CHATHAM CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

BULLETIN

Summer 2018 The Chatham Conservation Foundation preserves land for the benefit of the people, plants, animals and ecosystems of Chatham.

The Mayo House move is a huge project.



Volunteers have created a native plant meadow landscape in front of the Mayo House. Pictured below are designer, Cathy Weston, Oonie Burley, President of CCF and Jeanne Branson, Trustee and owner of Pine Tree Landscaping.



by Matt Canno

The Mayo House has been getting a facelift after a major exterior restoration last year.

Many improvements have been made after our decision to use the Mayo House as our office. On the interior, the parlor has been kept in a historical state with original Mayo family items. The other front room has been updated for reception and office space. The back room serves as Matt's office and small committee meeting space.

On the exterior, we have removed the Bradford Pear tree, installed an office sign, replaced the front door with a historic one, added a brick walkway, installed a historic Mayo House sign, and planted a native meadow with grasses and wildflowers. We spent much time sorting out and returning

> Annual Meeting Tuesday, August 7 @ 5:30 The Boathouse at Chatham Bars Inn

Guest speaker: Mark Robinson see pages 6-7 items on loan from the Atwood House Museum. We have kept the essentials for historical tours and added certain necessities for a fully functioning office. It has been a team effort!

The contractors have been Stello Construction for the major exterior restoration, floor reconstruction and door continued on page 4

Roy Meservey retiring as treasurer after 46 years

By Carol Odell Board of Trustees

Roy Meservey is stepping aside as treasurer of the Foundation, a position he has held for 46 years!

In 1972 he was brought into the foundation by Robin Turner, later president of CCF, and elected treasurer. Since 1972, Roy has superbly served the foundation as its treasurer, a trustee and a keeper of CCF history.

Roy remembers a different organization in the early years, one with no money and many more members. Most

continued on page 7

Cape Cod's oldest private land trust, 1962-2018

President's message: It's an exciting time at the Foundation.



It gives me great pleasure to report that the energy at your Chatham Conservation Foundation is positive and strong. We have a talented and very dedicated Board of Trustees. Matt continues to work diligently on behalf of the Foundation and our mission. All of our committees have been working hard this winter to develop and implement By Oonie Burley President, Board of Trustees

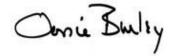
policies and practices that enhance our growth. There has been evolution and new developmemnts - indeed a busy and productive time!

Much has been happening at the Mayo House (see related story on page 1). Our land stewardship program continues to expand thanks to an increased number of volunteers. Roy Meservey is stepping down after 36 years of dedicated service as our treasurer, and thankfully will continue to serve on our Board. We are collaborating with other organizations in town -specifically with the Nickerson Family Association with their archeological dig, Eldredge Public Library's poetry walk and others in the formative stages.

Summer is here; so do enjoy walking our trails. Trail guides are available at the Mayo House. Also please stop by to say hello and to enjoy our newly planted "Mini Meadow on Main"! I am sure you will be interested to see the parlor with its historical exhibit of original Mayo family items and our new and expanded office spaces.

We greatly appreciate your increased membership and suppport. We are working hard and will continue to strive to deserve this support and trust. I look forward to seeing many of you at our Annual Meeting at the Boathouse at Chatham Bars Inn on August 7th.

Once again I wish to thank our trustees, employees and volunteers for their dedication to our conservation vision



Bill Beineke, environmentalist and 'an American icon' dies

William Sperry Beinecke, a passionate environmentalist who helped the Foundation acquire Strong Island in 1973, died last April at the age of 103.

Protecting the Cape's lands and waters were priorities for Mr. Beinecke.

His family foundation contributed \$250,000 of Strong Island's asking price of \$700,000, then owned by the Horst family.

"I guess I was the spearhead in terms of money contributed," he said then. "I was able to do it, and I'm glad I did it. I'm glad I took it (the island) off the market."

Considered the gem of Pleasant Bay, the island consists of 75 acres of upland (owned by the Foundation) and 69 acres of town-owned marsh. Three acres are privately held, with one house on site.

Jay Cashman, along with his wife Christy and their children, spend their summers on the island. He reflected on his friendship with Mr. Beinecke.

"One of the most inspiring things about Bill was that even at 103 his spirit was never diminished. Even at 100, his communication skills were as sharp, but welcoming, as any Fortune 500 CEO half his age. Once you've known Bill Beinecke, you really understand why men of this time were

By Tim Weller Board of Trustees



called 'The Greatest Generation.' He is an American icon, and I feel blessed to have known him," Cashman said.

Over the years, the Mr. Beinecke's foundation has contributed to the Harwich Conservation Trust, the Cape Cod Fishermen's Alliance, the Association to Preserve Cape Cod, Massachusetts Audubon's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, Friends of the Cape Cod National Seashore, and the Latitude 41 Under Siege Symposium, which addressed ocean nitrification and acidification.

Mr. Beinecke was the grandson of an immigrant who founded the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel in Boston and the Plaza Hotel in New York City.

He became a Naval officer in World War II and was decorated with 11 battle stars while serving on two destroyers. After the war, Mr. Beinecke rose through the ranks of his family business, the Sperry and Hutchinson Co., ultimately becoming chief operating officer. The company was known for S&H green stamps, which were redeemable for house goods and sports wares.

The Beinecke family continues to be an inspiration to environmentalists both on and off the Cape.

What kind of year has it been? Busy!

By Matt Cannon Executive director / Land Steward

What a year!

I can't believe I started full-time at the Foundation last August. Every day has been exciting and challenging. We have been burning the midnight oil here, and it has been quite a learning experience!

After moving into the Mayo House and taking over full-time last summer, I have been working to finish implementing the previous Strategic Plan and continue serving as the Land Steward. Most of our last Strategic Plan involved increasing and sustaining membership and collaborating with other local groups. I can say we have met most of those goals, and will be completing another three-year Strategic Plan in the fall.

As for outreach and education, we are working with the Nickerson Family Association on an archaeological dig and a restoration of our land. We are working with the Eldredge Public Libaray to offer a poetry walk on the walking trails in Town (see related

story on Page 4). CCF has started a scholarship program at Monomoy Regional High School, We also are looking to have a few walks and talks this summer. We have just finished two educational exhibits that will be installed at Menekish Corner (Old Harbor and Shore Road) and at the mouth of Muddy Creek. These serve to educate on the history of place: how people have interacted with the land over time, both Native Peoples and Europeans. We thank Todd Kelley and Marcus Hendricks for their help and vision in this process. We have begun to work with the Tales of Cape Cod, a non-profit dedicated to preserving the Cape's stories. This will tell the tale of the first land trust on Cape Cod and offer various ways to utilize the audio and visual material.

For membership, we sent out our first town-wide membership appeal. From that, and our first lapsed membership appeal, we added over 140 members and raised more than \$25,000 on top of our regular annual drive! In the future we are planning on having membership on a rolling basis and will hold a year-end donation appeal.

We have moved to a new donor database that gives us more flexibility in how we interact with our members and volunteers. It gives us the ability to send mailings and emails much easier. We updated to a new QuickBooks software that has allowed us more input and flexibility in how we manage our finances.

Moving forward, I will continue to collaborate with community leaders and organizations and to expand the presence of the Foundation. I see my role as fostering a sense of stewardship in the community and supporting land conservation and restoration efforts.





Photo by Mart Cannon

Scott Tappan and Nat Mason install new post and rail fence at the beginning of the Barclay's Pond trail. Pictured on the left are the serene reflections at Barclay's Pond.

Foundation, town library collaborate on poetry walk

By Rachel Barnes Board of Trustees

If you decide to hike the Training Field Triangle, or the Golden Triangle as it is more popularly known, you may notice a few new features this summer and fall.

The Foundation has partnered with the Eldredge Public Library to create Chatham's first poetry walk. EPL's Amy Andreasson and Tamara DePasquale attended a conference this past winter in which the idea of putting poetry connected to nature in relevant settings was put into practice in a Vermont state forest with great success. Excited by the idea, they reached out immediately to the Foundation, and the result is an exciting new partnership for both EPL and CCF.

The newly formed Education Committee worked with library staff to select a trail and poems, and the project was completed in late June.

Enter the forest at the parking area at the corner of Old Comers Road and Training Field Road and you will find the start of the trail. There are fourteen stops along the walk, which is approximately ¾ of a mile through 39 acres of forest which contain both a certified vernal pool and the historic small pox cemetery.



Photo by William D. Hayes

Rachel Barnes, CCF Trustee, Tammy DePasquale, Asst. Director and Amy Andreasson, Director of the Eldredge Public Library show the poetry signs that will be along the poetry walk in the Golden Triangle.



Each of the stops contains a poem for adults on the left and a poem for children on the right, although both may be enjoyable to all despite the age categorization. Each poem was selected to highlight a natural or historic feature that may be noted in the area.

Hikers are encouraged to slow down, read the poems, and reflect in a way that is meaningful to him or her personally. At the end of the trail there is a green box (built by CCF volunteer Scott Tappan and painted by CCF trustee Robert Lear) attached to a tree that contains a journal to record your ideas and reflections on the walk. The library and CCF hope to use the ideas shared to improve and expand upon these opportunities in the future.

The poetry walk will be available through early fall. Further information about the specific poems and their locations on the trail will be available both through the library website and CCF's website. CCF welcomes feedback on this project and hopes to expand on this in upcoming years. The Foundation is excited to continue working with the Eldredge Public Library to bring more cross-disciplinary opportunities to Chatham.

Mayo House continued from page 1

painting; Dick Noyes for transom addition, door replacement, and front office installations; Rellan Monson for brick walk addition, Robb Morisson for side tree removal; Dan Donnelly for interior wiring; Kalinowski for outdoor spigot installation, Pine Tree Nursery for the garden preparation and Simmons Irrigation for drip hoses.

Summer tours will be held Wednesdays from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Volunteer docents guide visitors through the front two rooms while discussing the history of the home.

Cathy Weston, Oonie Burley, and Jeanne Branson have been vigorously working on a native plant meadow for this property. It is a perfect educational opportunity to practice what we preach and bring native plants to Main Street.

The official office move from Crowell Road will be completed by Aug. 1. All CCF business will then be conducted at the house at 540 Main Street. Please direct all mailings to this address.

We thank Roy Meservey for giving us an affordable space for many years. in his offices on Crowell Road.

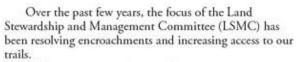
Matt Cannon, Executive Director/ land Steward, is available Monday-Friday from 9a.m. – 5 p.m. by appointment.

Please call 508-945-4084 or email: matt@ccfinc.org.

page 4

Land management committee focuses on trail access, encroachments

By Tony Murphy Board of Trustees



We have written in the past about various encroachments, but they seem to keep coming! Sometimes they are longstanding and have been unreported; sometimes they are related to new landowners not knowing their boundary line. In all these cases, Executive Director Matt Cannon continues to help us resolve land issues and maintain relations with all our neighbors (we have quite a few!).

The LSMC then discusses and determines solutions.
Usually solutions involve letters, phone calls, and in-person meetings to determine lot lines. Sometimes, a simple boundary marker and a meeting is enough. Other times, we need to have structures removed. Our land was purchased or donated with the intention of preservation, not personal use. We appreciate our neighbors cooperation as we continue to monitor and delineate all of our properties. We have a duty to protect this land and appreciate your help.

Monitoring does take time, which this year was mainly conducted by our AmeriCorps Member, Emma Forbes, and the newly recruited volunteer Land Stewards. Thank you!

We have worked with AmeriCorps to push back vegetation along the trails. Thank you Tom Hatch for helping us control the poison ivy! Kiosks will be installed in the coming months, giving visitors accurate trail maps and other helpful information as they enjoy the trails. You may also notice that we have begun restoring the parking lot area at Barclay's Pond. The main goal is to keep the Japanese knotweed cut back this year and then treat it in the late summer. This will restore habitat and keep the parking lot area open, improving access and visibility for the Foundation.







AmeriCorps workers keep the trails open.

Top left Emma Forbes Top right: Katie Levander Lower right: Brianna Caarstens

Photos by William D. Hayes



Thank you! to the volunteers who helped plant the Meadow on Main in front of the Mayo House

Gail Eldredge Melanie Garrison Dave McNally Bob Lear Laurie Gates Oonie Burley Scott Tappan Danielle Berg Cheryl Lubin Gerry Stahl Sherrie Burson Judy Nichols Cathy Weston Jeanne Branson





Guest speaker: Cape Codders will find ways to preserve...open space'

By Tim Weller Board of Trustees

An interview with Mark Robinson, Executive Director of the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Inc.

Question: How did you get involved with the Compact?

Answer: I had been helping at the Truro Conservation Trust on a management plan for the Pamet River and sitting in with an informal group of lower Cape land trusts learning from each other, most of them fairly new. After a couple of years, they decided to affiliate and asked me to serve as a part-time staffer. Within two years, we went from six to 12-member land trusts and now represent 27 groups, on the Cape and Plymouth County.

Q: What are you most proud of in your work with the Compact?

A: I think the sustainability of our model, which has passed the 30-year test now and serves as a national model for regional non-profit land conservation federations. The sustainability comes from several things, I think: stability of leadership (board and staff), regional identity (we all are in this together if we are to save the Cape); bottom-up funding (each member group provides the bulk of the funding, not outside subsidies); and, value-added expertise (we get in the trenches with the land trusts to get their projects done, not simply acting as a clearinghouse).

Q: What projects are you focused on now?

A: There are always so many land acquisitions on our plate, collectively and regionally. And whenever anyone says, surely there are no more important lands to save on the Cape, they are wrong. In the past few years, major projects like the 40-acre Chapin Beach purchase in Dennis, the 70-acre Shallow Pond acquisition and 40-acre Tony Andrews Farm purchase in Falmouth, and this year's 42-acre Long Pond Woodlands property in Brewster was approved. Those are big chunks of property for our seemingly built-out Cape Cod.

Q: Please discuss the "Take Back the Cape" initiative? What has worked? What hasn't?

A: The theme of that booklet was to inspire Cape Codders with success stories of winning back blighted properties of strategic importance for open space, creating green parks along busy commercial corridors like Rt 28, rescuing land that had been contaminated by leaky gas station tanks, taking down buildings in flood-prone areas—all tied in with the community benefits of undevelopment. Less really can be more in a scenic landscape like ours.

Q: What will the Cape look like in 50 years?

A: It may not look much different, because I think Cape Codders will find ways to preserve historical structures along with open space. I think it will continue the trend of being a much more year-round place to live, the seasonal swings in resident population not so great. But I think our bays, ponds and tidal shores will be cleaner and clearer because we will have solved our immense nutrient pollution problem and the now-resident nitrogen will have worked its way through the system. The costs of wastewater management will become lower and more accepted. And we will have stopped subsidizing building on the flooding shores.

Q: As Cape Codders, how can we use the lessons of the past to help us navigate the future?

A: Collective individual responsibility is the coming thing. We will expect more from ourselves and expect it from others. Peer pressure to do the right thing by our environment is a good thing.

Q: Is there anything I haven't asked you that you would like to discuss or emphasize?

A: I like the way that citizens have come to accept and believe in open space protection as a standard part of civic business. It is not a spasmodic activity to be done when development pressures soar, but a regular part of the business of community evolution. Just as we grow our population and buildings, we grow our supply of protected open space for more people to enjoy.



Mark H. Robinson has served as executive director of The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Inc. since its founding in 1986.

The Compact provides technical assistance to 26 local and regional land trusts operating on Cape Cod, including landowner negotiations, fundraising, land management and state/municipal coordination on open space projects.

The Compact also contracts with Cape Cod towns for their municipal open space projects. The Compact serves as a national model of regional cooperation for land trusts.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency acknowledged Robinson's work with a lifetime achievement award in 2009. He has completed more than 500 land preservation projects in Massachusetts, from the Cape to the Berkshires.

Foundation will miss Emma Forbes



Emma Forbes, AmeriCorps volunteer

Emma Forbes, a graduate of the University of Michigan with a BS in Earth and Environmental Sciences and a minor in Geology, has spent the last year working as an AmeriCorps volunteer for both CCF and Harwich Conservation trust.

AmeriCorps Cape Cod is a federally funded service program focused on addressing the critical environmental needs of Cape Cod as well as improving disaster preparedness efforts.

While working for CCF. Emma has performed baseline reports on 30 CCF properties, monitored and improved our trails, conducted boundary marking and implemented our new stewardship database.

Pretty impressive for working just one day a week!

After Emma's AmeriCorps year of service, she will work with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management as an environmental scientist.

Good luck, Emma! Thanks for all your hard work!





Hats and Trail Guides available at the Mayo House



Roy Meservey continued from page 1

of the properties the foundation held (209 acres) were acquired at that time by gift. In 1972 the town of Chatham purchased the "Golden Triangle", 39 acres between Old Queen Anne, Training Field and Old Comers Roads when he remembers Robert McNeece, a selectman and Foundation trustee, proposing that CCF should start actively purchasing properties. The year Roy came on the board he remembers 179 new members joined, totaling 810 in all! The Annual Meeting that year was attended by 360 members in the Main Street school.

The trustees then consisted of all men from the community. The first women, Ann Mahoney and Anne Foster came on the board in the 1990's.

Roy was on the board when CCF purchased Strong Island from Victor Horst. Horst had proposed a plan for a large development with 'cluster zoning' and shuttle boats to and from Strong Island. The town rejected that plan. He remembers then President John Manson securing large financial commitments from three Chatham residents to launch a campaign to buy the island upland from Horst. The purchase and sales agreement was signed in 1974. Many generous people contributed to that significant purchase.

There have been numerous changes over the 46 years that Roy has been treasurer. For starters, the holdings have increased to over 800 acres and the budget has increased with paid staff and more operating expenses. Back in the 70's and 80's, land values were less, and the Foundation was able to make some wonderful purchases. With today's values and the increase in development, there are fewer opportunities to purchase open space. Now the Foundation is committed to stewarding its properties which comes with its own financial commitments.

Term limits for trustees were established in 2002, After completing a nine-year term, Roy was voted Honorary Trustee in 2011. A year later he returned to begin serving another term as trustee. Roy is eligible and willing to complete his current three-year



term on the board, but feels it is time to hand over the position of treasurer. Gerry Stahl will step into that position on Aug. 1. Roy says he still has a concern for the finances of CCF but acknowledges that the current board is composed of some very hard-working, skilled people.

The Foundation wishes to thank Roy for his many years of watchful service keeping the books, and appreciates his continuing service as a trustee.

Foundation develops management Plan for Strong Island

By Bob Lear Board of Trustees



This arial photograph of Strong island by Spencer Kenard clearly shows the different ecological features of the island...

Since the Foundation acquired Strong Island in 1974, there has not been a comprehensive plan to address how to maintain the property.

So, in the past year we started a process to address the issue, beginning with ecological surveys to identify existing plants and animals that should be protected, along with invasive plants that should be controlled. Ecologists from Northeast Forest and Fire Management, LLC, also pointed out a variety of habitats that required different goals and approaches to reach them.

The result is a document which divides the 72-acre island into seven "stands," areas of shared ecological features which are not necessarily contiguous, but could be managed in a similar way.

Theses stands are identified as pitch pine, pitch pine/oak, upland brush, abandoned field, grasses and forbs, salt marsh and beach. For each stand there is a range of choices of what degree of "management" is appropriate and feasible, both physically and fiscally. For example, there are approximately 10 acres of upland brush (or maritime shrubland), some of which have a high proportion of invasive species such as honeysuckle, bittersweet, porcelain berry and barberry which left untreated would overwhelm the native trees and shrubs which are valuable to wildlife. An effective management plan would address prioritizing invasives for removal through mechanical, herbicide and/or prescribed fire approaches. These activities will be further complicated by the need to maintain adequate root structures to control erosion on the coastal banks and bluffs, which have been significantly compromised by storms in recent years.

Conversely, other stands such as the 15 acres of salt marsh are not nearly as complicated. The recommended approach is essentially leave it alone by protecting from fertilizer, trash and traffic. The exception is a small area of invasive phragmites, which we plan to address this fall by cutting and applying herbicide. This summer we will be identifying specific areas for possible management. The next step will be to attempt to get realistic estimates of the cost of these activities, taking in to account the work is on an island, and the need to remove unwanted debris. Fortunately, there appear to be several potential grant opportunities with application deadlines in the fall to assist with financing.

In conclusion, long-range management of Strong Island presents a unique challenge which we look forward to addressing.



View from Strong Island looking northeast over Pleasant Bay

notes by Tim Weller

New committee focuses on education

By Rachel Barnes Board of Trustees

While the Foundation may be the oldest land trust on Cape Cod, the decision to focus a singular committee on member and community education has been a recent one. The committee is comprised of the Executive Director, trustees, and community members who have been hard at work determining what the scope and priorities of this should be. An ambitious but achievable first year is currently in the planning stage, and the goal of meeting the mission statement of CCF is guiding all decisions made by the committee.

You may have noticed that there have been many changes at the Mayo House, and the front of the property is no exception. A move from a traditional lawn to native plantings that better support the environment is more than cosmetic and eco-friendly. The education committee is working on creating signage that links to our website through QR codes to inform passers-by of the conservation value of each of the plants selected. The project is currently under way, and we expect to

continue to identify plants throughout our properties in the upcoming days and years.

Executive Director Matt Cannon has been hard at work trying to secure local experts to start an education walk and talk series. With so many restoration projects planned for the upcoming days, the committee is looking to connect speakers to these projects so that members may be informed of the importance of these decisions as they are in process. Check the website as well as our Facebook page for information regarding these events in the future.

Connections to our future conservationists has also been a priority for the committee. Matt continues to connect with the Monomoy Regional Middle School to ensure that students understand their role in the stewardship of the earth around our community, especially at the abutting vernal pool that is now teeming with frogs and other wildlife.

In an endeavor to ensure our young citizens will continue to care about the environment and take an active role in protecting and preserving open space CCF will offer a scholarship to Chatham Monomoy Regional High School students who pursue environmental studies in college. Applications for this will be available in the high school guidance office.

Finally, the education committee is working to complete one of the final tasks of the Strategic Plan developed in 2016: an oral history of CCF. Plans are under way to interview members and trustees that remember the earliest days of the Foundation. These interviews will be archived and catalogued in order to be accessible when needed for the organization, and the education committee is also examining if sound bites from these interviews can be made available digitally to share information about our properties and the people who preserved them. The future of CCF is bright, and we look forward to sharing how it was powered by the past.

CCF installs history signs

By Carol Odell Board of Trustees

This summer there will be new signage on three of CCF's properties that are important in the history of Chatham. The signs are similar in style to other history markers which the town placed at at Lighthouse Beach and the Town Hall.

One sign is placed in front of the Mayo House, the new location of the foundation's headquarters. Information about the house comes from a Cape Cod Chronicle article written by Tim Wood. There are also pictures of the house from yesteryear. The Mayo House will be open to visitors limited hours in July and August with docents to answer questions. Whenever it is not open to the public, the interpretive sign will provide many interesting details about the 1820's house and it's owner Josiah Mayo. The other two signs are placed on CCF properties that are relevant to the history of the Monomovicks: Menekish Farm on the corner of Old Harbor Road and Shore Road in North Chatham and Askaonkton (The Wading Place) at Muddy Creek. The information on these signs was compiled by Todd Kelley and Marcus Hendricks who frequently lead walks that focus on the life of native people in this area. Each sign has old maps and a great deal of good information to enrich our sense of place.

Candidate for Trustee



Dave McNally

Dave McNally is a retired information technology executive who worked as Chief Information Officer of Royal Ahold – the parent of Stop & Shop. He was also Managing Director of corporate turnaround leader AlixPartners. Following his career in industry and consulting he has served on the Board two Raymond James portfolio companies.

Last year, Dave began as a volunteer land steward for the Conservation Foundation. In addition to enjoying Chatham's natural resources, Dave enjoys opera, boating, kayaking, and gardening. Dave lives in South Chatham with his wife Cheryl, daughter Annie and dog Daisy.



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www.chathamconservationfoundation.org



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We are grateful for the financial support our members have given to protect over

We are grateful for the financial support our members have given to protect over 800 acres of open space in Chatham.

Mayo House Docent Tours Wednesdays 11:00 -3:00 summer only

Office Hours by appointment 945-4084

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547





The care of the Earth is our most ancient and most worthy, and after all our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it and to foster its renewal is our only hope.

-Wendell Berry

