



NATIVE LAND CONSERVANCY



Welcome Summer Solstice 2021

Hayes Lot - Giving land back to the 1st peoples
Thoughts from our Donor, Rachel Carey-Harper
Rivero Land Stewardship - Giving back to Land

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

As the longest day of the year in the northern hemisphere, the golden light of summer solstice blesses our day for sometimes as long as 15 hrs. The light is simply incredible. Summer arrives at the precise moment the sun reaches the Tropic of Cancer, its highest point. It's the commencement of a new season with comfortable days of bright light, cool nights, warm rain and dewy, misty fog, welcoming us into this next season of new life. Life that comes to us in many extraordinary and wondrous ways with our 2 - 4+ legged friends delivering to the world their new families, and gracing us with their company and song. Gardens are blossoming while bleeding hearts drop and fragrant roses gently open. Irises and peonies begin to fade as well, cuing the wall of amazing blue that slowly emerges from our robust and hardy hydrangeas. A kind of blue that stuns me each and every season as if I hadn't witnessed it the year prior. The feelings are gratitude. Grateful to be alive and to celebrate the gift of yet another beautiful season here on Cape Cod, our homelands. It's splendid here as the fragrance of the first rose fills the air and holds yet another cue that we are in fresh strawberry season.

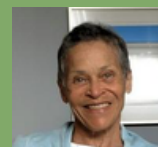
Solstice comes from the Latin words "sol" and "sistere," and it means "sun stands still." The Earth rotates the Sun on a tilt, at an angle of 23.5 degrees. This tilt gives us our seasons, and exactly twice a year, our solstices. Summer Solstice is my favorite season, but I say that each new season as I sit in gratitude over how lucky we are that we get to experience the wonder of nature's transitions and transformations every 3-4 months. This summer is especially beautiful as the cool nighttime breeze begs for our windows to be open, allowing the fresh air to flow over us while we rest. It's a favorite feeling and conjures up childhood memories of restful slumber in early summer. I awaken to the songbirds chattering amongst themselves, sharing their stories of their early summer adventures. Occasionally, they seem quite loud and I imagine what human noise must sound like to them in their natural spaces. I check myself when they awaken me at 4:30am to remind myself that we share the earth, and we as humans are not above any other 2 - 4+ legged being. The birds are simply sharing their stories just as we do, as early and zealously as they may.



Leslie Jonas, Vice-chairwoman
Native Land Conservancy

Indigenous values now officially in State model Conservation Restriction

As of June 11th, 2021 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has included important new language in its descriptions/criteria for Conservation Restrictions under Purposes, Acts and Uses with help and guidance from Mark Robinson and Julie Early of the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts. This may be the first of its kind in the United States. These inclusions provide a means for indigenous people to protect culturally significant landscapes, features, and gain access for specialized foraging and ceremony through partnership with landowners, municipalities, and conservation groups. This is a huge statement of recognition and sensitivity to the intrinsic values of indigenous people of Massachusetts. We will reach out to tribal communities on these wonderful provisions.



Ramona Peters, Chairwoman
Native Land Conservancy

PLACE OF TALL PINES

Qâqunôhqus8ee K8âut

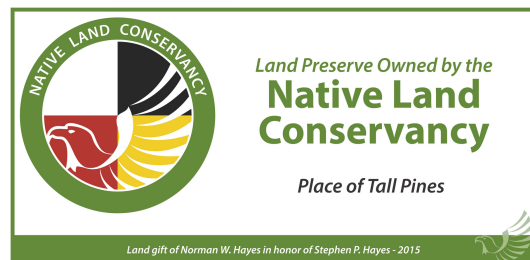
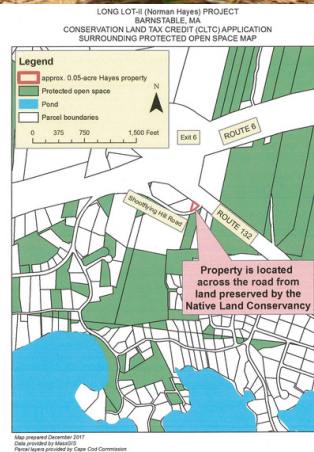
We celebrate our 1st year anniversary of the NLC e-newsletter circling back to our first land donation made to the NLC by Norman Hayes and his family.

During the pandemic, we finalized another humble lot donated by the Hayes family, honoring his Dad, Stephen Hayes.

In the 1st land donation deed to the property, a quote from Norman Hayes' father, Stephen Hayes, a founder of the Barnstable Land Trust, was translated into the Wôpanâak language. The translated passage says, "Take care of the land and the land will take care of you."

This corner lot, like the 1.4 acre donated across the street, is filled with American Holly, American Beech, Pitch and White Pines and Black and White Oaks.

The NLC is full of gratitude for the Hayes' donations and is very moved by Mr. Hayes' work to give land back to the 1st peoples of this land.



RIVERO - YARMOUTH

Land Stewardship - 10+ acre clean-up

On a beautiful day in mid May, the NLC hosted a land stewardship clean-up project in Yarmouth on almost 11 acres of land donated by Jacki Rivero with the help of 27 environmentally-minded souls.

We were lucky to have friends and students from Professor Amy Den Ouden's UMASS Boston classes in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies and from the School for the Environment and Native American and Indigenous Studies. One of the nicest things to witness was the raw enthusiasm and engagement by not just students and friends, but parents and children as well. Little Mac was a joy to have!

Our friends from the Wildlands Trust in Plymouth came prepared to assist in moving debris and opening trails that had been overgrown for years with invasives and tree debris. We cleared lots of human pollution and could feel a sense of lightness once the heavy removal took place.

Mark Robinson joined us along with his son, Johnnie. Mark developed debris maps so we could quickly establish where we'd start and where we'd finish. Teams set out in different directions, and in under four hours, so much was accomplished.

They say it takes a village, and it does, for the many gifts with which we are blessed.

This particular village made it happen, and with nothing but big smiles, laughter, and the sweetest comments and questions by Little Mac. There's truly nothing like working to rescue, conserve and preserve our precious earth mother, and to be able to share that with like-minded people is a special kind of bonus.

The NLC is truly grateful to all of our new and old friends that made this possible. kutâputunumu! (thank you all).



THOUGHTS FROM ONE OF OUR DONORS, RACHEL CAREY-HARPER



"A Story"

Who are We?

Beyond our titles or what we do for a living;
Beyond the kinship of parents,
Beyond all names for our various identities, genders, religions, social status, Beyond our politics, disabilities
Beyond oppression of race and others
Beyond our talents, accolades, successes or failures;
Who are human beings?
some say spiritual beings having a human experience,
Here and now we are living flesh, blood and bone. No better or worse,
then other animals on the planet or the plants —from the mighty oak to the lowly dandelion. But all life is finite. We are here a very short time then dust, No better or worse than rock

Then who are we? We are a story.

Stories are also told by woodlands and meadows, mountains, bogs and beaches. Stories are told of the climbers who come and go, chattering like the rain and the comings and goings of the glaciers
The structures; stone walls, weirs, jetties and grave stones
The hunters and the hunted
Stories are told by the wind moving through branches of the Maple tree sleeping its winter nap.
Story told as the wind whisperings, trees unpronounceable name
Tree's stories teach; How to be beautiful and bend around objects,
How to grow from rotten stumps or rocks. They teach of a time to rest, a time to grow, the cycle of life.
Stories are told by water, the stream's songs moving over rocks, part of God's laughter. The water falls, then rises in mist.
Water's story in stillness reflecting the sky up close each drop.
A reflection of reflection of reflection
all part of this whole contains everything, the flower, the rock those living and those called inanimate. all a fractal of Oneness.
Stories are told by rocks.
Stories that intertwines with every other stone walls, jetties and streams solidly demonstrating. What is IS. from life to life, from atom to atom
Bound by electromagnetic and nuclear force a strong attraction
A love story. It is all Love; Soul Love,
Story of truth, real and immutable, surrounding each and every cell, animate or inanimate, like a mountain sparkling with mica.

Rachel Carey-Harper

(Rachel has been a friend of Mashpee Wampanoag people for over 3 decades and has supported the Native Land Conservancy since 2014. Among other things, she works for racial justice and healing. See: <https://tools4racialjustice.net/>, <https://journeyofhealing.net/>)

