



Brewster Conservation Trust

www.brewsterconservationtrust.org

December 2011

TRUST MOVES TO SAVE TWO POND SHORES

We need help to purchase land at Round Pond and Dollar Pond.



2.6 acres, Dollar Pond

As we head to press, BCT has just signed a deal to buy 2.6 acres on Main Street for \$60,000. We need to raise the funds quickly, with your help. Located opposite Doran Drive and Wisteria Antiques, this parcel protects 455 feet of greenbelt along Route 6A. It also provides for shoreline protection of little Dollar Pond, a half-acre shallow pond surrounded by overgrown cranberry bogs. The Town Conservation Commission and BCT already own other parcels around the pond, which the Commission named the Eldridge Conservation Area for donations made by that family in 1976. BCT received gifts of land at the pond from the Estate of Fred Gray in 1991.

“My son and his friends used to hike in through the swamp to play hockey,” says BCT Trustee Roger O’Day, a local attorney. “You cannot see the pond well from 6A in the summer, but it is very pretty if you make the effort.” Dollar Pond was called No-Bottom Pond in some of the old deeds; many ponds went by that name in days past! The pond drains under Main Street to the swamp behind the Lemon Tree Shops and empties into Stony Brook at Betty’s Curve.

The parcel descends in ownership from some of the oldest families in Brewster. Joseph Dugan owned it in the early 1900s and ran the bogs before selling to the Consodines in 1944, who sold to the Swifts in 1964.

Continued on page 2

1.9 acres, Round Pond

The price is good, the need is compelling and the time is now. The people of Brewster can help us buy the last undeveloped lot on little Round Pond in West Brewster off Satucket Road. We hope to raise \$125,000 in grants and donations before the end of the year. Won’t you help?

Round Pond is about 3 acres in size and 10 feet deep. It is ringed by more than a dozen homes that slope steeply into the pond. The pond is a local favorite for skating in the winter. Our purchase will enable other people to reach the waters of the pond for fishing and other quiet enjoyment.

The powerline that runs through the two acre lot we hope to buy provides diversity of habitat to the pine woods that covers most of the parcel.



BCT Trustees Steve Erickson & Peter Herrmann examine lot for purchase on Round Pond

Continued on page 2

TRUST MOVES TO SAVE TWO POND SHORES

2.6 acres, Dollar Pond (cont'd from page 1)

We are buying the land from Jackson Crocker, whose late wife Ann was a Swift.

The cranberry bogs are long gone, but their evidence is still seen in ditches and dikes around the pond. Dollar Pond is now ringed with highbush blueberry bushes, sweet pepperbush, and red maples. A pair of hooded mergansers possessed the pond on our recent visit.

Our deeply discounted price indicates, in part, the generosity of Mr. Crocker and also the difficulties this parcel has in being developed, given the wetlands proximity. Still, we believe at some point a house and septic could be placed along the road shoulder, just as one was built to the west of the lot. It is better to pay short money now to retire that possibility. Let's act to keep Main Street green and Dollar Pond blue!

Along with the companion parcel at Round Pond, BCT can buy almost 4.6 acres for \$185,000, or only \$40,000 per acre. Not much to ensure two fewer septic systems leaching into our beautiful ponds.

Please send a gift to BCT before the end of the year. As with all donations, it is tax-deductible.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There is an old, odd expression, "I seen my opportunities and I took 'em." (Don't bother to look it up, it is out of context here!) The Brewster Conservation Trust is currently taking advantage of unique opportunities to save land throughout our town. One of the few benefits of a down-economy is that prices of land to be bought as open space have tumbled for the first time in several decades. The window of opportunity may close at any time because the Cape will always be a desirable place to live. And land prices are still high here relative to other parts of Massachusetts and the US. We need the political and financial support of our members and townspeople to add to our protected open space while we still can.

We have made several new land purchases over the past year and currently have impressive opportunities. One of our priorities is to be on the lookout for important pondshore parcels to preserve. In a 2003 Cape-wide study conducted by The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts (our conservation advisor), Brewster had 48 of the Top 200 pondshore parcels on the Cape. In other words, of the most important pond



1.9 acres, Round Pond (cont'd from page 1)

The sunny spots under the powerline are host to a rare native plant, the New England Blazing Star, listed as a threatened species by the State. Our consulting botanist Mario DiGregorio confirmed about 20 individual plants of blazing star on the property this summer. The purple flowers resemble the more common Scotch thistle, but this rare flower is more frequently found along the coast of the Cape than inland under powerlines.



N E Blazing Star,
Liatris scariosa

The lot we hope to buy is considered a "short sale" and one that reflects the condition of the economy and our urge to respond boldly to new opportunities to protect open space. The current owner bought the lot for \$280,000 at the height of the market in 2006. The Town assesses this lot at \$222,300. With the approval of the Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank, which holds rights to sell the lot, we can buy it for \$125,000. Please send a donation to help us complete the purchase.

parcels to preserve for water quality and habitat significance in our county, almost one of four was located on a Brewster pond. And Brewster is only one of 15 towns on the Cape.

The BCT believes that the best way to save water quality is to save the land around a water body or drinking well, rather than having to resort to costly remediation after the water source has become contaminated. To use another old saying, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Buying land around the edges of our beautiful ponds buffers the drainage entering the ponds and preserves space for wildlife.

Earlier this year, we rallied the Stony Brook Road neighborhood to purchase a 2-acre building lot on Smith Pond. Now we are raising \$185,000 to buy a 2-acre lot on Round Pond and a 2.6-acre parcel on Dollar Pond. Our steeply-discounted purchase prices reflect a true opportunity for us. We ask support from Brewster citizens to raise the funds for these bargain sales. Please take this leap with us.

You can be reassured to know that 94 percent of general donations to BCT go to land purchase and stewardship. With an all-volunteer board, only 6 percent goes to administrative services. We ask you to help us protect Brewster's land and water.

Peter Johnson

CONSERVATIONISTS OF THE YEAR

Mark Robinson and the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts

Each year BCT honors a Conservationist of the Year. The distinction has gone to donors, volunteers, families and groups who have helped make Brewster a more beautiful and livable town. This year we add both an individual and an organization that are close to the hearts of all who support conservation.

Founded in 1986 with Mark Robinson as Director, the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts has fulfilled and surpassed its mission - to provide professional support to the land trusts and open space committees in the towns of Cape Cod as they seek to identify, acquire and manage open space.

For BCT, Mark and the Compact staff have been invaluable. We are a more focused and effective organization because of them.



left to right: Michael Lach, Paula Pariseau, Mark Robinson

In the last 25 years the Compact has:

- Created a mapping analysis of critical wildlife habitats by parcels;
- Identified the most important freshwater pond shore parcels based on habitat and water quality;
- Championed the idea of “undevelopment” to identify blighted developed parcels, restoring them to a natural habitat or park;
- Secured State and Federal open space grants to save taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars;
- Managed cooperative projects for Brewster with Dennis and Orleans to protect water and open space;
- Promoted the use of conservation restrictions, including a formula for the most generous property tax breaks in Massachusetts;
- Led the way in identifying, evaluating and negotiating almost every parcel that BCT has acquired.

Thanks to Mark and the Compact, Brewster’s water is cleaner, Brewster is more scenic, wildlife is more protected, and there is more open space for passive recreation.

Thanks to Mark and the Compact, 30 Brewster families and organizations have protected 200 acres they still own, reducing their taxes through conservation restrictions.

Thanks to Mark and the Compact, BCT has preserved almost 900 acres of open space thereby saving Brewster taxpayers the cost of supporting development in those areas.

TO ALL OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS



BCT’s Board of Trustees is an all volunteer board, but we depend on many other volunteers as well. They serve as land stewards, bring refreshments to public meetings, host events, help us raise money and take photographs. With their help, our resources are nearly unlimited.

A special thanks to Joe and Susan Biernat for hosting a garden party fundraiser. Those attending enjoyed touring the beautiful gardens, sampling tasty refreshments, and having good conversations with BCT supporters.



Our grateful thanks to:

Joe and Susan Biernat
Brent Bowers
Judith Brister
Sue Carr
Stan Godwin
Ellie Johnson
Bob Lindgren
Susan Lindquist
Cal Mutti
Bonnie Newman
Jack Nixon
Steve Petruska
George Platt
Ron Thibodeau
George Thurber
Jim Van Baalen

MEMBER PROFILE



In the 1950's, Daryl Massey Bladen's family came from their home near Pittsburgh to spend parts of the summer in Dennis, and they frequently visited friends in Brewster. "It was always a treat to come to Brewster," said Daryl. Later, she and her husband, Chris, spent summer vacations in Brewster Park (Club), where Chris had gone as a youngster; and they began to think of Brewster as the place where they wanted to retire. They bought some rental properties with the idea that one of them would become their home. They moved to Brewster in 1995.

A few years later Dennis mounted a campaign to protect the Crowe's Pasture area. One of their rental properties in Brewster included seven acres of marsh across from Crowe's Pasture, so the Bladens donated a conservation restriction on the marsh. Later, understanding that water quality in the marsh was threatened by the septic tank on the small plot of land, Daryl donated the property to BCT with the provision that the house be removed. It became a BCT "deconstruction project." Chris Bladen died in 2006.

From the sheltered vantage point of the house site, a bench dedicated to him offers tranquil views of the marsh, isolated from the road by the surrounding trees.



What drew Daryl and her generous spirit to Brewster? "The town has preserved its historic character and natural beauty," she says enthusiastically. She enjoys still being able to see stretches of undeveloped woodland and ponds. "Brewster has many nice places to walk, but I wish there were more."

What draws Daryl to Brewster is also why she supports BCT. "BCT helps keep land open for everyone to enjoy and helps maintain the character of the Town." And after all, she points out, maintaining the character of the Town also helps maintain the local economy. "People want to see the historic and natural parts of Brewster." She hopes that BCT and the Town can continue to expand the number of places where people can explore Brewster's natural beauty. Daryl continues to make annual donations to support BCT activities.

BCT'S ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Now is the Time

We need your donations to preserve Brewster's woodlands, ponds, marshes, and meadows. It's never been easier.

There are three ways to give to the Brewster Conservation Trust:

- 1) Make out a check to "BCT" at P.O. Box 268, Brewster, MA 02631 (envelope enclosed).
- 2) Donate at our secure website: www.brewsterconservationtrust.org
- 3) Call our treasurer Peter Soule at 508-255-4728 to arrange for donation of securities.

All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Brewster Conservation Trust is a 501c3 non-profit organization.



Thank you to Gordon Brooks

"MY AUNT JERUSHA GAVE THIS LAND TO THE BREWSTER CONSERVATION TRUST—SHE JUST NEEDS A PAIL-FULL FOR HER FLOWER POTS."



2011 LAND PROTECTION SUMMARY

Outright donations

- half-acre of forest located between the Mid-Cape Highway and Nickerson State Park given by William Hammatt
- two acres of pine woods in the Huckleberry Hill wildlife habitat given by John & Joanne Figueras

Bargain price purchases

- 2.6-acre woodland near Red Top Road adjoining town conservation land from Cletus Warren of California for \$15,000
- 3-acre forest and vernal pool adjoining the Read Kingsbury Town Conservation Area in south east Brewster from James Harrington for \$16,000

Neighborhood fund raising

- 2-acre lot on Stony Brook Road. The neighborhood raised most of the \$235,000.

Conservation Restriction

- 1.5 acres of a tupelo grove abutting a Town-conservation area on Swamp Road donated by Jane Mensel's family (Arthur and Pamela Praetsch)

**We thank all of our cooperating landowners.
BCT has now protected 794 acres throughout Brewster since 1983.**



Contributions to BCT

Memorials and bequests

What could be a more appropriate way to honor the memory of a loved one than to give a donation to the Brewster Conservation Trust "in lieu of flowers"? The BCT welcomes memorials and records them in our newsletter. The address to be used for that purpose is P.O. Box 268, Brewster, MA 02631.

We also welcome bequests which may be made in several ways. 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

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Leslie-Ann Adams/Green | Harry & Eleanor Croll |
| Katherine Reynolds | Ray & Jean Ewer |
| Carl F. & Mary Frances Ahlstrom | Stan Daggott |
| Romaine Ahlstrom | Louis & Renata Stoia |
| Barbara Albret | Doris Fisher |
| Karen & Cal Mutti | Ken Rollins |
| Ann Bertsch | Diane L. Gately |
| Edgcomb Family | James H. Gately |
| Howard & Lucinda Graham | John & Kristi Hay |
| David & Karen Leland | Beth Finch |
| Norman, Hanson, Detroy | Joyce J. Jensen |
| Stan & Priscilla Parker | Jacqueline E. Jensen |
| Stephen Pull | Andrew & Margaret Kamarck |
| Nancy Rabasca | Martin & Elaine Kamarck |
| Florence Serpico | Margaret Kamarck |
| Margaret Serpico | Ed & Anne Miller |
| Donald Bertsch, Jr. | Nancy Landon |
| Donald Bertsch | Beth Finch |
| Sylvia Berube | Elsie Herrmann |
| Guy & Marie Berube | Ellie & Peter Johnson |
| Christine Brooks | John Landon |
| Hank & Suzanne Foster | Vicki Plaut & Richard Taranto |
| Ellie & Peter Johnson | Betty Latham |
| Roger V. O'Day | Roger V. O'Day |
| Lucy Chapman | Peter Soule |
| Christy Johnson & Derek Halberg | Bobby Lindgren |
| Bill Cooney | Ethel A. Whitten |
| George & Frances Malone | Frank Masse |
| | Sandy Nunnes |
| | Sandy Seaman |
| | Highland Homeowners Assoc. |

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mom | John T. Stewart |
| Jennifer Pereira | Ann & Barry Reder |
| My Parents | Jeane & Roger Samuelson |
| Diane Mincieli | Paul M. Zweil |
| Our Parents | Cynthia Zweil |
| Dee & Stu Anson | |
| John Robinson, Jr. | In Honor of |
| Lynne Forester | Kathleen Bradley |
| Allen Somers | Frank Bradley |
| Betty Blank | Jack Clarke |
| Carol Boney & Vikki Pasco | Linda & Jim Mills |
| Brewster Men's Coffee Club | Colin & Kate Daley |
| Bureau of Land & Waste Mgt. | Ed & Karen Daley |
| Sue & Elliott Carr | Pam Demettrion |
| Contact Solutions LLC | Mary Ellen Kelly |
| Jack Darbyshire | Efforts of BCT |
| Emily Estep & Jeana Reidl | Donna & Dick Curtis |
| Beth Geddens & Jennifer Hanna | Vanessa Johnson's birthday |
| Theresa & Bryan Hanna | Lucy DeVries Duffy |
| Zachary & Megan Hanna | Chris Miller |
| Ellie & Peter Johnson | Grateful Brewster Residents |
| Vicki Plaut & Richard Taranto | Our marriage |
| South Carolina DHEC | Dr. Donald Arthur & Dr. Mary Chaffee |
| Barbara Somers Vockel | Stony Brook Elementary Faculty |
| Candida Stauss | Cape Cod Academy Faculty |
| Frank & Diane Stauss | Deschamps/Kenny Family |
| Carl Trovato | Robert Jefferies Roberts |
| Suzanne Watson | William & Patricia Roberts |
| David F. Whitten | Suzanne Teuteberg |
| Ethel A. Whitten | Linda & Jim Mills |
| Barbara Williams | Robert M. Williams |
| Al Williams | Bill & Catherine Fitz |

Brewster Conservation Trust

508-362-2565

info@brewsterconservationtrust.org

www.brewsterconservationtrust.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Peter Johnson, *President*

Hal Minis, *Vice President*

Debra Johnson, *Secretary*

Peter Soule, *Treasurer*

Pat Bertschy

Elliott Carr

Steven Erickson

Beth Finch

Paul Gasek

Peter Herrmann

Martin Kamarck

Donald Keeran

Roger O'Day

Vicki Plaut

Elizabeth Taylor

Conservation Advisor

Mark Robinson



Brewster Conservation Trust

P.O. Box 268, Brewster, MA 02631

NON-PROFIT
ORG.
U.S. Postage Paid
ORLEANS, MA
02653
PERMIT #17

WATER . . . WATER . . . WATER

A vibrant community must pay special attention to long-term wastewater and storm water management needs. Brewster's Comprehensive Water Planning Committee is developing plans to address the protection our water.

Brewster now has high quality drinking water. To maintain the quality the Town and the Brewster Conservation Trust have actively acquired land in environmentally sensitive areas of Town.

Still, Brewster faces major challenges.

- Over half the ponds for which there is some water quality data may be in trouble.
- Development threatens 16 of 50 subwatersheds, including two of the Town's largest watersheds which drain directly into Cape Cod Bay.
- Storm water runoff is a concern for three subwatersheds. Wastewater or nitrogen may endanger another 32 subwatersheds.

The Town is implementing a number of immediate actions concerning wastewater and drainage. This phase of the plan will:

- Identify ways to reduce nitrogen in the Pleasant Bay and Herring River watersheds and reduce phosphorous in ponds.
- Work with Orleans, Eastham and Harwich on regional efforts.
- Make citizens aware of ways to reduce impacts from septic systems, storm water runoff and disposal of oil and other hazardous wastes.

WHAT YOU CAN DO . . .

To prevent water runoff:

- Reduce impermeable pavement where possible: use gravel driveways or permeable pavement.
- Direct flowing water to plantings along the side of impermeable pavements.
- Use rain barrels to collect water from roof drains. The water can be used later to water plants or can be drained slowly.
- Use specially planted rain gardens or grassy swales to collect rain water.
- Use sprinklers only when needed. Assure that sprinkler water does not drain onto pavement.

