



Vibrant Volunteers

SPRING 2021
VOLUME 1 NO 1

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THE TRUSTEES FIRST VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER!

Welcome to our first volunteer quarterly newsletter where we celebrate our most precious asset . . . our volunteers! You'll also find educational information, current happenings within The Trustees and a sneak preview of our upcoming volunteer roles across the state. Do you have a story you would like to see featured? Or maybe a question for Volunteer Services? Please email us at [Volunteer Services](#). We are very excited to have you here with us!

As you know, volunteers are at the heart of The Trustees – communities of individuals, organizations and companies committed to preserving and protecting the places we love for all to enjoy. Volunteerism has been a cornerstone of The Trustees since 1891 in conserving land for people and continues to play a role in shaping its future. With your support, dedication, talent and occasionally sweat-equity, you help us protect the unique character of our communities and inspire a commitment to our special places. The Trustees simply would not exist without you! More than ever, we are committed to upholding our mission while also working towards being a welcoming organization focused upon diversity, belonging, inclusion and equity for all. We are proud to share in this journey with each of you.

This newsletter was written by our very own volunteer within Volunteer Services, Robin Grossman!

So, let's get this party started!

Salt Marsh Restoration

The Trustees ultimately aim to restore a total of 2,000 acres of land, as part of an innovative salt marsh restoration project underway in Newbury, Essex and Ipswich. The funding, [a \\$1 million grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service \(FWS\)](#), was awarded to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and will be shared in partnership with several states— Massachusetts, Maine, Rhode Island, Virginia, and Maryland.

The salt marsh restoration project uses a new, natural method to “heal” some of the past marsh ditching, which retains water and leaves the ecosystem at high-risk for floods. This restoration method rebuilds marsh peat naturally, restoring natural draining processes and allowing the marsh to keep pace with a rising sea level.



As the largest conservation nonprofit in Massachusetts with 27,000 acres under its care, including 37 coastal sites and 120 miles of managed waterfront, The Trustees recognizes the immediate need to boost the aid of its properties which are extremely vulnerable due to climate change.

The Trustees launched its “Saving the Great Marsh: Ditch Remediation, Habitat Preservation and Resiliency Building at the Landscape Scale,” project in the summer of 2018 with the first phase of funding awarded through a \$15,740 Mass Bays grant that kick-started the restoration of 85 acres of salt marsh at Old Town Hill Reservation, in Newbury. The three to five-year restoration process will include an approach of harvesting salt hay from the marsh and loosely braiding and layering the hay within past ditched areas. Over time, this natural approach will allow the braided hay to collect sediment from the incoming tides and rebuild marsh “peat” naturally to bring back the health and natural function of the marsh.

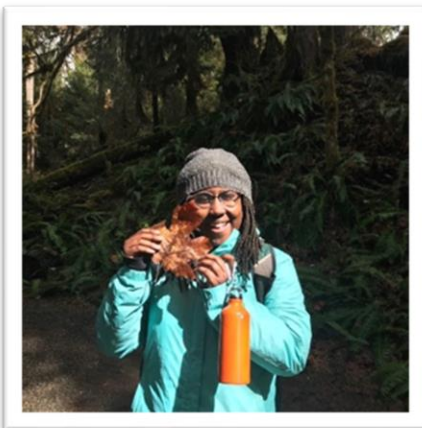
This past October volunteers from Breckinridge Capital Advisors joined The Trustees at Old Town Hill Reservation and had a “workday” on the marsh. The volunteer group learned about the new natural approach being used to help “heal” this necessary ecosystem and habitat, before taking action to help that day.

In 2023 the FWS plans to assess whether salt marsh sparrows warrant protection under the Endangered Species Act. In Massachusetts, a state that supports 10% of the saltmarsh sparrow population, this bird is currently listed as a state species of Trustees properties with known saltmarsh sparrow populations including Old Town Hill in Newbury, Cape Poge Wildlife Refuge on Martha’s Vineyard, and Crane Wildlife Refuge in Ipswich. We have all different types of volunteers with different interests and stories -- corporate volunteers, individual volunteers and group volunteers.

LAFAYETTE COLLEGE



The Lafayette College VIRTUAL 2021 Explore & Connect Program pairs students with an alumna/us, parent, employer, or other friend of Lafayette to expand the student’s knowledge of a career field, develop their professional insight, and expand their professional network. The Trustees has partnered with Lafayette College for the past several years, offering students both remote and on property opportunities to support the mission of The Trustees. As part of our 5-year strategic plan, Momentum, the ‘Explore & Connect Program’ aligns with The Trustees’ commitment to engaging the next generation outdoors to cultivate our replacements – the future generation who will carry on our work and care for our places and our mission. We welcomed the following 3 students to our team.



Teni Bakare

*Bachelor of Arts, Policy Studies & Psychology (Double Major)
Minor: Environmental Studies*

Teni Bakare said: “I want to reach out to thank you all again for the amazing experience I had with the Trustees. Through the Explore and Connect Program, I was able to learn more about the non-profit side of the environmental profession. I enjoyed meeting all the different people who help make the Trustees such an integral organization. I look forward to staying in touch with you all as I continue my college career. It might interest you to know that our meeting with Lieza Dagher inspired me to

reach out to the head of our school's farm and ask for a summer job in farm management. Luckily, I secured the position and will be tackling this new experience this summer.”



Bobbie Oehrlein

Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineering

Robert Oehrlein said: “Overall this experience was highly beneficial. It helped me get a better understanding of nonprofits and what everyone's roles can be in a company. It also increased my network and has helped me prioritize what I want to focus on in the future. I look forward to keeping in touch with you in the future and will be sure to keep the Trustees in mind.”

Katie Kavanaugh

Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science

Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs

Katie Kavanaugh said: “Thank you again for taking the time out of your busy schedules last week to provide me with such a valuable Explore & Connect experience with the Trustees! I appreciate all your efforts to design a fantastic experience and connect us to a wide variety of staff! Speaking with everyone was really enlightening, and I have learned a lot about nonprofit environmental and conservation work. The Trustees’ mission aligns closely with my own values and interests, and I found that this experience strengthened my interest in environmental nonprofit careers after graduation. I hope to come to Massachusetts and visit some of the Trustees’ beautiful properties in-person one day! Thank you also for compiling this list of contacts - I definitely plan to reach out with questions soon.”





[Internships Available for High School Students at Appleton Farms](#)

Appleton Farms is recruiting high school students to improve Appleton's education spaces in the barnyard, gardens, and classroom spaces. One-time or occasional volunteer projects OR semester long volunteer projects will be planned and managed by college interns and overseen by our Youth Programs Manager. Appleton Farms consists of rolling grasslands, grazing livestock, stone walls, vegetable crops, and historic farm buildings, offering a rare glimpse into New England's agricultural past. We have a robust educational platform, including: field study for

school and youth groups, summer camp, public programs and cooking classes for adults and kids, and year-round festivals and special events.

[Spring Clean-Up Day Planned at deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum](#)

Come join staff and other volunteers for our Annual Spring Clean-Up Day on Saturday, May 1st, 2021 from 10:00 am – noon. Help us pull winter's blanket off and welcome spring! Volunteers should come dressed in layers for varying weather conditions, wear appropriate footwear, bring work gloves, hat, sunscreen, refillable water bottle and snacks. We will have tools to share, but feel free to bring your own tools if you prefer.

Established in 1950, deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum is the largest park of its kind in New England encompassing 30 acres, 20 miles west of Boston. Providing a constantly changing landscape of large-scale, outdoor, modern and contemporary sculpture and site-specific installations, the Sculpture Park hosts more than 60 works, the majority of which are on loan to the Museum. Inside, the Museum features a robust slate of rotating exhibitions and innovative interpretive programming.

[Hike Outdoors Volunteers with our Outdoor Experiences Team](#)

Whether you're looking for adventure, ready to try something new, or just love being outside, we've got something special for outdoor enthusiasts of all ages! Our Outdoor Experiences Team is currently looking for enthusiastic volunteers interested in assisting with leading educational and recreational hikes at several properties in the Charles River Valley and Southeast/South Shore region. Choose a specialty area and assist in leading hikes on natural resources: marine, terrestrial, avian, botanical or other areas of expertise that you have. Outdoor recreation lovers, retired individuals who enjoy interacting with the public, students seeking to explore careers and nature lovers can all find a home away from home. Take part in this learning and sharing opportunity with The Trustees! Support outreach on The Trustees properties and meet community members.

[Portuguese Translators for Martha's Vineyard – Remote Availability](#)

The Trustees is looking for a bilingual volunteer to translate posters, flyers and educational materials into Portuguese. Depending on the interest of the volunteer, there may be the opportunity to co-lead tours and public programs on Trustees properties alongside a Trustees staff member, providing spoken translation, or eventually lead tours independently in Portuguese. As an ambassador to the Island's Portuguese-speaking population, you will help us expand our outreach to the Brazilian community, make our place-based environmental education programs for schools more accessible to English language learners, and ensure that our programming reaches an audience that is representative of the Vineyard community as a whole.

We share these events and opportunities as potential skills development opportunities and other experiences relevant to the interests of our volunteer team.

ON- SITE LESSON PLANS

What could an engaging and inspiring professional development experience at deCordova do for your department or school?

Half- and full-day programs are designed around your objectives and interests. Great for educators interested in experiential or place-based learning; 2D and 3D art making; and interdisciplinary connections with science, environmental studies, Language Arts history, and more. *Contact for inquiries and to discuss ideas: Julie Bernson at jbernson@thetrustees.org or 617.542.7696 x4016.*

LINCOLN NURSERY SCHOOL/DECORDOVA PARTNERSHIP

Preschool faculty and administrators, education professors, and museum educators are invited to inquire about [professional development opportunities](#) with the on-site, Reggio Emilia-inspired Lincoln Nursery School and deCordova's Learning and Engagement Department. *Contact Lisa Canning, lcanning@lincolnnurseryschool.org.*

FACILITIES RENTAL FOR EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

DeCordova's 30-acre, pond-side campus is an inspiring setting for your own retreat. We offer special rates for schools or organizations that wish to rent our studios or meeting spaces for their own professional development or meetings. *Contact Donna Berube at dberube@decordova.org or 781.259.3603*

