



## Updates from the Trail: May 2023

### *Exit...stage left*

For those of you who don't know, June will be my last month as the Land Stewardship Director (new title) for BCT. The last 3 years have been a tremendous and influential part of my life and I can't thank our wonderful volunteers and Trustees enough for the opportunity to be a part of something larger than myself.

Before starting with BCT, I was only vaguely aware of land conservation and even though I grew up here, I didn't even know there were Land Trusts on the Cape. Now, I can't imagine working in any other field. My time at BCT has truly led me to my life's purpose: stewardship and restoration.

During my time at BCT I had two main goals, one of which was to connect BCT's mission to larger environmental challenges we are facing today. Through each 'Updates from the Trail' essay, I tried to do just that. Things like climate change and biodiversity loss are not abstract issues that only affect rainforests and polar bears. They are here. They are happening all around us and are getting worse each day. My second goal was to share the hope I feel when working to restore native habitats and illustrate that these challenges, no matter how monumental, are solvable. All it takes is a little bit of hope and a little bit of work.

With each invasive we pulled and native we have planted, those issues got a little bit smaller, both physically and mentally. For me, the hope and purpose I feel stems from watching the birds and bees appreciate the hard work we have done. Each time I learn about a new species, or find another metallic colored bee visiting a flower, I feel that sense of hope and connection to the land around us. And like the hundreds of native plants we planted, that sense of hope and connection is something that I hope has taken root with all of you through the essays and volunteer workdays.

As I mentioned before, my time at BCT working with all our wonderful volunteers has truly been an incredible inflection point in my life. Thank you to everyone who was a part of it. Working with all of you is in part what made this job so impactful.

So, so long, and thanks for all the fish!

-Jon Bruce



*A honeybee exits stage left from a Black-eyed Susan at the Hay Conservation Center meadow  
(8/16/2022)*