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Land Trust purchases Godena Farm

By Dara Chadwick

The Conanicut Island Land Trust has acquired the Godena Farm on North Main Road in Jamestown for \$375,000 in a purchase funded entirely by the CILT.

"This is an enormously significant acquisition," said CILT President Quentin Anthony. "It's a property with wonderful access, it's extraordinarily beautiful and it's large enough to accommodate multiple uses."

Just what those uses will be, however, is yet to be determined, Anthony said.

"It's critical that we go through a deliberate planning process," he said. "We need to start developing a long-term plan on what the future shape of this property will look like."

The Godena Farm property includes 23 acres on the east side of North Main Road, overlooking Narragansett Bay, along with 2.5 acres on the west side of North Main Road that includes a house, a barn and a garage. The structures themselves were included in the acquisition, Anthony said.

Although long-term plans for the property have yet to be decided, Anthony said the CILT board will soon meet to address the immediate needs of the property, which include maintaining fields, removing rusty barbed wire fencing, getting the buildings "buttoned up" and water tight, and removing invasive species.

Anthony also said that the CILT board will invite experts to its upcoming meetings to address the particular challenges of taking the property from private ownership to semi-public, non-profit ownership.

"We need to go at it step by step," he said. "There are decisions we face on the ultimate way this place will look. Some things will work and other things won't."

Those issues might include access to water (if no well is available), handicapped access issues in the structures and decisions such as whether to maintain livestock or crops on the property, he said.

Though future use is up in the air at the moment, Anthony said there is not a question in his mind

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TRACKING THE OSPREY

Island raptor project tags newest young osprey

By Stacy Jones

Just after dawn on the last Thursday in July, the young osprey perched high on its nesting platform off Beavertail Road was known only as number 869.

By 7:50 a.m., the youngster had a name: Katy.

Katy is the latest and last osprey to be tagged with a tracking transmitter as part of the Conanicut Island Raptor Project (CIRP), a program of the Jamestown Education Fund that seeks to better understand the migration habits of osprey.

Katy's home since she hatched in the spring has been a nesting platform located on Fox Hill Farm near Ft. Getty. It stands roughly 30 feet in the air and commands some of the best views on the island. The young osprey shares the nest with two adult ospreys and another juvenile osprey, who are not part of the CIRP tagging project.

Present for the tagging event were local environmentalists and CIRP members Chris (co-chair) and Candy Powell (board of directors), Pat Driscoll, Fox Hill Farm's owner, and Dr. Rob Bierregaard, a biology professor from the University of North Carolina, Charlotte, who works in partnership with the CIRP and has been involved in the study of osprey migration for nine years.

It was Bierregaard who ran the show and was thus charged with scaling the nesting pole to tempo-



Rob Bierregaard (top photo) holds the juvenile osprey Katy after fitting her with a transmitter harness. Bierregaard (bottom photo) had to climb a shaky ladder to capture the young osprey, who had not yet fledged (taken its first flight).

Top photo by Chris Powell
Bottom photo by Jeff McDonough

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Coveted mooring spots go unclaimed

By Stacy Jones

As harbormaster for the last 18 years, Sam Paterson has heard it all: Complaints, cries for help, requests for directions, thanks – and excuses.

But more and more in the last year, he has heard something new and unexpected: "No, thank you."

More people are choosing to pass on their chance to obtain a town mooring, a process that can

take anywhere from four to 10 years.

"It's very rare," said Paterson, who attributes this anomaly to simple economics.

Apparently, getting on the town mooring waiting list is the easy – and inexpensive – part.

"All you need is \$10 and you can get on the list," Paterson said, adding that the annual list fee covers administrative costs. The mooring list is not limited

to town residents and is divided into eight zones, A-H, which are located around the island. Waiting lists for each zone may vary.

But the serious shelling out of cash occurs when one's name finally reaches the top of the list.

"It's expensive to put a mooring in," Paterson said. "Used moorings can cost between \$1,000 and \$2,000, and new ones run from \$1,500 to \$3,000."

Another potential economic

hardship is the boat itself. Since the wait time for a mooring is so long, applicants sometimes aren't prepared when their names come up. In other words, they have a chance at a mooring, but no boat.

"People forget that when you get a mooring, all you are getting is a parking spot," Paterson said.

Paterson suspects that the

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