TLT Annual Meeting: Molding the Coastal Margin

Christopher L. Pastore was the guest speaker at the Tiverton Land Trust’s Community Forum/Annual Meeting held in April at The Meeting House in Four Corners, Tiverton. Pastore discussed the ebb and flow of environmental changes to Narragansett Bay in the context of two ecological events that occurred between the 17th and 19th centuries: the settlement of the area by Europeans, and the beginning of Industrialization.

First Pastore discussed how people thought about the Bay and the confusion of where it was – where it stopped and began. The rough boundaries might be Sakonnet Point and Point Judith, but the rivers of the bay also formed boundaries and included vast regions, covering Rhode Island and Massachusetts and extending up to Worcester.

He then focused on using the coastal margins (where the land meets the sea) of the Bay to highlight how land can be subdued or changed. One ecological example Pastore used was how beavers transformed the Annual Meeting

John Foley – The Utility Player

In 1987, John Foley, co-Vice President of the Tiverton Land Trust’s (TLT) Board of Directors, moved with his young family from Cranston to Tiverton. They wanted to live in a rural, small town setting and John, who knew of Tiverton, figured that it would be just right for his family. Tiverton did turn out to be the sort of place they were looking for. John hopes that it will remain so.

But John knows that hope alone is not sufficient for Tiverton to stay a picturesque, serene small town with untouched fields and woods. Soon after moving here he realized that in order for Tiverton to retain its character, residents needed to pay careful attention to the type of development being considered by the town and to play an active role in the future of Tiverton’s open space. To say [continued on page 5]
We come and go, but the land is always here. And the people who love it and understand it are the people who own it – for a little while.

~ Willa Cather

Dear Friends of the Land Trust,

At last, warm weather has arrived after a rather brutish winter followed by a cold spring. Perhaps I’m imagining it but it seems to me there are more people than usual outdoors whether on foot or on bikes, enjoying Tiverton’s trails, country roads, beaches. The parking area at Pardon Gray Preserve has been especially full – so many adults and children hiking or simply strolling around a bucolic environment.

Since 1997, Tiverton Land Trust has preserved 475 acres that are comprised of important habitat, agricultural, historic, or scenic value. Much of this preservation work can only be possible with the support of volunteers. In this issue, you will find a list of TLT’s most recent volunteers. It is an amazing number of people. TLT is grateful for the commitment so many have shown in the advancement of our land trust mission. It is no cliché to say, We cannot do it without you! Thank you for your support.

TLT has three events planned over the next four months:

- July 30, “A Night of Honky Tonk” at The Meeting House
- September 26, “A Country Day at Pardon Gray” at Pardon Gray Preserve
- September 27, “Observation of the Lunar Eclipse” at Pardon Gray Preserve

I hope to see you at one or all of the above fun-filled events.

With thanks,

Constance Lima, President
Tiverton Land Trust

Wayne Browning, TLT’s Land Management Coordinator, was asked to speak at Paul Matthew’s Eagle Court of Honor in March. Paul completed his project at Pardon Gray Preserve and Wayne provided a brief overview of PGP and The Land Trust to those who might not be familiar with the area. (see full story at www.tivertonlandtrust.org)
Thank you to all who volunteered in 2014!

George Alzaibak  
Stacey Alzaibak  
Paul Amaral  
Ann Berglund  
Alexa Bjornson  
Sally Black  
Dick Bixby  
Walter Brown  
Eileen Browning  
Desiree Brunton  
Mike Burk  
Rich Chew  
Randi Cilley  
Chris Clarendon  
Wenona Clarke-Smith  
Donna Croft  
Dennis Culberson  
Sharon Culberson  
Cindy D’Addario  
Linda Davey  
Carl Dumas  
Pauline Dumas  
Jay Edwards  
Laura Epke  
Seena Franklin  
Jim Fuller  
Marge Fuller  
Ann Greaish Rust  
Madeleine Grinkis  
Bill Hathaway  
Kate Hathaway  
Jean Helger-Bento  
Kim Herfert  
Kate Hudson  
Kay Hughes  
Martha Hutchinson  
Phyllis Ibbotson  
Salma Jabbour  
Greg Jones  
Lois Kane  
Wayne Karzenski  
Sheila Kauffman  
Dirk Kramers  
Linda Lacroix  
Ellen Lafazia  
Katherine Lovell  
Nancy Lundgren  
Ray Lundgren  
Mary Luzitano  
Alita Marks  
Cheryl Marotto  
Keith McClennings  
Brendan McNally  
Dan McNamee  
Jenni McNamee  
Eric Mendoza  
Wendy Merriman  
Susan Mignone  
Deb Pallasch  
Brett Pelletier  
Bill Phillips  
Marcia Phillips  
Garry Plunkett  
Abby Porter  
Nancy Poutray  
Geoff Prior  
Sara Rasmussen  
Eduardo Rodriguez  
Kathy Ryan  
Diane Sanna  
Lois Schuyler  
Mary Sexton  
Nancy Shand  
Peggy Siebrandt  
Chip Slack  
Dennis Smith  
Galen Snow  
Jim Spears  
Celia VanHof  
Martin VanHof  
Nick Walsh  
Brenda Wrigley-Scott
Student Volunteers from area schools—thank you so much!

Morgan Aguair
Elaina Alzaibak
Grace Alzaibak
Douglas Amaral
Sydney Andrade
William Armstrong
Daniel Borden
Becca Bouchard
Joseph Bucko
Ariana Byrnes
Kierra Cabral
Nathan Cabral
Connor Caley
Amy Lynn Casey
Tori Cavaca
Ethan Champlain
Emmett Clarendon
Raegan Cleary
Lucas Corr
Nathan DeMoranville
Sarah Downey
Diana Dumond
Remy Escher
Marie Feld
Nathan Feld
Corinne Ferreira
Bennett Flanagan
Aidan Furze
Nora Geoghean
Madison Higginbottom
Kate Karzenski
Kristen Kendera
Mackenzie Kiley
Amber Lattuca
Justin Levesque
Skylar Lewis
Logan Maccarone
Caitlin Macomber
Marissa Marks
Zack Massey
Rachel Mellen
Eric Mendoza
Haley Mendoza
Nancy Miranda
Evan Monast
Alex Monast
Brenna Nobrega
Danielle Ouellette
Madison Pelletier
Jamie Pineo
Cede Rashleigh McNally
Emily Rego
Brooke Resendes
Owen Reuther
Christopher Riley
Coral Rodriguez
Ava Saurette
Dan Savery
Taylor Silveira
Alyssa Silvia
Nathan Six
Sammi Skrzypiec
Emma Souza
Margeaux Souza
Nick Souza
Olivia Souza
Susan Souza
Armand St. Laurent
Cam Taylor
Bennett Theroux
Cody Wilcox
Jessica Yousif

If we missed your name, our sincere apology. Please contact us at www.tivertonlandtrust.com so we can make the corrections and acknowledge you in our next newsletter.
Molding the Coastal Margin

the landscape by building dams which created wetlands. Over time, as vast numbers of beavers were killed, the beaver dams broke down, the water levels dropped, meadows began to form, and the estuaries and coastal environments started to change. He also noted how land could be ‘subdued’ by building barriers (e.g., seawalls, highways) or draining marshes to build seaports, shops, and homes. Changes could result from politics, religion, or the environment.

Pastore took a wide-ranging view of the relationship between land and sea to argue the importance of coastal margins, to encourage us to rethink our notions of progress, and to suggest that the building of ‘hardened edges’ around our coastal space might, in fact, be more detrimental than protective. Further discussions are available in his recent book *Between Land and Sea, the Atlantic Coast and the Transformation of New England*.

John Foley – The Utility Player

that John “walks the walk” is an understatement. He has been involved and held essential roles in a variety of town organizations, commissions and committees focused on guiding development and preserving Tiverton’s untouched land.

Not long after moving here he learned that a trash composting facility was being considered for the industrial park. Concerned that Tiverton would become a repository for trash from all over the state, John founded, with a handful of other residents, an organization to mobilize opposition to that plan which was successful in bringing a halt to the trash composting idea. John is not opposed to development; he feels that Tiverton needs to broaden its tax base. But he also feels that development should be consistent with Tiverton’s small town character.

John has served as a member of the town Charter Review Commission, charged with reviewing and recommending changes to the town charter. It is an elected position, and John points out, with both a bit of pride and characteristic self-deprecating humor, that when his son reached voting age the first vote he cast was for his father. John was also appointed by the Town Council to the town’s Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee.

Eight years ago John was asked if he would be willing to serve on the TLT Board. He agreed and in the ensuing years served as acting President, Chair of the Land Protection Committee and Treasurer. Now, in addition to serving the TLT as co-Vice President, John works on the Governance and Land Protection Committees. He finds the process of land acquisition both interesting and gratifying. As a member of the Land Protection Committee, John was involved in preserving Highland Woods and is delighted to have played a part in that acquisition.

John is also involved in TLT activities that don’t call as much on his legal acumen (he’s a trial lawyer). On Pardon Gray Day John heads the grilling crew, roping in a gang of his cycling buddies to help grill the hamburgers, hot dogs, and sausages that have become a lunch time favorite.

John sometimes feels that he is stretched a bit thin with respect to his volunteer obligations and wonders if he has the necessary time. But he has no doubt about the value of his work with the TLT and his commitment to it. The Pardon Gray Preserve is extraordinary, he says. “To be responsible for it, to play a part in maintaining the Preserve, is an honor.”

John notes that the TLT board members serve a maximum of 10 years; his tenure is up in 2 years. He hopes that there will be a new generation of people to carry on the TLT’s mission.
Save The Dates:

• A Night of Honky Tonk
  Thursday, July 30, 2015, 7–10 p.m.
  The Meeting House at Tiverton Four Corners

• A Country Day at Pardon Gray
  Saturday, September 26, 2015 (rain date September 27)
  10 a.m.–4 p.m.
  Pardon Gray Preserve, Main Road, Tiverton

• The Lunar Eclipse at Pardon Gray Preserve
  Sunday, September 27, 2015, 7 p.m.–midnight
  Pardon Gray Preserve, Main Road, Tiverton

Check www.tivertonlandtrust.org for information updates.