



Vibrant Volunteers

FALL 2021
VOLUME 1 NO 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PG. 1

Coastal Volunteer
Program

PG. 3

Volunteer Spotlight –
Allison Pudvah

PG. 4

Volunteer Opportunities

PG. 5 - 6

Additional
newsworthy tidbits!



Painted by Bob Bowers

VOLUNTEER SERVICES launches Coastal Volunteer Program

Bob Bowers, Director of Volunteer Services, joined The Trustees in June of 2020. Bob stated in an interview that “The Trustees’ mission of conservation, preservation and love for places’ is what initially brought him to our organization. He continued to say he “just loves being a part of that! It is an important and critical moment for us to think about preserving what is most beautiful about this planet and about ourselves.” Below, Bob provides some insight on the Coastal Volunteer Program.



“We are excited to highlight a refreshed and revitalized Coastal Volunteer Program, volunteer opportunities directed toward coastal ecology, stewardship and education. Coastal volunteering is a part of The Trustees Momentum Strategy and supports our work to respond to a Changing Coast. The Trustees have established an organizational priority that links specialized volunteering to climate change action by creating the Coastal Volunteer Program. This program is being recalibrated and restructured to enable greater impact and engagement for the Trustees workforce, both employees and volunteers.

“The issues of global warming, climate change, sea level rise and weather shifts are relevant and very real for The Trustees as we manage over 120 miles of Massachusetts coastland. All indications point toward catastrophic consequences if we do not take immediate action. Many of you know this from your own volunteer work and it is evident in wide ranging reports, but especially our own States of the Coast reports, researched and prepared by Managing Director of Resources and Planning, Tom O'Shea, and team. You can read those reports [here](#).

Continued next page

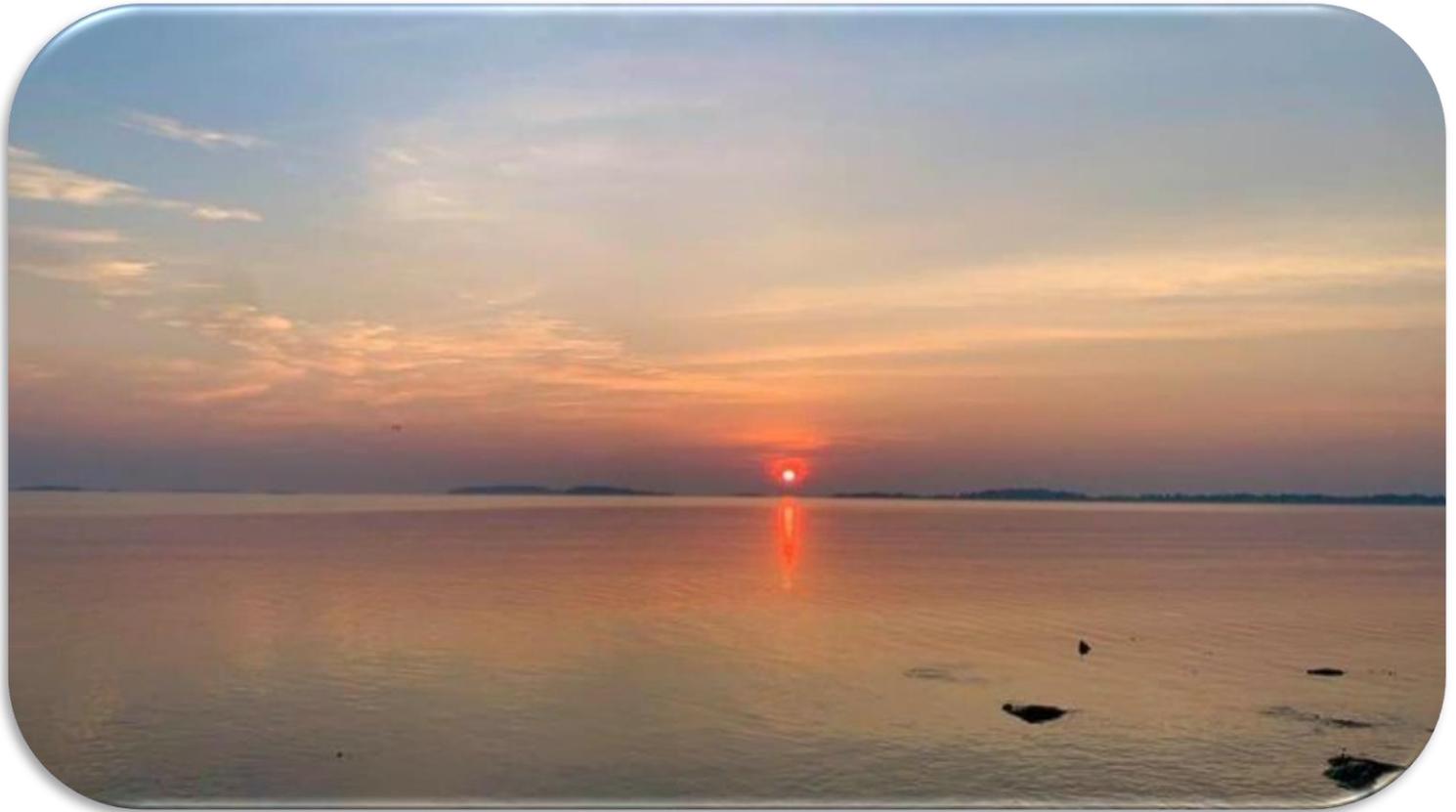


Photo credit: Bob Bowers

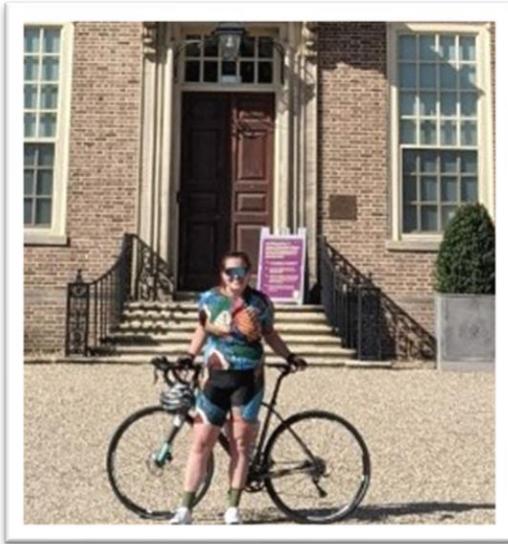
“Many people ask, ‘What can one person do to affect climate change?’ Volunteering is becoming an instrument of choice for American citizens wanting to do their part, wanting to contribute, especially for issues around a rapidly shifting change to our world environment. Your involvement is critically important, not only to a successful coastal volunteer program, but to the very survival and preservation of life and land along the coast, especially in the face of sea level rise, more frequent and more violent storms, erosion, habitat damage, and the impacts on people who live and work along the shore – and beyond. You have a tremendous opportunity to engage in work that will truly make a difference.

“I look forward to working with you, our amazing volunteers, in support of robust coastal volunteer opportunities committed to protecting and advocating for the special shoreline places we love through the stewardship, care and conservation of land, sea and wildlife. Keep an eye on more and more Coastal Volunteering opportunities over the coming months posted in Volunteer Connect. And thank you, once again, for your dedication, service and commitment to the work and mission of The Trustees.”

Did you know?

Bob Bowers is Director, Volunteer Programs and leads the statewide volunteer program strategy overseeing the implementation of systems, policies, measurement, internal and external communication, diversity and inclusion, partners engagement and the overall volunteer engagement and experience.

Fun Fact: Bob is a professional artist, a painter in watercolors and acrylics.



What brought you to The Trustees & how long have you been with us?

I have been a volunteer at the Trustees since February of 2021 and have been a member since 2017. Since the pandemic hit in 2020, like many of you, I hadn't been able to volunteer as much as I normally do in my community. So, with extra time in my schedule, I started looking at opportunities within the Trustees to volunteer. This role was the perfect fit for me -- it allowed me to harness my skills, and love of working with volunteers! And not to mention, the added bonus of making my own schedule and doing tasks remotely!

Tell us about your current role with the Trustees

As a member of the Volunteer Recruitment team, I spend time each week recruiting volunteers at properties on the North Shore. From

researching new partners, to cultivating relationships all the way to volunteers being placed in roles; I support all aspects of the recruitment cycle. While this is something I also do in my full-time job, I've loved being able to apply my skills and experience to this role. It truly has been a blast to be able to tell the story of the Trustees and find meaningful ways that folks in the community are hoping to connect with our spaces.

What has been your favorite day at The Trustees and why?

I am a relationship person; I love making connections and looking at the bigger picture! When I reflect on some of my favorite days at the Trustees, I think about the relationships I have built with community partners. Knowing that I may only be in this role for a period of time, I am creating long-lasting and reciprocal relationships with organizations and communities of the North Shore!

What advice would you have for someone contemplating volunteering with The Trustees?

Jump into a role and have fun with it! Being a volunteer is the best job to have (in my opinion). You get to choose how you spend your time and energy and even have the opportunity to try new things!

What is something about you that might surprise your volunteer colleagues?

Well, I've already mentioned my need to always be busy... so it may be no surprise that in addition to this volunteer role, I also work a full-time job in NH, support grant research for the City of Salem's Mack Park Food Farm, work part-time at the Farm Direct Co-Op in Salem, own and manage an Etsy-based business, and have been training for an Ironman happening in August 2021!



Join the Volunteer Recruitment Team!



As The Trustees continues to grow, so does the need for a diverse and dedicated team of volunteers. The Recruitment Team is currently looking for individuals to join us and help with volunteer recruitment statewide!

Know someone who might be interested, or want to learn more about the role for yourself?

**Reach out to us at
volunteer@thetrustees.org**

We may be saying good-bye to longer days and warm summer days, but The Trustees has many ways for volunteers to be part of our fall offerings! Check out some of these fantastic options.



Pumpkins! Pumpkins! And MORE Pumpkins!

Across the state, The Trustees is preparing for Halloween at many of our amazing properties. Do you have a creative side and would like to help carve pumpkins – whether real ones or ‘fake’ pumpkins? Would you prefer to assist at one of our Halloween events? Come join our staff and other volunteers during any of these days and times. We also can support group volunteer days and individual days!

- [Pumpkin Carving Party](#) at Stevens-Coolidge House and Gardens in North Andover
- [Pumpkin Carving Party](#) at Naumkeag in Stockbridge
- [Halloween Event Pumpkin Carvers](#) at Long Hill in Beverly
- [Halloween Event Set Decorators](#) at Long Hill in Beverly
- [Pumpkins in the Park](#) at Francis William Bird Park in Walpole

WinterLights is back for the 2021 Holiday Season!

Three of our beautiful garden properties will sparkle with thousands of shimmering, artfully designed holiday lights. Volunteers can assist staff by decorating the properties and by assisting during the event evenings.

- [WinterLights Set-up](#) at the Eleanor Cabot Bradley Estate in Canton
- [WinterLights Carpentry and Set Building](#) at the Eleanor Cabot Bradley Estate in Canton
- [WinterLights Event Volunteers](#) at the Eleanor Cabot Bradley Estate in Canton
- MORE TO COME . . .



Explore Volunteer Roles within the Charles River Valley!

The properties within the Charles River Valley are so diverse . . . working farms, miles of trails, professional kitchen, and a gem of a campground. Check out some of these volunteer roles.

- Assist our staff with either an adult or kids [cooking class](#) at Powisset Farm in Dover
- Be part of our [Fall Fun on the Farm!](#) at Powisset Farm in Dover
- Or join our team at Chestnut Hill Farm in Southborough for [Fall Fun on the Farm!](#)

Did you know . . .?

There are plenty of interesting links on VolunteerConnect! Check them out.

- Have you met [Robin Grossman](#), our very own volunteer who creates the newsletter?
- Having trouble entering your volunteer hours? Watch [this tutorial](#) for useful tips.
- Looking for other useful [resources](#), like The Trustees mission, our Code of Conduct, or the Volunteer Handbook?

volunteer.thetrustees.org



Youth Coastal Ambassador Program on Martha's Vineyard launches in September!

The Trustees is launching our first Youth Coastal Ambassadors Program (YCAP) on Martha's Vineyard. Through the Claire Saltonstall Education Program, our mission is to connect island high school students interested in coastal studies with the work the Trustees is engaged with on the island. This volunteer program will be divided into three parts — classroom learning (20%), independent projects (20%), and hands on volunteer work on Trustees properties (60%). In a series of short classroom sessions, ambassadors will learn about the region's coastal ecology, the effects of climate change on our coastal landscapes, and various restoration techniques.

These classroom sessions will be followed by opportunities for students to use what they have learned to educate others in their community. Students will develop skills in engagement and public education by creating educational videos on key coastal topics, aiding facilitators on school field trips, and interviewing Trustees employees about the work they do in the field. In the fall and spring, students will work on a variety of stewardship projects on Trustees properties (examples include beach profiling, beach cleanup events, invasive species management, and dune restoration). Upon completion of this program, YCAP students will have developed skills in leadership, stewardship, public engagement, and education, and be prepared for future careers in conservation.



This program is an eight-month commitment (Oct-May), meeting on the first Saturday of each month. Sessions run for approximately 3 hours and will take place either in classroom at The Farm Institute (Covid permitting), on Zoom, and/or on site at one of the various Trustees properties on Martha's Vineyard

The Trustees continues to promote Diversity, Belonging, Inclusion and Equity

Building The Trustees of the future is all about creating a sense of welcome for all. That starts with our staff. We believe having an inclusive workplace with diverse perspectives is critical to our work. We remain true to our mission by ensuring that our spaces can be anyone's place. We are ever curating information and creating programs to help us be the most inclusive organization that we can be.



Under the leadership of Janelle Woods-McNish, Managing Director of Community Impact, The Trustees has developed a Diversity, Belonging, Inclusion, and Equity (DBIE) Roadmap. The Roadmap provides an overarching vision for creating inclusive spaces of belonging for Trustees staff, members, volunteers, and communities across our organization and 120 plus properties. Realizing this vision and creating inclusive spaces where everyone feels welcome is a journey. A journey for us as an organization and for each of us as

individuals. As we share our aspirations and plans for what we can achieve on this journey over the next 4 years, we also acknowledge that this will be a long-term commitment that will require continuous learning.





Thank you, spring and summer, until next year... It has been another incredible spring and summer for the Trustees. Many thanks to all the volunteers that helped us during this delightful, but busy, season. This painting is of Stevens-Coolidge House in May, full bloom. Our very own Bob Bowers, Director of Volunteers Services, is the talented artist.

The Trustees has a Covid task force to make sure we are up to date on all new recommendations and modifications. The Trustees are always here to make sure all, staff, volunteers, and visitors are safe.

- As the [state has recommended](#), unvaccinated individuals should wear a mask indoors and when unable to social distance outdoors.
- Individuals who are vaccinated are not required to wear masks outdoors unless they are more comfortable doing so.
- Visitors and staff at our public indoor spaces are strongly encouraged to wear a mask. For our most current update regarding the coronavirus protocols at our properties, please follow this [link](#).
- Our Trustees colleagues who are vaccinated are welcome to wear a mask at any time if they are more comfortable doing so.
- In addition to our organizational guidelines, we are complying with local regulations where they may be stricter, including in Provincetown and on Nantucket. Please continue to check with your local requirements as other towns have started to implement localized mask mandates as well.