

COASTAL STEWARD NEWS

It was an unusual summer on Tuckernuck...and not just because the Lagoon had turned into a pond! The Tuckernuck Land Trust has employed a summer shorebird monitor (Coastal Steward) for over 20 years. This was the first time we had six! Unfortunately, Liz

Brennan needed to leave us unexpectedly about one month into her position with TLT but, true to form, the Tuckernuck community stepped up to ensure the plover and oyster catcher nests and young continued to be supervised. Board members Dr. Dick Veit and Ella Potenza recruited, scheduled, and trained a succession



Photo by William L'Écuyer

of monitors to ensure a continued TLT presence on Tuckernuck's beaches. Huge thanks go out to Tucker Taylor, Skyler Kardell, Samantha Monier and Danielle Fibikar for answering our call for help!

Notes from the Field

In total, we had fourteen fledged Piping Plovers—eight chicks from North Pond and six from Whale Point. There were also five fledged Oyster Catcher chicks, four of which hung around East Pond, with one near the dock in the Lagoon... This season also brought a remarkable number of terns. We saw plenty of Roseate, Common, some Least, Black, and a few Foster's Terns towards the end of the season.

-Dani Fibikar

To see more notes from our Coastal Stewards, go to www.tuckernucklandtrust.org

FIELD STATION UPDATE

TLT is one step closer to achieving our goal of a nearly carbon-neutral field station. Knowing that the federal solar credit would no longer be available after this year, we made the decision to move ahead with the solar portion of the project even though we had not yet raised the full funding needed for the combined well and solar installation.

In late August, as we were finalizing arrangements for Conrad Geyser and his team from Cotuit Solar to install the system, we learned that the the grant application for the Nantucket Offshore Wind Community Fund at the Community Foundation for Nantucket had officially opened. We applied for a \$10,000 grant, which would free up more of the funds already raised to support the well portion of the project. The new solar panels and battery system were installed in early September, a major milestone in improving the station's resilience and reducing its carbon footprint.

There is still work ahead, including the purchase and installation of a new, energy-efficient electric refrigerator next spring, but we're excited to have made significant progress toward our goal. We're grateful to everyone who has supported this effort. Between the grant funding, the direct pay solar tax credit, and generous donations from our supporters, the solar portion of the project will be fully funded. There is still a little way to go to fund the well and new water pump, but with your help, we expect the project to be complete by summertime.



SUNDAY EDUCATION PROGRAMS



Ginger Andrews examines a bone removed from an owl pellet.
Inset: a vole skull.



Lucinda looks through the microscope at plankton collected by Yvonne Vaillancourt, Director of the UMass Boston Field Station on Nantucket

Christina Norman, Manager of the Maria Mitchell Association Aquarium, leads a Beach Biology Field Trip



DO WE HAVE YOUR
EMAIL ADDRESS?
IF NOT, YOU MAY BE
MISSING OUT
ON SUMMER UPDATES
AND OTHER
TLT NEWS!

Starting with an Owl Prowl on July 12th and concluding with volunteer projects at the Field Station on August 31st, Sunday morning (and a couple of Saturday evening) programs offered an opportunity to learn and connect. We are tremendously grateful to this year's presenters who shared their time, knowledge and expertise! Thank you, Ginger Andrews, Yvonne Vaillancourt, Frances Karttunen, Ph.D, Christina Norman, Skyler Kardell, Danielle Fibikar, and Tucker Taylor.

If you have suggestions for future speakers or topics, please get in touch!

ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The 2025 Annual Meeting was held at the Field Station on July 5th and was followed by potluck refreshments. President Jamey French reviewed the year, thanking Jenny Ahlborn for her 10 years as Office Manager of TLT and introducing new Executive Director, Kat Robinson Grieder. Treasurer, Michael Taylor gave a financial report and Tucker Taylor gave the Coastal Steward's report.

Phillip Summers announced two new board members: Skyler Kardell is a well-known face around Tuckernuck having served as TLT's Coastal Steward in 2020 and 2021. Amy Meyers is a long-time renter with experience in nonprofit consulting, conservation and land trusts. In addition, Michael Taylor, Meakin Bennett and Ella Potenza were reelected to second terms and Charlie Howard began a new first term as a voting director.

TLT's officers will remain the same, except that Susan Robinson will be stepping off the board and joining TLT's Advisory Council.



President Jamey French addresses members and guests at the Annual Meeting. Above: Robin French cuts her patriotic cake.

WE CANNOT PROTECT TUCKERNUCK ISLAND WITHOUT YOUR HELP!

The Tuckernuck Land Trust, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) organization. Tax-deductible gifts may be mailed to P.O. Box 1093, Nantucket, MA 02554, or made online at www.tuckernucklandtrust.org.