

### Bill Huss, A Face of Orenda's Support and Conservation Vision

For William "Bill" Huss, it's the conservation of open space that will preserve our environment.

A few years ago, Huss, who has homes in Wayland and Wellfleet, had asked Orenda to hold the Conservation Restriction (C.R.) for 43 acres he owns in the Town of Otis, in the Berkshires. In Massachusetts, by law private property owners engage land trusts to write conservation restrictions to dictate what can or cannot happen on a particular parcel. Orenda is part of The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Inc., and its Executive Director Mark Robinson, the original point-of-contact with Huss, composed the C.R. for the Huss family.

The Otis, Mass., property that Huss owns borders two ponds and it's picture-perfect: the 60-acre Benton Pond and the aptly-named Big Pond, which measures a good 350 acres. Both ponds, or lakes, are filled with bass. Huss doesn't fish, but occasionally launches his canoe and kayak in those waters. The acreage in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains about 1,700 feet above sea level—and, with its expanse of white birch and mature fir trees, is stunning. "If it weren't for the Conservation Restriction, it's certainly a prime logging property since it's all woodland," Huss clarified. The Huss C.R., for instance, specifically forbids logging.

Huss, who grew up in Maryland and has multi-generational ties to Ohio, calls land preservation an "important tool" to preserve open space so that "our children can experience the outdoors." He's keen on weaving climate change into the overall conservation about open space preservation since, he says, trees "absorb the carbon in the atmosphere."

These days Huss, a retired COO and Senior Vice President of Xenergy, Inc., remains busy in his post-retirement years and wholly engaged professionally, just

in a different way from the 9-to-5 framework. He is the Faculty Advisor for Babson's Energy and Environmental Club, and teaches math-related courses there. He's on the Wayland Energy and Climate Change Committee. "My background is in energy efficiency and green power," says Huss, who added that "most of my career was in consulting in energy efficiency and renewable energy."

"Now I'm doing a lot of pro bono consulting with non-profits in strategic planning." In fact, he just finished strategic planning process with a land trust in New Hampshire.

And Orenda is proud to have the Huss Family in our family!



*Bill Huss stands at the edge of his 43-acre forested property in Otis, Mass., for which Orenda Wildlife Land Trust holds the Conservation Restriction that'll keep the land free from development in perpetuity.*

# Musings from the non-Executive Director



Theresa Barbo

By Theresa M. Barbo

It is a Sunday afternoon and my mind is racing with ideas to fill this space.

For the last time, I should add. My tenure at Orenda as Executive Director began in March of 2018. And now I find it's time to leave, though

way too soon.

I'm finishing a master's degree in environmental management as well as continuing to work on a book. I thought I could do all three jobs well, but was continually vividly reminded that I'm only human (and older, and more tired than I thought,) and that there's no such thing as 'having it all.'

This is only farewell, and not goodbye. I have the privilege of staying on a volunteer for a few more land deals, and occasional writing, on behalf of the wonderful board of directors at Orenda, and its longtime Administrator, Liz Lewis.

If there's one thing that has kept me engaged in environmental circles for so long is my love of, and, respect, for, open space.

At a DNA level, humans need nature to restore ourselves. The beauty and peace of the outdoors, in any season, is priceless. As well as the wildlife who call the woods, meadows and shores, home. As my friend at colleague, Kathy Zagzebski, executive director of the National Marine Life Center in Buzzards Bay so wisely said, "nature brings intrinsic value to Cape Cod," as well as other parts of Massachusetts where Orenda has land holdings and conservation restrictions.

The air we take into our lungs is largely courtesy of trees. Most of the water we drink is filtered through the roots of trees. Ample shade is in the understory of forests. The gifts bestowed by trees upon human communities is incalculable. As is the presence of wild birds and animals. Our landscape would be a silent, sterile place without the cries of birds of prey, the enchanting choir of songbirds, the chit and chatter of squirrels, chipmunks, the quiet presence of white-tailed deer, the silent presence of burrowing critters like skunks, fox and rabbits, and the occasional cacophony of coyotes. It is for these creatures, and many more, for which the mission of Orenda exists.

There's much work to do for the next Executive Director. Orenda has several land deals in the pipeline, and we sure hope to close the loops on them by the end of the year. Until we meet again, fair winds to you all.

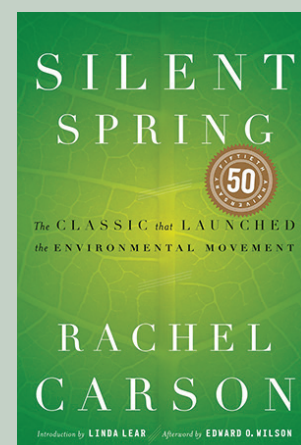
## Book Review: *Silent Spring*

Revisiting a classic book is like discovering fresh realizations that unfold with every page turned. Such is the case with *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson, a marine biologist and writer with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, that launched the modern environmental movement on the perils of DDT when it was published in August 1962.

An excerpt: "*The history of life on earth has been a history of interaction between living things and their surroundings. To a large extent, the physical form and the habits of the earth's vegetation and its animal life have been molded by the environment. Considering the whole span of earthly time, the opposite effect, in which life actually modifies its surroundings, has been relatively slight. Only within the moment of time represented by the present century has one species—man—acquired significant power to alter the nature of his world.*"

*Silent Spring* caused an uproar. The book may have kindled a protective environmental mindset in Americans, and inspired President John F. Kennedy to take notice of governmental regulations and the legal use of pesticides. But Carson was crucified by the chemical industry as she lay dying of cancer. Still, Rachel remained undaunted by criticism until her death in 1964.

A classic book never dies, is never outdated, or does its message of relevance and social messaging falter.





## It Takes A Village to Save the Forest: Update on the Centerville Wildlife Preserve Initiative

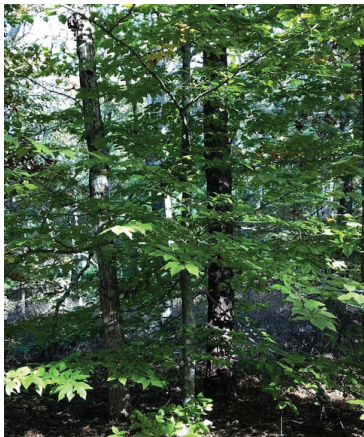
As of press time, Orenda Wildlife Land Trust continues to work on acquiring six acres off Great Marsh Road that we're calling the **Centerville Wildlife Preserve**. Here's where the process stands: we've asked the Town of Barnstable's Community Preservation Committee (CPC) for \$425,000. in Community Preservation Act funds that'll go toward the \$500,000. purchase price. In September, the CPC voted in favor of this request. The land is owned by the Diocese of Fall River.

A second step was to prepare the necessary Conservation Restriction which has been written by The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Inc., our close collaborator in all land deals. This has been done, and the document is under review by the Town Attorney. We've included language in the C.R. to forbid camping, hunting or trapping at the site. There's more: we're not out of the woods yet, so to speak, in our efforts

to save this beautiful and rare forest! Orenda will need to have its full application approved by the full Town Council. If all goes well, that most likely will happen, we hope, in the coming months. If the Town Council votes in favor of the deal, and the CPA funding comes through, we'll still have to put together a funding package that will include community donations.

The Preserve is a beautiful place of mature hardwoods such as beech, maple and oak, and includes tall evergreens of spruce, fir and white pine. It's worth a community's effort to fight for it. It's a place that remains undeveloped where songbirds, birds of prey including Bald eagles, and numerous animals from rabbits, squirrels, muskrat and weasel, find refuge, food and shelter. All this splendor is in the midst of urban sprawl and mere yards from Lake Wequaquet. It's worth any effort to preserve it. Won't you join us in this worthy cause?

Generous neighbors who live near Great Marsh and Hayes Roads have pledged their support, and we're grateful for their interest. If you'd like to donate toward the purchase price, please email [Orenda@comcast.net](mailto:Orenda@comcast.net) for details and further information.



*Picture #1: Thick with hardwoods and pine, the proposed Centerville Wildlife Preserve is Orenda's key priority.*

*Picture #2: The remnants of a long-forgotten driveway is part of the terrain in one small area of the proposed Centerville Wildlife Preserve that Orenda is attempting to purchase.*

### *Weather Dampens the Annual Wildlife Festival*

It broke our hearts to do so, but torrential rains and high winds forced us to cancel the 10th Annual Cape Cod Wildlife Festival that was scheduled for Saturday, September 11th at Mass. Audubon's Long Pasture Sanctuary in Cummaquid. Even though the winds died down by Noon that day, the ground was soaking wet, so there's no way our guests would have been comfortable.

We had a lot of wonderful things planned, including an appearance by fan favorite Rick the Creature Teacher, book signings by nature writers, lots of kid crafts, several food trucks, and of course all the booths manned by our close colleagues on the Cape Cod Wildlife Collaborative. Orenda is a founding member of the Collaborative and every year we look forward to this special outreach event to celebrate the wonders of nature, and the importance of preserved open space, with the community.

The good news is that we've put Saturday, September 12, 2020, for our next Wildlife Festival. We know it's a long way off, but do mark your calendars and we'll see you there!

## Orenda Assists with Fall Cleanup at Gannon Songbird Memorial

In late September, volunteers with the Yarmouth Police Department, their families, and Orenda, turned out for a fall cleanup of the Sgt. Sean M. Gannon Memorial Songbird Sanctuary in the woods behind St. Pius Church in South Yarmouth. Orenda dedicated its newest sanctuary on May 3, 2019, in honor of YPD K9 Officer Sean Gannon, who was murdered in the line of duty in April 2018. The Sanctuary had been formally dedicated on May 3, 2019, and St. Pius Pastor Fr. Paul Caron led the blessing of this special place.

Gnarly vines and other overgrowth was cleared, a few sagging birdhouses were repaired, and weeds were pulled as part of the tidying up. We filled the birdhouses with fresh seed and stood back and watched as a myriad of songbirds including blue jays, sparrows and cardinals slowly returned.

We'll undertake another cleanup later this fall, and again in Spring. We'll never forget Sgt. Gannon, his bravery, and the ultimate sacrifice made on behalf of keeping our community safe.



(Above) Families from the Yarmouth Police Department donned garden gloves to rake and weed the Gannon Sanctuary in late September. (Left) The Gannon Sanctuary is tidy for the Fall!



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

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### NEWSLETTER

Susie Perry, *Graphic Design*  
[perrydesign@comcast.net](mailto:perrydesign@comcast.net)

### AFFILIATIONS

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### Orenda's Mission

Founded in 1986, Orenda Wildlife Land Trust ([orendalandtrust.org](http://orendalandtrust.org)) works to preserve and protect open space for wildlife habitat, fresh air, and water quality, in sanctuaries on Cape Cod and throughout Massachusetts.

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