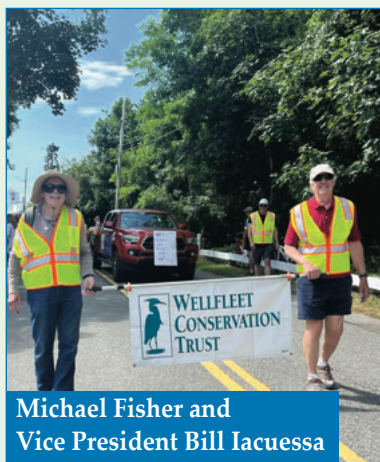




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FOURTH OF JULY PARADE FIRST FOR WCT'S FORTIETH

Not only was the Trust's entry in the Fourth of July Parade a first for us, we won first prize in the non-commercial category. Inspired by our Fortieth Anniversary year, the Trust decided to participate in the Wellfleet 4th of July Parade this year. Trustees Jeff Petrucelly and Mary Rogers agreed to co-chair the effort. Susan Anthony and Mary Rogers decorated Denny O'Connell's red truck with buoys retrieved from the recently acquired Bouchard property. Bearing the Wellfleet Conservation Trust banner, Michael Fisher and Vice President Bill Iacuesa led the walking contingent. Because of a long-standing Independence Day commitment elsewhere, Denny O'Connell transferred piloting the "SS WCT" on its inaugural trip through the town to Mary Rogers.



**Michael Fisher and
Vice President Bill Iacuesa**

Trustees, enlisted friends, and a WCT- loving Husky marched alongside the truck with Susie Quigley, on her patriotically decked-out tricycle, bringing up the rear. Kids who are friends of the WCT were in charge of tossing candy to the eager parade audience along the route. After a joyous trip through town, the entourage arrived back at the marina where the parade had begun.



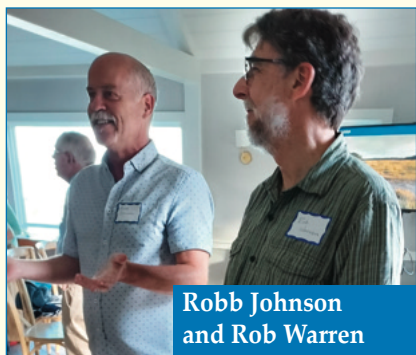
**Sue Anthony
and Jeff Petrucelly**

Everyone participating considered it a success even before we learned that the Chamber of Commerce had judged us best in the non-commercial class. We plan to be a presence in next year's parade, so come cheer for us again on July 4, 2025 or join us in marching in the parade. We look forward to seeing you!

ANNUAL MEETING THAT TAKES THE CAKE

This year's Annual Meeting featured two guest speakers, a special cake, and 40th Anniversary T-shirts. WCT members and friends gathered at the Chequessett Club on Wednesday, August 21st for the 4 p.m. event.

President Dennis "Denny" O'Connell opened the business portion of the meeting, reviewed the revised mission statement of the Wellfleet Conservation Trust that is more focused on open-space stewardship. He explained recent strategic review that keeps us as an all-volunteer-land trust, and facilitated the election renewing terms for all of the Trustees whose terms expired this year. Newest member, Jen Elsensohn, was officially voted in as a member with full voting rights. Denny also introduced the new Ranger program for Conservation trails and named some of the WCT members who have already joined.



Guest presenters Robb Johnson, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition, and Rob Warren, formerly a Nature Conservancy director and a WCT member, discussed means of funding conservation land and specific funds available. Rob Warren explained how acquisitions work at federal, state, and local levels. Robb Johnson detailed particular programs, including the American Rescue

Plan Act (ARPA). He indicated that there is an initiative getting underway which will provide state funds for projects related to waterways and recreation. Rob and Robb were available for further discussion with interested parties after their talks and reportedly enjoyed meeting our members.

Trustee Jane Baron had arranged for a custom baked and decorated cake depicting the WCT's signature blue heron. The cake was as delicious as it was beautiful. The bird's color matched the logo of the t-shirts being worn by several members. The t-shirts were (and are) available for purchase. Before the meeting dispersed, the Anniversary cake was cut, and President O'Connell was presented with a choice piece of the cake, displaying the number 40. That piece represented the 40 years the Wellfleet Conservation Trust has dedicated to preserving 441 acres now in our care and the 40 years of support from you, our committed supporters. Thank you so much for your support. We hope to see you next year at the annual meeting!

PETER REDFERN HALL REMEMBERED



In memory of
Peter Hall

1933 - 2024

Original portrait
by Marieke Hall

Former Trustee Peter Redfern Hall passed away on June 29th at the Overlook Health Facility in Charlton, MA after a long battle with cancer. We are deeply saddened by the loss of our friend and colleague.

We regretted Peter and his lovely wife Marieke's departure from Wellfleet in 2017, but realized that their health considerations necessitated their difficult decision to leave the place they loved and served so well. Peter had been a Wellfleet Selectboard member, WCT Trustee, Friend of the Wellfleet Library, member of the Community Forum, and Friend of the Council on Aging.

Peter was born in 1933, eldest of three sons to radar scientist William Hall and Sarah (Redfern) Hall. He grew up in Sudbury, received his Bachelor's degree from Williams College and his Master's in electronics from MIT.

After a career as a principal engineer at Raytheon Corporation, he and Marieke retired to Wellfleet, where he designed and built their home on Aunt Sarah Way. His keen interest in nature, gardening, and open space led him to the Conservation Trust. He was one of our most dependable members for over 20 years.

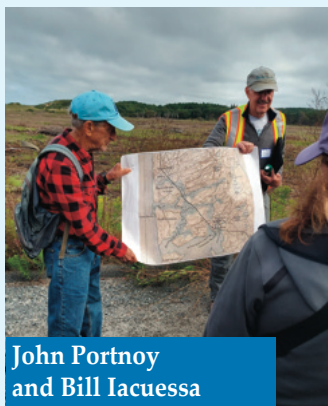
In October, Trustees and a few other Wellfleet friends attended Peter's Memorial celebration at the Overlook in Charlton. Marieke, family members, and friends shared their recollections of Peter's ability to recite poetry, his dead-pan delivery of jokes, his problem solving skills, his positivity, and his love of sun and sea. We will long remember the extraordinary Peter Hall.

Check out the "Wellfleet Open Space and Conservation Lands" map on our website to see what your support of WCT has preserved. Click on the map under the "Conservation Land and Trails" tab and then expand the map on your browser.
wellfleetconservationtrust.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

We appreciate your donation using the enclosed envelope or by going to our website to use *PayPal* or *Network for Good*.

16TH ANNUAL GUIDED WALK FEATURING GRIFFIN ISLAND



**John Portnoy
and Bill Iacussa**

Grey skies the morning of Saturday, September 7th did not look propitious for WCT's 16th Annual Guided Walk featuring Griffin Island, but they meant comfortable temperatures for walking and provided opportunities for excellent photographs. This year, walkers parked at the NPS Great Island lot and were shuttled to the Duck Harbor parking lot, the starting point for the walk. There Denny O'Connell and Bill Iacussa welcomed the gathering of over sixty-five people and introduced the first speakers.

John Portnoy displayed the 1831 map that showed Duck Harbor as an inlet from Cape Cod Bay connecting to the Herring River and made clear the island nature of Griffin Island. He discussed the effects of the continuing overwashes at Duck Harbor and their impact on the Herring River Restoration Project, which has been underway now for 20 years. He said that new wildlife is already inhabiting the wetland area created by the overwash.

From Duck Harbor the walk continued to the Kuhn modern house, designed by architect Nathaniel Saltonstall. Brad Williams of the Wellfleet Historical Society and Museum shared his firsthand account of living in and caretaking the house. He discussed the structure's significance as one of Wellfleet's 20th century Modern structures embodying Bauhaus ideals of economy and simplicity.

The walk proceeded to the High Toss Bridge, which is to be removed in the Herring River restoration plan. John Portnoy explained the purpose of increased capacity for river flow in both directions. Next, Dwight Estey gave historic background about the earliest inhabitants of Griffin Island to the present day. He included the personal story of an unnamed participant on the walk about her hippie days of secretly camping on a hill near the location where High Toss and Duck Harbor Roads meet.

The final stretch of the walk was on the old Duck Harbor Road beside the Herring River. The group emerged from the woods back at the dike and replacement bridge on Chequessett Neck Road. Wes Stinson, an engineer for the new structure over the Herring River, spoke about the features of the new bridge. The walkers crossed Chequessett Neck Road to the Wellfleet Harbor side of the dike and headed up the stairs to the Great Island parking lot. Most people stopped to visit the nearby grave of the unknown Wampanoag woman buried there on the National Seashore land.



Wes Stinson

Before all the participants were back in their vehicles, the walk organizers and trustees were already talking about next year's walk. We hope to see you there. Be sure to sign up for the walk as soon as it is announced because there may be limitations on numbers, but the price remains the same – free!

TERRAPINS HATCHED AND RELEASED AT HEAD OF DUCK CREEK

Dr. Barbara Brennessel, Professor Emerita of Wheaton College, submitted her 2024 Diamond Back Terrapin report on activity at the WCT's Head of Duck Creek (HODC) property. The eight protected nests and two wild nests produced 67 hatchlings. Dr. Brennessel reported that at least eight wild nests were depredated by a very active



coyote. It dug massive holes and on a game camera was observed eating eggs. More nests were probably at the site, but there were no egg shards to document the presence of additional nests. Dr. Brennessel estimates that there was a total of 18 nests at HODC this year.

Although numbers at HODC were down by about half compared to last year's hatchlings, the 67 new hatchlings bring the number of diamond back terrapin since 2012 released at HODC to a grand total of 1,027. Stop by sometime to visit this landmark location, hidden behind the Mobil gas station on Rte. 6. The view out over Duck Creek is iconic.

BILL IACUessa's POSITION PASSES TO Co-VP's

Our long-standing Vice President Bill Iacuesssa is not leaving the Board of Trustees, but he has relinquished his role as Vice President of the Wellfleet Conservation Trust. Susan Anthony and Jeff Petrucelly have been elected as co-Vice Presidents, appointed to serve for a term of one year. Bill will continue to organize the annual guided walks, participate on other committees, and help with the kayak racks, but this change will allow him to enjoy his winters in London and have more relaxation time.

Sue Anthony will continue to work on her other committees: Communications, Fund Raising Strategy, and Board Development/Strategic Planning. Jeff Petrucelly will serve on the Land Stewardship and Management Committee, the Board Development, and Strategic Planning Committee.

Best wishes to Bill on his so-called "retirement." Kudos to Susan and Jeff for their new shared position as Vice President of the Wellfleet Conservation Trust.



Bill Iacuesssa

SPOTLIGHT ON... QUEEN ANNE'S LACE

William Carlos Williams' adult-themed poem, "Queen-Anne's Lace" accurately describes the wildflower:

Here is no question of whiteness.
White as can be, with a purple mole
At the center of each flower.

Queen Anne's Lace, *Daucus carota*, sometimes called Wild Carrot, is related to carrots as its scientific name indicates. *Daucus* is Latin for carrot, and *carota* also means carrot. If you pick it or crush a few leaves, you will notice a carrot smell.

So why is this carrot-carrot named after Queen Anne? There are conflicting legends on that. In one story, the headdress of choice of Queen Anne, wife of James I, is a lace piece that looks like the flower. In another version, Queen Anne II accidentally pricks her finger while lace-making, causing a drop of blood to fall into the center of her creation.



Another name for Queen Anne's Lace is Birdsnest, based on the shape it forms when the flat surface, or umbel, dries and curls into a concave "nest." Don't try to tell farmers any of these stories. They classify Queen Anne's Lace as an invasive weed. It's true. In their bird's nest form, a single plant may develop 1,000 to 40,000 seeds. The umbel blows apart eventually and distributes the seeds to fields and roadsides in mostly sunny spots. The conservation status of the plant is that of "least concern." It is a non-native species, brought to North America by European settlers who brought it here for medicinal purposes.

Continued to page 7

SPOTLIGHT ON... QUEEN ANNE'S LACE, CONTINUED

Queen Anne's Lace quickly spread across the continent. It can thrive in poor soil. It is a biennial, so it stays low to the ground as a rosette the first year, and emerges as flowers on one to four feet stalks the second year. The stalks are covered with stiff hairs. Many, but not all, of the clustered umbels of the lacey flowers have a dark red or purple center of tiny florets.

A fun experiment to try with a child is to place the cut stem of a fully opened flower in a cup of water with an added drop of food coloring and watch how long it will take for the flower to absorb the water and change color. It is also possible to dry the colored flower heads and use them for wreath making or other craft projects.



In the summer of 2024, Queen Anne's Lace grew in profusion, so watch for it again next year and let us know what it is doing. Send any photos to our Facebook page for your verdict – invasive weed or beautiful wildflower?

LIMITED EDITION WCT COMMEMORATIVE T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE



There is still an opportunity to purchase a 40th Anniversary WCT T-shirt. A limited number are available in small, medium, large, and X-large. T-shirts cost \$20 each.

Please contact Jane Baron by e-mail at jane@oldwharf.com if interested. They will make the perfect gift for the people in your life who are fans of the WCT.

Dwight Estey's fashion statement on the Annual Guided Walk

COASTSWEEP 2024 TARGETS BEACH TRASH



Denny O'Connell and Nancy Najmi

Forty-five volunteers met at Mayo Beach parking area on Monday, October 14th at 10 a.m. so that we could make up teams and assign beach segments. Volunteers were briefed on procedures and provided with necessary supplies. The weather forecast had not been great, but the scattered showers were tolerable and did not keep us from our appointed rounds. We did not get very wet, and got the job done. We targeted collection of all trash, with an emphasis on ridding the beaches of plastic, especially the smaller pieces that get into the food chain. All volunteers returned to Mayo Beach by 12:30 p.m. and submitted reports that

have been forwarded on to Coastal Zone Management (CZM).

WCT has been leading the Wellfleet COASTSWEEP for 10 years now. This is part of the annual efforts of the Massachusetts Office of CZM, which conducts the statewide sweep. The data from CZM efforts feeds into the worldwide International Coastal Cleanup so that they can analyze the sources and develop useful policies to reduce such pollution. The CZM claims that “thousands of individuals” assist with the SWEEP each year.

This year, WCT joined with the Wellfleet Recycling Committee as a primary partner to help with many aspects of organization and conduct the Sweep. We swept about 13 miles of coastline. We collected all trash, recycled what was possible, and then took the rest for disposal to the Wellfleet Transfer station. The weight of our collection was about 150 pounds. This may not sound like a lot, but with all the small pieces, it ended up being a full pickup truck bed of trash. One diligent collector reported that she collected 42 plastic bottle caps, 64 Styrofoam cups and plates, 18 balloons and many other items. All the sweepers returned with smiles and were happy to have made the effort. Time flies when you are having fun, and doing useful activities.

Watch for next year's Wellfleet CoastSweep over the October holiday. You can do your part by collecting trash you see on the beaches, streets, parking areas, and playgrounds. Thank you!

RANGER REPORT FROM THE HERRING OVERLOOK TRAIL

BY JEN ELSENSOHN

Before I joined the Wellfleet Conservation Trust, Michael Fisher and Denny O'Connell told me about an idea they had for a Ranger program. Each trail owned by the Trust would have one or two stewards who would walk their trail and report on its condition. If anything small is found to be amiss, the Ranger can fix it. If something requiring more care is discovered, a report back to the members of the Trust will ensure its speedy repair or observation, in the case of a stand of dead trees that was recently discovered. My husband, Jon, and I were very excited at the prospect of becoming Rangers and asked for our favorite trail, the Herring River Overlook.

As a Ranger of this trail, allow me to illuminate some of its many charms. The trail is situated, as the name suggests, above the Herring River, which offers some truly beautiful vistas. Several well-placed benches are placed along the trail to encourage lingering over the view. I especially recommend the overlook area at sunset. Many a winter evening, Jon and I will race out there as soon as I get home from work so that we may take in a sunset. While the construction materials for the new culvert are present, upsetting the view a tiny bit, they are a reminder of the important work of restoration that the Town has undertaken and the exciting potential for what may be produced as a result of it.

The trail has a shorter walk and a recently extended addition. The path is pleasantly winding in many places, and there are plenty of terrain changes throughout, which can make for a lively jog if you have good knees. The trail is enshrined in big pine trees and scrub oaks, all kinds of shrubs and ground cover, and more varieties of lichens than you can shake a stick at. Every season holds new beauty; except for that one week with all the mosquitoes. We actually ran for our lives out of there one time. Any other time, a slow stroll will disclose loveliness up each rise and around every bend.

Editors' Note

So far, three other volunteer Ranger units have begun their patrols. Eric Siegler will serve as a Ranger for Pilgrim Springs Woodland and Fox Island Marsh Conservation area. Mary Rogers chose the Indian Neck property by the jetty. The O'Campbell Family will be covering the Clover Trail.

We hope you will consider joining the Ranger program. There are no application forms to fill out, no uniforms or funny hats to wear. You should let us know of your interest and availability, and we will get you started.

WITH GRATITUDE TO

~ Marcia Seeler ~

WCT was recently informed that Marcia Seeler left a sizeable bequest to the Wellfleet Conservation Trust. We are filled with gratitude for her generosity. We plan to invest the monies in conservation lands to respect her commitment to land conservation. It will help us greatly in acquiring more conservation property.

~ Robert Finch ~

We also have learned that suggested memorial giving to honor noted naturalist Robert Finch includes donations to WCT. Finch's writings were an inspiration to many, and we thank him and his widow Kathy Shorr, a former WCT Trustee, for naming the Wellfleet Conservation Trust as a recipient of a fund in his memory.

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Have you ever considered leaving a legacy to conservation in your will? We encourage you to work with your professional tax and legal advisors on these provisions. We can help with questions you might have about options for legacy giving, about the tax benefits of these kinds of gifts, and about the process of making a bequest to the Wellfleet Conservation Trust. Please contact President Denny O'Connell for more information at our email address: [info@wellfleetconservationtrust.org](mailto:info@wellfleetconservationtrust.org). We will honor your requests for confidentiality.



Fox Island Marsh

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER - FALL 2024

Dear WCT supporters,

WCT is 40 years old — 40 years of which we should all be proud! Many have heard my story of my Thanksgiving visit to my parents while I was living in London in the mid 1980's. My father "suggested" that I should support the idea of a Wellfleet Conservation Trust. It was a concept many of his friends had come up with, and he thought it was a compelling idea to preserve Wellfleet by a private sector initiative. Look at the success we have had in those 40 years. We have protected 441 acres by combining our 343 acres of fee-owned land with the 98 acres of land protected by conservation restrictions. We have seven different trail systems that are used by the public. All of us have participated in WCT's success, whether by volunteering to be a trustee, helping with trail making and trail maintenance, or joining our early morning Adopt-a-Highway crew. This issue of the newsletter has articles on other opportunities like CoastSweep, the new Trail Rangers program, and participating in the Annual Guided Walks. And of course, the land and monetary donations you have made over these 40 years have been an absolutely essential part of making the WCT what it is today. Thank you!

Many people have guided us to our success. One person is Bill Iacuessa, who is transitioning out of his position as vice president, but who fortunately will remain an active WCT Trustee. Bill has done so much for the Trust and I am especially glad that he will continue to contribute in his role as the leader of our Annual Guided Walks.

I think of myself as a trustee for the last 27 years who happens to have served as president for the last 20 years. It has been challenging at times, but even more it has been rewarding. I am thankful to all of you who have been so good to WCT.

So, on we go together, stewarding the Wellfleet we know and love so much. Never hesitate to contact me for any reason related to WCT. Thanks for your continued support. Best wishes to you and your loved ones for the coming holidays.

Sincerely,

Dennis (Denny) O'Connell, President, Board of Trustees

508-349-2162 or [dennyoc@comcast.net](mailto:dennyoc@comcast.net)



# WELFLEET CONSERVATION TRUST

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