



## Vibrant Volunteers

WINTER 2021/2022  
VOLUME 1 NO 4

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## VOLUNTEER SERVICES Launches Learning Series

In October, Volunteer Services launched a new learning series in response to our volunteers wanting to know more about the work we do alongside each of you. To that end, we are announcing a learning opportunity for all volunteers, focused on coastal volunteering and the impact of climate on the environment. The series is called “Charting the Course: Volunteer Learning Series for Coastal Action.” This is a great opportunity to meet the staff and hear from subject matter experts.

These courses cover wide-ranging topics about the work and mission of The Trustees. They will focus initially on our work along the 120 miles of coastland maintained by The Trustees and the effects of climate change on trails, beaches, dunes, marsh and wildlife. There’s even a course about the property being developed along the waterfront in East Boston! Your work and dedication to the mission of The Trustees directly impacts our ability to care for the special places we all love and want to protect. Our hope is that the volunteer experience enriches your lives and empowers you to contribute meaningfully to efforts for conservation and preservation.

Four times each year Volunteer Services will notify you about upcoming courses. These one-hour sessions, accessible by Zoom, are free and open to all volunteers. Our first course was presented on October 20, with a repeat on October 21. The presentation was recorded and may be viewed [here](#).

Thank you, volunteers, for all you do to support the work and mission of The Trustees. We hope you enjoy this series!

*Bob*

Bob Bowers,  
Director of Volunteer Services



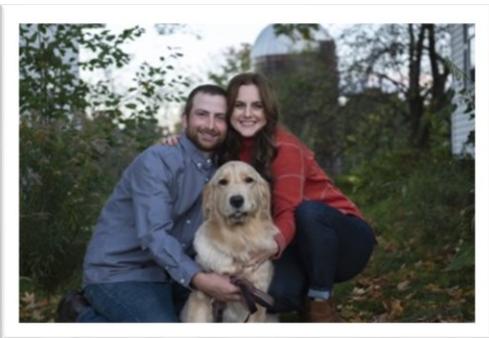
**What brought you to The Trustees & how long have you been with us?**

I came to The Trustees as a farm volunteer in 2017. I had graduated college and was struggling to decide where I wanted to go with a career. I have always had an important connection with nature and realized that there is no time like the present to try your hand at something you are passionate and curious about. I am so grateful that I found my calling.



**Tell us about your current role with The Trustees**

I am currently the Field Crop Manager at Chestnut Hill Farm in Southborough. Like the roles of many Trustees employees, no two days are alike. While the bulk of my work has me planning, tending to, and distributing vegetables to our 250-member CSA [Community Supported Agriculture], I often find myself nurturing livestock, engaging with the community, and learning how to maintain the many pieces of equipment that we rely on.



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

My favorite day at The Trustees, hands down, was the day I met my wife. While it was a typical day at work, it was anything but a typical day. I had just become an apprentice at Powisset Farm, and Jenna was starting as a volunteer, for very similar reasons that I did. I am lucky because this job presents much beauty and meaning every day. There are so many highlights -- from welcoming many baby animals into this world and bringing in successful harvests, to belly-aching laughs with crew.

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

Do it! Our Volunteer Services staff work hard to make it a seamless experience for every kind of volunteer, and I have never seen a volunteer position here that didn't look like a great place to learn something useful and have a blast. You shouldn't expect to meet your soulmate, but you should expect to meet some amazing like-minded people.

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

Until four years ago, I had never tasted probably 25 percent of the vegetables that we grow. Now I love them all and most enjoy some of the weirdest ones.

**What are two fun facts about you?**

I speak French and I'm quite good at juggling.



**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'd like to introduce a new article to our newsletter! Each quarter, Robin Grossman, Volunteer Services Associate, will share an article about one of our beloved properties. In this issue, Robin writes about Pegan Hill.*

This past August I had taken my dog, Ace, to [Pegan Hill](#) in South Natick, a Trustees property which is free to the public. I fell in love with this property, which is less well known than some of The Trustees other properties and is a beautiful hidden gem. Easy to find, off Pleasant Street, I pull up with my 3-year-old crazy black lab mix, Ace, affectionately referred to as "Acy boy."



I parked my car conveniently in the parking lot, located right by the trail with a large trail map. We had a perfect short hike, challenging but not enough to get tired. Ace and I came across a sign that said Lewis Hill. It is on the Dover/Natick Line and beautiful. I love pastures. We followed the sign on the right to a hiking trail that is very well marked.

I followed the trail signs and popped out of the hiking trail to beautiful green scenic pastures. I did not pay attention, and decided to take a right. Turned out we were on private property! The owner of a large, charming farmhouse politely asked us to stay in the public area. I thanked the gentleman and walked the opposite direction. This is where the magic happened that literally took my breath away. Gorgeous green pastures, breath taking views and a historic stone wall.

The reminiscent stone walls built in the 1760s still remain. There are even a few Adirondack chairs and a picnic table near a quaint dirt road/trail. Ace and I walked around and looked at the stunning scenic views before taking a rest. I sat on one of the Adirondack chairs and took in nature at its best. A few deep breaths and the scenery made me happy. I felt as though I was somewhere far away and back to a simpler time, so pure and simple, yet beautiful.



The following excerpt is from [The Trustees website](#): "More than 350 years ago, Pegan Hill marked the southern edge of the 4,000-acre "Praying Indian" town of Natick, established in 1651 at the urging of the Reverend John Eliot (1604–1690). From 1646 until his death forty-four years later, Eliot led a mission whose goal included the creation of "praying towns" for Indigenous Peoples who, allegedly inspired by the gospel that Eliot had taught, left their nomadic lives to form villages in which they could learn more about Christianity. After early success, Eliot became encouraged by the possibility of gradual religious, social, and

*political integration of all Indigenous Peoples into colonial society. In the end, he founded six more "praying towns" in Massachusetts and Connecticut. The lowland areas surrounding Pegan Hill served as fields for apple trees and vegetable crops, and fences were laid out for raising goats, pigs, and oxen. The stone walls that encircle the base of Pegan Hill are remnants of this era. . . . After King Philip's War (1675–76), many surviving Indigenous Peoples moved to Natick to live under Eliot's care. When he died in 1690, their life rapidly declined. Unable to find trades and despised by wider society, they retreated to the fringes of colonial life, worked marginal jobs, and sold off their land to farmers to pay debts."*

Several neighbors have helped preserve the open space by granting permanent conservation restrictions. "A Conservation Restriction is one of several methods of protecting land. It's a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust (or other agency) designed to permanently protect the conservation values of a property by defining allowed uses. Conservation Restrictions (CRs) are a fast-growing tool to protect private property nationwide. CRs are now a key part of how The Trustees partners with private landowners to ensure the permanent conservation of their very own special places."

**Bibliography**

Smith, Frank. *A History of Dover, Massachusetts, As a Precinct, Parish, District and Town*. Dover, MA: Town of Dover, 1897.  
Stimson, Frederic Jesup and Dover Historical and Natural History Society. *Old Home Day: Proceedings of the One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Town of Dover, Massachusetts, Wednesday, July 7th, 1909*. [Dover, MA]: Printed by the Dover Historical and Natural History Society. 1910. Vara, Richard Hart and Electa Kane Tritsch. *Dover Days Gone By: An Illustrated History*. Dover, MA: Dover Historical Society, 2010

## The Trustees Welcomes Noel Dominguez, Diversity and Inclusion Program Manager



It's exciting to have such a talented new staff member join The Trustees. Noel Dominguez is a PhD candidate in philosophy at Harvard University. In his dissertation, Noel examined unintentional actions caused by implicit racial biases. Noel's background will help address the Diversity, Belonging, Inclusion, and Equity (DBIE) recruitment strategy that is so important to The Trustees.

Noel is a published author, included in the book "[An Introduction to Implicit Bias: Knowledge, Justice, and the Social Mind](#)." Originally from Miami, Noel has a BA in philosophy and political science from Bard University at Simon's Rock. He has taught classes at Harvard in philosophy and related topics. Noel resides in Cambridge with his wife, Kathryn. A little known fact about Noel is that he worked as a professional clown to help pay his college tuition.

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*"Winter is the time for comfort, great food, and warmth.  
The time for a friendly hand, and a talk beside the fire: It is a time for home."  
~ Edith Sitwell*

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### Featured Winter Volunteer Roles!

- [Remote Volunteer Training Session – January 27!](#)
  - Meet other volunteers from across the state, learn about one of our properties from staff, ask questions of our Volunteer Services staff.
- [WinterLights Event Volunteers](#) at the Eleanor Cabot Bradley Estate in Canton
- [Museum Ambassador](#) at deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum in Lincoln
- [Hike Volunteers](#) at Appleton Farms in Ipswich
- [Visitor Services Volunteers](#) at Notchview in Stockbridge
- [Firewood Processor](#) at Appleton Farms in Ipswich
- [AND MORE!](#)



### Did you know . . .?

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

- Meet [Ellen & Mike Garvey](#), this month's volunteer spotlight.
- Did you miss our October Learning Series? Visit our [resources](#) page to view the recordings.
- Having trouble 'self-reporting' your volunteer hours? Watch this [brief tutorial to learn how](#).



**Have a question for our  
Volunteer Services staff?**

Each Monday from 3:30 PM – 4:00 PM EST,  
join a [free ZOOM meeting](#) where you can ask a Volunteer Services staff member  
a question about a volunteer role, how to search for a volunteer role or  
how to enter your volunteer hours.  
Or just stop by to say "Hello"!

