



## Mermaid Farm and North Tabor Farm to Lease North Pasture at Nat's Farm

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is pleased to announce that it will lease portions of the North Pasture of Nat's

The return of farming to this property follows a lengthy process that involved the revision of the management plan, the completion of a habitat assessment required by the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, the payment of a fee of \$1,800 to Natural Heritage, and the issuance of a request for proposals. The lease of the North Pasture at Nat's Farm is a significant first accomplishment in Sheriff's Meadow's effort to support island agriculture. Sheriff's Meadow Foundation will now expand this effort to other Foundation properties with prime agricultural soils and farming potential.

Mermaid Farm and North Tabor Farm will lease two sections of the North Pasture. They intend to cut hay for mulch hay, for standard hay bales and for "haylage." To make haylage, one bales the cut hay before it has dried, and then wraps the moist bales. The haylage then ferments, and is used as feed for cattle. Mermaid Farm lambs will also graze portions of the pasture. All of the farming practices to take place under the lease will be organic. Sheriff's Meadow staff will continue to maintain the beautiful roadside views from Old County Road.

The trails at Nat's Farm will continue to be open to public use during the lease. The trails are open for walking, jogging, bicycling and horseback-riding and offer connections to the bicycle trails of the State Forest. One may walk a dog at Nat's Farm, but the dog must be leashed.



*North Pasture at Nat's Farm*

Farm in West Tisbury to Mermaid Farm and North Tabor Farm. Mermaid Farm, owned by Allen Healy and Caitlin Jones, and North Tabor Farm, owned by Matthew Dix and Rebecca Miller, submitted a proposal whereby they would lease Nat's Farm in partnership.

"We are thrilled to be working with North Tabor Farm and Mermaid Farm, and we are very happy that they have decided to work in partnership. We know that they will be excellent stewards of the land," said Adam Moore, Sheriff's Meadow's Executive Director. Messrs. Healy and Dix stated that they were pleased to bring farming back to Nat's Farm.

### ***Partnership between Tilghman Family, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation and Land Bank Realizes Dream***

Through gifts of trail easements, gifts of conservation land, and strategic acquisitions by the Land Bank, Hal and Olive Tilghman's dream of a trail to the Landing Place beach on Chappaquiddick has come true. On February 19, 2010, the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation Board of Directors voted to accept a gift of a trail easement from the five children of Hal and Olive Tilghman. Located on Tilghman fam-

ily property on Chappaquiddick, the new easement widens an existing trail easement from three feet to ten. Most important, the easement makes accessible a public trail that will lead from the Chappaquiddick Road and the North Neck Road to the Landing Place beach on Edgartown Outer Harbor.

For years, Hal and Olive Tilghman

*Continued to Page Three*



# Remembering Steve Crampton

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



By Emily Bramhall

Steve Crampton was a fine and wonderful man that I had the pleasure of knowing as a colleague, a mentor and a friend.

Steve, Susan and I came to know each other through serving on Martha's Vineyard community boards, with Susan at the Hospital and Steve at Sheriff's Meadow Foundation, where he was its current vice President. As it happened, numerous of those years were rather tumultuous, but that, in a way, was fertile ground for forging strong bonds that grew into warm friendships.

Steve served on the board of Sheriff's Meadow for 8 years, and for two of those in the role of President. His love for the out of doors and the Island found



*Steve hard at work with volunteers in the field.*

a perfect outlet in the land conservation and management that Sheriff's Meadow provides. His enthusiasm for its mission was apparent from the start. He brought his wealth of legal expertise to our boardroom and his love of land and trail main-

tenance to our properties.

The two years he served as President became a formative time in the Foundation's history. With respect and celebration of our past firmly in mind, he set the stage for going forward into our second 50 years with renewed purpose and invigoration. He led us through many deliberations with courtesy, respect, humor and a genuine spirit of inclusion for all opinions. He was wise and steady, thorough, thoughtful and exceedingly patient. He knew where he wanted us to go and he let us get there in our own sometimes round about way. He was always our Rock of Gibraltar in challenging times.

It was out on the land however that his enthusiasm really shown through. Steve loved Earth Day. He loved to organize beach cleanups. It didn't even need to be Earth Day for him to organize his neighbors out at Hines Point to clean the beaches. And then, he'd show up early and gather the majority of the trash himself, and then have fun teasing the other gatherers for how little they had found.

Steve also initiated what has become a favorite event of the Sheriff's Meadow board, and that is our workdays out on our properties. He loved any excuse to pack up his clipper and saws and get to work clearing invasives, thinning underbrush, hauling bittersweet out of trees, cutting overhanging limbs, opening views and widening trails. He was such a whirlwind of productivity that he earned himself a nickname from the staff – Sir Hackalot. There were many work parties he participated in, always the first to arrive, sometimes by an hour or so – but all of us at Cedar Tree Neck last spring remember with particular clar-

ity the joy and fun he was having on this clearing project. We were moving forward on a new management plan, part of his vision for our new direction, and Steve was in his element. It was a very special time.

As a fellow board member said, Sheriff's Meadow would be so diminished if it hadn't been for Steve. I think this statement articulates the truth for all of us. He had a special brand of joy, friendship, kindness and zest for life which has enriched us all.

He was a true gentleman.  
We will dearly miss him.

*This is a excerpt of the eulogy Emily Bramhall delivered at Steve's funeral on January 29, 2010. Please see page 7 for Steve's full obituary.*



FOUNDED IN 1959 BY  
Henry Beetle Hough and  
Elizabeth Bowie Hough

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FOUNDATION NEWS

## Tilghman Family

*From Page One*

had dreamt of a path that the public could use to walk from Chappaquiddick Road, or the North Neck Road, to Landing Place Way, and then to the Landing Place beach on Edgartown Outer Harbor. A conservationist, Rev. Tilghman served on the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation Board of Directors and served as Foundation President from 1990 to 1993 and from 1996 to 1997. He actively encouraged Sheriff's Meadow Foundation and the Land Bank to create this trail, and the organizations responded. Yet Rev. Tilghman did far more than encourage.

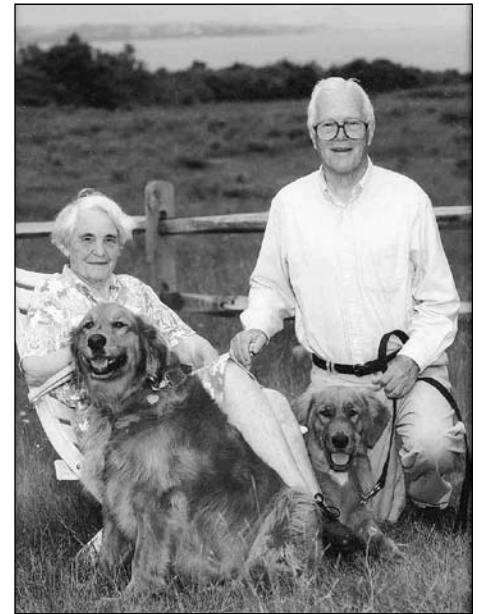
According to his son, Tom, Rev. Tilghman believed that the first obligation of property owners was to "preserve their own property for future generations and to provide for access across it before they asked other people to conserve their property or provide trail access." Rev. Tilghman did exactly that. In 2000, Hal and Olive Tilghman gave to Sheriff's Meadow Foundation the three-foot wide public trail easement over two of their Chappaquiddick properties,

thus practicing what he preached. Later, the Tilghmans also gave the fee interest in one of these properties to Sheriff's Meadow.

"They would have loved to sit on their porch and see people walking down the path to the beach," said Tom Tilghman, speaking of his parents. Of his father, Tom said, "He always viewed it that conservation should start with your own property."

The new trail was made possible by several actions. First, Hal and Olive Tilghman gave a trail easement to Sheriff's Meadow Foundation, and then gave one of their properties to Sheriff's Meadow. These gifts made possible the connection between the Chappaquiddick Road and the Landing Place Road, and the Tilghman family gift of an easement in 2010 widened the original easement. Second, the Land Bank acquired conservation land on North Neck Road, thereby making possible the connection to the North Neck Road; this acquisition included an interest in the Landing Place Road and beach and the land bank chose to use its interest.

The trail system to be created by Hal and Olive Tilghman, Sheriff's Meadow



*Hal and Olive Tilghman*

Photo courtesy of Tom Tilghman

Foundation and the Land Bank is an example of a successful partnership between private individuals and private and public land conservation organizations. Sheriff's Meadow Foundation expresses its gratitude to the entire Tilghman family for so generously supporting conservation.

## Sheriff's Meadow Foundation Adopts Hunting Policy

In the autumn of 2009, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation adopted an organizational hunting policy and, for the first time, officially allowed for the hunting of deer by bow and arrow on two properties. Permits were issued to qualified archers to hunt deer on Oyster-Watcha Midlands Preserve in Edgartown and Quansoo Farm in Chilmark. Overall the policy was well-received and the first hunting season went well.

The Foundation adopted its new hunting policy after much thought and consideration. The primary reason for adopting the policy is the established links between the numbers of deer, the numbers of deer ticks, and the prevalence of tick-borne diseases. Sheriff's Meadow also considered the negative impacts on native vegetation caused by the brows-

ing of a large, hungry deer population. These reasons were stated in an op-ed piece, written by Executive Director Adam Moore, which was published in both island newspapers prior to the start of the hunting season.

In adopting the policy, the Foundation knew that its founders, Henry Beeble Hough and Elizabeth Bowie Hough, would have disapproved. Despite that, the policy is consistent with the mission of the Foundation that the Houghs established. The mission of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is to conserve, manage and administer land for wildlife habitat, and to maintain the rural, natural character of Martha's Vineyard for present and future generations.

The Foundation is reviewing its policy and the past season, and determining

if any changes should be made. Those with questions, criticism or suggestions are invited to contact Executive Director Adam Moore.

### *Annual Report Published Online*

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation has again published its Annual Report electronically. The Annual Report covers the fiscal year that ran from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009. To read the report, please visit the Foundation's website at [www.sheriffsmeadow.org](http://www.sheriffsmeadow.org). Please telephone the Foundation at (508) 693-5207 if you wish to be mailed a printed copy.



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

## Nothing triggers the recall of a memory like a smell



By Adam R. Moore

Now and then I take a break from the office, step outside, and walk down Helen Avenue to fetch the mail from the box on the Lambert's Cove Road. Helen Avenue is a rather non-descript island dirt road. Its potholed surface needs repair, and its edges are lined with white and black oaks, sassafras, and one pitch pine after another. Walking this road one summer day, I caught the distinct scent of the fallen pitch pine needles warming in the summer sun.

Then, in an instant, my memory flashed to a childhood camping trip on Cape Cod. I've seen photographs of this trip, and I know that I was quite young at the time, perhaps four years old, maybe younger. I had not thought about it in years. Yet that instant, I recalled the family with whom we were camping, a brisk wind whipping about the sand and a carpet of fragrant, golden pitch pine needles blanketing the ground. I grew up in central Connecticut, and there the only pitch pines to be found grew in the thin soils of high, rocky ridgetops. At my young age, Cape Cod was a new place, and the scent of pitch pine needles was a new smell to me.

On Martha's Vineyard, pitch pines are ubiquitous. I see them from my first glance out the window in the morning, on every road I drive, out my office window, and on every property Sheriff's Meadow maintains. Yet, thankfully, I don't suffer Cape Cod campground flashbacks whenever I spot a pitch pine. I only think back to the Cape Cod camping trip on smelling that smell on summer days that are just so. It is smell, and only smell, that so powerfully retrieves a memory from the mind's attic.

With camera lens we can freeze a moment in time to be enjoyed later as a photograph. With a video camera and a built-in microphone, we can record place and motion and sound together. We enjoy these scenes, and the memories that they recall, through photo albums and slide shows and now through iPhones, Blackberries and all manner of miraculous mobile devices.

These memories are recalled through our eyes. This works well enough, and we think, "Sure, I remember that birthday party." Recall a memory through the nose, however, and it stops you in your tracks. The rank smell of dead fish? I am a child at the dock in Point Judith, Rhode Island. Diesel fumes? The Block Island ferry.

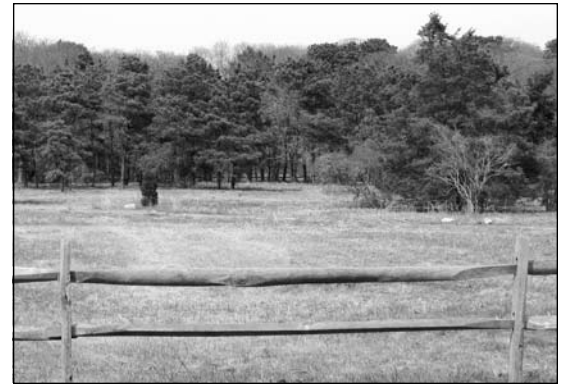
The curious thing is that smells are difficult to capture. Makers of fragrances try, and perfumes and soaps attest to those efforts. These, however, are only the most fragrant of smells. Replicated are the scents of flowers, not the scent of fallen pine needles. The scents of nature need not be bottled to be preserved. The best way to enjoy the scents of nature is to conserve the land on which the scents may be found, and to provide access to those places.

On conservation land, you may walk with your daughter in the fall, and pick up a hickory nut, and hold the nut to her nose and as she sniffs its pungent, distinct aroma. Come summer, walk the yellow trail at Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary and pluck the mitten-shaped sassafras leaf. Crumpled and held beneath the nose, the sassafras leaf emits a sweet, lemony fragrance. Walk through any Island woodland on a hot, dusty day at the end of July, and you will smell a billion black huckleberries ripening in the sun. At the Caroline Tuthill Preserve, whiff the sulfurous odor of the salt marsh when the tide in Sengekontacket Pond is low. Visit Roth Woodlands in late winter, and a misplaced step off the

trail will place you squarely on a skunk cabbage. Its reek is truly the first sign of spring.

Smells trigger memories, and the memories they trigger are the distant, powerful memories of childhood. The synaptic bonds to these memories are forged by the nose. Like the serotinous pitch pine cone that lies dormant for years, then bursts open in a fire, releasing its seeds, so such childhood memories lie dormant for years, then burst upon the mind when kindled by smell. Certainly, photographs and videos help us to remember. To be remembered, though, perhaps the best way is to spend time with a child in a special place, out-of-doors, someplace new – a place with a scent.

Sooner or later we will all be gone. Yet when our grown children smell that scent of low tide, many years from now,



*Pitch Pine Savanna at Caroline Tuthill Preserve.*

wherever they may be, in a flash, there you will be with them. They will recall that day you waded into Sengekontacket Pond and raked quahaugs out of the muck, and the cookout that you had back home at sunset.

And when, decades from now, those children traipse over a sand dune some bright June day, they will smell the beach roses, and, then in a flash, there you will be. They will smile, and remember that day you skipped stones, and sat on the sand and jumped in the gentle waves, and watched the sailboats in the harbor, and there you will be, together.

## Summer 2010 Activities

### 8th Annual Summer Benefit at Brookside Farm



Photo by Sara Piazza

Mark your calendars for Monday, July 19, 2010 for our Annual Summer Benefit. Hosted by Wendy Gimbel and Douglas Liebhafsky, the 2010 Annual Summer Benefit will be at beautiful Brookside Farm in Chilmark. Similar to last year's sold-out event, we will have a single ticket price that includes cocktails, passed hors d'oeuvres and a plated dinner. At the Benefit, we will dedicate a new trail that crosses and connects to Brookside Farm and creates a trail link between South Road and North Road. Ballyhoo will entertain, and the evening

will be capped off with a performance by the fabulous Kate Taylor.

The ticket price is \$150. Invitations will be sent out at the end of May but Sheriff's Meadow encourages you to save the date now. Also, we ask that you consider underwriting or sponsoring the Benefit. Underwriting opportunities range from \$2,500 and \$25,000 and defray the costs of specific portions of the Benefit. Sponsorships are available at \$1,000 and \$500. Please contact the Sheriff's Meadow office if you have any questions about the 2010 Annual Sum-

mer Benefit or you wish to become an underwriter or sponsor.



Photo by mlandscapes.com

### Public Walks & Activities

Please call the office at 508-693-5207 or send an email to [info@sheriffsmeadow.org](mailto:info@sheriffsmeadow.org) to register for each of the listed activities and to get directions.

**Saturday, June 12, 2010**

**10 am**

***Priscilla Hancock Meadow  
Chilmark***

This will be a long and somewhat strenuous walk, for which you will be amply rewarded. Learn about the Vineyard's globally rare sandplain habitats, as well as the collaborative effort by Island conservation groups to restore and manage these unique natural communities.

**Friday, July 23, 2010**

**10 am**

***Brookside Ridge Preserve  
Chilmark***

Be the first to tour this newly opened trail. Following the official

trail dedication at our Annual Summer Benefit, we are offering a guided walk on this new trail that will serve as a link between South and North Road.

**Wednesday, August 11, 2010**

**10 am – 12 noon**

***Grandparents' & Grandchildren's  
Day at Native Earth Farm***

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation and the Native Earth Teaching Farm invite all grandparents and grandchildren for

a morning on the farm! Grandchildren will love petting the pygmy goats and feeding the ducks, and grandparents will learn about sustainable food production, rare breeds of poultry, and land conservation. The Native Earth Teaching Farm is owned by Rebecca Gilbert and Randy Ben David and conserved through a conservation restriction held by Sheriff's Meadow Foundation and the Vineyard Conservation Society.





## Spring at last

By Kristen Fauteux

When the first shadbush, or serviceberry, unfurls its petals, it's official: spring is here! This genus is aptly named. The name shadbush, or shadblow, originates from the simultaneous timing of its blossoming and the running of the anadromous American shad. "Serviceberry" is another name given to this group, and it also stems from the fact that the blooms are a definitive harbinger of spring, although in a morbid sense. The blossoming of serviceberry indicates that the ground has thawed sufficiently to allow any funeral services that had been postponed due to the winter freeze to now take place.

Shadbush, like more familiar fruit trees such as apple, pears, peaches and cherries, is a member of the Rose family and bears edible fruits that are an important food source for wildlife. Here on the Vineyard, there are five native species of shadbush. They grow in forms that vary from colonial shrubs to trees. Of the shadbush species, the Nantucket shadbush, *Amelanchier nantucketensis*, is listed



*Amelanchier laevis* (smooth shad)

as a species of special concern.

On Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket shadbush is found primarily on the south shore in dry sandy soils. It can be identified by its colonial growing pattern and its unique petal shape. Unlike other species of shadbush, Nantucket shadbush has small, spoon-shaped petals. Some of these petals are highly specialized and bear pollen on their edges. This gives the blossoms of the



*Amelanchier nantucketensis* (Nantucket shad)

Nantucket shadbush a distinct, greenish glow, and distinguishes it from the other species of shadbush whose blossoms are a pure white. This condition is known as "andropetaly." Andropetaly has the dual function of drawing insects to the petal by color while also providing a source of pollen. While andropetaly is found in other groups of plants, among the species of shadbush it is only found in the Nantucket shadbush.

## Sheriff's Meadow Foundation receives Newman's Own Foundation Grant and private support to offer internships

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is pleased to announce that it has received a grant of \$5,000.00 from Newman's Own Foundation in support of its summer intern program, and that it has received a donation of \$5,000.00 from a generous private donor in support of this program as well. Because of these grants, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation will be able to improve the management of its lands and offer four summer jobs in 2010.

In the summer of 2010, Sheriff's Meadow will add a new Summer Intern position and a new Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary Ranger position for weekdays. The Foundation will continue to offer the Henry Beetle Hough Internship and the Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary Ranger position for weekends.

Due to the additional funding that Sheriff's Meadow has received, the

Foundation will be better able to care for its properties, particularly the ones that receive the greatest degree of public use. Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary is the most visited of the Foundation's holdings, yet staffing of the Sanctuary had been limited to weekends. Now the Foundation will provide a welcoming, informative, professional presence at the Sanctuary seven days a week during the summer. In addition to enhancing the Foundation's abilities to care for its land and trails Island-wide, the new Summer Intern position will enable Sheriff's Meadow to provide a welcoming presence at other well-used properties, including Sheriff's Meadow Sanctuary and the Caroline Tuthill Preserve.

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is also pleased to again offer the Henry Beetle Hough Internship, named in honor of

the Foundation's founder. In 2010, the Henry Beetle Hough Intern will work with the Foundation's collection of moths to create an exhibit suitable for public display.

The Foundation expresses its sincere gratitude to Newman's Own Foundation and the generous private donor who have made these new positions possible.

### About Newman's Own Foundation

Paul Newman was committed to helping make the world a better place. To carry on his philanthropic legacy, Newman's Own Foundation donates all net royalties and profits after taxes from the sale of Newman's Own products to charity. To date, Paul Newman and Newman's Own Foundation have given over \$280 million to thousands of charities around the world. For more information, visit [www.newmansownfoundation.org](http://www.newmansownfoundation.org).

## Obituary

# Stephen R. Crampton

**S**TEPHEN RUTTY CRAMPTON, 70, the loving husband of Susan C. Crampton, died of leukemia at Massachusetts General Hospital on January 23. Before succumbing to the disease, he received a bone-marrow transplant through the efforts of Massachusetts General Hospital and also an experimental vaccine at the Dana Farber Cancer Center.

Stephen R. Crampton was born in New Haven, Conn., on November 30, 1939, the son of the late Dr. Clair Beebe and Charlotte (Rutty) Crampton. He grew up in Middletown, Conn., an active athlete in basketball, soccer, and tennis. He attended the St. Georges School in Newport, Rhode Island, where he developed many life-long friends. He graduated from Middlebury College in 1961, where he was a member of Chi Psi fraternity, Blue Key, and Waubanauckee honor societies. He later gained his masters degree in 1967 at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, followed by a law degree at the College of William and Mary Law School in 1970.

At the start of his junior year at Middlebury College, Steve met his life companion, Susan (Comstock). He felt their 48-year marriage was his greatest treasure and the bedrock for his life. Steve and Susan shared the love and loss of their first daughter, Karen, who died in 1965 at the age of two and a half years. He carried Karen's memory throughout his life.

After graduating from William and Mary Law School, Steve and his growing family moved to Jericho, Vermont. He practiced law for 35 years in Burlington, Vermont, at the firm of Gravel and Shea, helping clients on their projects involving land use and conservation. He was known for his success in balancing the needs of land development and the environment. Steve was an early Vermont member of the American College of Real Estate Lawyers. In addition to his law practice, he was also an adjunct professor at the Vermont Law School in the late 1970s.

Steve first visited Martha's Vineyard in the mid 60s when



his father, Dr. Crampton, assisted Dr. Russell Hoxsie with the summer rush of injuries and illnesses on the Island. He may best be remembered on the Vineyard as a steward of the Island's land and its resources through various organizations. He served as president of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation from 2006 to 2008, and led a period of great change and growth.

He will be sorely missed on Hines Point for his cheerful greetings and self-appointed role as the conservationist who would pick up any trash along the road during his daily bike

ride. Steve was an avid athlete, playing tennis, biking, skiing, hiking in the mountains, and more recently, golfing, as a member of the Mink Meadows and Hawks Nest Golf Clubs. Many friendships and an active tennis league led Steve and Susan to Sea Oaks in Vero Beach, Florida, where they have spent many happy winters. He will be missed by the Florida Habitat for Humanity, where he helped quite often.

He is survived by his wife, Susan; his two surviving children, son Stephen C. Crampton and his wife, Rachael, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida; and daughter Kathryn E. Crampton and her husband, Jason E. Lang, of Ponte Vedra, Florida; six grandchildren, Charlotte, Lucas, and Bridget Crampton, and Elizabeth "Ellie," Sydney, and Samuel Lang; his sister, Jane Reed, and her husband, Christopher, of Cambridge, Massachusetts; his brother, Michael D. Crampton, and his wife, Ardith, of West Hartford, Connecticut; many nieces and nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews, including his nephew and "adopted" son, David Jones.

A funeral service was held on January 29, 2010 at Grace Episcopal Church in Vineyard Haven, with the Rev. Robert E. Hensley officiating.

Since Steve was able to receive a bone marrow donation, please consider registering to be a potential bone marrow donor via the National Bone Marrow Registry at [BeTheMatch.com](http://BeTheMatch.com).

# Join us on Facebook and Follow us on Twitter!

Did you know that the dwarf willow at Priscilla Hancock Meadow blossomed on April 12? If you were one of our new Facebook “fans” you would have known. This spring, Sheriff’s Meadow Foundation set up a Facebook page and a Twitter account.

Both the Facebook page and the Twitter “feed” are parts of Sheriff’s Meadow’s efforts to better communicate and to reach new people, especially young people. Many non-profit organizations have found such social media as Facebook and Twitter useful ways to provide information, gain supporters and communicate.


Please visit our website at [www.sheriffsmeadow.org](http://www.sheriffsmeadow.org) to find links to both Facebook and Twitter, and please be a Fan and sign up for our Tweets!



*dwarf willow*

*Photo by Kristen Fauteux*



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