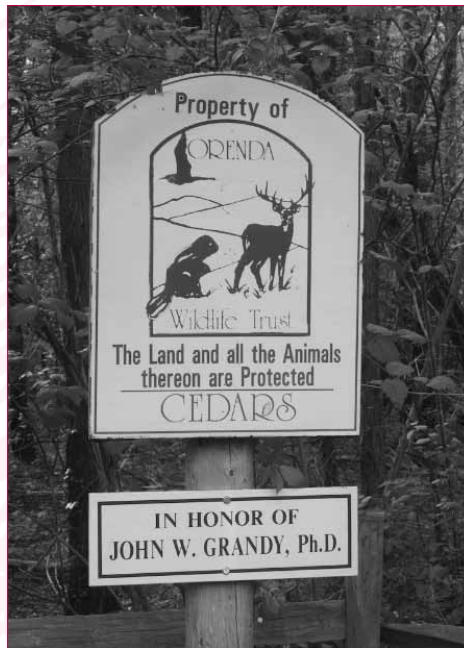
Orenda's first Cape Cod Sanctuary

- Spotlight on the Cedars Sanctuary -

In celebration of Orenda's 25th anniversary, we are spotlighting our first sanctuary on Cape Cod....The Cedars. The property was acquired from the Estate of Ina Davidson by Barbara and Charles Birdsey in January of 1988.

Back in the 1600's, The Cedars was part of a large land grant given by the patriot James Otis to the Reverend John Smith. According to the historic commission, Reverend Smith may have operated a dock in this area for coastal vessels shipping salt and shellfish to northern markets.

Located on Meadow Lane in West Barnstable, the 9 acres of fields, woods and wetlands was formerly used as farmland. The salt marsh grass was cut for fodder. As its name implies, the land is now dominated by red cedar trees, that cover more than half of the property in



both strips and thick stands. The berries of the red cedar trees are eaten by over fifty species of birds as well as skunks and opossums.

There are also two large wetland areas that are loosely ringed by mature red maples draped with great masses of grape and briar vines. They provide excellent nesting habitat for many birds. The wetlands hold water most of the year and are influenced by the tides of the great salt marsh that borders the property.

The sanctuary is also home to raccoon, red fox, mole, skunk, coyote, white-tailed deer, red squirrel and gray squirrel. The Cedars supports a rich diversity of life, and provides protective habitat for the wildlife that we truly love.

For more information about our sanctuaries, please visit our website at Orendalandtrust.org.

Remembering the Friends of Orenda

Orenda's early newsletters noted the critical value of volunteers and donors ... and this is still true today. Over the past 25 years some of our best friends have sadly left us. On the occasion of Orenda Wildlife Land Trust's anniversary, it's appropriate we take a few moments to recognize these individuals and remember their good deeds.

Leona Asker: Board Member

Linda Bound: Orenda Administrator: Ashumet Pond Sanctuary named in her honor

Bill Conley: Mashpee River Woodlands Sanctuary named in his honor

Mark Fowler: Major Donor – Fowler-Ames Sanctuary named in his honor

Tom & Georgia French: Sanctuary in Middlefield, Massachusetts named in their honor

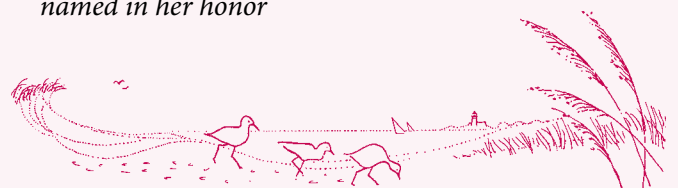
Carl Monge: Past President: Lovells Lane Sanctuary named in his honor

Nadia Morgan: Major Donor

David Nelson: Major Donor – Nelson Sanctuary in Plymouth named in his honor

Evald "Neil" Nilsson: Enabled the acquisition of the Makepeace Sanctuary

Sally Pessa: Board Member – Scudder Bay Sanctuary named in her honor



State Income Tax Credit for Land Conservation

Attention Land Owners!

There is a new state income tax credit for land conservation...please read below. The State application guidelines should be in place by July 2011. If you have any further questions please contact the Orenda office or Mark Robinson at the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts at 508-362-2565

Massachusetts State Income Tax Credit for Land Conservation

Approved in State Environmental Bond, August 2008; slightly revised and re-approved in Jan. 2009; amended in January 2011 to be refundable (i.e., State can purchase credit from taxpayer in first year); Available beginning in January 2011; State must still issue guidelines.

First time in history of Massachusetts, there is a state tax credit for voluntary land conservation

There are at least 14 other states that have this type of tax credit.

The tax credit is non-transferable (that is, it is specific to the donors/taxpayers; in some states, you can sell your tax credit to others to use on their state income tax!)

There is no sunset provision for this credit; it applies indefinitely for qualified land donations (or unless state legislature rescinds it as a tax provision in the future, but that would not affect those who have already given).

Prepared by Mark H. Robinson, Executive Director, The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Inc., Barnstable MA based on available information as of February 2011 Email mark@thecomact.net With edits by Bob O'Connor, Mass. Director of Land and Forest Conservation and Att. Irene Del Bono of EEA.

Does not apply to all land conservation transactions:

- Must be a perpetual conveyance
- Land must be certified by Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs as worthy
- Donee must be land trust or government agency or town; land trust must be incorporated?

Includes fee simple (land donations), conservation restrictions, bargain sales of land, life estate, etc.

How to take the credit:

- Landowner(s) must be Mass. income tax payer(s)
- Need an appraisal by qualified appraiser
- Need certification by state that land is eligible; a pre-qualification process is expected
- Can be in addition to claim for federal income tax deduction for land gift
- Tax credit applied to the applicant's state tax liability during the year of the donation and if credit is larger than the liability the State will issue a check for the remainder of the approved credit. With refundability, the credit cannot be carried into future tax years.
- Can be spread out in proportion to each owner's interest in the deed

Limitations on taxpayer:

- Credit limited to 50% of fair market value of land or interest, as appraised, or \$50,000 maximum credit, whichever is less
- Refunded credit from state is taxable for donor's federal income tax purposes
- If married, must file joint return with spouse

Limitations on State:

- Cannot exceed \$2,000,000 in total revenues lost each year (the total of reduced tax liability and refund checks)

How will we know if land is eligible to be certified?

- Energy & Environmental Affairs and Admin. & Finance Secretaries will advise Dept. of Revenue; DOR and EEA will write rules in 2011
- Land must be determined by EEA to be protected in perpetuity and in the public interest for "natural resource protection," including drinking water supplies, wildlife habitat and biological diversity, agricultural and forestry production, recreational opportunities, or scenic and cultural values.

cover story *continued from page 1*

- 13.7 Acres - Carl Monge Sanctuary, Mashpee *June 2010*
- 435 Acres - Sticky Wicket and Dana Winham Sanctuaries, Marlow, New Hampshire (once owned by Orenda, were transferred to the national HSUS Land Trust in December 1990).

Orenda started as a grass roots community effort, made up by people with an active interest in the environment and were also aware of the importance of interacting and sharing space with wildlife.

Upon reading the first newsletter published by Orenda, I am struck by

how closely we have remained true to this mission.

With the increasing support of donors and volunteers, Orenda Wildlife Trust grew and then morphed into two entities: The Cape Wildlife Center (now a facility for the partnership of The Fund for Animals and the Humane Society of US) and The Orenda Wildlife Land Trust. The center provides medical care for wildlife while Orenda acquires and protects habitat for them to live in... forever.

We are planning events to celebrate Orenda's 25th year! Please visit our website at Orendalandtrust.org for the latest news.

To My Gardens

C.L. Fornari



Dear Gardens,

Yesterday I was reminded that sending you a note of appreciation is long overdue. Your presence in my life has been so constant and meaningful that it's difficult to know where to start.

When I was a child you welcomed me completely. You let me pick your flowers, be embraced by the limbs of your trees, and offered me glimpses into a thousand natural wonders. By the way, I'm sorry I squashed your yew berries and then mixed in the ants that were attracted to them. I thought the ants were icky and killing them made me feel powerful; I was just a kid, and didn't know better.

Through all of my life you've provided me with opportunities for discovery. I hope you know how important this is. To be able to be constantly learning is such a blessing: I've come to understand a deeper meaning in the term "unearthing" as knowledge grows from your ground up.

Thank you too for your continual generosity. First you encourage my creativity, and then you're willing to do your best despite circumstances that are often far from ideal. Finally, when others admire your beauty, you're willing to let me take the credit when we both know that the acclaim belongs to you.

I could go on about the ways you provide me with good exercise, connections to other people, delicious fresh food, subjects to write or speak about, and a place to meditate, because all of that is valued. These are gifts you continually provide. Running beneath and through all of those offerings are your healing forces that I don't understand, yet continually benefit from. You always make me feel better.

All in all, the small amount of tending I give to you seems wildly out of proportion to what you provide to me. Although the words seem completely inadequate, know that it comes from my total heart and soul when I say thank you.

- C.L. Fornari

This article was originally published on C.L. Fornari's blog, <http://www.wholelifegardening.com>

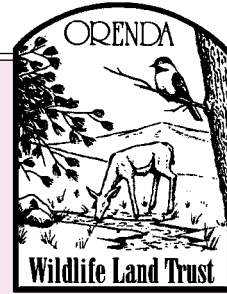
C.L. Fornari is a master gardener, speaker, writer, radio talk show host and gardening consultant. Please visit her website at Gardenlady.com.

A thank you to our donors that responded to the administrator's appeal!

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Orenda's Mission

Orenda Wildlife Land Trust's mission is to protect wildlife and their habitat. By purchase and gift, Orenda acquires land to be held in perpetuity as protected open space wildlife sanctuaries.

All contributions to Orenda Wildlife Land Trust are tax-deductible under federal regulations.