

PLEDGE TO PROTECT TUCKERNUCK

In committing to buy the 26-acre Jackson property a year and a half ago, the Tuckernuck Land Trust took a leap of faith. Still paying off an extended mortgage on the decade-old purchase of 38 acres on the east end, TLT nonetheless saw the timely opportunity presented in the bargain-sale offer from the Jacksons. This significant land, encompassing multiple island habitats and contiguous with an 18-acre lot recently given to TLT, generated earnest discussion but little dissention about taking on the challenge of securing this pristine land for the future.

Public reaction was positive, and a number of generous donors showed their support for TLT's ultimate decision to purchase the property. TLT raised \$500,000 toward the total cost of \$800,000, entered into a generous loan agreement with the Agua Fund, and became the owner of record for this piece of Tuckernuck.

The leap was taken, and the faith holds today. While the pressure of making the decision is past, it has been traded for the subtler, more mundane pressure of a mortgage. Unlike a typical property loan, though, TLT's commitment comes due in five years, and that clock is ticking. Payments are due at the end of each year.

You can help. Pledge to preserve Tuckernuck.

A new, three-year pledge from you will help TLT to meet its payment obligations and hold on to this land we have teamed together to save.

Land preservation has two chief advantages: it keeps intact the integrity of the ecosystems in which plants and animals thrive on the island, while it also prevents clearing for construction of new houses, which would bring with them more impacts from humans, vehicles, pets, lights, and introduced plants.

This land is safely protected—for now. Until TLT is free and clear of this mortgage loan, these 26 acres cannot be considered permanently conserved. Please help TLT relieve that worry for all of us. Make your new tax-deductible commitment today.

Thank you for your support of the qualities that make Tuckernuck so extraordinary.



JENNIFER AHLBORN

TUCKERNUCK 365



JENNIFER AHLBORN

It may not be possible for you to visit Tuckernuck all twelve months out of the year, but it is possible to help protect it year-round.

As one of the island's generational visitors, Lucy French decided she wanted to show consistent and regular support for TLT's conservation work on Tuckernuck. She contacted the TLT office to set up a recurring monthly gift in honor of her grandmother, Ruth Stevens. Because modest increments are automatically charged to her credit card once a month, she is able to tally a significant gift for the year without worry—and she knows she is protecting a piece of her favorite island each time she checks her statement.

Lucy invites you to consider making Tuckernuck Land Trust a part of your regular budget with an automatically recurring gift. To start protecting Tuckernuck year-round, please **contact the TLT office at 508-228-2638 or tlt@tuckernucklandtrust.org**.

2018 COASTAL MONITOR: MEET ELLA POTENZA



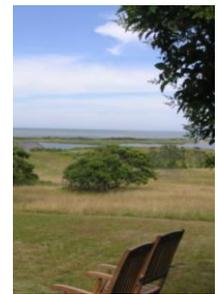
Newly named TLT's 2018 Coastal Steward, Ella Potenza was excited to visit Tuckernuck in mid-April. She looks forward to returning in late May to settle in and begin to familiarize herself with the denizens of the island, particularly the two-legged types (both with and without feathers).

Tuckernuck seems to attract people with varied interests, and Ella is no exception. She is currently working towards two bachelor's degrees at the City University of New York's College of Staten Island, both a B.S. in biology, with a concentration in ecology, and a B.A. in philosophy. Building on her experience researching grassland habitat and its bird species at Freshkill Park on Staten Island, and also utilizing interpersonal skills she developed as an assistant in a medical office, Ella looks forward to serving as TLT's liaison with Tuckernuckers and visitors, facilitating TLT's Education Walk series and monitoring the protections established for threatened bird species and their habitats.

And if you speak Italian, be sure to say, "Ciao!" when you see her. She would enjoy *parlare degli uccelli e dell'isola*.

SAVE THE DATE: TLT ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 30

Traditionally held on Fourth-of-July weekend, the Tuckernuck Land Trust's Annual Meeting this year will take place the Saturday just before the mid-week holiday. You are invited to join the Board of Directors at Brooks House on June 30, at 4:00 in the afternoon, to hear the latest news about TLT's activities in Tuckernuck conservation and education. A pot-luck reception will follow. Come share in the conversation about how to protect Tuckernuck for all and forever.



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A CLEAN LANDING

The Lagoon seems to have narrowed further since the fall but remains accessible by boat. The series of northeast storms that pummeled the island in late winter also deepened the sand in the area TLT is pleased to provide for short-term parking nearby, east of the slough.

A few vehicles, boats, and other items were left in the area over the winter. To comply with the conservation restriction on the land, held by the Nantucket Land Council—the Board of Directors asks your help in clearing the area and maintaining its use for only short-term parking.

- Vehicles should be left at the landing for a short duration only.
- Please do not leave a vehicle that leaks or is inoperable.
- Please do not leave car batteries, shingles, or other debris in the area.
- Please do not leave a vehicle that you plan to have removed from Tuckernuck. Instead, arrange to have it moved, on the day of departure, directly to the boat that will transport it from Tuckernuck.
- All vehicles should be removed from TLT's property for the winter season.

Thank you for your cooperation. This approach will not only help maintain Tuckernuck's beauty but will also make us good stewards of the plants and creatures that inhabit the landing area and the slough.

SERVICE BEYOND OUR SHORES

Jamey French Named Board Chair of National Association



The French family on Tuckernuck: Jennie, Jamey, Robin, Lucy, and Jack

Having enjoyed Jamey French’s informed, thoughtful, and alert leadership for a number of years, it was no surprise to the TLT Board of Directors when he announced that he had been named the new Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Land Trust Alliance (LTA), the national association of land trusts, of which TLT is a member.

The LTA was founded in 1982 to draw together the increasing number of land trusts forming across the country. Its aims were both to provide support for these geographically spread organizations, many of them all-volunteer initiatives, and to pool their influence on federal legislation related to conservation, including easements and tax-deductibility. Today the Alliance has nearly 1,000 land trust members, ranging in size from those even smaller than

TLT to large, statewide groups like the Trustees of Reservations and Mass Audubon to the largest national organizations, such as The Nature Conservancy and the Trust for Public Lands. Besides federal policy issues, the Alliance supports a substantial education program, an accreditation system, and even an insurance company, Terraferma.

It may well have been Jamey French’s fate to help lead that initiative. He was raised in a family long dedicated to sustainable forestry and the values of conservation. Jamey’s family has been in the hardwood industry since the late 1800s. Northland Forest Products (NFP), the business he has led as President since 1987, was started by his father in 1970. NFP and Meadowsend Timberlands, the family land company, were founded on the principles of responsible stewardship.

As a fourth-generation lumberman, Jamey grew up learning to identify trees by their bark and understanding that the hardwood and conservation industries have common ground. At NFP, which processes, exports, and distributes hardwood lumber, Jamey has found a balance that has earned him the respect of both industry and conservation leaders. His integration of forest certification into business practices earned him the Sustainable Standard Setter Award from the Rainforest Alliance, and his efforts to help establish a U.S. initiative for the Forest Stewardship Council (the internationally recognized monitor for forest product certification) led to his election to the FSC-US Board and later as the first chairman from the economic sector. He has served as a trustee, then chairman, of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests and as a trustee of the New Hampshire chapter of The Nature Conservancy.



Not Tuckernuck! But another environment Jamey helps to protect.

Many of these endeavors involved negotiations with the federal government, and Jamey is, by now, no stranger to Washington, D.C. He has served as an LTA board member for seven years and was named Vice Chair in 2014. As chair of the government relations committee, he has spearheaded the organization’s lobbying efforts in the capital and around the country. He is also on the boards of the American Forest Foundation and the National Wildlife Federation Action Fund.

Jamey likes to refer to himself as a “Tuckernuck outlaw” and to appreciate his acceptance, on sufferance of marriage, into one of the longest established Tuckernuck families, tracing its roots back to Joseph Warren Phinney arriving on the west end of the island in 1895. It is possible that the influence of Jamey’s wife, Robin, the Founding Director of Portsmouth ProMusica, can be seen in his branching out, in his spare time, to serve numerous arts organizations, including as a founder of the Portsmouth Music Hall and as current chair of the Prescott Park Arts Festival. He has also chaired Strawberry Banke Museum and is Vice Chair of Friends Forever International.

Amid all this nonstop activity, TLT is grateful for Jamey’s introduction to—and obvious love for—Tuckernuck, mixed with his innate conservationism, which has provided benefit to our land trust for eleven years under Jamey’s leadership. The Board of Directors congratulates its chief on his well-deserved appointment, wishes him luck during his tenure, and looks forward to learning from his top-level connection to the pulse of conservation activities across the nation and around the world.

HOPE FOR THE OAKS

Scientist Sheds Light on Black Oak Infestation

Since TLT reported in 2014 on the decay affecting the oak trees on Tuckernuck, scientists have made progress toward determining the cause and possible solutions. Working with advisor Joseph S. Elkinton, Ph.D., of the Environmental Conservation Department at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Biology major Cameron Smith-Freedman has investigated the affected trees and these invading insects, down to the level of the wasps' DNA.

Researchers have discovered that the gall (cynipid) wasp causing the trouble is, in fact, a new species. The Black Oak Gall Wasp (*Zapatella davisae*) can be found in various types of oak trees but prefers eastern black oaks (*Quercus velutina*) to host their reproduction. These gall wasps, roughly the size of fruit flies, lay their eggs in stems and joints of the trees, creating galls, or swollen areas on the branches. The developing larvae then steal the tree's nutrients that would otherwise feed the development of new leaves. (In response, the tree begins desperately to produce leaves in protective clumps, causing the altered appearance that has been seen in some black oaks in Tuckernuck's forest.)



Above: Leaf clumping, a sign of a tree in distress

Right: Black Oak Gall Wasp (*Zapatella davisae*)



Above: Galls on black oak branches

Inset: Interior of a gall

Prevalent northern stands of black oaks lie in Long Island, Cape Cod, and the islands, and the trail of the gall wasps' damage was tracked northward among those locations. While investigating the outbreak and identifying this wasp as a new species, though, researchers began to discover that the gall wasps in the Long Island trees were no longer alone in their galls. They were being joined by another variety of wasp, one as yet identified only as far as its genus: *Sycophila* Species 4. And in the forests that had both types of wasps, the numbers of gall wasps were dropping off, allowing the trees to begin to recover. By now, the infestation on Long Island has been stopped, and the "cure" is showing up further north. Nature appears to be correcting the problem without human intervention.

It turns out that the newer wasp is a parasitoid, an insect that feeds on a living host and ultimately causes its death. In a sort of parasite karma, these parasitoids lay their eggs inside the gall wasp larvae, stealing their nutrients (sound familiar?) and killing them. These parasitoids seek out their favorite habitat,

the gall wasp larvae, even as the wasps sought out the black oaks, and thus they are usually found together, with the result that the gall wasp numbers are kept contained and do not cause enough damage to kill their host trees.



Parasitoid wasp
Sycophila Species 4

Mr. Smith-Freedman's theory is that the gall wasps just got out ahead of their usual counterparts, but the parasitoids are catching up with the gall wasps over time, following their path northward.

The bottom line is that, to stop the damage being done to the black oaks, we humans apparently just need to be patient and do nothing. There is evidence on Nantucket that the parasitoids are already at work there, regulating the gall wasp communities and curtailing the level of gall wasp activity that was destroying whole trees. And local scientists also believe that the intrinsically resilient nature of island oak trees—the fact that they often survive here by developing multiple trunks and staying small in stature—will probably help them to survive the gall wasp infestation, especially since its end seems to be in the foreseeable future.

Tuckernuck's old oak forest will then display its customary fortitude and recover, balances restored.

PHOTOS THIS PAGE COURTESY OF MONICA J. DAVIS, JOSEPH S. ELKINTON, RODGER GWIAZDOWSKI

THANK YOU for helping TLT to conserve Tuckernuck Island. Tuckernuck Land Trust, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) organization preserving Tuckernuck's natural habitat through educational programs, by monitoring and encouraging protection of endangered species and by acquiring land to preserve their habitats. Tax-deductible gifts may be sent to P.O. Box 1093, Nantucket, MA 02554, or made online at www.tuckernucklandtrust.org. We welcome your partnership in protecting this special place.