



Friends of
Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge

Annual Meeting
November 10th, 2020

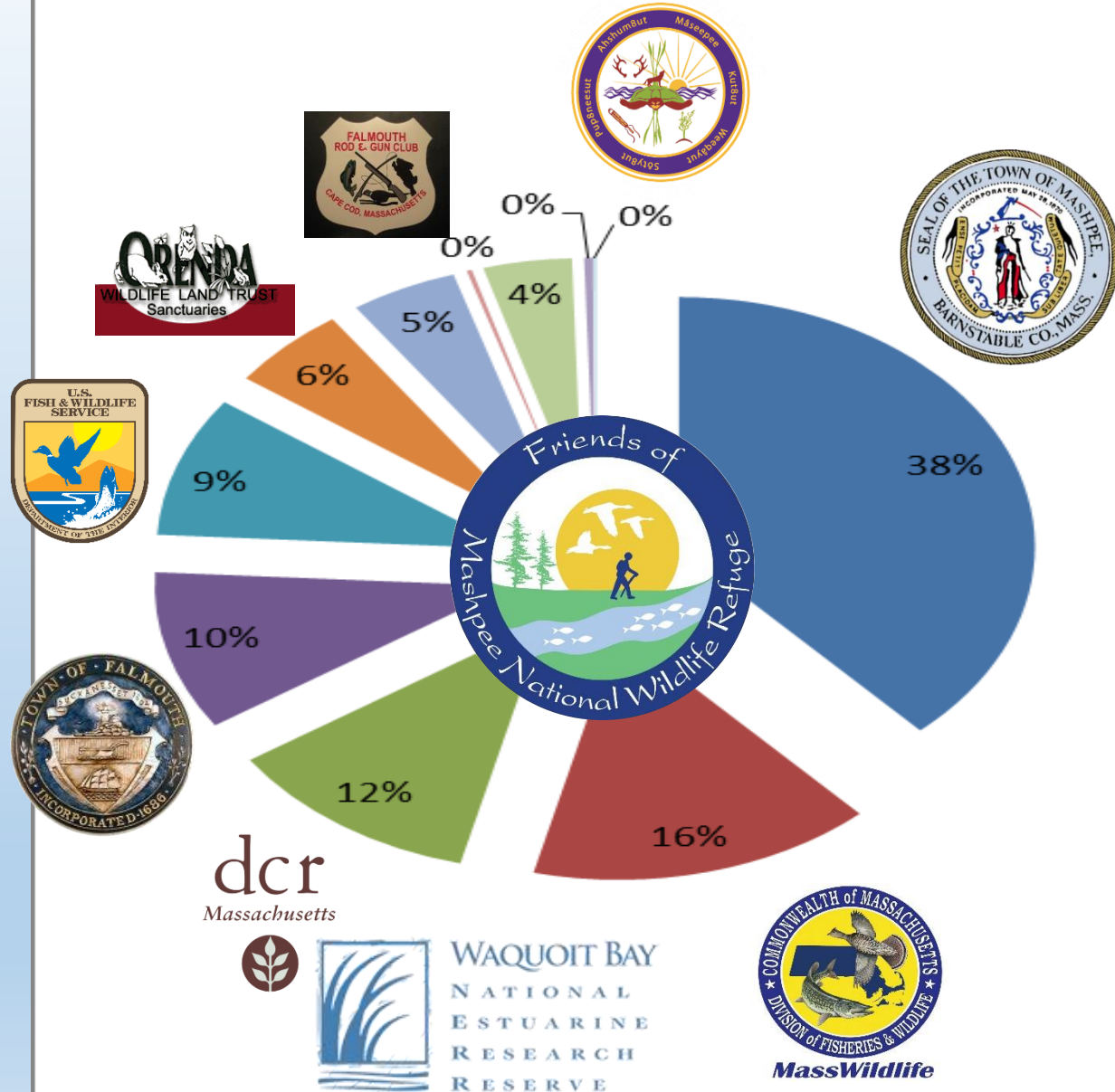
Friends of Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge



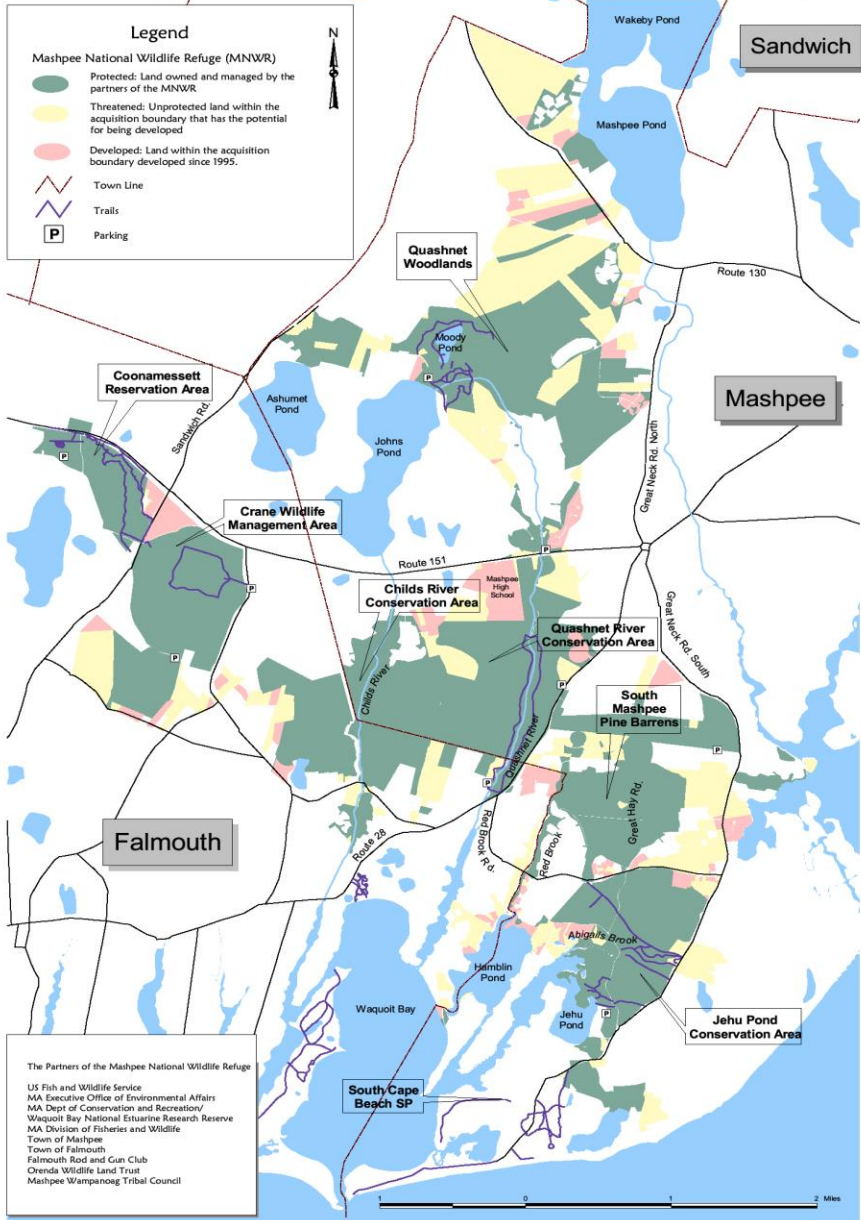
The mission of the Friends of Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge (MNWR) is to ensure long-term protection and enhancement of native wildlife and habitats, to support MNWR Refuge Partners management efforts, and to promote advocacy, education, conservation, and [recreational opportunities](#) within the Mashpee Refuge. We support [native pollinators](#) through education, sponsoring workshops and creating pollinator gardens in the Mashpee Refuge and with other conservation partners.



Partner acreage & Percent ownership



Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge



- 1995
- Over 5,800 acres
- Named after the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, People of the First Light
- Falmouth and Mashpee
- Largest accessible, open space on the Upper Cape; Cape-wide it is second to the National Seashore!
- Unique in National Refuge System





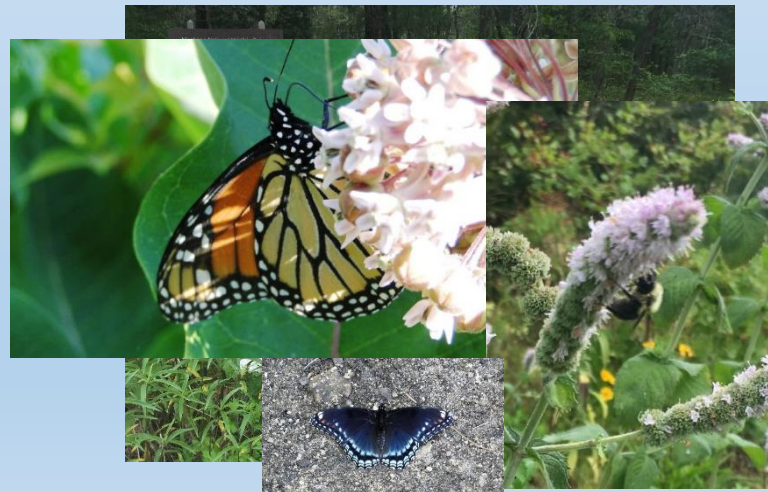
Pine Barrens



Vernal Pools, Ponds



Pollinator Gardens



Pitch Pine/Scrub Oak Forests





Atlantic White Cedar Swamps



Estuaries (salt marsh)



Rivers

Pine Barrens



FRIENDS UPDATES

New Board Member!



Glenn Davis: Director, Web page Administrator

Glenn joined the Board in November 2019 and is a relatively new year-round resident of the Cape and is thrilled to live adjacent to the Jehu Pond Conservation Area and be involved with the Friends of MNWR. An avid kayaker, sailor, hiker, photographer and artist, Glenn is a Mashpee Land Steward and volunteers with many environmental groups, including the Senior Environmental Corps, Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Mass Audubon, Mashpee Conservation, and the New England Coastal Wildlife Alliance. His professional background is in survey research and data analysis.

Farewell, Board Members!



Carol L. Finn: Director

Carol L. Finn joined the Board in November 2019. She recently retired from her career as a microbiologist, with experience that included education, research, and clinical microbiology. Her BS and MS are from Bridgewater State University. In retirement, her interests have evolved to include global climate change, water quality issues that address the increased nitrogen levels in waterways and how this impacts our environment and wildlife.



Birgit Nelson, Director, Mashpee Environmental Coalition Liaison

Birgit has been on the Friends board since 2012. She has been a Mashpee resident since 1989 after retiring as a science teacher and guidance counselor. She has volunteered with the Senior Environmental Corps of Cape Cod and Islands. Currently she volunteers at the Mashpee Public Library and serves on the Mashpee Environmental Coalition Board of Directors.

#WeAreMashpee Talks



Biology



- NEC are far less likely to stray more than 15 feet from cover
- Adults live solitary lives except to mate and, in the doe's case, rear young
- On average, 15% survive their first year
- Average life expectancy is 15 months
- Average litter size of 3-8, 2-4 litters per year, 28 day pregnancy
- Doe makes shallow nest by scratching 4 inch divot in ground and lining with fur and dried grass and twigs
- Eat their own fecal pellets to more completely digest food (this is called coprophagy)
- Nearly indistinguishable from the introduced Eastern Cottontail



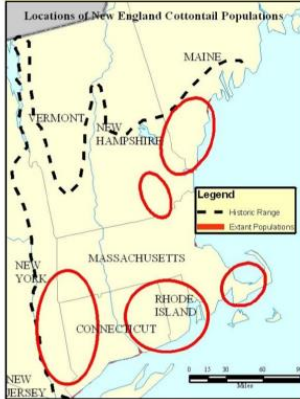
A litter of New England Cottontail kits in a nest constructed by the mother. They will be raised by the mother for 4-5 weeks.

(Photo credit: "Working Together for the New England Cottontail")

History

The New England cottontail (NEC) is Cape Cod's only native cottontail—the far more common Eastern cottontail was introduced in the late 19th and early 20th century to enhance game populations. Once occupying the majority of New England, today NEC populations are found in just five locations (including Cape Cod), representing only 14% of their historic range.

The NEC needs your help.



For more information on the New England Cottontail, visit: <https://newenglandcottontail.org/>

Rabbit Habitat (rabbit)



New England cottontail. Credit: Meagan Racey



Preferred Habitat

The New England Cottontail prefers habitat with thick shrub cover

- Forests with thick understory
- Shrublands
- Forested wetlands

This thick cover provides protection from predators like

- Owls and hawks
- Foxes and coyotes
- Domestic cats

On Cape Cod, the NEC can be found in forests of mixed pitch pine and oak with a dense understory of

- Huckleberry
- Blueberry
- Green briar

The NEC's diet consists of bark, twigs, leaves, nuts, berries, flowers, and grasses. Preferred sources of this food include raspberry, blackberry, highbush blueberry, willows, birch, and red maple.



The dense understory of a pitch pine forest like the Mashpee Pine Barrens offers excellent cover for the NEC.

How You Can Help

Make brush piles!

Aside from managing land to provide native plants for food, the best thing you can do for the NEC is give them somewhere to hide.

Here's how you can make a rabbitat:

1. Lay down large logs in a crisscross pattern—this provides the entrances and exits for the rabbit, keep them small enough that predators won't fit



2. Pile on smaller limbs and branches



3. Pile on any loose leaves, twigs, and other plant detritus



4. Keep adding to the pile throughout the year—bigger is better



****Important note****

This is how to build the *perfect* brush pile or rabbitat. One or more brush piles offer important hiding spots, which is extremely beneficial to this woodland rabbit.

The NEC requires a travel corridor of habitat (or at least hiding places) to utilize for food and shelter. Homeowners can help by creating several brush piles like this one on their property.



Rabbitat Brochure



Friends of Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge Winter Newsletter 2020

Prescribed Burn a Positive for Pollinators, New England Cottontail, and the Community

On March 28th, staff from the Joint-United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)/National Park Service (NPS) Region 5 North County Fire Program conducted a prescribed burn on the Falmouth Rod and Gun Club lands within the Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge (NWR).



Upland forested habitat is successfully burned at the Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge on March 28th, 2019 (Photo Credit: Matthew Carroll/USFWS).

Two acres of field habitat were successfully burned to help with the creation of valuable habitat for pollinators. The crew also burned eight acres of fire-adapted oak-pine forested habitat that is vital to rare species like the New England Cottontail and Northern Long-eared Bat. These

burns were part of a multi-agency hazard-fuels-reduction effort taking place within the refuge and across the state as part of the Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. By United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Time to renew your 2020 membership!

Join our [mailing list](#),
Check out our [website](#)
Like us on [Facebook](#)

Meet Our 2020 AmeriCorps Member

For the 2019-2020 AmeriCorps Cape Cod service-year, member Andrew Schwitzgebel is serving with the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (WBNERR) and the Friends of Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge.



Andrew teaching children at a WetFest education fair.

Andrew is from all over the country, having lived in 8 states, and earned a degree from the University



Membership Form

YES! I want to support the *Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge* - enclosed are my dues as checked below

Name: _____ Phone: _____ (H) _____ (C)

Street: _____ Town: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Email: _____ Date: _____

Enclose payment for the membership – please make checks payable to F.M.N.W.R.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Junior (18 and under) - \$10 | <input type="radio"/> Refuge Sponsor - \$500 |
| <input type="radio"/> Individual - \$25 | <input type="radio"/> Lifetime Gift - \$1000 |
| <input type="radio"/> Family - \$50 | <input type="radio"/> Corporate Gift - \$_____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Conservation Friend - \$100 | <input type="radio"/> Other - \$_____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Wildlife Sponsor - \$200 | |

Volunteer Form

I would be interested in the following opportunities listed below

- Stewardship Projects
- Newsletter Editor
- Native Pollinator Gardens
- Educational talks/walks, Events at Schools
- Volunteer & Membership Coordinator

The Friends meet monthly on the first Tuesday, 4pm at the Mashpee Public Library, Please, come join us and get involved!

New Kiosk
And
Pollinator
Plantings
At Red
Brook Road



ABSOLUTELY
**NO
DUMPING**
VIOLATORS WILL BE
PROSECUTED TO THE
FULLEST EXTENT
OF THE LAW





North Atlantic-Appalachian Region's Refuge Highlights

Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge

Friends Celebrate Earth Day

Three Friends of Mashpee NWR board members worked together to spruce up the pollinator gardens at Jehu Pond and Pickerel Cove on Town of Mashpee Conservation lands in Massachusetts. Following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidelines for wearing face masks and social distancing, Katelyn Cadoret, MaryKay Fox, and Glenn Davis planted a variety of perennials on partner lands within the refuge boundary. The plants will provide additional early to late flowering options for native pollinators and flowering bushes will produce fall fruit for migrating wildlife species, supplying something for everyone! The board plans to complete another planting in May.



Board members add pollinator-friendly species to existing gardens on partner conservation lands.

Friends of Mashpee NWR

Summer 2020



LIGHTING THE BACK BURNER AT MASHPEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, is unusual within the National Wildlife Refuge System. This second-largest accessible open land on the Cape is managed by 8 conservation land partners. These partners own and manage different parcels of land that fall under the refuge umbrella.



Glenn Davis and MaryKay Fox maintain their “social distance” while working on a pollinator planting project for Mashpee NWR

This unique arrangement made it possible for the Friends of Mashpee to spruce up their pollinator gardens. Following the CDC social distancing guidelines and donning face masks, a limited number of the board members spread out across the gardens to plant perennials and annuals that are vital for the native pollinators and migrating wildlife on the Cape. While in-person public events have been postponed, the plantings will continue on lands not owned by USFWS because the Friends will keep the number of people involved to a minimum, maintain social distancing, wear protective gear, and provide a means to keep hands clean.

The Friends have also adjusted their work plan. They’re focusing on tasks that are important, but not urgent. You know those tasks—all the things you put on the back burner until they become critical and you can no longer ignore them. The Friends collaborated with AmeriCorps on a new kiosk. Sticking to the COVID-19 requirements, the Friends purchased and had the lumber delivered. An AmeriCorps member built the kiosk, and it is now ready for installation at the Red Brook parking lot that provides access to USFWS trails. Another task the Friends of Mashpee NWR tackled is revamping their website, including search engine optimization. Now Cape Cod residents can find the Mashpee Friends’ website and discover ecosystems including pine barrens, oak forests, cedar swamps, and tidal estuaries.



Pollinator Planting at Pickerel Cove

“WILD ABOUT WILDLIFE!”

June 2020 1-4pm

Hosted by the Friends of the Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge

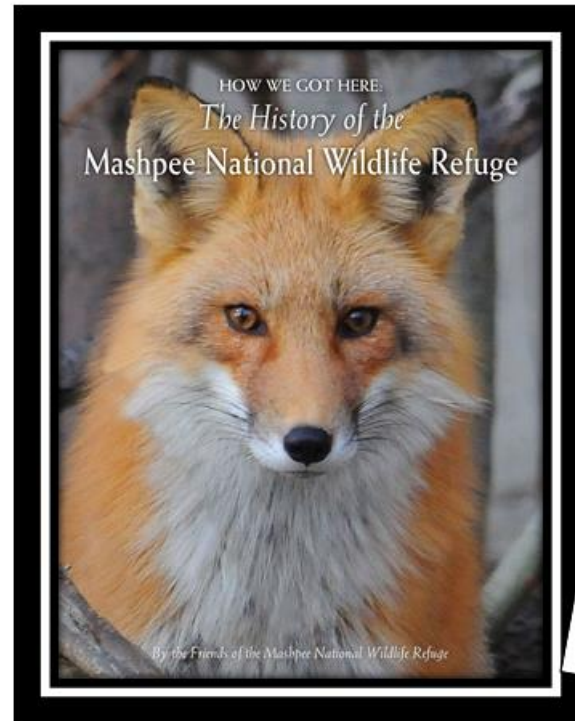
Join us at **NAUKABOUT MICROBREWERY** (13 Lake Avenue Mashpee, MA)



- New Friends Group Brochures
- New Trail Map Guide
- New History Book

Family Event!

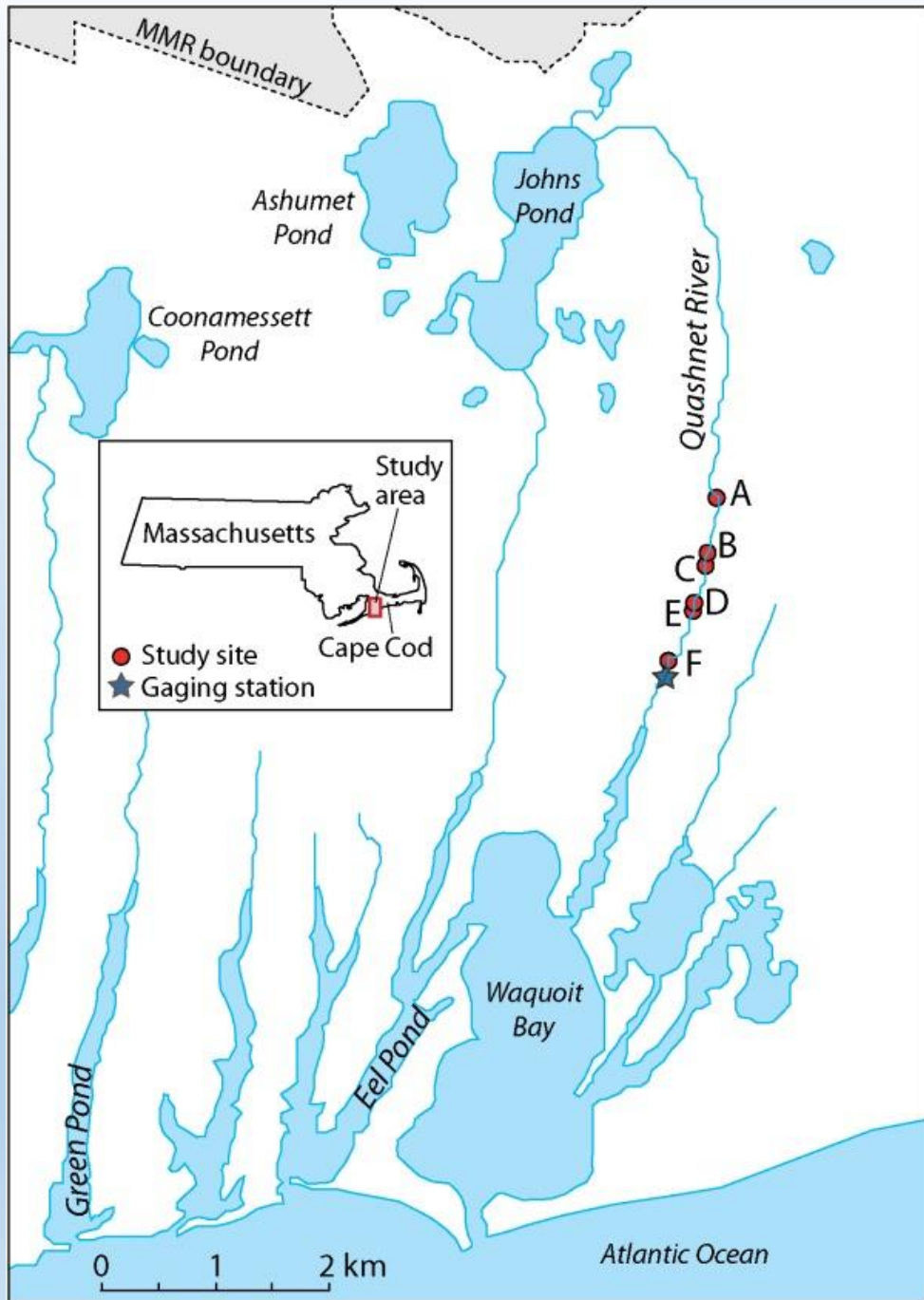
Educational Animal
Ambassadors!
Silent Raffle!
Trivia!
Music & Food!



NAUKABOUT
— Beer Company —

Amazing Animal Ambassadors

Quashnet River Watershed 7th Grade Field Trip





Friends of Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge

- HOME
- NEWS
- EVENTS
- THE REFUGE
- THE FRIENDS
- THE PARTNERS
- RESOURCES
- SUPPORT US



Friends of Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge



Discover



Learn



Visit



Join

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The Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge is unique here on Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Encompassing over 5,800 acres, it is the second largest accessible, open space on the Cape; the first being the National Seashore!

Please explore all we have to share in these pages, including outstanding wildlife photos

RECENT NEWS:

- GreatNonprofits 2020 Top-Rated Organization
- 2020 Friends of MNWR Annual Meeting
- Monarch Butterfly Conservation Webinar Series
- September marks the start of fall hunting – Be safe!
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Fails to Designate Critical Habitat for the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee
- The David Ross Palmer Environmental Hero Award
- MNWR Partner, Orenda, Announces New Executive Director

Revamped Website



Northeast Region, Friends of National Wildlife Refuges

Training materials, 9/26/20

In addition to the slide decks – which we will share with you – these supplemental materials are for your use after the workshop.

9:00 – 10:30: Mapping Your Future: Strategic and Financial Planning

- Four stages graphic
- Benchmarking worksheet
- Agricultural Stewardship Association strategic plan summary
- Clean and Health New York strategic plan
- Northeast Wilderness Trust strategic plan

11:00 – 12:30: Building a Board That Works

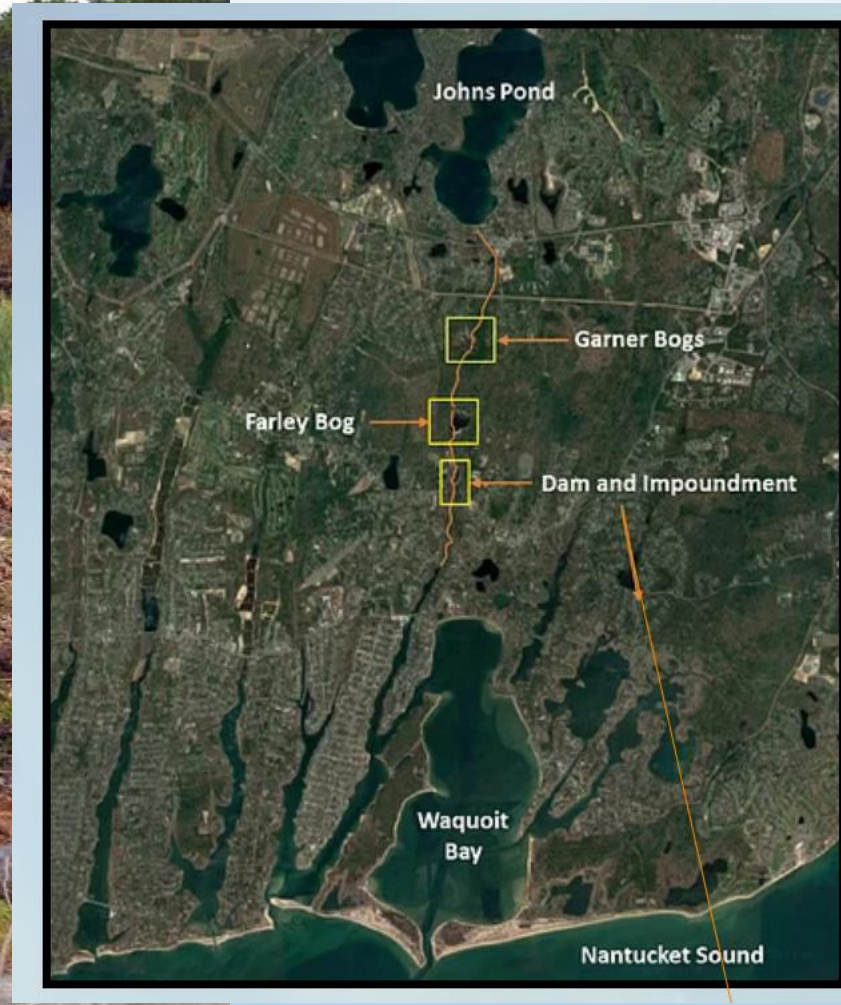
- Board matrix
- Board job description
- Dogwood Alliance board nominations
- Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy board agreement
- Case simplified worksheet

1:30 – 3:00: Building Your Group: How to Recruit and Manage Volunteers

- Volunteer grid
- Volunteer pyramid form
- Volunteer circles form
- Green Decade volunteer
- Sample meeting agenda
- Agenda template

Peer to Peer Workshop

PARTNERS UPDATES



Falmouth Rod and Gun Club:
Childs River
Restoration

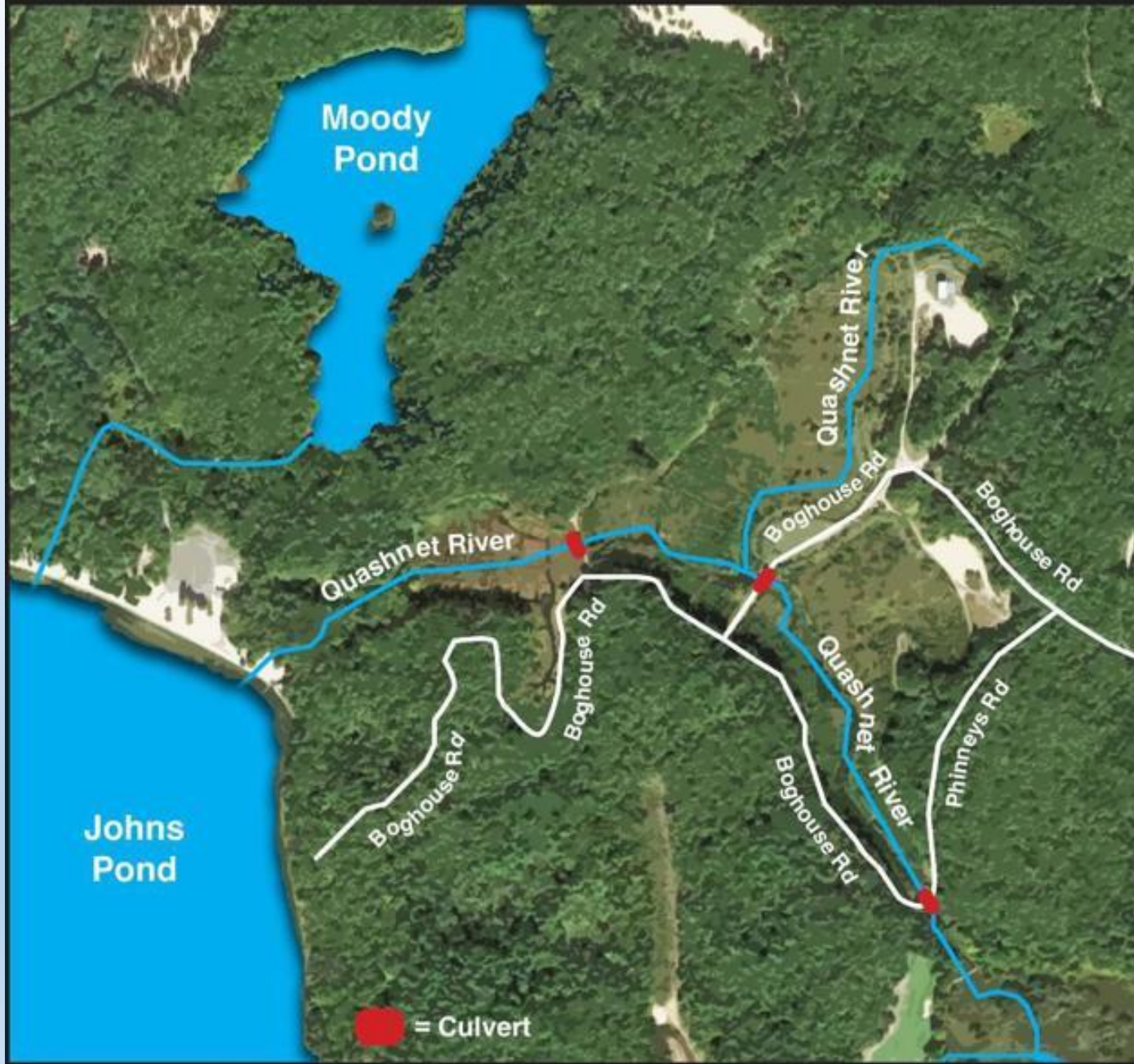


Falmouth Rod and Gun Club:
Lower Quashnet River
Restoration

Pollinator Field Planting at FR&GC:
under the most trying of moments in our lives!



Project Area - Quashnet River Restoration



TOWN OF MASHPEE:
Upper Quashnet River Restoration



WBNERR: Red Brook Road Working Group





USFWS:
Prescribed Burning
Mashpee
Pine Barrens

Your Donation Will Help to Expand the Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge!

By Jeff Thibodeau

In May, Orenda purchased a vacant 14-acre privately owned parcel within the Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge (MNWR) for \$225,000, protecting additional pine-oak forest habitat linking our Makepeace and Mercy Lowe Sanctuaries. The land was slated for development and time was short, so Orenda acted quickly. In the span of a few months, we met with the owner, negotiated a fair price and closed on the property. In order to make this happen, we drew from our small land acquisition fund and took a short-term loan from The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts. The owner also allowed us to finance a portion of the purchase. We are seeking both private and public funding to help us cover the cost of this sanctuary, which is a significant open space anchor within the refuge.

The Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge (MNWR) is a regional and national gem. It is one of 566 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System, the world's largest collection of lands and waters specifically set aside for the conservation and management of wildlife resources. MNWR is one of eight refuges comprising the Eastern Massachusetts NWR

Complex. Located in the towns of Mashpee and Falmouth, the MNWR was established in 1995 to preserve and protect natural resources associated with the Waquoit Bay area for the protection of waterfowl and other wildlife. When complete, it will total 5,871 acres, managed through a unique partnership among nine Federal, State and private conservation groups, including the Orenda Wildlife Land Trust, which owns a significant amount of land within its boundaries. The Refuge preserves thousands of acres of salt marshes, cranberry bogs, Atlantic white cedar swamps, freshwater marshes, rivers and vernal pools. Please donate towards this critically important wildlife habitat and groundwater protection area!



ORENDA:

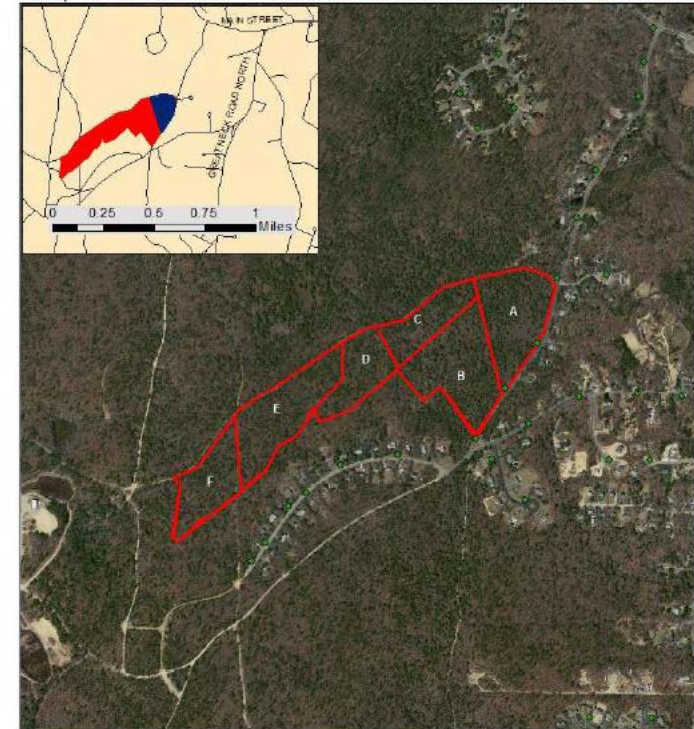
Newly Acquired Parcel off Simon Lowe; Prescribed Burning

Lovell's Lane Prescribed Burn Unit (Subunits: A, B, C, D, E, & F)

APPENDIX A:

MAPS

Orenda Wildlife Land Trust, Town of Mashpee Locus & Property Owner Map
Mashpee, Massachusetts Burn Plan



This map is for planning purposes only, with specific points subject to verification on the ground. It is not to be used by itself for legal boundary definition.

Prepared on: 1/15/13
Source: Mass GIS, NEFFM, LLC.

The David Ross Palmer Environmental Hero Award



This award is named for the late David Ross Palmer, founder and first president of the Friends (1995-2000), who was a champion of the environment, particularly Waquoit Bay watershed. The Friends of Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge, Inc (FMNWR), initiated this award in honor of David in 2013 to community leaders who demonstrate outstanding dedication and excellent Stewardship & Conservation work within the Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge. [Read more about David Ross Palmer and recipients of the The David Ross Palmer Environmental Hero Award.](#)

DAVID ROSS PALMER AWARD

2020

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

AWARDED TO

MaryKay Fox

**For your Outstanding Dedication to the Advancement of the
Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge and Friends of MNWR**

Awarded at the
November 10th, 2020 Annual Meeting of the FMNWR



**Board of Directors: Nancy Church, Katelyn Cadoret, MaryKay Fox
Tom Fudala, Birgit Nelson, Glenn Davis, Carol Finn, Mary Scanlan
(Emeritus), David Vieira (Emeritus)**

**A tree to benefit wildlife will be planted in your honor & your
name will be on a permanent plaque placed in the future Refuge Visitor Center**