ORENDA
Wildlife Land Trust
orendalandtrust.org

Summer 2019

The Chronicle of Woodlands and Wildlife

A Quarterly Newsletter of Orenda Wildlife Land Trust

Orenda Springs into Summer at Community Events

Orenda shares its mission to "preserve and protect open space for wildlife habitat, fresh air and water quality" by attending community events. We love this sort of engagement! It's a great way to reach out to people, talk to folks who are interested in conservation, and use these opportunities in public education. We set up tables with cool stuff for kids to do, and provide informational materials like brochures that inform new friends and supporters about the critical need for open space and why these diverse areas are crucial to wildlife.

Orenda was out and about this spring and earlier this summer. Here's what we did: on a chilly and windy morning on April 28th, we set up a table for the Dennis Conservation Celebration (DCC) sponsored by The Dennis Conservation Trust at Johnny Kelley Park in South Dennis just off Old Bass River Road. The event was designed to "promote stewardship" of the local landscape. Volunteers collected trash from all corners of the mid-Cape town and contents were inventoried and weighed so conservationists learned what sorts of litter and debris were being tossed. Then these volunteers and members of the public strolled through booths set up by local environmental-based non-profits.

Conservation in the Pipeline

Orenda is always scouting for land to preserve. Every acre is precious. How do we do what we do? People donate private land which we gratefully add to our portfolio. Sometimes we work with another land trust to raise funds to purchase property. As we go to press, we've got a few land deals in the pipeline. If all goes through, one plot in Mashpee would connect two other sanctuaries and create a wildlife corridor between our Makepeace and Mercy Lowe properties. Another would preserve a six-acre forest in Centerville. We'll keep you posted!

What can you do? Work with your estate planner to honor our mission through a bequest. If you own land that you'd like to keep in your family, consider a Conservation Restriction, or CR, that spells out what can and can't happen on your land in perpetuity. Examples include no hunting, trapping, development or other use other than existing as it is to protect its natural state, and provide wildlife with habitat, shelter and food.

As Orenda does every year, attending the Brewster Conservation Day is a highlight of our summer! We set up our tent—one of many there—on Saturday, July 13th at Drummer Boy Park for a day-long party that honored conservation. Please mark your calendar for another important event that's coming up: the 10th Annual Cape Cod Wildlife Festival on Saturday, September 7th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Mass. Audubon's Wildlife Sanctuary at 345 Bone Hill Road in Cummaquid. That's right off 6A. In the meantime, here's a few pics from Dennis Conservation Celebration and Brewster Conservation Day!:

(Above) Children Learning About Nature Through Art Projects at the Orenda Wildlife Land Trust Exhibit & Table at Brewster Conservation Day Held at Drummer Boy Park in July.

(Left) A Young Guest Colors A Bat at the Dennis Conservation Celebration in April at Johnny Kelley Park

Musings from the Executive Director

By Theresa M. Barbo

Could restoring the Earth be as simple as planting trees? Can human-made carbon emissions be mitigated and reduced by a thriving global canopy? Is it really that simple?

According to a story on the Good News Network, two-thirds of carbon emissions caused by human activity can be mitigated by restoring forests. We've heard the messages before. Trees sequester carbon.

But we'll need 2.2 billion acres of tree cover globally by 2050. And the most promising countries to plant those trees in are, in order, Russia, Canada, Australia, Brazil and China.

It's a perfect nature-based solution to climate change. It's the simplest way to devour invisible emissions that are crippling our planet. Easier said than done. Aligning various countries' cultures, values, politics, science and technological infrastructure, into some form of official pact is time-consuming and politically perilous. But not impossible.

The concept intrigues, doesn't it?

The study the article is based on was conducted by the Crowther Lab of ETH Zurich. It's a place where "nature-based solutions" are studied to mitigate climate change.

Here's an excerpt from the article. Keep in mind that one hectare, a metric-based way of measurement, equals 2.47 acres:

"The researchers calculated that under the current climate conditions, Earth's land could support 4.4 billion hectares of continuous tree cover. That is 1.6 billion more than the currently existing 2.8 billion hectares. Of these 1.6 billion hectares, 0.9 billion hectares fulfill the criterion of not being used by humans. This means that there is currently an area of the size of the US available for tree restoration. Once mature, these new forests could store 205 billion tonnes of carbon: about two thirds of the 300 billion tonnes of carbon that has been released into the atmosphere as a result of human activity since the Industrial Revolution."

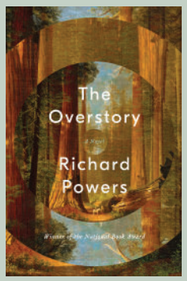
The Crowther Lab may be half a world away in Switzerland, but here on Cape Cod climate change is being studied. If you don't already know about it, the Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative is a volunteer-led 'think tank' that merges "varied expertise and experience of Cape Cod organizations to address the impacts of climate change." Here's the URL: https://capecodclimate.org If you think about climate change, the regional irony is piqued. Cape Cod was formed because a glacier melted and subsequently receded. But here we are, staving off human-based carbon emissions for our spot in the world that was created by naturally-occurring climate change.

To learn more, read the entire article at: https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/how-many-trees-to-plant-to-stop-climate-crisis/#.XURKKWDu8_s.email

The article itself can be found in the July 5, 2019 edition of *Science.*

Even small organizations like Orenda can be tools for awareness and change. One acre at a time in our passion and dedication to setting aside open space to shelter and protect wildlife.

Book Review: *The Overstory*



The Overstory (W. W. Norton & Company 2018) is a novel by acclaimed author Richard Powers, winner of the National Book Award. It doesn't disappoint. But it's a complex read. And it starts slowly, but once you're locked in, you'll never think about trees in the same way.

All distinct characters' lives interface with trees, across timelines, geography and generations. But toward the end of the book, several of these stories merge and then so much suddenly makes sense. From the publisher: "From the roots to the crown and back to the seeds, *The Overstory* unfolds in concentric rings of interlocking fables that range from antebellum New York to the late twentieth-century Timber War of the Pacific Northwest and beyond, exploring the essential conflict on this planet: the one taking place between humans and nonhumans."

The Overstory was inspirational, thought-provoking, and a must-read for anyone engaged in conservation. Give it a go!

Given our ecological mission at Orenda, we are pleased to report that the book was printed on 100% recycled paper! According to Norton, this saved "408 trees, 395,576 gallons of water, 132,288 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions, and 40,272 pounds of solid waste."

Remembering a Hero Through Nature's Healing Strength

On Friday, May 3rd, Orenda Wildlife Land Trust dedicated its newest sanctuary on the grounds of St. Pius X Church in South Yarmouth. The Sgt. Sean M. Gannon Memorial Songbird Sanctuary is named in honor of this brave K-9 officer who was murdered line of duty on April 12, 2018, while part of a law enforcement team that was serving an arrest warrant in the Town of Barnstable. Officer Gannon was posthumously promoted to Sgt. Pastor Paul Caron, a personal friend to the Gannon family, presided over the dedication, and Officer Gannon's family was present, too. While it may be an unusual project for a land trust to undertake, in doing so we believe that nature can help heal a community's grief. Please visit if you can. "We felt it was the appropriate and right thing to do for a land trust to try to help a community heal from this unprecedented tragedy," said Theresa Barbo, Orenda's Executive Director.

If you visit, bring any spare birdseed that you can and fill the feeders if they're empty, with our lasting appreciation! The mid-Cape business and church communities were instrumental in helping to sponsor the Sanctuary: Susan and DeWitt Davenport; Christian Davenport; Mary Anne and Coleman Geary; and Marian and Gerry Manning. Dan Doto of St. Pius who oversees maintenance was a huge help leading up to the dedication. Kim and Anthony Baroni of Stonewood Products donated two gorgeous granite benches, James Shea of S & J Exco. donated the mulch, and lots of it, and Robert B. Our, Jr., donated the fill upon which the mulch sits. Mike Taylor and Rick Bates of Cape Cod Fence were so helpful with donated fencing courtesy of the Davenport Companies. And we thank David Birdsey of Centerville, and David McKenna of Cape Dreams Building, for their homemade birdhouses. From the Yarmouth Garden Club, Kiki and David Becker, Cookie Barry, Ed Mulligan, Paula Phillips, and Debbi Gurak contributed plants and materials for the Dedication. In the weeks following the Dedication, a steady stream of St. Pius members reached out to see how they could help. Special thanks to Nancy Proulx who donated a large bird feeder and she keeps it filled.

In the words of Rachel Carson: "Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature-the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter."

YPD Chief Frank Frederickson with Children of St. Pius who Presented members of the Gannon Family with posies made by Kiki Becker. As you enter the Sanctuary, the first thing you'll see is the dedication sign.

Over 50 individuals attended the formal Dedication and ribbon-cutting

Father Paul Caron dedicated the Sgt. Sean M. Gannon Memorial Songbird Sanctuary on May 3rd

All ready to be dedicated!

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Orenda's Mission

Founded in 1986, Orenda Wildlife Land Trust (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
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