

archives



EastBayRI.com

CLASSIFIEDS

All Classified Ads
Real Estate
Autos
MyEastBayJob.com
Boats
Items for Sale
Display Ads
Place an Ad

LOCAL HEADLINES

Barrington Times
Bristol Phoenix
East Providence Post
Newport This Week
Sakonnet Times
Seekonk Star
Swansea News
Westport Shorelines
Warren Times

NEWS

Sports
Obituaries
Photo Gallery

OPINION

Columns
Letters to the Editor
Editorials

WEB ENHANCED

Podcasts

ARCHIVES

Search the Archives

SERVICES

About Us
Announcements
Contact Us
Ad Rates
Subscribe
Employment

SUBMISSIONS

Anniversary
Birth

State cash seals deal for Blount's 168 Prudence I. acres

Date April 06, 2007

PRUDENCE ISLAND -- They bought the late Luther Blount's 168 acres of waterfront Prudence Island land last year. Now the Prudence Island Conservancy has the money to pay for it. "We did go out on a limb so it's a huge relief to see this money come through," said Bob Marshall, Conservancy chairman. "Needless to say we are extremely grateful."

The good news arrived last week in the form of a state Department of Environmental Management Open Space Grant for \$225,000.

That sum is enough to pay the \$175,000 the Conservancy owes the Blount family with enough left over to cover related legal fees, appraisals and surveys, and to set up a stewardship fund and legal easement protection. The timing is especially good because the first \$50,000 installment was due this month.

"Of course we also could never have done this without the generosity of Luther (Blount)," Mr. Marshall added. The acreage had been assessed at \$1.1 million and might have fetched considerably more from a developer. According to the Portsmouth town planning office, the property might have held 75 new houses had it gone the way of development.

Mr. Blount completed the transaction just days before he died last fall.

The property runs from the fork in the road leading to the north end up toward Potter's Cove and includes Jenny's Creek, the tidal creek that bisects the island at its narrowest point. It was there that Mr. Blount launched his oyster restoration efforts years ago. He has set up a foundation to provide continued support for that oyster work, enlisting the help of Roger Williams University and its marine biology students, for 25 years.

Mr. Blount bought most of the land in 1963 and added another 27 acres in 1976-77. Through the years he kept the land in its natural state, using it for hunting and his shellfish work. His family is retaining a seven-acre portion of Mr. Blount's island holdings.

User Login

Username

Password

Remember login?

Login

[Create a new account](#)

[Retrieve forgotten password](#)

Options

- [Your Account](#)
- [Archive](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Display Ads](#)

Classified Ads

You have 0 items saved in your basket.

[Classifieds](#)
[Engagements](#)
[Weddings](#)
[Letters](#)

In addition to the considerable amount of dry buildable land, a third of the parcel is made up of salt marshes, small pools, cobble beach and coastal shrub land.

Several important bird species are present including the great blue heron, black crown night heron, the saw-whet owl, and osprey. Mammals found on the property include deer, fox, mink, rabbits and coyote. Yellow thistle and prickly pear cactus are two rare plants found on the parcel.

The grant's funds come from the \$70 million Open Space, Recreation, Bay and Watershed Protection Bond, approved by voters in 2004, supplemented by remaining funds from the 2000 Open Space Bond. DEM received 36 applications for the current round of grants, totaled \$16.5 million, more than three times the amount available. DEM awarded \$5,388,732 in open space grants to 17 municipalities, non-profit s, and land trusts.

By Bruce Burdett

bburdett@eastbaynewspapers.com

[Home](#) [Classifieds](#) [Contact Us](#) [About Us](#) [Subscriptions](#) [Archives](#)

Copyright © 2005 East Bay Newspapers. All rights reserved.
PO Box 90 Bristol, RI 02809-0090 - 401-253-6000