



# Wildlife Land Trust

Summer/Fall 2017

## Cape Wildlife Center Receives Major Grant from Orenda Wildlife Land Trust

The following is a press release by the  
Cape Wildlife Center about Orenda's grant.

The Cape Wildlife Center (CWC) today announced it has received a \$35,000 grant from the Orenda Wildlife Land Trust to continue its mission to provide veterinary and rehabilitation care to sick, injured and orphaned wildlife at its 4.5-acre campus along Route 6A in Barnstable.

"This gift represents not only a belief in the work that our hospital staff is already doing on behalf of wildlife, but it endorses the goodwill and education we will deliver to our shared community as we grow this organization," said Zak Mertz, executive director of the CWC. "Cape Wildlife Center is not out of the woods yet, this is still an emergency situation. Every day we struggle to raise enough money to provide humane veterinary care to patients with nowhere else to turn. Orenda's support is extremely heartening, and has already helped care for over 200 animals this year. We are incredibly grateful," Mertz added.



Photo by Liz Lewis

Receiving a check from Orenda Wildlife Land Trust from right to left... Zak Mertz, Director of Cape Wildlife Center, Barbara Birdsey, founder, Dr. John Grandy of the Pegasus Foundation, Howard Goldman, CVT and in the background Dr. Robin Joly, a local veterinarian.

"Together, we will protect our shared wild legacy," said Barbara U. Birdsey, founder of the Cape Wildlife Center, the Orenda Wildlife Land Trust and The Pegasus Foundation which manages the CWC.

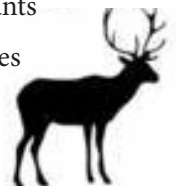
Founded in 1986, the mission of the Orenda Wildlife Land Trust ([orendalandtrust.org](http://orendalandtrust.org)) is to protect and preserve open space sanctuaries for wildlife on Cape Cod and throughout Massachusetts.

### Look Inside:

- *Orenda at Brewster Conservation Day*
- *Meet our scholarship recipient*
- *View from the Nelson House*
- *Upcoming events for Orenda*
- *The return on investing in open space*
- *Land Projects in the pipeline*

### In my Humane Backyard I pledge to:

- Provide natural sources of food for wildlife including native plants
- Provide water for wildlife through natural and manmade sources
- Provide shelter and safe places for animals to raise their young
- Avoid use of chemical pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers.
- Be aware of harm that free-roaming pets can inflict upon wildlife
- Use humane, nonlethal approaches for resolving any conflicts with wildlife



# The return on investing in open space

By Hal Minis, President of Brewster Conservation Trust

Cape Cod is defined by the fragile land and water resources that surround us. Unspoiled views across marshes, long stretches of woodlands, swimmable and fishable ponds, and healthy bays are core to this. But this doesn't come free.

Very often, at town meetings, we are asked to spend funds for open space purchases for recreation, water protection, or conservation. Some question whether we can afford these purchases, some assert that they weaken our tax base by taking land off the tax rolls. Let's look at why protecting open space is important economically, financially, and environmentally.

We are all aware of valuable open space parcels that provide recreational areas for families preserve iconic views across meadows and dunes to views of bay or ocean and protect the habitat for plants and animals that are unique to the region. Open space along marshes and shores protects us from storms and rising sea level. Open space protects our fragile drinking water supplies from septic system effluent and all that comes with that.

Brewster has won awards for having the best drinking water in New England in part thanks to the hundreds of acres the Town purchased around the well fields (Orenda partnered with Brewster in buying land near Shallow Pond). That translates into thousands of dollars of savings in water treatment for town residents. Open space around ponds helps filter out storm water from developed areas and drainage from septic systems to protect water quality making ponds swimmable and protecting home owners' investments in their property.

Open space is one of the vital components of "quality of life", the things that make a community a nice place to live in. Indeed, studies have shown that land adjacent to open space increases in value, thereby raising the tax base of the community. Open space and the healthy lifestyles it allows are critical to the tourist industry on which Cape Cod's economy is based. In fact, a recent study by the Brewster Conservation Trust for public lands found that every dollar invested in conservation yields \$4 in natural goods and services to the Massachusetts economy.

Open space does not require the level of infrastructure and services, such as schools, paved roads, or emergency services, that developed uses require. A study in 2001 in Brewster showed that for every dollar of revenue generated, average residential development required \$1.30 in services, while open space and farm land required only 31 cents in services, making them net contributors to the town's fiscal health.

Moreover, open space purchases by Cape Cod towns are generally paid out of dedicated funds from the open space account in the Community Preservation Fund. Payment of open space through this account does not require other tax funds or compete with funds for other service needs in town. Open space purchases are often paid for with additional funds from other state and local grants and private contributions, reducing the amount that town government actually has to pay.

Strategic open space purchases contribute to the environmental, economic, and fiscal health of our communities. We should all support open space purchases.

# Nelson House Sanctuary



Photo by Leah Servis

Bee enjoying a drink of water.



Photo by Liz Lewis

Bee enjoying flowers from the Nelson House Garden.

In the warm and frequently dry days of summer and early fall, when the pollinator gardens are in full bloom and the bees are buzzing, you might find yourself wondering what else you can do to help our vital pollinator friends. In addition to planting native plants that are beneficial to bees and butterflies, providing a water source during times of little rain can supply much needed hydration for busy pollinators.

Begin with a shallow pan or dish and fill it with rocks or glass floral beads. Fill with water to just below the surface of the rocks or beads to provide a landing pad and perch for drinking. Place your waterer in an open spot in close proximity to flowers. Change the water frequently to avoid algae growth or contamination.

This is a quick project and a great way to get kids involved in creating welcoming spaces for wildlife!

## Land Projects in the pipeline

### 43 acres in Otis, Massachusetts

Orenda has been contacted by the landowner to hold a conservation restriction on 43 acres – a forested ridge in the Berkshires on a pond and across the street from the State Forest. Orenda is working with the landowner and Mark Robinson of the Cape Cod Compact of Conservation Trusts to help preserve this land.

### Barrier beach in Plymouth

Orenda has been asked, to hold the conservation restriction on this property of 9.98 acres that includes the entirety of a pond's eastern frontage as well as approximately 995' of beach frontage. Mass GIS designates the property's beach as a "barrier beach". The property abuts a town-owned open space parcel to the south. It also has historical value, as at one time ships were lifted into the pond for the purposes of removing barnacles. Once again Orenda will work with the landowner and Mark Robinson of the Compact.

## Orenda names a new sanctuary

In December of 2016 our esteemed board member Jefferies Wyman gave us a lovely parcel of land near Smith's Dock in West Barnstable. Orenda Wildlife Land Trust had been holding the conservation restriction on this property since December of 2004. The land needed protection as it has been a favorite spot for Diamondback Terrapin Turtles to nest.

This summer Orenda named the sanctuary for Mr. Wyman's late wife Margaret. She would be pleased to protect this important habitat for eternity.



Photo by Liz Lewis

Resident Diamondback Terrapin Turtle at the Margaret G. Wyman Sanctuary in West Barnstable.

## Orenda welcomes another scholarship recipient

Skylar Martin of Wareham, is the proud recipient of our scholarship at Cape Cod Community College.

She is working on an Associate's Degree in Environmental Studies and would like to be a waste water specialist. Skylar is already has a part time job inspecting waste water systems. Her other part time job is working at Home Depot in Wareham with our Vice President Dan Morast.

## UPCOMING EVENTS!

Orenda is pleased to sponsor the following talk about an island off of Nantucket:

TALES OF CAPE COD – MUSKEGET ISLAND:

RAW, RESTLESS AND RELENTLESS

Crocker Snow, Jr., author

Held at the Old Colonial Courthouse, Rt. 6a and Rendevous Lane, Barnstable Village

www.Talesofcapecod.org

All programs start at 7pm

Members of Tales of Cape Cod:

\$5.00 non-members \$10.00

Come visit Orenda at the:

CAPE COD WILDLIFE FESTIVAL

at Mass Audubon's Long Pasture Sanctuary,

345 Bone Hill Road in Cummaquid, MA.

September 9th from 10AM till 3PM

Family friendly!

Featuring Rick the Creature Teacher

Environmental groups of Cape Cod

Live Music

Food Trucks

For further information call 508-362-7475

## Orenda attends the 5th annual Brewster Conservation Day

Brewster Conservation Trust and the Town of Brewster hosted the 5th Annual Brewster Conservation Day at Drummer Boy Park. This year they had over 40 conservation and educational exhibits and host Bob Prescott (Mass. Audubon) and Lindsay Graff (Atlantic White Shark Conservancy) were the guest speakers. As always, there were fun educational activities for kids of all ages, including the AmeriCorps Puppet Show, the Fish Weir and new this year, a hands-on experience on shellfishing!

Orenda was there with our popular make your own bird feeder, always popular with the children. We met many of our members and traded stories about our sanctuaries. Many thanks to Leah Servis and Diane Salomone for representing Orenda Wildlife Land Trust!



Photo by Liz Lewis

A young artist makes her bird feeder at the Orenda booth at the Brewster Conservation Day.



### ORENDA WILDLIFE LAND TRUST

P.O. Box 669  
West Barnstable, MA 02668  
Phone: 508-362-4798  
[www.orendalandtrust.org](http://www.orendalandtrust.org)

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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.



AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Orenda Wildlife Land Trust every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price (0.5%) to Orenda Wildlife Land Trust.

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