



Brewster Conservation Trust

www.brewsterconservationtrust.org

Autumn 2018

OUR MISSION

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

Our mission statement is high-minded enough to inspire and vague enough to allow for a variety of projects. In fact, our mission to preserve open space carries with it standards that are more rigorous and even more high-minded than you might expect.

Every property we consider, whether it is a purchase, a donation or a property under a conservation restriction is reviewed according to a number of conservation related criteria. This is like a screen sifter where properties that do not meet several criteria slip through the holes and are not chosen.

Some of the most important criteria include properties in the drinking water recharge areas, pond frontage, and large undeveloped areas. Beyond these individual criteria, we particularly look for parcels that satisfy a number of criteria such as recreation opportunities, rare habitat, and adjacency to other conservation land.

The recent purchases that we have participated in are shown on Page 5. They include one near a pond that also abuts other conservation areas, one with both upland and a swamp that is also surrounds a small a pond, one that protects a well field and also has rare species habitat, and one that surrounds a swamp and adjoins other conservation land.

At the annual meeting in August President Hal Minis discussed some of the Trust’s accomplishments in its 35-year history. From the beginning water resource protection has been important but so are scenic vistas and walking trails. Through outright donations, tax-saving bargain sales, conservation restrictions on privately owned land, purchases shared by other conservation groups or the Town, or purchases made solely with funds provided by you, our donors, BCT has helped protect 1,260 acres of open



space. Still, conservation land only accounts for 1% of all land in Brewster by value and 15% of land by acreage (2014, excluding Nickerson State Park).

Also as part of our mission, we have a serious interest in cultivating the conservationists of the future as shown by our several projects with the Eddy School where we purchased land, built trails near the school and helped develop outdoor science projects for the students. BCT has spearheaded Brewster Conservation Day and supported aspirations of young environmentalists with scholarships and internships. And we opened trails for the public on six of our properties.

Help us keep Brewster the most environmentally friendly town on Cape Cod. We offer you healthy water, healthy exercise and healthy children.

***Your contributions preserve
our community’s health, resources,
and beauty for the future.***

DON SCHALL: SCIENTIST, NATURALIST, VOLUNTEER



Don Schall has been a Cape Codder since 1970 when he became Director of the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History. His interview with John Hay, founder and trustee of the Museum, led to a friendship that lasted until John's death in 2011. With a Master's degree from the Yale School of Forestry he had already worked in his home state of New Jersey as an

interpretive naturalist. After 18 years working with children and adults through the Museum, he transferred his skills to an environmental consulting firm. In his semi-retirement he continues as an independent consultant with his former employer and with local Cape enterprises.

Using his skills to support conservation efforts, he served for over 30 years on Conservation Commissions in Orleans and Brewster and has most recently shared his expertise with BCT, training young naturalists from the Eddy School, and with both BCT and Harwich Conservation Trust consulting on management of wetlands and forests. His work with the Botanical Club of Cape Cod and the Islands has included an intensive survey of species on Sandy Neck and annual surveys with Audubon. Oh, and in his spare time he does kinetic art, making mobiles from beach findings. Check out his work at the Harwich Cultural Center, but call first.

All of us at BCT are pleased to have a local expert, willing and able to take children on a meadow exploration, identify invasive species and rare plants and help with the occasional carpentry project.

HELLO, BCT VOLUNTEERS

There is a volunteer opportunity for every skill and every interest.

What do you like to do? We have a wonderful group of volunteers who would love to have you join them.

- **Learn new skills or share your skills with others?** Learn to be a GPS detective to find property boundaries.
- **Get out in nature and discover hidden places in Brewster?** Volunteer as a land monitor. We walk every property regularly.
- **Care for your own neighborhood?** There are conservation properties in every part of town. If one is near you, consider being a neighborhood monitor to prevent encroachments, debris or littering.
- **Use your woodsman skills?** Clear trails, build bridges, open vistas as a part of the stewardship group.
- **Keep the office running smoothly?** Visit the staff at the Hay House to prepare property books, keep files and other office tasks in a conservation setting.
- **Party party party?** Plan events, help at Brewster Conservation Day and other special events.



Our "work days" are posted on our website and Facebook page weekly. Get to know others who enjoy and care about the same things you do.

Just tell us you're interested, and we'll talk with you to find the right thing for you!

Call Dee Marsh at 508-694-6720 or email at dorria@brewsterconservationtrust.org



BREWSTER'S VISION PLAN

In July this year, the Brewster Select Board formally approved the Brewster Vision Plan, the culmination of an 18-month community effort to develop a plan for the Town's physical, social, and economic evolution. The planning process included three sets of workshops and a public survey which identified the basic building blocks of the plan and specific actions to achieve the goal for each building block. Thanks to all who participated on the process.

Open space emerges as a key building block for Brewster's future. In fact, in the community survey to identify the importance of all the actions in the plan, water resources and open space were scored as the most important. Under Open Space, "Identify and protect priority parcels in sensitive natural resource areas, particularly drinking water supply areas" was the highest scoring of all the nearly 70 actions in the plan. The goal of the Open Space building block is "Maintain and expand open space assets to provide public recreation, protect fragile natural habitat, and protect water resources".

The Vision planning process was a critical first step, but what we really need is to see the plan implemented. In the final section of the Plan, "Taking Action: Turning the Plan into Action", the document states "...it is imperative that the goals guide action of Town government and community organizations and that the relevant stakeholders play their part in implementing actions presented in the Plan". Implementing the Vision Plan isn't just for Town government, it's the entire community's responsibility.

Brewster Conservation Trust stands ready to be part of implementing the plan. The open space goal fits very closely with BCT's mission and we have a strong track record of collaborating with the Town to preserve open space. We've recently pledged \$230,000 toward the purchase of property with frontage on Long Pond and \$50,000 toward the purchase of property on Slough Road, a drinking water supply area. In the past 10 years alone, BCT has worked with the Town to purchase eight parcels of environmentally sensitive land, part of the nearly 1,300 acres we've helped protect in Brewster. So let's get to it – let's make Brewster's vision a reality!

BREWSTER CONSERVATION DAY 2018



Family vacationing from Russia looks forward to BCD every year

It keeps growing.

On July 14 at Drummer Boy Park, some 1,000 people enjoyed more than 50 exhibitors, performers, historical sites and food stations. Visitors could learn about bee keeping, tick protection, or locally sourced fish from the Fisherman's Alliance. They could hear about whale rescues, study pond health, and eat fresh Brewster oysters. The Historical Society presented the entire historic village complete with a miller for the windmill, a life size fishing weir, and a blacksmith working at the forge.

CLIMATE AND OCEANS ... AND WHAT WE CAN DO

Our climate and our oceans are inextricably connected, and both are changing. Richard Delaney, President and CEO for the Center for Coastal Studies was the guest speaker at the annual meeting of the Brewster Conservation Trust in August, 2018. In a talk titled “Climate Change and Cape Cod” Mr. Delaney noted that the average tempera-



ture of the oceans has risen, acidity has increased and ocean currents are changing; but what we notice most on Cape Cod is the sea level rise and the shifting of habitat for fish and shellfish.

Right whales and lobsters are moving northeast, but more evident to most of the human residents of Cape Cod is the increased erosion that results in smaller parking lots and smaller front yards of beach houses. What we do not immediately see is the loss of high marsh area, marshes which hold carbon from the atmosphere, provide nurseries for fish and shellfish, and protect upland from stronger wave action.

Speaking directly to land trusts, Mr. Delaney suggested that we prioritize forested upland and marshland for their important role in reducing CO₂ and that we make upland areas behind migrating salt marshes a priority for acquisition.

We land trusts on Cape Cod are listening to this advice. The natural process would allow sand cliffs to erode thus enriching the beach, the beach to roll back into marsh and the salt marsh to retreat farther inland. It is essential that we all understand what is at stake and do what we can to keep the harm to a minimum.

CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR: AMERICORPS OF CAPE COD



President Hal Minis presents the Conservationist of the Year Award to Dan Schell of AmeriCorps Cape Cod.

Each year BCT gives its Conservationist of the Year Award to an individual or organization that has made an important contribution to conservation in Brewster. In 2018 we recognized the work of the men and women of AmeriCorps Cape Cod.

For many years Brewster has benefitted from AmeriCorps' hard work and commitment to conservation. These dedicated young people have cleaned beaches and cleared storm damage, built trails over difficult terrain, prepared and hosted exhibits (and the puppet show!) at Brewster Conservation Day.

AmeriCorps' influence is Cape wide. Since 1999 AmeriCorps Cape Cod members have taught environmental education courses and helped save stranded marine mammals. They have staffed regional shelters during storms, taught preparedness education classes and participated

in disaster simulations. They have organized events, partnering with federal, state, county and town departments, schools, community groups and non-profits. Many ACC members have stayed to take on jobs that contribute to the Cape's well-being, often serving on town conservation departments and land trusts.

Their youthful enthusiasm, energy, ideas and strong backs add immeasurably to the work they do in our community.



BECAUSE OF YOU

Earthbound Cartway

Helen C. Baldwin made a final conveyance of her land to BCT this spring. We bought her 2-acre lot for \$75,000, well below market value. It includes a small meadow and a pine-oak wooded slope. The parcel abuts one of the other two lots we acquired from her in 2014 near Round Pond.



L to R: Roger O'Day, Helen Baldwin, attorney Marion Hobbs, & Peter Johnson at deed signing

Alden Drive

This fall, for \$10,000, the family of Michael Paterno agreed to sell us four acres of woods running down to a swamp loaded with songbirds in the middle of a nice neighborhood. There is a small permanent pond there, so we should see how we can protect it.



Slough Road

BCT contributed \$50,000 towards the Town's purchase of 27 acres of pine-oak forest in the southwest corner of Brewster. This parcel protects adjoining wellfield land and rare species habitat. There are many existing trails enjoyed by hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers. The State chipped in with a \$263,000 LAND grant to the Town for the purchase. BCT holds a conservation restriction over the land to guarantee its permanent protection.



Punkhorn Parklands

BCT agreed to hold a conservation restriction on a 3-acre parcel abutting the 900-acre Punkhorn Parklands that the



Ken Vipriano looks toward the maple swamp

Town had purchased from the Vipriano family. This parcel is in the West Brewster Zone II fronting on Black Duck Cartway and encircling a maple swamp kettlehole.

Airline and Satucket

BCT purchased a 1.03 acre lot at the corner of Airline and Satucket as water protection and a welcoming green entry to Brewster.



TRAIL NOTES

"I've been meaning to send you a "thank you" for sharing the information on the Huckleberry Hill Trail this past summer. I've hiked it numerous times.

I was in Brewster over Thanksgiving and walked the trail again. I was pleased to see the addition of new map signage and at least one wonderfully situated scenic bench. Hats off to you and the Brewster Conservation Trust for the good work. Please send my thanks to all responsible."

Jay

"This morning we had a wonderful walk on the trails at Bakers Pond. They were the most well marked of any trails we have hiked on! The markers stating present locations we found to be quite helpful. We look forward to future hikes in the Brewster Conservation Trust properties."

Sherry and Ed

Development of the Bakers Pond trail system was a joint effort with BCT and the Towns of Brewster and Orleans.

THE FUTURE OF CONSERVATION

Alex Bates, AmeriCorps volunteer

Alex graduated from St. Mary's College of Maryland in the summer of 2017 and two days later, maybe the shortest summer vacation ever, he was on his way to AmeriCorps on Cape Cod. For three days a week from August 2017 to July 2018 he divided his time and his skills between the Brewster Department of Natural Resources and BCT.

His work ethic was evident from the beginning, removing poison ivy, building trails, but his carpentry skills shone as he helped install benches and build a kiosk. He led the AmeriCorps team creating the No Bottom Pond trail, a multi-day project, demonstrating leadership skills which led to his being appointed house leader for the Wellfleet AmeriCorps house for 2018-2019.

Congratulations, Alex. It's been a pleasure getting to know you.



Kelley Lindquist, BCT summer intern

Kelley's passion for preserving the environment for future generations led her to a Framingham State University degree in Environmental Science and Policy and years of voluntary landscaping work for the Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary.

Hard-working Kelley developed her muscles, her tan and her office skills during the summer. She managed heavy duty mowing machines and weed whackers as well as piles of files and lists of volunteers. The highlight was "working at Brewster Conservation Day. To see all the hard work that others and I had put in to make the event what it was, was very rewarding.... For everyone to say how great of a time [they] had, made it that much more memorable."

The experience helped her define the direction she would like her career to take and suggested ways to positively affect her community. We appreciate her many contributions to BCT and wish her well in her next enterprise.



Alex and Kelley install fish weir on Brewster Conservation Day

Joshua Schofield, Scholarship Recipient

The Brewster Conservation Trust and the Garden Club of Brewster awarded their joint scholarship for 2018 to Joshua Schofield.

Josh's love of the sea and of engines match his commitment to the health of the oceans. It all comes together as he enters Massachusetts Maritime Academy this year as a freshman studying to become a maritime engineer with a goal to design mechanical means to reduce ocean pollution. We are proud to recognize and support his unique focus on the important field of marine ecology.



Working with a Local School

BCT has a close relationship with the Eddy Elementary School. We have provided science equipment, developed a vernal pool trail behind the school, and funded field trips as part of the science program.



Marjorie Moerschner's Legacy to Brewster

Marjorie Moerschner summered in Brewster Park in one of the original Hodgson Portable houses. If you are not from Brewster Park you might not appreciate the history, but you might appreciate her pride in this home and her responsibility for preserving it. She kept this historic treasure in immaculate condition.

As she cared for her special house, so she cared for her communities. She was active in many charitable organizations in her hometown of West Newton. She had an interest in the natural world and donated wooded land in Stockbridge to the Laurel Hill Association. She was one of the very first donors to BCT in 1983, the first year of the trust, and over the years since she was one of BCT's regular contributors.

Marjorie died a year ago. Perhaps realizing that her annual donations would not be given forever, Marjorie's will left a bequest of \$100,000 to the Brewster Conservation Trust. It couldn't come at a better time. As parcels suitable for conservation become more scarce and more expensive, her gift will be put to use right away.

BCT is grateful for all gifts. We rely on your faithful annual donations, especially those given in memory or in honor of someone close to your heart or has a special reverence for conservation. It is the extraordinary, unexpected gifts that make possible purchases that seemed out of reach. A bequest in your will can make a critical difference and secures your legacy. An important gift made during your lifetime allows you to see the effect of your generosity and allows us to show you our appreciation.



MEMORIALS & BEQUESTS Contributions to BCT honor the memory of a loved one; give a donation to the Brewster Conservation Trust "in lieu of flowers". Address for donations: 36 Red Top Road, Brewster, MA 02631. For guidance on planning a bequest or gift, contact Jeff Thibodeau at jeff@brewsterconservationtrust.org.

Fall 2018 (through 9/18)

In Memory of

Eileen S. Ahern

Eileen S. Ahern Trust,
c/o Charles Dean

Anthony Bourdain

K.E. Alter & F. Lott

Dorothy J. Breckenridge

R. Warren Breckenridge

Eda Chappelle

Sheila E. Wynne

George Cochran

Fred E. & Joan Erhardt

Nancy Coony

Barbara Anne Paddock

Amy Delise

Teresa L. & Peter A. Petrone

Diane L. Gately

James H. Gately
The Gately Family

Ann Geary

Breakwater Acres Assoc.
Lorraine Barry
Katherine Bleich
Susan Brickey
Anne Teall
William J. Wertheim

Ray Gomes

Edward S. & Valerie E. Lewis

Kathleen Grose

John N. & Eleanor M. Denaro

Joyce J. Jensen

Jacqueline E. Jensen

Maxine "Mackie" Kane

Edward S. & Valerie E. Lewis

Linda Lanier-Keosaian

Gregory J. Keosaian

John Laming

Douglas E. & June L. Rice

Susan McNair

John R. McNair

James Nicholson

Edward & Mary Cummings
Robert B. & Marianne W. Hirschman

Joanne Andershonis Reich

Kevin M. Reich

Mirrless R. Underwood

Jessie M. Buck

Elizabeth & Larry Winslow

Judith L. & Richard Knowles

Rose Wojciechowski

Frank H. & Mary E. Wojciechowski

In Honor of

All Caregivers

Olga L. Sherry

All Land Trusts

Frank H. & Mary E. Wojciechowski

Debra Johnson

Alan D. & Elizabeth P. Johnson

Jane Johnson

William S. & Patricia M. Wood



Brewster Conservation Trust

508-694-6720

info@brewsterconservationtrust.org

www.brewsterconservationtrust.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Hal Minis, *President*Bonnie Newman, *Vice President*Debra Johnson, *Secretary*Peter Soule, *Treasurer*

Joe Biernat

Beth Finch

Rachel Hutchinson

Peter Johnson

Martin Kamarck

Donald Keeran

John Lamb

Steve McKenna

Roger O'Day

Charlie Sumner

Rosemary Van Antwerp

Conservation Advisor: Mark Robinson*Land Specialist:* Jeff Thibodeau*Communications & Administrative**Coordinator:* Dorria Marsh*Newsletter Contributors*

Beth Finch, Dorria Marsh,

Hal Minis, Bonnie Newman,

Mark Robinson,

Nancy Viall Shoemaker

**Brewster Conservation Trust**

36 Red Top Road, Brewster, MA 02631

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 601

Brockton, MA

Things you can do to reduce your carbon footprint

NO COST

- Plan vehicle trips to be efficient; use public transportation when practical.
- Keep vehicle tires properly inflated.
- Reduce, reuse, or recycle plastic, cans, glass, newspapers, magazines, etc.
- Choose green products that favor reduced packaging and climate impact reduction.
- Air-dry dishes and clothes when possible.
- Consider showers instead of baths; use a low-flow shower head.
- Make sure air-conditioning systems and heating systems are well maintained and filters are clean.
- Shutdown/unplug electronic devices when not in use. Sleeping devices such as computers and TVs continue to draw electricity even when not in use.
- Call for a free professional energy assessment for your home or business to learn what specific options you have to save money and energy and reduce carbon emissions (Cape Light Compact 800-797-6699).
- Reduce hot water heater setting to 120°F.

LOW COST

- Install a programmable thermostat and use the settings to heat and cool your house or building efficiently.
- Seal drafts and air leaks in your home. Make sure your house or building is properly insulated and that air leaks are sealed. Stop drafts around doors and windows. Prevent heat loss up chimneys.
- Change out lights to LED bulbs, 90% energy savings over traditional incandescent bulbs.

*From
the Cape Cod
Climate Change
Collaborative*

facebook.com/BrewsterConservationTrust/
brewsterconservationtrust.org/category/latest-news/