Welcome Summer Solstice 2020
Who we are - the Native Land Conservancy
Place of Tall Pines and the Nemasket River Village

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR & VICE-CHAIR

It gives me great pleasure to introduce our Newsletter to update our membership, donors, and interested supporters. We have enjoyed many wonderful successes and embraced some amazing new friends. It is good to finally connect with our members; we now have a way to keep everyone informed. We are in awe of the support received from so many caring people. Our membership has grown, land has been donated, and very generous monetary donations have been made. Personally, each time I receive a letter, email, on-line donation, or phone call from you, I receive a real sensation in my heart. I hope you could feel my smile of gratitude in that moment. The NLC is relatively new to the land conservation community. Native Am. groups have begun to organize in this manner over the last 20 years. Our missions are primarily to protect ancestral lands, rescue sacred sites and conserve landscapes where we can manage the land in ways that support tribal values. Many of us were drawn to land conservancy because it typically prevents most development. We know that active engagement with the land for food, medicine, arts, education, and spiritual practices preserves our place as humans in the natural world. In our future newsletters we will share more about the other 7 parcels presently in our care. We also have 4 pending land donations in the towns of Easton, Yarmouth, Aquinnah and Kingston. There are 2 “Cultural Respect Agreements” on record in the registry of deeds between us, a private landowner and another land trust. More about these in newsletters to come.

In Thanksgiving,

Ramona Peters, NLC Founder & Chair

Happy Summer Solstice Earth loving friends,
We are living through some very tough times but there are many things we can continue to do to stay on course with our land conservation initiatives. As we prepare to enter into our summer solstice, the inspiring idea of planting new gardens is and always has been very exciting for we eco-centric folks. Along with safe, healthy long walks in the woods, we can plant new life; whether it be your own vegetables and herbs for nourishment, perennials and annuals for flower gardens, or shrubs, and trees for new energy and life. It’s a wonderful time to be grateful for the land.

Leslie Jonas, NLC Vice-chair

nativelandconservancy.org
PLACE OF TALL PINES

Qâqunôhqu8ee K8åut

Our first land donation in Centerville made by Norman Hayes and his family holds a deep, special, significant meaning to the NLC. This 1.4 acre Pine-Oak forest is filled with American Holly, American Beech, Pitch and White Pines and Black and White Oaks. Walking this special place on certain days, one might witness Fox dens and Lady Slippers.

This first land donation made to the NLC in 2015 set the tone for the beginning of a long and rewarding relationship with another Cape Land Trust, the Barnstable Land Trust, who holds the conservation restriction on the parcel.

In the 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.”

The NLC was very moved by this first land donation by the Hayes Family, the Place of Tall Pines, because it confirms that folks are willing to give land back to Indigenous people.
The NLC partnered with the town of Middleborough and the Archaeological Conservancy to purchase 20.35 acres in Middleborough at Ja-Mar farm, now known as Nemasket River Village.

The significance of this ancient village is spiritually, historically, and culturally important and is the only intact village of its kind in Massachusetts. The 56,000 artifacts that have been archaeologically recovered date back to roughly 7,500 years ago.

The Nemasket River flows along the southern boundaries of the former village. Archaeologists found evidence of some 73 dwellings at this site. The NLC is proud to offer the highest level of protection for this significant place. This is one of the ways we honor the ancestors.

During the 1600s, the Nemasket Wampanoag villagers hosted English Pilgrims on their way to and from visits with the Wampanoag Massasoit Ousemequin. Massasoit Ousemequin affirmed 50 years of peace with the English settlers.

The NLC works to protect culturally significant sites
Historically, weavers used natural fibers found in Milkweed and different grasses dyed with colors from plants, roots and berries. The style of weaving she uses is called warpface, utilizing designs which hail from influences of 18th century Eastern Woodland and Plains Peoples of Turtle Island. The designs are also variations of the diagonal, chevron, arrowhead, diamond, flame and lightning bolt images. The items woven with these designs are ceremonial sashes, belts, garters, armbands, headbands, and hair ties. Marlene’s work is beautiful and we celebrate her in our 1st edition Newsletter.

Mashpee Wampanoag elder, Rabbit Clan Mother, daughter of the Mashpee Wampanoag Chief and NLC Board member, Marlene Lopez, takes on the privilege and responsibility of matrilineal culture. The Clan Mothers work to maintain the Tribe’s traditional values and are chosen by their family members. They also sponsor important ceremonies, and give direct guidance to their families. Many of the Tribe’s Clan Mothers engage in artistic practices such as beading, finger weaving, regalia making, wampum jewelry creation and more.

Marlene practices the traditional craft of finger weaving. The Wampanoag have finger weaved for hundreds of years.