



Brewster Conservation Trust

www.brewsterconservationtrust.org

November 2014



ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL VIEWS ON THE MARSH

The Brewster Conservation Trust has the opportunity to expand the Quivet Marsh Vista by adding one of the most beautiful views on the Marsh.

When Bob Libby bought about six acres between 6A and Quivet Marsh back in 1970, he wanted it as a place to build the Spectrum Gallery. The bank required him to sub-divide what he didn't use behind the gallery, as collateral – and a six lot sub-division on the marsh was approved! Luckily, time and circumstances nullified the subdivision. Lucky, because the property that slopes from the back of the Spectrum down to Quivet, with its views of the marsh, is one of the most beautiful on the creek – and it abuts the Quivet Marsh Vista,

already in conservation. So, with your help, the trail from the QMV parking area will now extend farther northeast along the marsh, through one of the loveliest properties in West Brewster.

“It was a jungle when we moved here”, says Libby. “Briers, poison ivy, vines draping on the trees. We got a permit from the Town to remove some of the vines, to save the trees. Slowly, we went to work.” The care Libby took with his property gives us the towering oaks and mature cedars on the sloping lot today. There's even a large old apple tree that produced an abundance of pie-worthy pippins this year.

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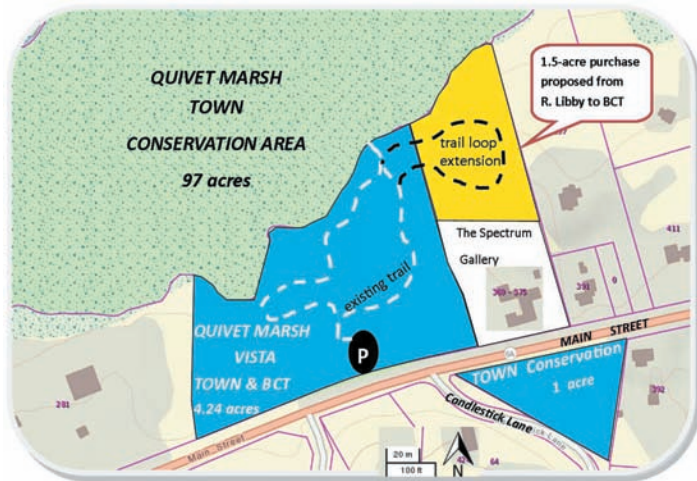
**PLEASE DONATE. Together we can preserve
the best of Brewster for future generations.**

BEAUTIFUL MARSH (cont'd)

Bob Libby thought of building a house behind the gallery; but in 2009, the Brewster Conservation Trust approached him to buy the property and a long discussion about the fate of the wood on the marsh began.

For the BCT, acquiring the parcel was a no-brainer. BCT President Hal Minis says, “In strategic land conservation, we’re always trying to make a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts. Preserving edges of conservation land enhances the habitat value of the center. And there will be one less house and one less septic system draining into Quivet Creek.”

Finally this fall, it looks like it is all coming together. Libby and the BCT agreed on a price, and the Trust immediately went into fund-raising mode. The net result: the Quivet Marsh Vista park, with its trails and



benches, will expand by 1.5 acres. Together, both properties amount to almost 6 acres along the edge of the fragile salt creek, with a longer walking trail and more views, for bird-watching, or just enjoying the beauty of it.

“I love the property” says Libby. “So, it is a combination of reasonable money and our shared desire to preserve it. It’s a win-win for everyone – isn’t that the best?”

Yes, Mr. Libby, it is!

**Please be part of this partnership.
Contribute to the Quivet Marsh Park.
Add one more beautiful marsh view
and walking trail.**

CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

The Conservationist of the Year award was given to Beth Finch at the annual meeting of the Brewster Conservation Trust on August 14.

There are many ways to contribute to preserving the natural places in Brewster, and Beth has participated in most of them. As a member of the Board of Trustees



Beth served as secretary and as president, she has volunteered with the land management committee in both stewardship and the fabled “work days” and has served on other committees as well. She has brought new donors to the cause of conservation, contributed financially and publicized the work of the trust.

Why this dedication? “I like to walk in the woods,” she explained. “I want there to be woods and meadows to walk in and to enjoy. I want my grandchildren and their grandchildren to find deer tracks on a snowy path, to get lost in the woods and find their way out, to put up bluebird boxes in Windmill Meadows, to find monarch butterflies on milkweed and listen for woodpeckers in the Punkhorn. My son had a favorite tree far from the house. My daughter had a small glade for tea parties and private time. I want every child to have such opportunities.”

Brewster has changed since Beth washed ashore in 1972. Ancient ways have been closed off, the population has doubled and doubled again and woods have morphed into subdivisions and mansions; but Brewster is fortunate in still having nature’s land to preserve. It will take Beth and many more like her to preserve and care for the conservation land we all treasure.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What does it mean to be a member of the Brewster Conservation Trust? It means you have given us a donation of money or land sometime in the last few years.

The amount matters less than the thought and the number of years sometimes varies. And what do you get as a member?

There is no building to which we can grant free admission. Our "building" is all over the Town of Brewster and admission is free to everyone. Our few programs are free and open to the public. Your membership does entitle you to receive the BCT newsletter, but many of the newsletters are mailed town wide and copies are always available for the taking at Town Hall and the Brewster Ladies' Library.

What your donation does give you is the satisfaction of knowing that you are part of a greater community, one that shares your love of tree lined roads, of paths through the woods; a community that cares for the other inhabitants who share the land: bluebirds and turkeys, herring and pickerel, deer and fox, blueberries and sundew; a community that cares about keeping clean drinking water, healthy

marshes and unpolluted shellfish. And a community that shares a commitment to these things by donating to Brewster Conservation Trust.

What you have already achieved is the sweep of Windmill Meadows; the creation the Eddy Bay Trail to take children on a walk through white pine stands and holly groves to an overlook high above Cape Cod Bay; you have helped preserve the Community Gardens where Brewster residents raise food and flowers where Native Americans once had their gardens; and you have helped preserve hundreds of quiet acres that are home to the wild inhabitants and that help protect Brewster's water.

Please join us to make Brewster the town we would like to live in.

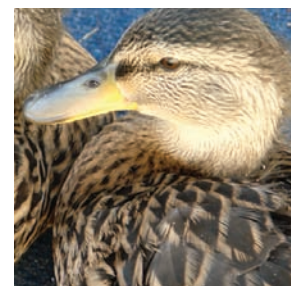
Hal Minis

2013-2014 - It's been a good year

- First among Cape Cod trusts in projects and acreage (2013)
- Twelve parcels totalling 120 acres protected in 2013-14
- Windmill Meadows II funding completed
- Partnership with AmeriCorps
- Third Annual Brewster Conservation Day
- Support for Brewster Ponds Coalition

CONSERVATION NEWS

- ◆ In August, the Governor approved the legislature's 5-year Environmental Bond bill, which will support state parks and open space acquisitions. Brewster received millions for its conservation land purchases in the past 30 years.
- ◆ The Bond bill increased the state tax credit from \$50,000 to \$75,000 (maximum) for landowners to preserve sensitive lands, providing a greater incentive for landowners to donate land to groups like BCT.
- ◆ The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled that conservation lands are exempt from property tax. The SJC's decision noted the importance of conservation land in preserving natural resources, wildlife habitat and even for climate change.
- ◆ BCT supports the new Native Land Conservancy, Inc., the first native-led regional land trust east of the Mississippi, headquartered on the Cape. Learn more at www.nativelandconservancy.org.
- ◆ The draft Comprehensive Water Management Plan for Cape Cod ("208 Plan") has been released. It treats wastewater cleanup on a watershed basis instead of the traditional town by town basis. There are many innovative treatments described and the cost/benefit effectiveness of each is measured. In many ways, Brewster's local water plan adheres to these new planning standards.
- ◆ New BCT trustees elected in August are Dirkie Van Antwerp and John Lamb. Our thanks to retiring trustees Peter Herrmann and Elizabeth Taylor for their years of service.
- ◆ BCT donated \$5,000 to the Harwich Conservation Trust's Pleasant Bay Woodlands. At 49 acres it is the largest piece of undeveloped land on Pleasant Bay and will further protect this sensitive area.



THE IMPORTANCE OF MEADOWS

“Landscapes have a language of their own, expressing the soul of the things, lofty or humble, which constitute them, from the mighty peaks to the smallest of the tiny flowers hidden in the meadow’s grass.”

Throughout New England open fields are becoming forested, eliminating the meadowland habitat of pollinators (bees and butterflies) and homes of small animals and insects. This is happening in Brewster as well. The Land Stewards of the BCT are restoring earlier meadows, clearing invasive non-native plants, and letting the native plants grow. In the future, BCT may augment the meadows with other native plants that encourage pollinators.

ROUTE 6A & SEA STREET

Decades ago the Town abandoned the road across the marsh at Sea Street, but the ancient connection between West Brewster and East Dennis continues as one of the most beautiful walking paths on Cape Cod. Quivet Marsh stretches on both sides of the old road with the picturesque roofs of East Dennis and the green stretch of Crowe’s Pasture beyond. Donated by Daryl Bladen and her family, the BCT property fronts Route 6A on the south and the abandoned Sea Street on the east, both faced with stone walls. The land rises to a knoll overlooking the marsh, reached by a path from Sea Street. A rental house was removed from the property and a large shed was moved to the town landing on Upper Mill Pond and now holds boats and equipment for the Town.

AmeriCorps and BCT volunteers cleared the paths and meadow in September 2014



TUBMAN ROAD

When John and Carol Ericsson donated their 2.3 meadow and woods on Tubman Road to BCT, we all agreed that the former sheep field had to be maintained as part of the farm character of that historic property. However, since the sheep had been taken off the property several years ago, vines and bushes had grown around the fencing and the meadow area was quickly becoming lost. This past winter several BCT volunteers and an enthusiastic crew from AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps’ Fire Corps tackled recent growth, clearing around the old stone wall by the road, pulling out wire fencing, pruning apple trees, and burning large piles of cut brush. Over the course of several workdays, the volunteers have restored the tranquil view of the field from the road and created a healthy meadow habitat.

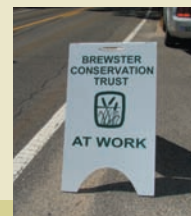
THE IMPORTANCE OF MEADOWS (continued)

ROUTE 6A, WINDMILL MEADOW

The blazing reds, oranges and yellows of fall draw visitors in. This one-acre parcel called Windmill Meadow II was purchased by the Brewster Conservation Trust in May 2013, joining the existing one acre that is Windmill Meadow just next to Drummer Boy Park on Route 6A. A winding path through the meadow creates a walking labyrinth through the hip-high plants. The path reveals little blue stem, jewelweed, sumac, goldenrod, clover, yarrow, Queen Anne's lace, wild asters and clover. The "whale rock" has been cleared of briars so children may climb it, and there are picnic tables and trees perfect for climbing.



BCT Land Stewards are a team of volunteers who work on conservation properties throughout Brewster. The Land Stewards welcome new volunteers to their work days on the first and third Thursdays of each month. If interested, email Pat Bertschy at rcb13@verizon.net.



BREWSTER CONSERVATION DAY

JULY 13, 2014

The dawn broke on Drummer Boy, a beautiful day. At 9:30, the gates opened and the first of the day's well over 700 visitors started to arrive. By mid-morning the large parking area was full and people of all ages walked through the 40 exhibits at Brewster Conservation Day, getting bottles of Brewster's award winning water, seeing how a septic tank works, learning about plantings to protect pond water quality, how to compost, or about marine animal rescues. Kids sat in rapt attention at the AmeriCorps puppet show, asked questions at exhibits so they could have their passport stamped enough to get a free ice cream cone, handled the pelts of wolves, raccoons, and foxes, or sifted through sand to find ancient shark teeth. Groups of adults listened to experts talk about coastal erosion, pond water quality, and the history of the Stony Brook watershed. At the Stony Brook Mill, hundreds of visitors saw the grist mill in action, heard about the herring run count, and saw live displays in the Museum.



**All in all it was a great day.
Thanks to the more than
80 volunteers who
made it all happen!**

RECENT PROPERTIES NEW TO BCT



A buildable lot on the corner of Slough Road and Satucket was received as a donation.



Ranganathan and Sandra Nayak chose a Conservation Restriction to protect 4 acres that border three ponds: Greenland, Long and Small.



Elizabeth Taylor converted a Conservation Restriction to a full ownership by BCT. The 3.39 acres includes wetland, beech woods and a path under the power line. INSET: *Laetiporus sulphureus* (chicken of the woods)



A donation of 7.94 acres off A P Newcomb Road boasts an old bog with springtime skunk cabbage.



There's also a pond that ducks and other water-fowl love.



Nine acres of pine oak woods, purchased off Bakers Pond Road, abuts BCT and town property. BCT volunteers are working to create a walking trail near Nickerson State Park



BCT'S MISSION

The Brewster Conservation Trust works to protect open space, water bodies and the land area that drains into them, wildlife habitat, and the rural characteristics of the Town of Brewster. The Trust acquires land by gift or purchase, helps landowners restrict development of their property, and partners with the Town of Brewster and other organizations to encourage sound conservation practices.



The Trust is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, governed by a volunteer board of Brewster residents and supported by the donations of residents, friends and foundations.

What we have accomplished

Since its establishment in 1983 the Brewster Conservation Trust has completed more than 140 land conservation projects resulting in more than 1,050 protected acres. We believe that we all can help protect Brewster's natural beauty and fragile resources while providing quiet places for people to walk.

For a map of conservation lands
in the town, visit:

www.brewsterconservationtrust.org

Please donate
to the BCT to help us protect what is best
in your neighborhood and town,
for now and
for future generations.

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 is 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 508-362-2565 or mark@thecompact.net.

In Memory of

Edgar Ahlberg
Verah C. Johnson

Charlie Ayer
Ken and Caron Welch

Sylvia and Alcide Berube
Guy and Marie Berube

Betty Kerrivan Davidson
Philip M. Kerrivan

Steve Erickson
Judy Erickson

Barbara Herrington Frazier
Barb and Phill Balasa
Ellie and Peter Johnson

Walter Hyde
Beth Finch & Nancy Shoemaker

Kevin Johnson
Carroll-Jane Johnson

Peter Kadluboski
Linda Kadluboski

Richard Kenerson and Barbara Williams
Alfred and Gayle Williams

Betty Kynor
Jean and Alfred Lange

Nancy Landon
John Landon

David Luebke
Irene Luebke

Suzanne McInerney
Elizabeth Hurchalla

Susan McNair
John McNair

Carol Parisi
Robert K. Ax

Marianne (Maya) Plaut
Rita and Robin Bernstein
Sandra and Marvin Blumberg
Susan and Elliott Carr
Peter Cohn

Janet Green
Ellie and Peter Johnson
Hollie McKittrick
Pat Hughes and Hal Minis
Richard Olderman
Mary Onstad
Philip Witman and Bonnie Perlmutter
Jeffery and Ellen Plaut
Cathy Quashne
Michele Ricchiuto
Karen and Don Taranto
Lynn Tull

Joanne A. Reich
Kevin M. Reich

Peter W. Schilke
Margaret Schilke

Tommy Slezak
Tom and Sophie Slezak

Art Stringer
Sylvia Stringer

Emily Trevor
Andrea Illig

Betsy Warren
Chris Powicki and Liz Hooper

Rose Wojciechowski
Frank H. Wojciechowski

Evelyn Wolford
Ellie and Peter Johnson
Hal Minis and Pat Hughes

In Honor of

Nancy Eaton
Wendy Olin

John Hay
Linda and Jim Mills

Carroll and Jane Johnson
Bruce Johnson

Deborah Johnson
Dee and Stu Anson

Peter Johnson
Mary Jane McDonald
Barbara and Peter Schaible

Jack and Jill Latham
Anita and Arthur Ristau

Merleanne Marion
Ed and Karen Daly

Ellen Plaut's team at Bank of America
Cathy Quashne

Carl Spier
Ellen and Leonard Farwell

Ellen and Jeff Plaut
Michele Ricchiuto

Harden Smith
Derek Halberg and Christy Johnson

Besty Unger
John and Mitzi Unger

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Dirkie Van Antwerp

Conservation Advisor: Mark Robinson

Newsletter Contributors

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Cape Cod Cooperative Extension,
Paul Gasek, Hal Minis, Mark Robinson

COMPOSTING

- ◆ Composting is an attractive option for enriching garden soil, reducing the amount of household waste we take to the transfer station, and reducing the volume of waste the Town has to transport (and pay for) to an off Cape disposal facility.
- ◆ Compost is a dark, crumbly and earthy-smelling form of decomposing organic matter.
- ◆ Any plant material can be composted: fallen leaves, kitchen scraps, grass clippings, garden plants, and wood shavings. Both green material (fresh plant waste) and brown material (dried leaves, peat, or wood shavings) should be used. Do not add meat, bones or fatty foods.
- ◆ A simple container can be made of hardware cloth, old wooden pallets or wood and wire. The pile or bin should ideally be 3 to 5 cubic feet. For best results the pile should be watered and aerated (turned).
- ◆ Brewster's Recycling Center has composters and kitchen scrap buckets available for sale. Composters are \$23.00 and Scrap Buckets are \$5. Prices include Massachusetts sales tax.
- ◆ For more information about composting, visit the Barnstable County Cooperative Extension Service:



www.capecodextension.org/hazardous-waste-water-quality/waste-reduction-recycling