



Annual Report 2015

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



President Jamey French

2015 proved to be a memorable year of hard work to further the Tuckernuck Land Trust’s non-profit conservation mission to protect and preserve Tuckernuck Island. The year started on a high note with confirmation from our conservation partner, the Nantucket Land Council, that John and founder Laura Hussey had contributed a permanent conservation easement on their 9.3 acres on Tuckernuck’s north shore. The Husseys continued their generosity at the close of 2015 by donating \$100,000 toward TLT’s mortgage with the North Pond Foundation. This reduced to \$600,000 our total mortgage on TLT’s choice 37-acre East End parcel of sandplain grasslands and heathlands.

These generous contributions served as complementary bookends to 2015’s highlight: an anonymous donor’s gift of more than 18 acres of old oak forest and maritime heathlands in Tuckernuck’s heartland, situated wonderfully close to TLT’s Field Station property. (Read more in “Land Protection,” page 2.)

Over the winter, we shored up TLT’s Tuckernuck Field Station by installing storm windows in this modest summer dwelling that houses TLT’s summer coastal steward/shorebird monitor, as well as occasional visiting scientific researchers. In May, Allison Black arrived for her second summer as Coastal Steward, locating, monitoring and erecting fencing, as Tuckernuck’s shorebird monitor, to indicate nests of American Oystercatchers and Piping Plovers; overseeing research activities and the open-to-the-public Field Station library; and providing information and resources to Tuckernuck’s residents and visitors. (Details are available in Allison’s report, page 3.) Thanks are due to TLT director Edie Ray for the many hours she contributed to mentoring Allison and protecting the birds. Allison also facilitated TLT’s popular weekly Education Walks for the public throughout the summer (see “Education,” page 3).

On July 4th, a Swallow-tailed Kite heralded TLT’s 20th Annual Meeting on the lawn of Grandfather’s House. TLT’s progress in finance, conservation, stewardship and education was outlined; new directors Sean Culman, Thomas de Neufville and Michael Taylor were welcomed to the board; and officers for 2015-16 were announced.

Jennifer Ahlborn did a wonderful job in her first full year of managing TLT’s office on the second floor of 6 Ash Lane in at Nantucket, and in overseeing administrative details. In 2015 we increased her hours to twenty per week, and we thank Jenny for her dedicated and conscientious work. I also want to thank our volunteer Board of Directors for their time and efforts on behalf of the Tuckernuck Land Trust.

None of TLT’s accomplishments could continue without you, the members who have been supporting our conservation mission so generously! Islands are special places, and their preservation truly depends on special people working to protect them. One distinctive person stood out for the Tuckernuck Land Trust in 2015: director Chris Clark. We are immensely grateful to Chris for his \$50,000 fall Annual Fund challenge—which we exceeded—and for fulfilling his promise in January 2016.

Thank you all for a wonderful year!

Jameson French, President

Tuckernuck Land Trust, Inc.

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The Tuckernuck Land Trust works to preserve land and promote stewardship and education for the conservation of Tuckernuck Island’s rare natural communities and unique coastal ecology.



TREASURER'S REPORT

The Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2015, are currently under review by our accountant and therefore are presented here in draft form.

Total revenue for 2015 exceeded \$1.0 million, including an anonymous land gift valued at \$800,000, a gift of \$100,000 toward mortgage debt, and a \$10,000 grant from the Nantucket Land Council to help pay down the North Pond Foundation mortgage. Excluding these extraordinary items, total revenue of \$107,309 in 2015 was up by \$9,531 compared with 2014 and \$25,736 greater than 2013, not including a 2013 land gift from Miles Carlisle, three acres of pristine old oak forest valued at \$100,000.

In 2015, expenses of \$88,270 were \$3,189 unfavorable to 2014. Of the \$88,270 of expenses in 2015, \$23,053 (26%) was related to the mortgage, while the remaining \$65,217 was related to administrative and stewardship expenses. The mortgage principal was reduced by \$150,000 to \$600,000 by the end of 2015: \$110,000 from designated gifts and grants and \$40,000 from internally generated funds.

Total net income (excluding extraordinary items) of \$19,039 in 2015 represented a \$6,342 increase over the 2014 total and a \$13,074 increase over 2013 income.

On December 31, 2015, total assets were \$3.8 million, including cash/savings of \$76,538 and land, buildings and equipment of \$3.7 million (primarily land). On the liability side, TLT owed \$600,000 to the North Pond Foundation, resulting in total equity of just over \$3.2 million.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Taylor, Treasurer

LAND PROTECTION

by Lynn Zimmerman

Soon after organizing in 1996, TLT assessed Tuckernuck's vacant properties and rated them strategically to prioritize parcels for protection. After years of reaching out to landowners to discuss conservation options, TLT was reinvigorated in 2015 with energy and enthusiasm generated by opportunities to protect two of the three highest priority properties.

Our fall newsletter featured the first project: an anonymous donor's magnificent gift of more than 18 acres of pristine maritime woods and heathlands in Tuckernuck's heartland. We are very grateful for this contribution, which holds value even beyond its own acreage by connecting other preserved areas. Because natural habitats pay no attention to property lines, it is critical to species preservation that we conserve abutting parcels to connect intact tracts of habitat.

Consequently, when the chance to acquire a second priority property arose in the summer—yet another property abutting conserved parcels—TLT was especially interested. We obtained our own appraisal, negotiated with the owner's advisors, and met in December to discuss buying an Option to purchase the 26.6-acre parcel for a charitable price. The board reaffirmed that this land's preservation was squarely within TLT's conservation mission and boldly voted to move forward with this exciting land protection opportunity and fundraising challenge during 2016.



In addition, TLT made significant progress during 2015 toward permanently protecting the 37-acre parcel at the East End, which had a mortgage of \$750,000 as the year began. In June, TLT repaid \$50,000, including a generous \$10,000 in grant funds from the Nantucket Land Council. We are most grateful to the Husseys for their \$100,000 gift to TLT in December, which has lowered the mortgage to \$600,000.

The Tuckernuck Land Trust, Inc., now owns eight properties, from sandplain grasslands and heathlands to dry oak forest and scrub oak barrens. These 77.8 acres represent more than 9.5% of Tuckernuck's total 815 acres.

COASTAL STEWARDSHIP



Allison Black

JANE ZIESING



The Tuckernuck Land Trust was pleased to welcome Allison Black back for a second summer as Tuckernuck's Coastal Steward. In addition to overseeing TLT's education weekly programs and monitoring public access to the library at the Field Station, Allison served as the island's shorebird monitor. She observed four pairs of Piping Plovers nest on the island and fledge a total of five chicks (compared with nine chicks from five pairs in 2014) and ten pairs of American Oystercatchers fledge twelve chicks (compared with nine chicks from nine pairs last year). Unofficially, Allison logged her own sightings of 116 different bird species on Tuckernuck, including a Chuck-Will's-Widow and a Bridled Tern, both more commonly found in the southeastern U.S. Allison also worked with Tuckernuck's birding expert, Dr. Dick Veit, to band birds for the continent-wide Mapping Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) demographic monitoring and conservation program.

Among the highlights Allison enjoyed during the Education Walks program were banding the last American Oystercatcher chick of the summer with Laurance, Anne, Ben, and Rose Clark; confirming with Andrew Mckenna-Foster that Red-Legged Purseweb Spiders—Tuckernuck's tiny tarantulas—return to live in the same locations year after year; and locating the scarce Indian Pipe plant (*Monotropa uniflora*) with Sarah Bois.

TLT is grateful to Allison for her two seasons of service to Tuckernuck Island and the goals of the land trust.

EDUCATION

For many years, TLT's education season began with a Botany Ramble led by true-blue Tuckernucker Bam LaFarge. Bam's native curiosity, zest for discovery, and love for natural Tuckernuck were the embodiment of the program, and TLT was pleased to memorialize Bam and to carry on in his rambling footsteps by starting the 2015 Education Walks with the renamed Bam's Ramble and the start of a photographic chronicle of natural Tuckernuck for the TLT library.



JANE ZIESING

The Education Walks series, free and open to the public, continued with investigations of the island's erosion, the timing of nature (phenology), shallow-water and creepy-crawly critters, and common and migrant birds on and above our small island. Coastal Steward Allison Black also shared information on her academic research into current regional fish stock as evidenced through the diet of local gulls.

The Education Walks drew a wide range of ages, knowledge, and experience, and we extend our gratitude to the visiting walk leaders who shared their expertise to advance our understanding of Tuckernuck: Dr. Sarah Bois, Andrew Mckenna-Foster, Dr. Sarah Oktay, Tucker Taylor, and Dr. Richard R. Veit.



MICHAEL TAYLOR

IN MEMORIAM

The Tuckernuck community lost a number of loved ones in 2015. Together, Richard B. Veit (d. January 12th), William B. Poland, Jr. (January 25th) H. Bancel "Bam" LaFarge (February 26th), Peter W. Culman (August 18th), Phyllis LaFarge Johnson (September 19th), and Karen K. Borchert (November 12th), represented many facets, families, and personalities of Tuckernuck, as well as decades of island history.

They shared a firm love for the island, and the TLT community honors their memories and their dedication to timeless Tuckernuck.



JENNIFER AILBORN

2015 Contributors

The Tuckernuck Land Trust is grateful for the generosity of the following individuals and organizations during 2015. This list represents contributions received between January 1 and December 31, 2015.

Benefactor

\$10,000 and above

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Anonymous Land Donation
Christopher A. Clark
Laura and John Hussey
Nantucket Land Council
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\$5,000-\$9,999

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Supporting

\$500-\$999

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Edie and Richard Ray
Oakleigh Thorne
Walter and Donna Wick
Lynn Zimmerman and George Thomas

Contributing

\$100-\$499

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up to \$99

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Anne P. Strain
Marissa Viray and Jonathan Thomas
Kristin and Donald Wilson

Matching Gift Programs

Morgan Stanley

Memorial Gifts

Gifts were made in memory of the following individuals.

Carl Borchert
Karen Borchert
Peter William Culman
Bam LaFarge
Phyllis LaFarge Johnson
William Babcock Poland, Jr.
Ames Stevens, Jr.
Diana Stewart Walker

Honorary Gifts

Gifts were made in honor of the following individual.

Diana Brown

Gifts In Kind

The following businesses, individuals, and partner organizations supported TLT's mission by offering discounted goods, services, and other in-kind contributions, enabling us to apply our monetary resources more directly toward our mission.

Sarah Treanor Bois, Ph.D.
Kat Robinson Grieder and
Susan E. Robinson
Jareb Keltz
Linda Loring Nature Foundation
Maria Mitchell Association
Andrew Mckenna-Foster
Nantucket Conservation Foundation
Nantucket Land Council, Inc.
The Nature Conservancy
Sarah Oktay, Ph.D.
Edie and Richard Ray
Tucker Taylor
UMass Boston Nantucket Field Station
Richard R. Veit, Ph.D.
Jane Ziesing

Please bring any errors or omissions in these acknowledgments to our attention so we may properly thank all of our generous supporters.