



**CLAIRE
SALTONSTALL
EDUCATION
PROGRAM**



trustees



ANNUAL REPORT | 2017-2018



PROGRAM HISTORY AND GOALS



The Claire Saltonstall Education Program (CSEP) was created in 1991 through an endowment from William and Jane Saltonstall, with start-up capital from several Martha's Vineyard philanthropists. The program was established to provide place-based education for Vineyard school children. The CSEP provides students with the opportunity to engage with The Trustees' properties while conducting field studies that align with school curriculum frameworks. Place-based education emphasizes hands-on, experiential learning. Students living on the island are encouraged to learn, explore, lead, and problem-solve through the CSEP, which roots students to their home environs and supports the increasing need for pedagogy of place.

As this program continues into its 27th year in 2018–2019, Trustees is looking to focus on educating a diverse group of island youth while concentrating on coastal studies. The next steps for the CSEP include reinforcing a coastal studies curriculum, developing programs to align with new state-wide science curriculum frameworks, expanding the

summer internship program for high school students, and building out a replicable climate change program package. A highlight of this year is the collaboration we continue to build with The FARM Institute through shared school and public programming.

THE GOALS OF THE CSEP CONTINUE TO BE:

Establish a **personal relationship between students** and the **natural world** by conducting **original research** and **hands-on activities** on Trustees properties.

Increase island students' **familiarity with properties** owned by The Trustees on Martha's Vineyard.

Create meaningful **connections with Vineyard organizations** that focus on **children, youth, and families**.

Glaucium flavum
"horned poppy"



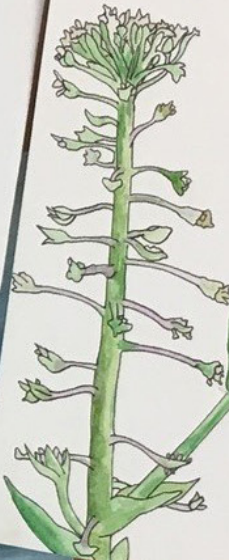
• seed oil once used in lanterns
• introduced from Western Europe

Aronia melanocarpa
"black chokeberry"



• edible
• named for astringent taste

Lepidium virginicum
"Peppergrass" or "poa"

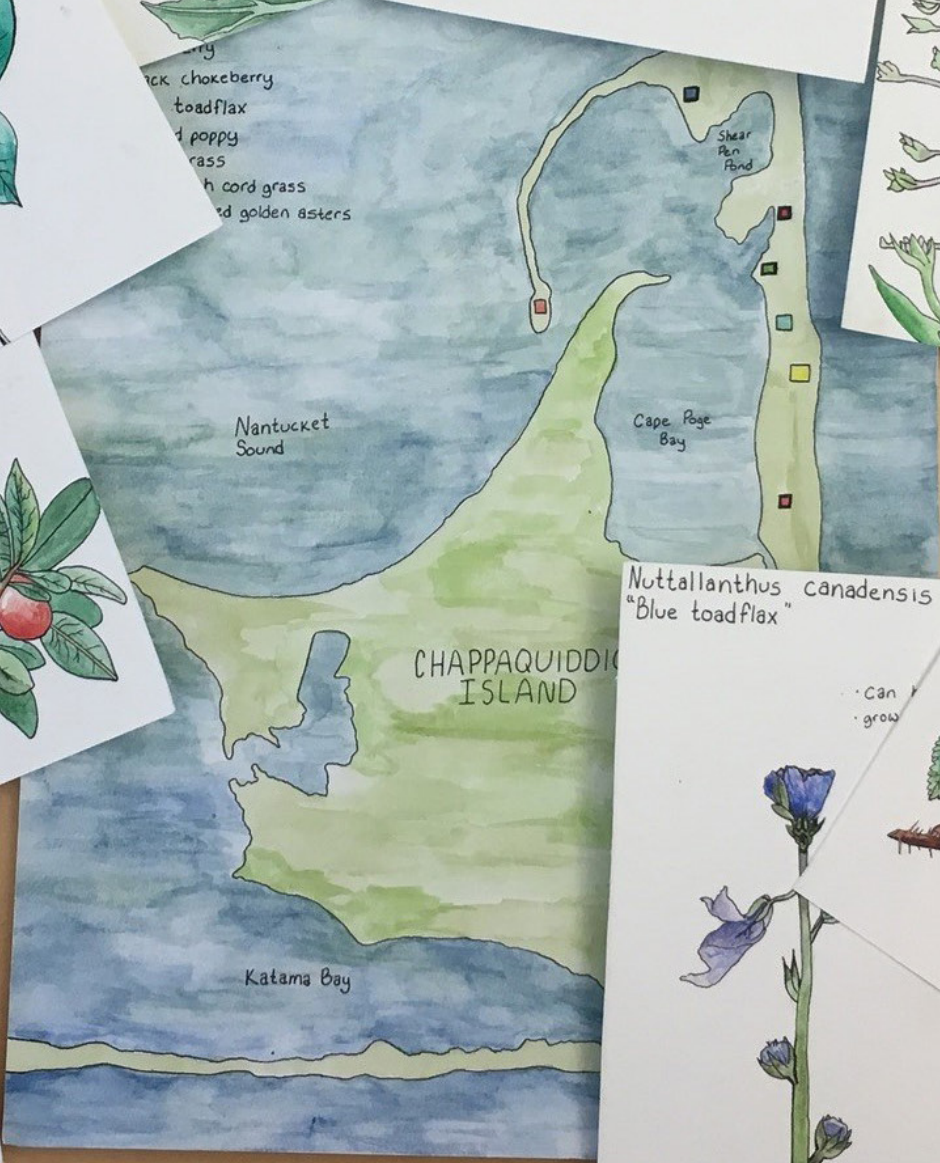


in radicans

• causes itching rash from oils
• common across MV + Chappy



• black chokeberry
• toadflax
• horned poppy
• peppergrass
• cord grass
• golden asters



to
ber

to treat
Hoary Elf



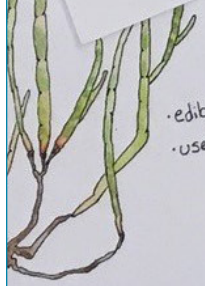
Nuttallanthus canadensis
"Blue toadflax"



• can
• grow



• edible raw or cooked
• used to make glass and soap



INTRODUCTION

Molly Peach Mayhew is the Islands Education Manager for The Trustees, overseeing the execution of the Claire Saltonstall Education Program. She was hired in October 2012 after working for three years on Chappaquiddick Island as a seasonal employee for The Trustees. Molly attended Middlebury College in Vermont, earning a degree in Environmental Studies with a focus in Nonfiction Writing. Following graduation, she worked at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, studying shellfish and bay remediation efforts. This is Molly's seventh school year with the Claire Saltonstall Education Program. She will be taking a sabbatical this year to complete her master's degree in Marine Conservation.

Shannon Hurley is the Education Assistant for the Claire Saltonstall Education Program. Shannon was hired in 2015 to assist with all aspects of educational programming, and will be spearheading CSEP when Molly goes on sabbatical.

Through the 2017-2018 school year, the Claire Saltonstall Education Program reached all five island elementary schools, island preschools, the Martha's Vineyard Charter School, the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, Vineyard Montessori School, Martha's Vineyard Boys & Girls Club, Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts,

YMCA After-School Program, and Homeschool Groups. Island teachers continue to utilize our Teacher Resource Center: a location for CSEP program kits and materials at the Trustees' Vineyard Haven Office. We encouraged all island teachers to visit our Resource Center and sign out any materials for use in their classrooms. Teachers and CSEP Educators collaborate to provide in-class lessons based on the detailed program kits. We expanded the programming to include multiple in-class and field sessions for more in-depth experiential learning. Through this process, students were able to connect with The Trustees' properties and the program material, ultimately linking their learning to real-world experiences over an extended period of time.

The Claire Saltonstall Education Program continues to embrace change with reevaluation and expansion of thoughtful school-based and public programming. We are preparing to educate the future generations of land stewards, creative thinkers, nature enthusiasts, and community enhancers.

This report outlines the current and future aims of the CSEP. These aims include educating island youth through diverse programming and mentorship, aligning the program with The Trustees' coastal strategy, and continuing to inspire the next generation.

FROM SEPTEMBER 2017-JUNE 2018,
THE CSEP PROVIDED **135 SCHOOL PROGRAMS** FOR
2,490 STUDENT AND TEACHER PARTICIPANTS.

PROPERTIES

LONG POINT WILDLIFE REFUGE

West Tisbury | 632 acres

Long Point is one of the largest publicly accessible properties on Martha's Vineyard. The fact that it encompasses beach, dune, and woodland, which bracket a broad (and uncommon) sandplain heath, makes the reservation even more attractive, both environmentally and recreationally.

CAPE POGGE WILDLIFE REFUGE

Chappaquiddick | 516 acres

Cape Poge consists primarily of barrier beach. Stretching from the eastern and northern extents of Chappy, this habitat protects a vital maritime cedar community and is home to a plethora of wildlife.

MYTOI GARDEN Chappaquiddick | 14 acres

Nestled emerald-like within Chappaquiddick Island is this intimate Japanese-style garden, which offers natural serenity and a place of contemplation to visitors who venture here. Sheltered by a lovely pine grove, the preserve includes a small pond and island, non-native and native flowers and plants, footpaths leading past a birch walk and stone garden, and a trail winding toward Poucha Pond and the salt marsh.

WASQUE RESERVATION Chappaquiddick | 200 acres

Wasque is a dynamic property located on the southern shores of Chappaquiddick Island. An ever changing environment, the sands shift with the seasons, which allow constant study and exploration.

MENEMSHA HILLS RESERVATION

Chilmark | 211 acres

Menemsha Hills is comprised of hiking trails, beautiful vistas, and the second highest peak on the Vineyard—Prospect Hill. Trails wind through the glacial moraine, with stopping points at heights of land overlooking the Elizabeth Islands, until finally reaching the stony beach below.

NORTON POINT BEACH Katama | owned by Dukes County, managed by The Trustees | 265 acres

This long strip of sand and dunes serves as a vital link between Martha's Vineyard and the island of Chappaquiddick. This ever-changing environment provides an important habitat for nesting shorebirds, and a sporting challenge for the fishermen who surfcast from this popular site.

THE FARM INSTITUTE Katama | 162 acres

The Trustees manages The FARM Institute (TFI), a teaching farm on the grounds of Katama Farm—which is owned by the town of Edgartown—that educates and engages children and adults in sustainable agriculture through the diverse operations of a working farm. The farm is home to beef cattle, sheep, and 200 laying hens.

"Aside from the internship, I know that CSEP has made a large impact on the Island's student community. Every Island student remembers taking the trucks over to Chappy to get a tour of the lighthouse and to learn about the history of the land. Many know about the importance of the protection of the shorebirds at Norton Point Beach because of the educational programs in their schools. I think this is something unique about the Island, because CSEP instills an interest and passion for the Island's environmental history and well-being."

CSEP ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING INTERN



PROGRAMS

THE STAFF

The Trustees has one full-time Education Manager who oversees all aspects of scheduling, developing, and leading the CSEP, as well as one part-time Education Assistant.

SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMS

The Claire Saltonstall Education Program provides an invaluable resource for all teachers and schools on Martha's Vineyard. We provide access to our seven properties on the island while leading programs that align with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and our overall goal of providing place-based education. The CSEP offers 19 school programs, including five newly developed programs.

FIRST AND SECOND GRADE

Light and Lighthouses

Students study the properties of light through hands-on experiments. Discussions on lighthouses follow and students complete the field session with a trip to the Cape Poge Lighthouse.

Restoring Habitats: Native Plants, Barn Owls, & Butterflies

Students aid in habitat restoration by propagating native plants, discovering pollinators, and building homes for barn owls. Project varies by season and need.

Reasons for Seasons!

What changes happen during the seasons? We study Mytoi Garden on Chappaquiddick—first during fall and

again in spring. Students find a favorite spot inside the garden and through drawing activities they observe what the flowers are doing, how the air feels, what animals are (or aren't) around, and map the changes they see from one season to the next.

Landforms & Mapping

We introduce students to a variety of landforms on Chappaquiddick. Students learn to map and compare these landforms through hands-on activities.

Erosion & Weathering **NEW**

Students study the differences between weathering and erosion and witness examples of both through field studies and an in-class experiment.

THIRD GRADE

Survivor: Plover Edition **NEW**

Students explore the worlds of shorebirds by understanding what animals need to survive and how they are adapted to the coastal environment.

Coastal Life **NEW**

Students discover coastal and marine animals while studying topics of heredity and traits.

Geology Rocks! (Part 1)

Rocks and minerals come alive as students investigate the Vineyard's glacial history. A visit to Menemsha Hills Reservation for a hike in the glacial moraine includes a scavenger hunt to continue the study of geology concepts. A second field visit to Long Point Wildlife Refuge incorporates a comparative hike to determine what is different from the Menemsha Hills hike.

FOURTH GRADE

Extreme Weather

Students investigate weather patterns and the relationship between the atmosphere and the ocean. We cover topics of sea level rise and the importance of salt marshes.

FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADE

Geology Rocks! (Part 2)

Students dive deeper to uncover erosion and weathering, and take a closer look into rocks and minerals. This program builds upon their geology unit in third grade. A field visit to Menemsha Hills with a "find" sheet allows students to hunt for previously studied rocks, minerals, and weathering concepts.

Navigation

Students learn basic navigation skills with a trip to Menemsha Hills and in-class activities that include constructing a handmade compass and a Play-Doh™ topographic map.

Land Use History **NEW**

Students study the history of land use at Long Point Wildlife Refuge, from Native Americans, to early settlers, and current use.



"Thank you for your positive energy today! The 6th grade was excited about their ability to successfully "read" the compass and the contour lines on the map! I was happy to see some students who have struggled in day-to-day classes but who actually "got" the concept of elevation and direction! These opportunities offer students a fabulous venue to show what they know and help to throw a spotlight on those who don't always succeed in a classroom but who are able to understand and use their knowledge in the "real world."

GRADE 5 & 6 TEACHER, EDGARTOWN SCHOOL,
CSEP NAVIGATION PROGRAM

FIFTH – EIGHTH GRADE

Nature Writing

Students use the natural surroundings of Trustees properties to learn nonfiction writing through drawing, writing, poetry, and art.

Oyster Ecology

Students study the biology and ecology of oysters and the role of oysters in our local waters. This program includes oyster dissection.

Understanding Climate Change **NEW**

This adaptable program explores climate change for any age (grades 4-12!) The field session includes measuring coastal change and studying ocean acidification.

HIGH SCHOOL (GRADES 9 – 12)

Beach Study Program

This is a series program for grades nine and ten. Students learn about coastal changes and habitat. This program offers the opportunity to travel to Chappaquiddick to complete lessons on beach profiling, vegetation/ biodiversity surveys, and water quality analysis. Classes revisit the sites throughout the school year to take measurements and later graph plots during in-class sessions.

Underfoot: Soil Science

In this field-project, students explore the various soils of Martha's Vineyard. In learning about the different elements and compounds that make up minerals in soil they explore the periodic table and its trends. Students travel to various Trustees properties to perform the GLOBE soil protocols.

Marine Ecology

Students study marine invertebrates, biological classification, and evolution through in-class and multiple field sessions to Trustees properties.

Seaweed Reproduction & Phenology

Students explore our coastal communities to study seaweed reproduction, phenology (climate and seasonal change,) and biophilia (seaweed art.) This program includes classification and identification.

" Thank you again for running a fun, educational, and rigorous program on classification! Kids loved it and were actively engaged in learning, which is our ultimate goal. I have not had experience with any other environmental group on the island that has put together such a comprehensive curriculum for high school students (or in this case Advanced Placement students.) The time and effort you put into the lesson was very evident. Great job!"

AP BIOLOGY TEACHER & HEAD OF SCIENCE DEPARTMENT, HIGH SCHOOL, MARINE ECOLOGY PROGRAM

" Love how accommodating The Trustees are. [They] do a great job supporting my classroom work and designing engaging activities."

MV REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER

" Allowing our students to access a wide variety of natural locations on the island while learning about native species, geology, and the history of land use was a treat. Many of our students had never been to the locations that we visited."

MV REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER



“The Trustees’ programs are the highlight of our homeschooling community’s calendar. Our students are somewhat spoiled when it comes to real world experiences and access to hands-on learning, so to say that your programs are the top billing is high praise! We feel very lucky to have such professional, capable, and fun educators tailoring programs to suit our learners. Many thanks to Molly and Shannon for their hard work and excellent programs!”

HOMESCHOOL PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

The Claire Saltonstall Education Program continues to expand the breadth and depth of its community and public programs. Our goal is to reach diverse members of the island community. Each program should instill a sense of stewardship and respect for our natural environment. From families to senior citizens, the public aspect of the CSEP continues to thrive.

Long Point Beach Yoga

Teacher Professional Development Workshops

Marine Debris Clean-Up

Spring Into Nature! April Vacation Program

Pondside Fun Programs at Long Point

Exploration Backpacks

Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts of America

The Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts travel to Cape Poge Wildlife Refuge for a guided exploration of the Cape Poge Lighthouse and creative programming in Mytoi Garden.

Camp Jabberwocky

Camp Jabberwocky, the island camp for individuals with disabilities, travels to Long Point multiple times throughout the summer for sunset kayak trips. For many campers, this is their first time in a kayak or canoe. The counselors tell us that the campers look forward to their kayak trip at Long Point all winter long!

StoryWalk® On-going Adventure

The CSEP supports this self-interpretive StoryWalk® at Menemsha Hills and Long Point. We post pages from favorite island stories along the trail for children, families, and hikers to read as they walk through the reservations.

YMCA of Martha's Vineyard

On a monthly basis we provide after-school and professional development day programs for K-5th graders at the YMCA. Seasonally, the students visit our properties, especially Long Point Wildlife Refuge, during school vacations.

Great Goldfish Day at Mytoi

This annual event draws residents and visitors to Mytoi Garden to help restock the pond with goldfish and play goldfish themed activities and games (a long-time family favorite event!)

Marine Debris Clean-Up

Throughout the year, the CSEP supports beach clean ups on all the Trustees' island properties. As we are witnessing more severe storms throughout the winter months, these beach cleans are increasingly imperative.

Community Collaborations

Martha's Vineyard Museum | Save the Right Whale Program

Oyster MV | Public hikes and programs for island residents in their 20s

Wanderbus | Friday exploration for homeschool students on Trustees properties

HIGHLIGHTS

CSEP ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING SUMMER INTERNSHIP

Two high school juniors completed this eight-week summer internship. Each intern studied Shorebird Management, Environmental Education, Stewardship Management, Public Interpretation, and Farm Based Education while shadowing and working alongside a Trustees manager. The goal of this program is to provide students with the opportunity to better understand the options available to them in the fields of environmental science as they begin to investigate or even pursue their career goals and aspirations through undergraduate degrees.



Shannon (left) and Molly (right)
with High School Interns

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SUMMER WORKSHOPS: CLIMATE CHANGE

In the summer of 2018 we hosted Professional Development Workshops for island teachers. These workshops focused on our new climate change programming. We gained insights and feedback from teachers as they addressed what works for their students and curriculum.

THERAPEUTIC SUPPORT PROGRAM, MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

The Therapeutic Support Program at the Regional High School provides one-on-one learning opportunities for high school students. We continue to work closely with this group and currently the CSEP Education Assistant is a mentor for the program.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS ALLIANCE (MVEEA)

This group of Martha's Vineyard Environmental Educators began in the spring of 2014, with The Trustees and CSEP as an integral member. The group supports our goal to increase collaboration with other organizations across the island. With monthly meetings, the MVEEA continues to sustain a working relationship and open dialogue between schools, conservation group educators, and the public.

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR OCEAN AND CLIMATE CHANGE COMMUNICATION (NNOCCI)

Our Islands Education Manager completed a six-month Study Circle through this climate change communication network. Through this professional development opportunity, the CSEP now offers climate change programming for island students.



“The students in the Therapeutic Support Program (TSP) have enjoyed the CSEP program for the past four years. The students have been impacted on an educational level as well as a personal level. The students in TSP struggle with emotional disabilities. The multi-sensory programs that CSEP provides has allowed TSP students to learn about our island. The educators, Shannon & Molly, have been so understanding and patient with the behaviors and emotions of the students in the program. They meet our students where they are, academically and emotionally. They understand the value of the relationship with the students and how once our students feel safe, they can actually start learning. The TSP students have learned so much about our island from the CSEP program.”

HEAD TEACHER OF THE THERAPEUTIC SUPPORT PROGRAM, MV REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

LOOKING AHEAD



ISLAND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION CLUB (MV REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND MV CHARTER SCHOOL)

The Trustees and CSEP are sponsoring and leading both chapters of the newly formed Environmental Action Club at the high school level. These students will continue to build a strong base of youth coastal volunteers for The Trustees on Martha's Vineyard.

TRUSTEES' COASTAL STRATEGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The Trustees is implementing a Coastal Strategy focused on stewardship, land conservation, volunteers, and education. The Claire Saltonstall Education Program will be used as a model for our state-wide properties to implement place-based and coastal education programming. Recently, the CSEP has focused on coastal and climate change curriculum for our school programming. These programs continue to fill a niche on Martha's Vineyard and will be valuable on a state-wide scale.

CLAIRE'S LEGACY

The Claire Saltonstall Education Program has a long history of providing place-based education on Martha's Vineyard. It has a notable legacy that we strive to uphold for future generations. Each year we continue to educate and engage with school children and adults throughout our island community. The core values of the CSEP remain intact as we study new topics through experiential learning. The Claire Saltonstall Education Program is a highly influential part of the island community and we look forward to building upon its successful foundation for many years to come.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Trustees of Reservations' Claire Saltonstall Education Program (CSEP) would not be possible without the unwavering and generous support from the Saltonstall Family. This place-based education program on Martha's Vineyard has become a treasured enrichment for the island community. The Trustees would like to sincerely thank Jane Saltonstall and her family for providing the resources for a successful education program.

We were honored to receive a donation from the Natasha and Dirk Ziff Foundation to enhance our efforts this year. Through this support we were able to increase our high school internship opportunities, develop new school programs aligned with updated science standards, provide programming for more island students, and ultimately design a Teacher Professional Development Workshop Series. We are now better positioned to serve the educators and students on Martha's Vineyard thanks to this generous donation.

The CSEP continues to grow through enthusiastic support from island school teachers and administrators. We thank the teachers that participated in CSEP programs.

Numerous members of the community offered their assistance in a variety of ways throughout the year:

Peter Wells & Sally Snipes and the Chappaquiddick Ferry crew, Dukes County Electric, Jeremy Scheffer of Spearpoint Oysters, Menemsha Creek Oysters, The Net Result, and many more.

We would also like to thank The Trustees staff and volunteers. The success of the CSEP would not be possible without your help throughout the year!



The Trustees
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