

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



LYNN ZIMMERMAN

President Jamey French

In late May, I spent two full days in Washington, D.C., sequestered with my fellow directors and the senior staff of the Land Trust Alliance, addressing strategic planning. The Alliance (which I currently serve as Vice Chair and Chair of the Policy Committee) is the umbrella organization that provides education programming, accreditation and insurance services, as well as federal policy advocacy on everything from tax policy to farm bill funding, for the more than 1,200 land trusts across the United States. As we considered the major issues facing land trust organizations, including relevance, community engagement, climate resilience and adaptation, development and stewardship, all in a political environment that is exceedingly challenging, I thought regularly about our own small—yet dynamic, dedicated and successful—Tuckernuck Land Trust.

In January 2016, TLT made a bold decision to launch a land protection campaign and to sign an option agreement to buy 26 acres of undeveloped land that had been identified as one of two top-priority properties during Merlin Nelson’s tenure as President of TLT over 15 years ago. Our determination to protect this property was increased by its adjacency to the 18-acre parcel

that we were given in 2015. We knew that if we succeeded and raised the necessary funds, we would preserve almost 44 acres of contiguous landscape in the heart of Tuckernuck.

In December 2016, TLT closed on the 26 acres. We did so with numerous generous gifts and pledges, including some major support from the Nantucket Land Council. We could not have closed without the Agua Fund’s willingness to extend us financing that allows us a few more years to complete our goal. I am confident that we can do it!

We are grateful for the broad support from individuals, foundations and other non-profits who clearly recognize that Tuckernuck’s remarkably pristine natural environment is now extremely rare and supremely worthy of protection.

The TLT Board is deeply appreciative of all our members who have so generously embraced our mission to conserve Tuckernuck through land acquisition, education and stewardship. On an island of roughly 800 acres, with a limited population of possible supporters, it is pretty remarkable that, in its 21 years, TLT has been able to protect an eighth of the island. My national work through the Land Trust Alliance has exposed me to many diverse land trusts that are accomplishing impressive projects. Standing among them, our own modest Tuckernuck Land Trust, with a very competent part-time staff of two, a strong volunteer Board, and the support of you, our loyal members, has been able to do so much and to surpass expectations in achieving our mission.

Thank you for your continued partnership in our vital work.

Jameson

Jameson French, President

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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.



TLT ARCHIVES

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2016, are currently under review by our accountant and therefore are presented here in draft form.

Because of the newly launched Campaign to Save Tuckernuck Island, 2016 yielded extraordinary income. Between the campaign and the Annual Fund (operating expenses), TLT generated more than \$500,000 in revenue from its generous supporters.



GEORGE SIBBICK

- \$213,365 in unrestricted (Annual Fund) contributions included a gift of \$100,000 toward mortgage debt and a gift of \$50,000 from Chris Clark, who had challenged TLT to raise the same amount through our final 2015 appeal. (Ultimately, TLT's donors significantly exceeded that challenge goal, contributing more than \$80,000.)
- Excluding the debt forgiveness and challenge gift, unrestricted giving of \$63,365 was lower than the comparable total of \$86,035 in 2015, largely due to simultaneous support of the campaign.
- \$333,210 in cash was raised toward the campaign goal and combined with a low-interest, short-term loan to close the purchase of the 26-acre property that remains the primary focus of the campaign.
- In total, TLT received \$546,575 in gifts from 127 donors, demonstrating the generosity of the TLT community and its interest in advancing TLT's protection of Tuckernuck Island.

Not counting the December purchase of the Jackson land, operating expenses in 2016 totaled \$96,158.

- This total was approximately \$8,000 higher than in 2015, due primarily to higher costs for printing and mailing of campaign materials, an increase in accounting expense connected with IRS requirements for higher income in 2015, and a compensation increase for the Office Manager.
- \$18,159 of expenses was mortgage interest. In 2016, pre-existing mortgage principal was reduced to \$500,000.

Total net income (excluding extraordinary items) of \$18,975 in 2016 was \$3,095 lower than in 2015 and \$6,278 higher than in 2014.

Assets, valued at \$4.677 million on December 31, 2016, included \$4.544 million in land, buildings and equipment and \$130,797 in cash/savings. Among liabilities, TLT owed \$500,000 to the North Pond Foundation and \$500,000 to the Agua Fund, resulting in total equity of \$3.676 million.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Taylor, Treasurer

LAND PROTECTION

by Lynn Zimmerman

Walk along any number of Tuckernuck's sandy roads. You will pass through oak forest, maritime shrubland, scrub oak barrens, sandplain grasslands. These natural habitats and others still exist relatively undisturbed on Tuckernuck Island. Because most other places are being developed much more quickly, Tuckernuck's increasingly rare habitats stand out as especially deserving of preservation.

The purpose of the member-supported Tuckernuck Land Trust is conservation of Tuckernuck's land—through acquisition, education, and stewardship. 2016 proved a banner year for TLT's conservation program. Energized by the 2015 gift of 18 acres in the island's center, TLT negotiated a charitable purchase with a generous seller for the abutting 26 acres, which comprises oak forest, maritime shrubland, scrub oak barrens and sandplain grassland, and the board voted in January 2016 to launch a land protection campaign, including the purchase of an option on the parcel.

By year's end, the land trust successfully took title. This important conservation effort never would have happened without the strong charitable support of many generous donors, a \$100,000 gift from the Nantucket Land Council, and a timely loan from the Agua Fund, which allowed the land trust to close the deal.

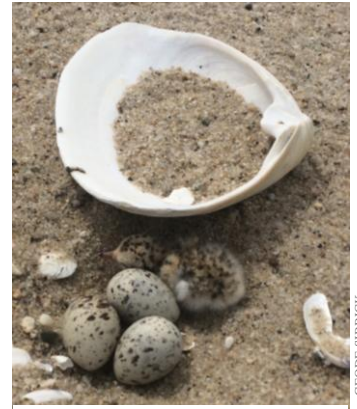


EDERAY

Nevertheless, work remains. TLT must continue to raise funds to retire the new five-year mortgage. At the same time, at the close of 2016, TLT received a very generous charitable contribution of \$100,000 from North Pond Foundation to reduce TLT's mortgage on its outstanding 37.56-acre parcel of sandplain grassland and heathland at the East End. So, as you wander Tuckernuck's sandy roads, remember that by working together, TLT's many donors, several charitable entities with conservation goals, and the Tuckernuck Land Trust have successfully preserved relatively vast amounts of those natural habitats. To date, since its founding in 1996, TLT has acquired and conserved more than 100 acres, or greater than 12% of Tuckernuck Island.

COASTAL STEWARDSHIP

Though a new face on Tuckernuck in June 2016, Geode Sibbick became a familiar figure while serving as TLT's 2016 Coastal Steward. Geode developed as a naturalist while monitoring Tuckernuck's shorebirds and lending a hand to Dr. Dick Veit in tracking many of the island's resident and migratory bird populations. While the statistics of the Piping Plovers (seven chicks fledged from three pairs: three at North Pond, four on Bigelow Point) and American Oystercatchers (eight chicks fledged from nine pairs: four at North Pond, one on Bigelow Point, two on Whale Point) did not vary greatly from those of recent years, Geode got to watch over the return to Tuckernuck of what was ultimately the largest Least Tern colony in Massachusetts in 2016. By July 24th, the tern count on Whale Point was approximately 2,430, and chicks abounded.



Did you spot the chick?

GEODE SIBBICK

Geode also served the Tuckernuck community by facilitating the weekly Education Walks and by hosting regular hours for public access to the Field Station's growing library of books related to local nature and history.

With thanks to the hospitable Tuckernuckers, Geode departed in September to pursue his naturalist future, newly skilled in eel trapping, mist netting, bird banding, and more, and carrying with him a unique set of Tuckernuck memories.

EDUCATION

by Edie Ray

Tuckernuck is a unique place with a variety of ecosystems and their inhabitants all packed into roughly 1.2 square miles. Each summer, TLT schedules weekly educational programs that touch on as many of those features as possible. The 2016 TLT Education Walk series continued to entertain while educating participants in subjects ranging from island archaeology, to invasive plant species and removal methods, to the coastal food web and its need for healthy eel grass, to the variety of bird migration paths that share Tuckernuck as a rest stop. Tuckernuck nighttimes finally got their due in the first astronomy-focused program, and children, while always welcome participants, enjoyed their own dedicated Kids' Science Adventure, which wove science through crafts and storytelling.

All free and open to the public of all ages, the Walks are able to feature a wide variety of topics thanks to the generosity of Nantucket's science community. For advancing our understanding of the nature of Tuckernuck, TLT is grateful to the generous visiting Walk leaders and their organizations: Dr. Sarah Bois of the Linda Loring Nature Foundation and Kim Botelho, Dr. Regina Jorgenson, and Andrew Mckenna-Foster of the Maria Mitchell Association, as well as experts Edie Ray, Richard Ray, and Tucker Taylor.



GEODE SIBBICK

IN MEMORIAM

The island lost one steadfast Tuckernucker at the beginning of 2016 and another at the end: Ruth Ellen Chapel Grieder died February 27th at age 88, and Anne Byrd Reed Witherby died December 11th at 97. Both were inextricably tied to the island and committed to the continuation of the Tuckernuck community they loved. TLT honors their memories.

TLT ARCHIVES

2016 Contributors

The Tuckernuck Land Trust is grateful for the generosity of the following individuals and organizations during 2016. This list represents contributions received between January 1 and December 31, 2016.

Benefactor

\$10,000 and above

Anonymous
Christopher Clark
Laurance and Anne Clark
John P. de Neufville
Thomas and Carolina de Neufville
Jameson and Priscilla French
Lillie and Charles Howard
Laura and John Hussey
Ann Heard and Richard M. Jackson, Jr.
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North Pond Foundation
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Michael and Terry Taylor
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Sustaining

\$1,000-\$4,999

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Anne P. Strain
Katie Hammond and Nathaniel Thomas
Kristin and Don Wilson

Matching Gift Programs

Amazon Smile
Morgan Stanley

Memorial Gifts

Gifts were made in memory of the following individuals.

Carl Borchert
Karen Borchert
Ruth Ellen Grieder
Jacqueline and Edward Harris
Phyllis LaFarge Johnson
Bam LaFarge
Merlin E. Nelson
William Babcock Poland, Jr.
Ames Stevens, Jr.
Jacqueline Stolte
Anne Witherby

Honorary Gifts

Gifts were made in honor of the following individuals.

Chris Clark
Joe and Danah Clark
Story Clark and Bill Resor Family
Jamey French
Janet Nelson
Ruth Stevens
Michael Reeves Taylor

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.

Agua Fund, Inc.
Sarah Treanor Bois, Ph.D.
Kim Botelho
Sean Culman and Amanda Creighton
Sita Culman
Regina Jorgenson, Ph.D.
Linda Loring Nature Foundation
Maria Mitchell Association
Andrew McKenna-Foster
Nantucket Land Council, Inc.
The Nature Conservancy
Edie and Richard Ray
The Souza Family
Michael and Terry Taylor
Tucker Taylor
Richard R. Veit, Ph.D.

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