

# Conservation

*across the Commonwealth*

Spring 2007



Humpback whale in Silver Shoals Bank, Dominican Republic

## Rising to the Challenge

*A new wave of conservation strategies emerges*

The Massachusetts coast meanders for 1,500 miles across a patchwork of diverse landscapes, attracting millions of people to live and play at its inviting edges. From beaches to marshes to eelgrass beds to shellfish reefs, our coasts and near shore seascapes provide essential services.

*(continues on page 4)*

“For all at last returns to the sea – to Oceanus, the ocean river, like the everflowing stream of time, the beginning and the end.”

*Rachel Carson*

### in this issue

Rising to the Challenge . . . . .	1	Early 2007 Milestones . . . . .	3	Friends in the Field . . . . .	8
From the Director . . . . .	2	A Tale of Two Seas . . . . .	6	Events and Field Trips . . . . .	10
New Trustees . . . . .	2	Beyond our Borders . . . . .	7	Awards . . . . .	12

From the Director  
Wayne Klockner

## Taking Conservation to the Sea



©Angela Ellis, INC

Wayne Klockner, Massachusetts State Director

I keep a topographical map of the Massachusetts coastline close at hand. I like maps, and this is a good one. The detail reminds me that our coasts and the seabed beyond are contiguous with the land we walk every day. Our landscapes and seascapes were both formed by the same glacial events millennia ago. And while largely out of view, the underwater terrain is as varied and complex as the land itself, with diversity that tests the bounds of imagination.

Oceans contain 90% of Earth's life, yet scientists estimate that less than 10% of that life has been measured—a statistic once compared to exploring land by dragging a butterfly net behind an airplane. Our diverse coastal habitats act as biological engines for this vast network of life. Our salt marshes and seagrass beds provide nutrients and nurseries that support the entire marine food web; our shellfish reefs are the cold-water equivalents of corals from a biodiversity perspective; and estuaries, where rivers meet the sea, support the most productive waters we know.

Our Chapter's Marine Program has spent its first year assessing the challenges to these vital ecosystems and identifying important ways that conservation of tidelands (submerged lands and tidal flats) differs from the work we excel at on shore. In Massachusetts all lands from the low tide mark seaward are held in trust by the State for the public good; each of us has access to these lands for fishing, fowling and navigation. One of many questions ahead is how best to apply legal mechanisms for the conservation of these tidelands—an end that is surely in the public good.

There are striking similarities as well. As on land, The Nature Conservancy's approach to marine conservation is guided by Ecosystem Based Management—a

framework designed to restore and sustain the health, productivity and biodiversity of ecosystems. This process integrates economic, social and economic goals, recognizes people as key components of ecosystems, works across political boundaries, engages multiple stakeholders and incorporates the dynamic interplay between terrestrial, freshwater and marine systems.

I believe that by taking this holistic approach to the sea, we can protect ocean and coastal habitats in ways that benefit marine life, local communities and coastal economies. Just as ocean species are dynamic and wide-ranging, so must we be in our approach. With scientists and staff in every state and 32 countries developing and piloting innovative conservation tools in their own communities, we are ideally positioned to contribute to this vital effort.

Oceans are downstream from all of us—from the highest peaks to the flattest plains. I encourage you to explore this new realm with us. And remember, your support is what makes this work possible—at every scale and in every landscape.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Wayne Klockner". The signature is fluid and cursive.

## Chapter Welcomes Three Trustees to Board

The Massachusetts Chapter is proud to announce the addition of three well-regarded members of the scientific and business communities to its Board of Trustees. These volunteer leaders are an integral part of the Chapter's work, providing guidance and generating support for our mission in Massachusetts and around the world.

**Bob Durand** is a cofounder of Durand & Anastas Environmental Strategies, Inc. a strategic planning firm for projects subject to environmental review and permitting. Bob is the former Secretary of Environmental Affairs of Massachusetts and former Chair of the Water Resources Authority. As Secretary,

he founded the Biodiversity Initiative, protected 150,000 acres of open space and developed an environmental justice policy and global warming strategy for the Commonwealth. Prior to that, Bob served as Majority Whip in the State Senate and authored landmark environmental legislation including The Rivers Protection Act, The Community Preservation Act and The Brownfields Act. Bob has received countless awards for his environmental achievements, and we look forward to his continued advocacy as a Board member.

**Paul Elias** is an investment manager and trustee in his role as Partner at J.M. Forbes & Co. He has a

## Chapter Welcomes Three Trustees to Board

*(continued from previous page)*

history of close collaboration with the Conservancy, coordinating conservation research and grassland restoration efforts on several of the Elizabeth Islands. A special interest of Paul's is defining the goals of conservation in places, like coastal New England, that have been subject to long histories of human activity, geological change and evolving climate. With graduate degrees in organismal biology from U.C. Berkeley and Harvard and professional experience in science publishing, Paul's broad knowledge of conservation will be a great asset as we identify and implement effective land stewardship strategies.

**Katharine Parsons** is a senior scientist at Manomet Center for Conservation Science, where she serves as Director for the Wildlife and Wetlands program. After obtaining an A.B. in Biological Sciences from Smith College, her interest in avian ecology led her to Rutgers University, where she earned her Ph.D. in Ecology. Katharine has worked extensively on issues affecting coastal and colonial waterbirds, and has been widely published in that field. Dr. Parsons was drawn to The Nature Conservancy's commitment to using scientific data to identify, manage and protect essential habitat. The Board welcomes her outstanding science background, critical reasoning and strong conservation ethic.

## Early 2007 Milestones

Nature may take it easy in the winter, but the Massachusetts Chapter has been as active as ever. Thanks to the generous support of our donors and members, we can already report some major conservation achievements. We wish to convey special thanks to Jane's Trust, The Kohlberg Foundation, Lowe's Educational and Charitable Foundation, the Sheehan Family Foundation, Fields Pond Foundation and state Senators Therese Murray and Marc Pacheco for their leadership in helping us to reach these milestones:

- ✿ Partnered with the Massachusetts Riverways Project to remove the Ballou Dam in Becket, Massachusetts, helping to restore approximately 30 miles of river and stream continuity downstream on the Westfield River and eight miles of the Yokum Brook and its tributaries, significantly improving movement for Atlantic salmon and eastern brook trout.

- ✿ Protected an additional 30 acres at our Greene Swamp Preserve at Mt. Toby in Sunderland, Massachusetts. The preserve is home to several types of forest, spring ephemerals, rare salamanders and turtles.

- ✿ Helped Manchester Essex Conservation Trust preserve 100 acres of oak and pine woodland, wetlands and vernal pools in Essex, Massachusetts.

- ✿ Re-launched the Plymouth Carver Aquifer Advisory Committee, which is developing a regional plan to manage the Plymouth Carver Sole Source



Aquifer, a 199-square-mile underground resource that nourishes seven rivers and supplies clean and healthy drinking water to hundreds of thousands of area citizens.

- ✿ Initiated the Martha's Vineyard Prescribed Fire Partnership, a collaborative including The Nature Conservancy, The Trustees of Reservations, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation, Polly Hill Arboretum and Mass Audubon's Felix Neck sanctuary, designed to share resources and apply safe and effective ecological fire management.

- ✿ Inaugurated the Westfield Highlands Forest Partnership, a coalition of community organizations, landowners and other stakeholders working toward a shared vision: a healthy, free-flowing Westfield River surrounded by a connected network of forest reserves and sustainably-managed working woodlands.

- ✿ Helped launch the Taunton River Watershed Study, which will help local communities, state agencies and river and land use advocates determine how to manage additional wastewater and storm water while sustaining river flow and water supply. 🌍

## Rising to the Challenge

(continued from page 1)

They are our principal ports of commerce, our first lines of defense against storm systems and a key source of food and economic livelihood. And the oceans contain 90% of Earth's life.

"With so many functions, the pressures on our ocean resources are intense," says the Massachusetts Chapter's Marine Program Manager Rachael Franks Taylor. And with new proposals for liquefied natural gas terminals, sand and gravel mining, gas pipelines, aquaculture, telecommunication cables and wind energy facilities all competing for a place on the shores and in the seas, these demands are ever-increasing.

Over the past year, the Chapter's new Marine Program has looked to the intersections of land and sea to understand the range of ways that our land and freshwater conservation experience can inform marine conservation strategy. The following are some of the most promising mechanisms we have identified so far.

### Everything Flows to the Sea

All decisions in land and river management—good and bad—eventually accumulate downstream. "Effective conservation," explains

Franks Taylor, "must therefore work across the entire watershed." The Chapter's advocacy for reducing nitrogen inputs into ponds and estuaries on Martha's Vineyard benefits marine vegetation and shellfish, and our efforts to restore and maintain flow in the Westfield, Connecticut and Taunton Rivers improves movement for diadromous fish, like alewife and Atlantic salmon, which travel between their freshwater spawning areas and feeding grounds at sea. A successful marine strategy recognizes that everything is connected.

### Restoring Coasts for People and Nature

As crucial links between land and sea, the bays and estuaries of the world have been centers of human colonization and growth for centuries. This is especially true in New England, where people's lives and livelihoods are intimately connected to the ocean. The Massachusetts Chapter has identified coastal restoration as an ideal strategy for our region because it addresses the needs of healthy ecosystems, healthy communities and healthy economies.

One key demonstration of this



The Massachusetts Chapter is working with partners to restore natural tidal flow to 1,100 acres of salt marsh along the Herring River in Wellfleet.

strategy is the Chapter's work to restore the Herring River salt marsh on Cape Cod. By working with the town of Wellfleet to purchase necessary land, securing the support of The Chequessett Neck Yacht and Country Club (the largest private landowner in the floodplain) and redesigning the Chequessett Neck Dike to allow full tidal flow, we are helping to restore 1,100 acres of estuarine habitat that provide vital nurseries for fish and important ecological services for coastal communities.

### Licensing Tidelands

Some of our neighboring Chapters are applying modified versions of land-based conservation tools (such as concessions, easements, leasing and outright ownership) to secure long-term protection for their submerged lands. The New York Chapter recently acquired 13,000 acres of underwater land at



## Living on the Edge

Cape Cod is the dividing line between warm ocean currents flowing up from the south and colder currents flowing down from the north; it also marks the boundary between two distinct marine ecosystems: The Gulf of Maine, which extends north to the Bay of Fundy, and The Virginia Province, which extends south to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. Species like mussels and Atlantic cod prefer the Gulf of Maine's deeper, colder waters. Others, such as scallops and black sea bass, prefer the warmer, shallow bays of southeastern Massachusetts.



# Rising to the Challenge

(continued from previous page)

the bottom of Great South Bay off Long Island, and is restoring a once-abundant clam population that filters and cleans water naturally.

Understanding the use and ownership of tidelands is complicated in Massachusetts because while there are general patterns of who owns and manages tidelands, there is no clearinghouse of information on ownership and activities on the seafloor. But we are working closely with federal, state and local entities to understand how proprietary and regulatory mechanisms, such as a Chapter 91 waterways license, might be used to conserve marine biodiversity in the future.

## Preserving Marine Diversity

As we have seen on land, habitat protection is an essential piece of any conservation strategy. The Nature Conservancy has worked with The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to help establish guidelines for creating a national network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) that includes biologically distinct areas and represents the full spectrum of habitats. Such a network would link existing coastal and marine protected areas and allow their management to evolve into an integrated partnership that collaborates and responds to changing conditions.

No single approach works everywhere, but MPAs come in many different shapes and sizes. Stellwagen Bank—an MPA right off the Massachusetts coast—allows fishing throughout the sanctuary, while others restrict all activity within core zones or have regulations that vary at different times of year. As members of its Advisory Council, Regional

Marine Director Sally Yozell and Massachusetts Marine Program Manager Rachael Franks Taylor work to ensure that Stellwagen, the only national marine sanctuary in New England, is effectively managed for biodiversity.

## Working Together

In the fluid ocean environment—as with all of our landscapes—collaboration and partnerships frame all of our strategies. The Nature Conservancy has established important dialogues with the leading organizations in this field including NOAA, the Ocean Conservancy and the Coastal States Organization. We are also working locally with the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, Mass Audubon, Roger Williams University, local and state agencies, fishermen, private conservationists and many others. “When you’re dealing with such a vast and unknown shared resource,” explains Franks Taylor, “it’s essential to get out and talk to people.”



Nature Conservancy Marine Reserve Specialist Carl LoBue stocks Long Island’s Great South Bay with clams.

This emphasis on collaboration is helping us to define priorities and set a shared course of action. With coastal restoration projects underway, landmark ocean management legislation pending and open lines of communication with a growing list of partners, our Chapter is well poised to make a real difference—at the ocean’s edge and beyond. 🌊

Learn more about the Global Marine Initiative at [nature.org/initiatives/marine](https://nature.org/initiatives/marine)

## A Sea Change for Ocean Management

The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy has urged that marine policy remain grounded in an Ecosystem Based Management approach that integrates biological, economic and social factors to protect and manage marine resources. The Massachusetts Oceans Act has been designed to do just that—it would require the Commonwealth to develop and implement an Ocean Management Plan and establish both an ocean management advisory board and a science advisory council to promote sustainable uses of our marine resources.

The State Senate unanimously passed the legislation last year, and it has been reintroduced this year in the legislature. The Nature Conservancy strongly supports this groundbreaking legislation, which, through informed and participatory decision-making, will enhance the health of our ecosystems and inspire an ethic of ocean stewardship.



Oceans and coasts provide more than \$20 trillion annually in ecological goods and services like food and energy.

# A Tale of Two Seas

## Protecting marine life at home and abroad

The humpback whale's very name, *Megaptera novaeangliae* or "big-winged New Englander," speaks to its local heritage and breathtaking appearance as it breaches the ocean's surface. Every spring, this majestic acrobat makes an extraordinary journey from the Caribbean basin to Stellwagen Bank—an underwater plateau spanning the mouth of the Massachusetts Bay. The whales return to this submerged oasis each year, following a biological imperative to seek nourishment in our cold, food-rich waters.

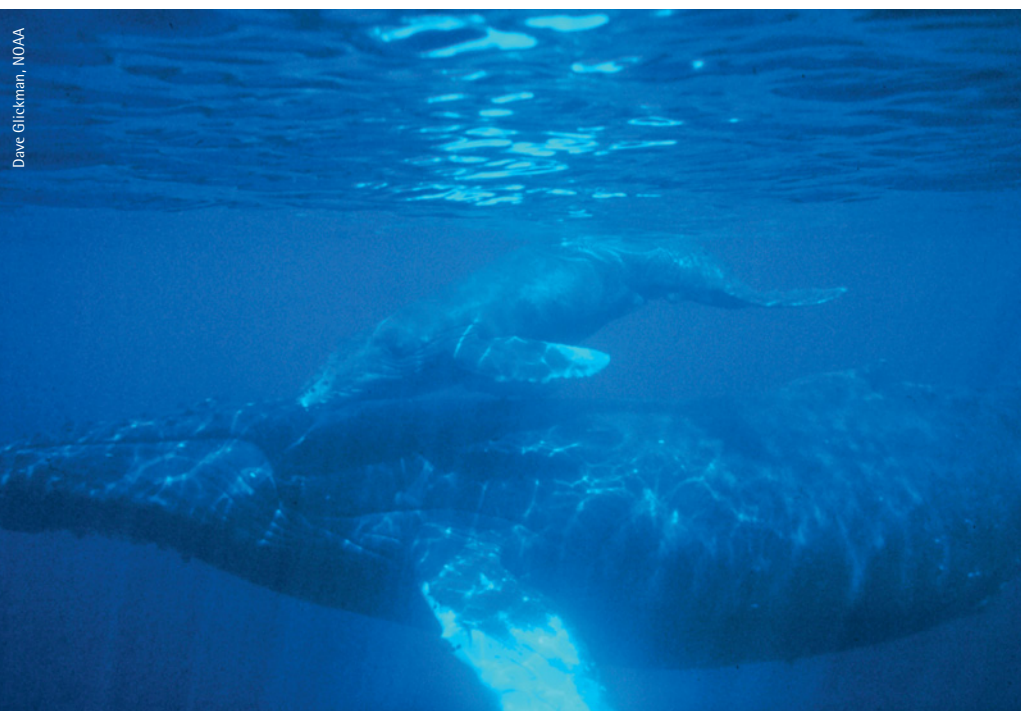
Gulf of Maine. Here, salt marshes, seagrass beds, tidal mud flats and other habitats provide homes and sustenance for diverse plants and animals. Human communities depend on this biological bounty as well: our marine and estuarine habitats support fisheries and serve a host of essential functions such as cycling nutrients, filtering pollution and buffering upland areas from storms.

But for many whales, sea turtles and other marine species, life in the Gulf of Maine is only half of the equation; they must embark on epic



The humpback whale's deeply notched flukes (or tail) can be up to 15 feet wide.

Ken Balcomb, NOAA



A humpback whale migrates with her calf. Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary off the Massachusetts coast recently established a "sister sanctuary" arrangement with the Marine Mammal Sanctuary of the Dominican Republic, a linkage that protects this endangered migratory species at both ends of its range.

Stellwagen Bank and the waters north of Cape Cod are the Bay State's gateway to one of Earth's richest marine ecosystems—the

migrations to fulfill their different survival needs. Humpback whales, for instance, mate and give birth in the warm waters of the Dominican

Republic. Come spring, calves accompany their mothers on the 1,500-nautical mile journey to their feeding areas at Stellwagen Bank, and an ancient cycle begins again.

When two locations are essential to the survival of a species, threats must be addressed in *both* places. Lack of protection has allowed coastal development, unsustainable and destructive fishing practices and land-based pollution to decimate many species and degrade important ecological systems. To combat these threats locally, the Massachusetts Chapter is working with our conservation partners to restore estuarine habitats, explore opportunities to license tidelands and bottomlands and support groundbreaking legislation like the Massachusetts Ocean Act.

In the Dominican Republic, where so many people's lives and livelihoods are inextricably tied to the sea, fishing and deforestation have led to excessive topsoil and silt in Samaná Bay. Samaná Bay is one of the most important sanctuaries for humpback whales, sea turtles and coral reef species, and its

## A Tale of Two Seas

*(continued from previous page)*

ideal nursery conditions make it a critical source of food and income for thousands of people. The



©Carol Lee

St. Croix, US Virgin Islands

Conservancy is therefore working with local communities to develop sustainable fisheries and to assess and improve the quality of inflows to the bay from the Yuna River.

The long-term health of our marine ecosystems demands a conservation ethic that can reckon with the great distances covered and the various habitats marine species require for survival. The Nature Conservancy's distributed network of land and water protection specialists works across political geographies, taking into account migratory patterns and the ocean currents that influence them. In this way, we are rising above boundaries to ensure the health of our oceans and the lasting well-being of *all* who depend on them. 🌍

## Beyond our Borders

From the perspective of our most charismatic marine species, New England's waters are intimately connected to the Caribbean. Thanks to the help and generosity of people like you, The Nature Conservancy is making valuable gains toward safeguarding the Caribbean's diverse resources for people and nature. We are proud to share a brief sampling of those accomplishments with you:

**In Jamaica,** we completed a year-long investigative study of Pedro Bank to assess the state of the reef's health. We are now working with the Jamaican government and local fishermen to develop an effective management plan to ensure the availability of marine resources over the long term.

**In the US Virgin Islands,** we played a key role in ensuring community participation in the design of East End Marine Park, and we continue to contribute to its management. Recent accomplishments include the development of policy briefs to guide decision makers



©Carolyn Drake

Deforestation has caused sediments to flow through rivers into Samaná Bay, making the shoreline an expanse of mud that local fishermen must shove their boats through to reach fishable waters.



©Deb Fugitt

Vase sponge and brittle star, Dominica

towards environmentally sound, sustainable outcomes and the recruitment and training of a local fisherman to become a park ranger.

**In the Bahamas,** we led a team of scientists, students and local fishing guides on a two-week expedition to inventory the Andros Island's little known flora and fauna. The findings were astounding: marine biologists encountered what they believe to be the highest densities of green and loggerhead turtles ever observed in the insular Caribbean.

Learn more about The Nature Conservancy's work in the Caribbean at [nature.org/wherewework/caribbean](http://nature.org/wherewework/caribbean)

# Barbara and Dave Birdsey

It is midnight on a sandy beach in St. Croix. Palm leaves rustle in the warm wind. A full moon shimmers in the black sea. Slowly, purposefully, a dozen giant leatherback turtles emerge from the water and ascend the beach. Using their flippers, which are so perfectly adapted to swimming, they clamber awkwardly across the sand. Finally, each one selects a spot and begins to dig a nest for her eggs.

Barbara and Dave Birdsey, conservationists from Cape Cod, and their lifelong friend Peter Bender were on the beach that night relocating turtle eggs threatened by the incoming tide. Just a few years prior, Barbara and Dave founded The Pegasus Foundation, and Peter became the Foundation's Executive Director. "Seeing those turtles was one of the most powerful experiences I've ever had," recalls Peter, "and it was here that we first met ecologists from The Nature Conservancy."

The Birdseys were already very active in wildlife conservation, founding the Orenda Wildlife Land Trust and co-founding the Cape Cod Stranding Network; Dave fondly recalls their hands-on experiences rescuing stranded



Dave and Barbara Birdsey, inspiring global conservationists

dolphins, whales and gannets. But they created Pegasus to address problems like animal suffering and habitat loss in other parts of the world. "Every time we traveled," recalls Barbara, "we found some situation we wanted to fix." Since its inception in 1996, the Pegasus Foundation has taken on an array of protection efforts—from the Caring Fields Animal Sanctuary in Florida to the Caribbean Animal

Welfare Initiative.

Today, the Pegasus Foundation is providing leadership support for an innovative Nature Conservancy project to identify and map critical nesting habitat for six species of sea turtle inhabiting the 45 states and territories of the wider Caribbean. The Conservancy, in collaboration with the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAST), is using the latest

## Did you know?

### Deforestation Leads to Lonely Female Turtles

Sea turtle sex is determined by incubation temperatures, with warmer temperatures producing females and cooler temperatures producing males. The endangered hawksbill turtle often nests in and along beach forests, and new research is showing us why. Scientists from the University of Toronto recently discovered that only eggs laid in forested sites were cool enough to produce male turtles—open-sand nests produced exclusively female hatchlings. As more Caribbean forests are cleared for development, this situation could have a devastating effect on male hawksbill populations, and thus, the entire species.



Slow and vulnerable on land, hawksbill turtles are graceful swimmers capable of long ocean journeys.

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary



# Barbara and Dave Birdsey

*(continued from previous page)*

geographic spatial analysis methods to monitor turtle populations and habitat use. Sharing this data will inform policies that safeguard habitat and, for the first time, enable the monitoring and manage-

©Nancy Sefton



Green turtles, like many other sea turtle species, rely on Caribbean beaches for nesting.

ment of endangered populations at biologically relevant scales.

“By design, we seek to form and enhance partnerships,” Barbara explains. In doing so, small foundations like Pegasus are becoming real catalysts for effective, large-scale conservation. The Foundation has also helped the Conservancy connect with other organizations, like the Wildlife Land Trust, an affiliate of the United States Humane Society, which is now funding sea turtle protection in Jamaica.

“Without the support of partners like Pegasus, The Nature Conservancy could never protect so many different landscapes and species,” says Angela Ellis, Deputy Director of Philanthropy. “Only by joining forces with those who share our conservation vision, can we truly expand our reach.” 🌿

# Ocean Opportunities

*For more information, or to support our innovative conservation work here at home, in the Caribbean and beyond, contact Rebecca Bowen at 617-227-7017 ext. 328 or [rbowen@tnc.org](mailto:rbowen@tnc.org).*



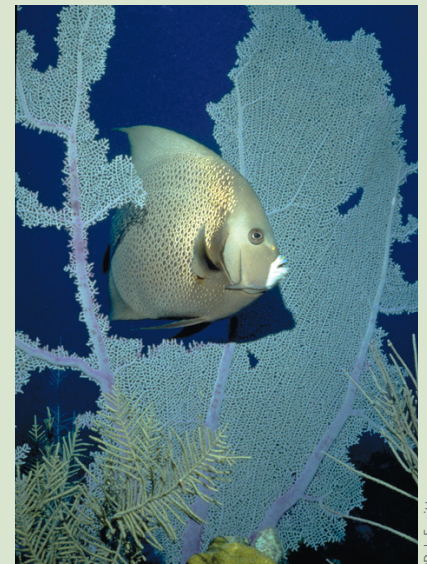
Blue hole, diver and fish in the Caribbean

©Nancy Sefton



Pink-tipped anemone, Bahamas

©Kenneth J. Howard



Gray Angelfish, Grand Cayman

©Deb Fugitt

## A Marine Conservation Conversation

On February 2, The Massachusetts Chapter hosted Lynne Hale, Director of The Nature Conservancy's Global Marine Initiative, and about 45 Director's Circle members and guests for a discussion of the Conservancy's marine conservation work at the Downtown Harvard Club. As Sussy-Rose Shields, Executive Director of Barakat, Inc., commented, "With a captive audience of people who care about these issues, The Nature Conservancy is in a great position to direct people's attention to our oceans."

For more information on upcoming "Conservation Conversations" please contact Venessa Salvucci at 617-227-7017, ext. 309 or [vsalvucci@tnc.org](mailto:vsalvucci@tnc.org).



©Mark Godfrey, TNC

Lynne Hale, Director of The Nature Conservancy's Global Marine Initiative

## SPRING EVENTS ON TAP

As winter cedes the stage to spring, nature is waking up and on the move. Please join us for a field trip, volunteer day or special event to truly experience all that spring brings to the Massachusetts landscape, and learn more about the conservation work made possible by your support. Friends and family are welcome!



©Angela Sirois, TNC

Volunteers help remove barberry at Schenob Brook.

### Migratory Fish of the Taunton River System

Discover the largest river herring run in Southern New England and watch as the fish ascend the Nemasket River to reach their spawning grounds. Aquatic Biologist Alison Bowden and Southeast Massachusetts Program Director Robb Johnson will discuss the ecology of migratory fish, their important role in the Taunton River system and what The Nature Conservancy and our partners are doing to protect them.

**When:** Saturday, April 14

**Time:** 11:00am – 2:00pm

**Where:** Wareham St. Fish Ladder

**Directions:** Take route 495, exit 4. North on route 105 toward Middleboro center. Right on Wareham St. to the Nemasket River. There's a small park with a dam and fish ladder on the left. Parking is across the street at the town garage lot.

*Event is open to the public; no registration required. This event may be cancelled if there is inclement weather. If it is raining, please call 617-227-7017 before heading to the park.*



©Angela Sirois, TNC

A volunteer helps remove phragmites at Kamposa Bog.

## Celebrate the Restoration of Yokum Brook

Hear from project partners and sponsors from Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation as we celebrate the removal of the Ballou Dam in Becket, Massachusetts. As part of the day's festivities, children from the neighboring Becket Washington School will release salmon they've raised in the classroom into the newly restored Yokum Brook.

**When:** Friday, May 11

**Time:** 1:30 – 3:00pm

**Where:** Outside of the Becket Washington School

**Directions:** From Mass Pike West to Exit 3 in Westfield: After the tolls, take a right onto Route 202/10 towards downtown Westfield. Take a right onto Route 20 West and follow through Russell, Huntington, Chester and into Becket. Take a right onto Route 8 North, continue for approximately 5 miles and take a soft right onto Main St.

From Exit 2 (Lee Exit on Mass Pike): After the tolls, turn left at the first light onto Route 20 East. Follow Route 20 East through Lee into Becket for about 12 miles. At the junction of Route 8 North and Route 20, take a left onto Route 8 North. Then, continue for approximately 5 miles and take a soft right onto Main St.

The Becket Washington School is the large brick building

on the right at the corner of Main St. and Maple St. Please utilize street parking; do not park in the school's lot.

*Event is open to the public; no registration required. For more information please contact Venessa Salvucci at 617-227-7017, ext. 309 or vsalvucci@tnc.org.*

## Battle Invasives in the Berkshires

Experience the beautiful and rare wetlands of the Berkshire Taconic Landscape, while assisting staff in the fight against invasive plants. Learn how to identify and remove these unwelcome guests, and then use your new skills in the field. Please wear rubber boots or hiking boots and clothes you won't mind getting muddy. Also bring a lunch, plenty of water and work gloves.

**When:** Saturday, April 21 or Sunday, May 6

**Where:** Schenob Brook in Sheffield, MA

**When:** Saturday, April 28 or Sunday, May 20

**Where:** Kamposa Bog in Stockbridge, MA

**Time:** 9:30am – 3:30pm

*Please sign up at least one week in advance. To register or for more information about locations, rain dates and other volunteer opportunities in the Berkshires, please contact Angela Marie Sirois at 413-229-0232, ext. 225 or asirois@tnc.org.*

# Thank You

## Chapter Names Congressman John Olver Conservationist of the Year



Rhonda Serre

Deputy State Director Loring Schwarz, State Director Wayne Klockner and Director of Government Relations Linda Orel (far right) recognize Congressman John Olver for his steadfast support for conservation.

As 2006 drew to a close, the Massachusetts Chapter expressed its deep gratitude to an ardent conservationist and renowned community leader: Congressman John W. Olver. Congressman Olver represents the 1st District of Massachusetts, which includes a substantial portion of western Massachusetts. He serves as Senior Whip in the House of Representatives and as Chairman of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee.

The Conservancy selected Congressman Olver to receive the Conservationist of the Year award for his consistent and active support for land and water conservation, including the designation of the Westfield as a Wild and Scenic River, continued funding for the Conservancy's *Weed It Now* program in the Berkshire Taconic Landscape and land acquisition projects covering thousands of acres in the Berkshires and the Connecticut River watershed.

"As a former science professor, the Congressman understands that natural systems function across political boundaries and are increasingly impacted by regional and even global events," said Wayne Klockner, Massachusetts State Director. "His efforts to protect natural places across the Commonwealth and beyond are nothing short of extraordinary."



205 Portland Street, Suite 400  
Boston, Massachusetts 02114  
(617) 227-7017  
[nature.org/massachusetts](http://nature.org/massachusetts)

NONPROFIT  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
HUDSON, MA 01749  
PERMIT NO. 6

### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Berkshire Taconic Landscape Program Office**  
404 LeGeyt Road  
Sheffield, MA 01257  
(413) 229-0232

**Massachusetts Islands Office**  
18 Helen Avenue  
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568  
(508) 693-6287

**Plymouth Office**  
204 Long Pond Road  
Plymouth, MA 02360  
(508) 732-0300

**Westfield Office**  
19 Main Street  
Chester, MA 01011  
(413) 354-7780

### Wayne Klockner, State Director

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Robert Ackerman, Chair ..... *Boston*  
Nina McIntyre,  
Vice Chair ..... *Winchester*  
Jeffrey Porter,  
Vice Chair ..... *Wayland*  
  
Paul Bakstran ..... *Berlin*  
Marcella Boelhouwer ..... *Newton*  
Sarah Broughel ..... *Newton*  
Ursula Cliff ..... *South Egremont*  
Bob Durand ..... *Marlboro*  
Paul Elias ..... *Cambridge*  
Richard Forman ..... *Cambridge*

David Foster ..... *Petersham*  
John Haase ..... *Wayland*  
Bobbie Hallig ..... *Mount  
Washington*  
Malcolm Henderson ..... *Beverly*  
David Leathers ..... *Winchester*  
Brian Mazar ..... *Mendon*  
Kathy Parsons ..... *Manomet*  
Howard Stevenson ..... *Cambridge*

#### TRUSTEES EMERITI

John Alexander      Tess Bramhall      Pam Kohlberg      George Lovejoy