

# YES!

I support OPET's efforts to protect the waters  
and uplands of Oyster Pond with a gift of

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Winter Address if different from above: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (to receive our occasional E-newsletter): \_\_\_\_\_

Or join OPET online (credit cards or Paypal) at

**[www.opet.org](http://www.opet.org)**

*OPET is a nonprofit, tax-exempt Section 501(c)(3)  
charitable organization. Donations are tax-deductible  
as allowed by law.*

OPET  
PO Box 496  
Woods Hole, MA 02543



Scan the code to go online  
to our membership site

Photo credits: Cover – Richard Hale  
Other photos – Dorene Sykes



Think back a hundred years ago and imagine this land without trees. After European settlers arrived on Cape Cod, land was cleared for ship building, farming and grazing. It was only after those activities faded about a century ago that saplings were allowed to grow into the forests we see today. Look closely and you will see traces of how this land was used in the past. Near the ancient linden tree there is the foundation of a building...a cow barn perhaps? The remnants of criss-crossing stone walls marked property boundaries. Look for fading cart pathways that may have been used to haul glacial boulders for sea walls and buildings that may still be standing today.

## Purchase of the Headwaters of Oyster Pond was made possible by generous donations from:

A Commonwealth of Massachusetts Energy  
and Environmental Affairs Landscape  
Partnership Grant

The People of Falmouth through the  
Community Preservation Fund

The 300 Committee Land Trust

And many, many other generous donations by  
personal, family and foundation contributors.

## Please:

- No motorized vehicles
- Bikes only on pathway connecting Fells Rd & Ransom Rd
- No fires, camping or hunting
- Keep dogs leashed
- Be courteous to our neighbors by keeping to pathways
- Avoid contact with wetlands
- Beware of ticks and poison ivy—Stay on trails
- If you see anything we need to be aware of, such as trees blocking trails or dumping, please contact us at [info@opet.org](mailto:info@opet.org)

## Enjoy your Visit!

# Welcome to the Oyster Pond Environmental Trust Walking Trails



[info@opet.org](mailto:info@opet.org) • [www.opet.org](http://www.opet.org)





Notice how little else is growing under beech trees? This is because their dense root structure and heavy shade crowd out any competitors.

The tall, straight trunks of white pines were prized for their strength, lightness and resistance to rot, making them ideal ship masts. Eastern white pines helped the British Royal Navy maintain their dominance on the high seas with strong, fast ships that were the greyhounds of their day.

This natural amphitheater is actually a dry "kettle hole," formed when a large chunk of ice broke off one of the retreating glaciers that formed Cape Cod.

Main Trail

Cross Trail

Feature Trail

Exit Spur

Wood frogs and salamanders lay their eggs in these temporary wetlands when they are full of water in the spring.

The red maple swamp is important habitat and filters upwelling ground water before it drains into Oyster Pond.

This large stone is a glacial erratic, evidence of the glaciers that helped form Cape Cod.

Welcome to the Oyster Pond Environmental Trust (OPET) conservation lands comprised of Zinn Park and the Headwaters of Oyster Pond. Please enjoy these nearly 30 acres of wetlands, woodlands, vernal pools and pond shoreline. OPET purchased these lands to preserve this beautiful area and to protect the health and water quality of Oyster Pond.

Over 120 varieties of plants grow here providing food, nesting material and shelter for migratory and resident birds, amphibians and mammals. Keep an eye and ear out for a scarlet tanager. Look for deer tracks. Listen for peepers in the vernal pools in the spring. See spring lady slippers and mayflowers burst into bloom before the trees leaf out. Enjoy the bright colors of the red maples in the wetlands in the fall.

Zinn Memorial Park was dedicated in 2001 to the memories of Donald and Eleanor Blevins Zinn, avid nature-lovers and strong supporters of OPET. In 2015 the Headwaters was purchased from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI). Dr. Holger Jannasch, an eminent scientist at WHOI, and his wife Friederun, donated the Headwaters to WHOI in the 1990s. They wished the woodlands to be used for young scientists' housing while the wetland areas be preserved as conservation land. OPET's purchase met both these goals. Now all the property is protected under a conservation restriction and the proceeds were used to build WHOI student housing.