

Tuttle Family Donates Major Cape Cod Acreage to Harwich MA Conservation Trust

A commitment to conservation runs deep in the family of Martha Tuttle, a cherished Emeritus member of the Litchfield Garden Club. Although she now lives full time in Florida, Martha is remembered fondly as an extremely talented and modest person who received numerous blue ribbons and awards for her floral design (including the GCA's Puckett Award for Creativity in Floral Design at the GCA Nantucket Garden Club summer flower show). She also served as the floral design judge for the Garden Club of America as well as a horticulture and design judge for the National Garden Clubs. Everyone who knows Martha also knows how much she loves Cape Cod, where she and her husband Jim had a home for many years and where his family had owned property for well over a century.

Sharing in his mother's love of the Cape and her interest in preserving the environment, Martha's son Doug and his wife Carol made the decision to donate 7 acres to the Harwich MA Conservation Trust. The parcel is located in the Harwich MA Red River estuary and saltmarsh which flows from Skinequit Pond into Nantucket Sound on Cape Cod. It includes an important run and spawning ground for herring each spring as well as being a feeding and nesting site for innumerable shore birds. Salt marshes like this one are important for several ecological purposes including filtering stormwater, road runoff, storm surge buffering, and of course as a breeding, feeding, and nesting site for land and water species of wildlife as well as seaside plants.

The Oak Island Bog as it is locally known, was originally established in the 1870s by Captain William Tuttle, who served as the captain of the Monomy Life Saving Station. The marsh and former cranberry bog were developed as a secondary income source for sea captains who were struggling financially after the Civil War. The land has been under the Tuttle family's stewardship for 132 years! Douglas Tuttle, Martha's son, realized that since he resides in Maine, and that Martha is full time in Florida, it was time to give the land to the Harwich Conservation Trust for long term monitoring and further preservation of the historic property.

It is gratifying to Martha that the land the family enjoyed for so many years will be preserved and the beauty of it shared with all who pass by. LGC is proud to have Martha as a member and thankful for her family's generous contribution to conservation on the East Coast.