



# Brewster Conservation Trust

[www.brewsterconservationtrust.org](http://www.brewsterconservationtrust.org)

November 2015



## **4.5 ACRES ON MILL POND FOR WATER QUALITY, FISHING, SCENIC BEAUTY BCT share of purchase is \$100,000**

Mill Ponds on the Cape are like Herring Rivers. Every town has one. In Brewster, we have three named Mill Ponds! The Brewster Conservation Trust needs your funding help to preserve South Brewster's Mill Pond. We are raising \$100,000 towards our purchase of two adjoining pond front lots for \$400,000. Will you help?

There's Lower Mill Pond that empties into Stoney Brook at the Grist Mill. Upper Mill Pond is the anchor pond of the Punkhorn and drains to Lower Mill. Then there's Mill Pond between Route 137 and Cahoon Road at the other end of town and it is the scenic entrance to Brewster from Harwich. It used to be known as Black Pond. This Mill Pond was probably named for an 18th century windmill nearby rather than a stream-powered mill as at the other two mill ponds.

BCT is set to purchase 4.5 acres with 600 feet of pond shore from two sellers. The acquisition package will preserve half of Mill, or Black, Pond's shoreline (the other half is in Harwich). On one lot is a dilapidated house that we will remove, along with the paved driveway and invasive plants overrunning the property. The other lot is pristine and full of pines, oaks and beech trees. We will have a trail winding through both lots leading to the pond edge.

Town Meeting approved a contribution of \$100,000 of Community Preservation funds to help us buy the lots. We have applied for a State grant of \$85,000. The BCT has pledged \$115,000 of our land acquisition fund. That leaves the last \$100,000 to raise through public support before our closings in December and January.

*continued on page 2*

### **Brewster Conservation Trust's Mission**

**To preserve open space, natural resources and the rural character of Brewster  
and to promote a conservation ethic.**

## MILL POND (cont'd)

You can donate online on our secure website designating Black Pond Preserve, or send a check to us at P.O. Box 268, Brewster MA 02631. Donations of stock can also be handled. All donations are tax-deductible.

You may recall that BCT began our Priority Pond Project in 2004, using analysis provided by our partner The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Inc. Of the top 200 pond shore parcels of highest priority to preserve Cape wide one-quarter of them are in Brewster. This Black Pond shore is one of those highest-ranked areas to protect. The purchase will be crucial in protecting pond water quality and is in the SE Brewster Zone II. It is also a favorite fishing pond.



The house (above) is beyond repair and will be removed.

Next time you are travelling back to our beautiful Brewster from Harwich on Rt. 137, glance to your left and admire our other Mill Pond. If it is an orange winter sunset over its western shore, you will have been rewarded and refreshed no matter what happened that day.

**To support pristine ponds, beautiful pond shores, and Brewster's high quality water, support this purchase.**

**Note "Black Pond Preserve" on your donation envelope. Help us raise the final \$100,000.**

## HARVARD STUDENT INTERNS FOR BCT

### Greg Scalise Opened Communication Paths to Youth Groups



A summer intern sponsored by BCT and the Harvard Club of Cape Cod, Greg Scalise used both brain and brawn. Greg, a rising sophomore at Harvard, helped organize files and set up the office in the newly named Hay Conservation Center.

He cleared trails, meadows and stone walls, took out stumps, trimmed trees, and suffered poison ivy. He installed signs, posts and benches, and did some messy clean ups in the Hay well house and crawl space.

An Eagle Scout himself, he assisted James O'Reilly with restoring walking trails on the Hay property.

Propelling BCT's plan to encourage future conservationists, Greg outlined ideas for BCT to work with young people from elementary through high school. These contacts will allow BCT to educate young citizens about the value of natural resources and community service. And to have fun, too.





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**New office,  
new strategic plan,  
new land purchases,  
new plans**

What a year it's been for BCT – a transformational year. Here are some of the highlights.

In January, BCT purchased the former John and Kristi Hay estate, known as Dry Hill, a spectacular 57 acre parcel on Red Top Road. It was here that John wrote many of his books and helped spawn the conservation movement in Brewster and on the Cape. The parcel contains 53 acres of land under conservation restrictions and the house site in a four acre building envelop. In July, BCT moved into the Hay house – our first ever office space. We are sharing the space with the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts and the Dennis Conservation Trust. Conservation central! Having office space for the first time allows us to consolidate all of our records and documents as well as having common meeting space for BCT's board and committees. Even more, we can now dream of eventually having a real conservation education center!

Over the course of the winter and spring, the BCT board worked hard to produce our first strategic plan. We conducted a survey of our members, interviews

in the community, and looked at other land trusts near and far as models for sound programs and operations. This process helped us focus in on our core activities of land acquisition and stewardship and give greater emphasis to public education and outreach, particularly focusing on Brewster's younger folks.

We've busier than ever protecting sensitive lands in Brewster. We purchased six parcels totaling 57 acres and helped the Town of Brewster protect over seven acres on three parcels of land (BCT holds the conservation restrictions). To allow land-owners to benefit from the State tax credit program, the purchase of six other parcels will be completed in early 2016. All of these purchases contribute to our goals of protecting Brewster's water supplies, natural heritage, and rural character.

This unprecedented volume of activity has been made possible by a bequest from the estate of an ardent Brewster conservationist and BCT supporter, Diane Bouchard. Her bequest will allow sustainable funding for our operations. Most importantly, the bequest allows us to say to all of you that 100 percent of your contributions goes directly to the protection of Brewster's natural resources, water supply, and rural character. As development pressure grows and land prices escalate, we need your contributions more than ever.

We can all thank Diane Bouchard for her thoughtful action and commitment to conservation in Brewster. And we thank all of you for supporting BCT's mission.

Hal Minis

## EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT BENEFITS BCT

### James O'Reilly Opens Trails at the Hay Conservation Center



Now 17 and a senior at Nauset, James O'Reilly has been in scouting since grade 1. This summer he met his latest requirement in the Eagle Scout program by working on BCT trails on the Hay property.

The job included mapping ancient trails to uncover them from years of neglect, blocking unused trails and cutting new routes for portions of trails that had been on private property. James led teams that included

26 adults and scouts on four long days to allow visitors to enjoy the varied terrain of the new BCT property. James accomplished "far more than we expected," said BCT trustee Dirkie Antwerp.

*Both Greg and James are assets to Brewster for their work and their sense of civic contribution. Their final notes to BCT underline this. Greg wrote: "I am thrilled with the time I was able to spend working with the BCT, glad I could be of service." James said, "I would like to thank you again for giving me the opportunity to help out the community."*

# JOHN AND KRISTI HAY PROPERTY PRESERVED

## A New Home for Conservation Organizations

Sometimes the stars are aligned, the sun shines in a cloudless sky, the gods are pleased. But sometimes the sun has to come out from behind the clouds before all is well.

John and Kristi Hay had protected 53 acres of their land from development, but after their deaths it seemed possible that a very large house would be built and the remaining three house lots would be developed. It was also possible that the 53 acres

under a Conservation Restriction would be closed to the public. BCT would have liked to buy the land but did not have the funds. So the property was sold; building plans seemed in place.

Diane Bouchard was a conservationist, a donor to BCT, a friend to all of nature. She was also a close friend of John, Kristi and their children.



A year after the Hay property was sold, Diane died leaving a bequest to conservation. The BCT trustees were astonished and delighted to learn that the bequest would cover the original purchase price of the Hay property and more. The sun came out when the new owner agreed to sell. The bequest allows for an endowment sufficient to repair and maintain the house which will be used for office space for BCT and other conservation organizations.

John and Kristi were both educators. Their first hope was to protect the natural habitat and its inhabitants, but they would be pleased for the public to enjoy the ancient trails that BCT is improving. The trails wander through a varied landscape offering opportunities for education in many ecological environments. The Hay Conservation Center will be able to welcome children and adults to learn about the plants and animals that inhabit this bit of Cape Cod. Because of the lifetime gifts of John and Kristi Hay and the bequest of Diane Bouchard, the land they loved continues to be a safe haven as it has been for over 60 years.

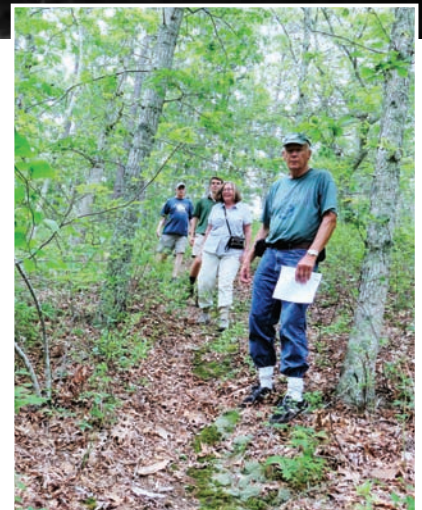


The Hays' house in 1959 before the sunroom was added on the right.

One of the many paths on the property.

Your annual gift, of whatever amount, helps us buy land to protect pond shores, clean water, plant and animal habitat, nature's special places that we love.

A bequest in your will, of whatever amount, can help with something beyond the means of the annual budget. That something might go toward obtaining an essential place to be cherished for generations. A bequest can be a certain amount, a percentage of your estate or a piece of property. Your attorney can help you decide what is best for you and your family.





# CONSERVATION NEWS

## Land Acquisitions in 2015

**Protected six parcels totaling 57.65 acres with six parcels pending in 2015**

- BCT purchased a vacant house lot next to Quivett Marsh Vista on Route 6A and extended the public walking trail onto it.



- Carl Riedell of Osterville sold a half-acre woodlot to BCT for \$8,000 near the Elbow Pond Bog and adjacent to the Punkhorn.
- Martha and Marcia Lake donated a half-acre beech forest near Pine Pond off Slough Road. BCT volunteers removed an old trailer and outbuildings.
- BCT purchased 55 acres of mostly woodland, once the home of John Hay, naturalist and founder of the Natural History Museum. Purchased for \$825,000, made possible by a bequest to the BCT. The Hay family home is now the Hay Conservation Center and office space for BCT and other conservation groups. At right are BCT's moving team.



### **Partnered with Town to protect 10.5 acres on four parcels (BCT holds a Conservation Restriction on all parcels)**

- The Town purchased a 0.6-acre vacant building lot at the corner of West Gate Road and Black Duck Cartway adjacent to the Punkhorn for conservation.
- The Town purchased a 3.29-acre pine woods lot on Black Duck Cartway in the Punkhorn.
- The Town purchased a 3-acre lot next to Drummer Boy Park.
- The Town purchased 3 3/4 acres on Rt. 137.
- The Stoney Brook Herring Monitors received the Longard Volunteer Award on June 17th from the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment. Since 2007, the monitors have tracked the decline and the return of herring to Stoney Brook. As a result of the raised awareness, a restoration project was undertaken on the run, which returned nearly 400 acres of spawning habitat in Brewster.



- Ellie Johnson accepted the Longard Volunteer Award on behalf of the Stoney Brook monitors.



# BREWSTER CONSERVATION DAY

July 11, 2015: Green and Fun for Everyone

It was a beautiful beach day – warm and sunny, but nearly 1,000 people chose to enjoy Brewster Conservation Day at Drummer Boy Park and the Stoney Brook Grist Mill. Not bad. At Drummer Boy families enjoyed many of the old favorites like the AmeriCorps puppet show, Brewster's oyster culture, the Coastal Explorer, IFAW's rescue exhibit, using native plants, and talks by experts on storm water and coastal erosion.



Bigger and better, there were lots of new exhibitors. Kids (and adults) marveled at Trevor the Juggler's antics, kids shrieked as they got "flushed" at the Brewster Ponds Coalition septic system and worked as they learned how to haul lobster traps with Tyler Daley. Adults explored the workings of septic systems, and learned about cleaning green at the Brewster's Green Inns exhibit.



The Historic Village was in full swing with demonstrations at the Blacksmith Shop and an old-fashioned fish weir, the old way of fishing on the Brewster flats. At the Stoney Brook mill, hundreds of visitors saw the grist mill in action and sampled Brewster Indian pudding.



**It was a great day!**  
**Thanks to the more than 80**  
**volunteers who made it all happen!**  
**See you again next year!**

# CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

## Jim Van Baalen Honored at Annual Meeting

At BCT's August annual meeting, volunteer Jim Van Baalen was honored as Conservationist of the Year for his work with vernal pools. Vernal pools are temporary bodies of water that form in the wet months of winter and spring and typically dry up in the heat of summer. These woodland pools are uniquely suited as critical breeding habitat for amphibians and invertebrates, several of which are state-listed rare species. Because of their important role in the life cycle of these species, it is vital that vernal pools are documented and certified by the state in order to protect them.

Although Brewster has an abundance of wetlands, in 2008 only three vernal pools had been officially certified. But, in just seven years that number has jumped to 39. The person responsible for that amazing achievement is Jim Van Baalen.

Working mostly by himself, Jim tracked down potential vernal pool sites and documented the presence of "obligate" species (fairy shrimp, spotted salamander and wood frog) required for vernal pool certification. He performed his explorations during the early spring breeding season, when species activity occurs in the pools. Jim regularly braved raw weather, brambles, ticks, muck and wading waist deep through icy water in pursuit of his quest. Yet, in the mark of a true outdoorsman, Jim claims the worst part of the job is doing the paperwork!

We wish to express our deep appreciation to Jim for his many contributions to conservation on Cape Cod, and especially for his dedication in documenting—and protecting—Brewster's vernal pools.



## MEMORIALS & BEQUESTS

Contributions to BCT honor the memory of a loved one; give a donation to the Brewster Conservation Trust "in lieu of flowers." The address for donations: P. O. Box 268, Brewster, MA 02631. For guidance on planning a bequest or gift, contact Mark Robinson of The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts at 508-694-7415 or mark@thecomcompact.net.

### In Memory of

**Kenneth Berbrick**  
Nancy D. Berbrick

**Lee & Dorothy Britton**  
Peter Britton

**Thomas Burrows**  
Susan Coppelman  
Joanne Hughes  
Ivana Liebert  
Georgene Riedl & Ralph MacKenzie

**Morgon Cannon**  
Vivian F. Cafarella

**Thomas H. Christmas**  
David & Maureen Christmas

**Martha Clapp**  
David & Frances Clapp

**Ralph & Blanche Doble**  
Jane D. Ker

**Steve Erickson**  
Judy Erickson

**Alyce Favreau**  
Paula Bacon  
Beth Finch  
Peter and Ellie Johnson  
Hal Minis & Pat Hughes

**Austin Kirkbride**  
Stuart & Mary Jo Murphy

**Donald & June Gibbs**  
Elizabeth Gibbs & Eliot Raymond

**Edythe R. Gibson**  
John S. Gibson

**Paul & Dorothy Grueninger**  
Susana G. Lopatka

**Jack Haney**  
Barbara and Ken Kelliher

**Paul Hush**  
Merton Bernstein

**Joyce J. Jensen**  
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**Lillian Neville**  
Camille Crossman

**Martha L. O'Neill**  
John C. Landon

**Carol Parisi**  
Robert K. Ax

**Lois B. Pesce**  
Vincent & Leah Pesce

**Maja Plaut**  
Jeffrey & Ellen Plaut

**Carol Reynolds**  
Connie Johnson & Ruth Terrell  
Marian L. Beck von Peccoz

**Mike & Judy Sharpe**  
Roy J. Bellush & Ruth L. Sharpe

**Harden Smith**  
E. Pickering

**Lynda "Sandy" Stewart**  
Derek Halberg & Christine Johnson

**Rick Todenhagen**  
Janet A. Golden

**David F. Whitten**  
Ethel A. Whitten

### In Honor of

**Jack & Barbara Corcoran**  
Elizabeth Corcoran Brennan

**Beth Finch**  
Barbara & Peter Schaible

**Peter Johnson**  
Charles M. Johnson

**Jack & Jill Latham**  
Art & Anita Ristau

**Jean D. Lieberman**  
Ed & Karen Daly

**Ruth Shapiro**  
Anonymous

**Alyce Favreau** moved to Cape Cod in 1981. She died in September, 2015. In 34 years she gave a lifetime of service to Brewster. She served on town boards, was a stalwart of the Garden Club, a dedicated supporter of conservation, and a Trustee of the Brewster Conservation Trust (1993-1999). For years afterward she could be called on for help. Flowers and refreshments for annual meetings were among her specialties. Thank you, Alyce, for making Brewster a better place to live.

If you knew Alyce and loved her as we did, please consider making your annual gift in her memory. If you did not know Alyce, but you appreciate the contributions made to the town by civic organizations and by the many individuals who volunteer to serve on town boards, please consider making a donation to BCT in her name as a way to recognize all who work to make Brewster the place we want to live in.



**Brewster Conservation Trust**

508-694-7415

info@brewsterconservationtrust.org

[www.brewsterconservationtrust.org](http://www.brewsterconservationtrust.org)

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**Brewster Conservation Trust**

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**GREEN TIPS**

**Water Conservation at Home Saves Money**

The Brewster Water Department has over 7000 metered properties and serves over 90% of households. Brewster water is excellent, but you are paying for every drop. Here are suggestions from the Water Department to help conserve water and help you save money.

**Bathroom:**

- ◆ The toilet is not a trashcan. Never flush anything meant for a wastebasket.
- ◆ Your toilet probably uses more water than necessary. Fill a plastic bottle with water and put it in the tank where it will not jam the flushing mechanism.
- ◆ Check for toilet leaks at the overflow pipe or the plunger ball. Do it yourself or ask your plumber.
- ◆ Take showers of less than 10 minutes or baths with a partially filled tub.
- ◆ Install a water saving shower head.
- ◆ Don't leave water running when brushing teeth or shaving

**Kitchen:**

- ◆ Scrub vegetables in a bowl, not under running water.
- ◆ Keep cold water in the refrigerator instead of running water till cold.
- ◆ Hand wash dishes in a sink of water, not under running water.
- ◆ Run dishwashers only when full.

**Laundry**

- ◆ Save up for a full load, or
- ◆ Set the water level for a small load.



Jack Cook

[www.capecodextension.org/hazardous-waste-water-quality/waste-reduction-recycling](http://www.capecodextension.org/hazardous-waste-water-quality/waste-reduction-recycling)