

## Highlands Record

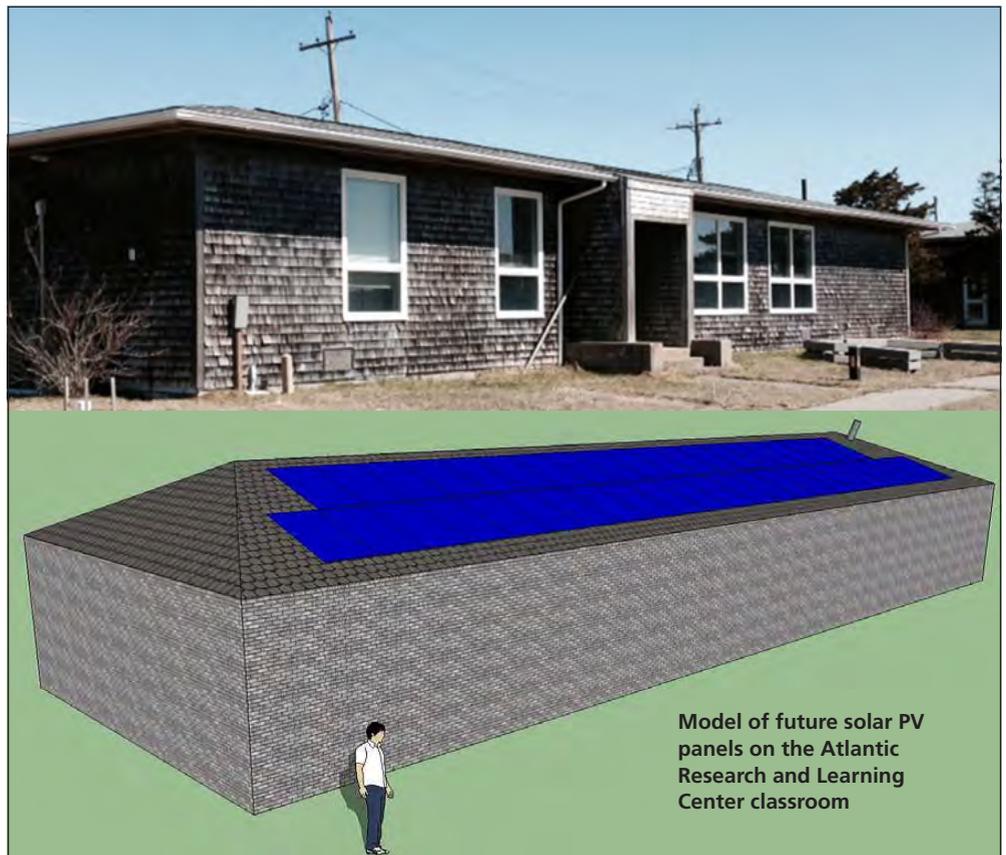
June 2015

# Change Coming to the Highlands Center: From Demolition to Renewal

An array of exciting site improvement projects have been funded by the National Park Service that will take place at the Highlands Center in the upcoming year. From building demo to solar energy that will fuel the electricity needs of the natural resources staff, to new site amenities – the exciting progress of such projects promises to facilitate the scientific research, arts tradition, and educational programs valued by the center.

The most impactful change underway is the demolition of numerous buildings to take place in fiscal year 2016. Since acquiring the 110-acre North Truro Air Force Station twenty years ago, Cape Cod National Seashore (CCNS) has worked to make important infrastructure improvements. The demolition of key buildings has been a top priority in this process. The removal of several large buildings and some former housing units will make the area a more inviting, attractive and safe space.

Heading off the revival projects, a few improvements to the rehabilitated buildings are planned. Plans are in the works for the park biological laboratory to have the underground power replaced in order to provide more consistent electricity to this facility that holds essential long-term data sets. The Atlantic Research & Learning Center classroom will have a shade structure installed in the courtyard behind the classroom, providing a



Model of future solar PV panels on the Atlantic Research and Learning Center classroom

shaded space to take education outdoors during the sunny summer months. This building, along with the water quality laboratory facilities, will also have their water mains replaced.

Last, but not least, CCNS is excited to announce the impending arrival of renewable energy at Highlands Center. As a Climate Friendly Park, looking vigorously for ways to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and run more efficiently, the promise of cleaner sources of energy is a great accomplishment. A contract to install the system will be issued this summer, resulting in a solar array size of dozens of solar photovoltaic (PV) electric panels to be installed on two existing buildings: the North Atlantic Coastal Laboratory and the Atlantic Research & Learning Center (ARLC) Classroom.

With all these initiatives in the works, the Highlands Center is taking a significant step into the future, sprouting forth as a space that will be more sustainable, engaging, and accessible to our park partners, and the Cape Cod community and its needs.

# Conveying Science through Public Art via a New EcoArts Discovery Path

Dedicated to serving the needs of the Outer Cape, AmeriCorps Cape Cod Week of 2015 supplied 32 AmeriCorps members for two full service days at the Highlands Center. One of the major projects was to represent the scientific knowledge of national seashore ecosystems through the media of public art. To do this, AmeriCorps members designed, decorated, and painted seven cedar posts to represent the different natural landscapes found at the Seashore: beaches, salt marshes, oceans, heathlands, ponds, sand dunes and forests. Installed in the courtyard located behind the ARLC classroom, the painted posts each have a QR code that link to a park science webpage, providing detailed information pertaining to each ecosystem.

Informational posts with attached QR codes were also installed to highlight and provide information on each of our partners, and to explain the public art already on display. With the information at their fingertips, people will now have greater access and understanding to the center's mission and partners, the theme and purpose of each of the murals, and the valuable and varied ecosystems of the park. We have termed this the new EcoArts Discovery Path, which is a cheerful addition to the Woods Walk Trail.



The painting crew poses with their finished designs before installing the EcoArts Discovery Path posts.



Sawyer Cresap with her Heathlands and Grasslands ecosystem post.

## Highlands Fest 2015: *Sprouting Forth* Saturday, June 27 10 AM to 2 PM. Free.



2014 Woods Walk guided by AmeriCorps member Andrew Platt

Join us for the engaging, participatory Highlands Fest 2015 special event at the Highlands Center. Pitch in to create a colorful, festive mural that showcases artistic expressions of the Highlands Center "*Sprouting Forth*" as a destination for ecological understanding, art, green living and healthy physical activity.

This year, our focus is on the "Healthy Parks, Healthy People" initiative, which celebrates parks as a resource for engaging in healthy fun activities outdoors while fostering a deeper connection to the natural environment. Join us for fitness activities or yoga with a view. Enjoy a guided hike peppered with history on the Woods Walk Trail. Plant green bean seedlings to prepare for a Truro Agricultural Fair contest on September 6. Prepare to be awed by music and the cirque movement performance of the day while enjoying light refreshments. All ages and abilities are invited to participate, learn, and support your Climate Friendly Park through activity and public art!

# Partner Happenings

## Payomet Performing Arts Center

Payomet Performing Arts Center celebrates its 17th year as one of Cape Cod's leading presenters of performing arts including professionally staged theater productions. Payomet's summer season also features music concerts, Circus Camp for children and CircusCape performances for the entire family.

Renowned music artists this summer at the Truro Big Top include CJ Chenier & the Red Hot Louisiana Band, Marcia Ball, Hot Tuna, Dave Mason's Traffic Jam, Arlo Guthrie, Judy Collins, Buckwheat Zydeco, Tom Rush, Aztec Two Step and many more. Other activities include a special screening of Sebastian Junger's latest documentary, *The Last Patrol*, with Sebastian available for a Q & A after the screening, a production of *Spoon River Anthology*, and Payomet's Circus Arts Camp. For more information and additional artists and dates, visit [www.payomet.org](http://www.payomet.org), or call 508-487-5400.



Arlo Guthrie at Payomet August 12

**Walk: Truro's Cold War Past: Sundays, at 3pm, July 5 through August 30. 1½ hours, ¾ mile. Free.**

Join a Cape Cod National Seashore Ranger and tour the former North Truro Air Force Station. Learn about the role the area played in our Cold War past, as well as the exciting plans for its future as the Highlands Center.

## NPS Atlantic Research and Learning Center

Join NPS for the 5th annual 2015 Science Symposium, on Thursday, August 27, from 1 to 5 PM. Hear NPS and affiliated research scientists present the findings of their research projects within the park to the public at the Salt Pond Visitor Center auditorium in Eastham. For more information about the Atlantic Research & Learning Center, visit <http://www.nps.gov/caco/naturescience/atlantic-research-center.htm>.

## Truro Center for the Arts at Castle Hill

True to form, Castle Hill is offering a busy summer of wide-ranging art workshops, lectures, exhibitions, classes and special events. Castle Hill will hold firings of

its wood-fired kiln at the Highlands Center this summer and fall. The upcoming dates are June 28 to 30 with unloading on July 4, August 16 to 18 unloading August 22, and October 10 to 12, unloading October 16. For more information, visit [www.castlehill.org](http://www.castlehill.org).



Castle Hill kiln firing with Brian Taylor Photo: Cherie Mittenthal

## Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies

The Coastal Observation Station continues to monitor the long-term interactions between wind and wave action at the Highlands Center. The Center for Coastal Studies conducts marine and coastal research, accompanied by unique educational programs. Join the fun at the Fifth Annual Provincetown Whale Week, July 26 to August 1; and visit their new education S.E.A Space in Provincetown. For information, visit [www.coastalstudies.org](http://www.coastalstudies.org).



The medicinal garden takes shape

## Sustainable CAPE

The Highlands Historic Medicinal Garden continues to grow! Last month, AmeriCorps members helped spruce up the garden bed in front of the ARLC Classroom and freshen up the plants that are awakening from a longer winter's sleep under a bed of compost and snow. For more information on Sustainable CAPE's agriculture and education programs, including the Truro Farmers' Market and the Truro Agricultural Fair, visit [www.sustainablecape.org](http://www.sustainablecape.org).

## Barnstable County AmeriCorps Cape Cod

Barnstable County AmeriCorps Cape Cod (ACC) is now completing its 16th year of service on Cape Cod. The program continues to provide service to all 15 towns, but recently spent many days serving on projects in collaboration with Cape Cod National Seashore, completing a wide variety of service projects at the Highlands Center to enhance visitor enjoyment at the site and

to prepare for the upcoming Highlands Fest. The Year 16 ACC members will complete their 11 months of service on Cape Cod on July 30, 2015. To learn more about ACC visit [www.americorpscapedcod.org](http://www.americorpscapedcod.org).

*Directions to the Highlands Center: Take Route 6 to the Highland Light Exit in North Truro. Go East on Highland Road. At the end, take a right onto South Highland Road. After 0.6 miles, take a left onto Old Dewline Road. The Highlands Center is at the end of the road.*



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

**Cape Cod National Seashore**  
99 Marconi Site Road  
Wellfleet, MA 02667

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

# Earth Day Clean Up at Highlands Center

On April 22nd, five members of AmeriCorps Cape Cod joined National Seashore staff Lauren McKean, Park Planner, and Krista Lee, Physical Scientist, for an Earth Day inspired cleanup of the Highlands Center. The numerous harsh winter storms of early 2015 worsened the effects of the naturally windy Highlands Center, leaving the area in dire need of a clean sweep. The cleanup was a huge success gathering a truckload full of waste that was sorted to ensure the appropriate recycling and disposal of each item. As a Climate Friendly Park, Cape Cod National Seashore is dedicated to recycling to the greatest degree possible, as seen in our latest major construction project at Herring Cove Beach bathhouse where the contractors were able to divert 99.72% of previous building materials away from the landfill.



**AmeriCorps members Alice Hinterman, Sarai Zelada, Ryan Bernstein, Lauren Markram, and Matt Rusnak pose with the truckload of collected debris.**



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

**Cape Cod National Seashore**  
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This issue of the Highlands Record was created by AmeriCorps - Cape Cod member Lauren Markram with assistance from Cape Cod National Seashore's Marianne McCaffery.

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***The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.***