



Brewster Conservation Trust

www.brewsterconservationtrust.org

November 2012

BREWSTER'S MOST WANTED

The Brewster Conservation Trust looks to conserve property in the Town for a variety of very specific reasons. Is it within a Zone II water supply area? Or within 100 feet of a wetland? Is it on a pond, or does it contain a vernal pool, or a habitat for rare and endangered plants and animals? Or is it scenic, and does it preserve Brewster's rural feel?

If the answer about a particular property is "yes!", it could become one of Brewster's Most Wanted! And right now, Massachusetts is offering tax credits of up to \$50,000 for qualifying properties donated, or sold at a favorable price, to private conservation trusts, like the BCT. Now is the time to turn these properties in for the reward!!

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For more about BCT and up to date information and entertaining videos,
or to make a donation, visit our website: www.brewsterconservationtrust.org

BREWSTER'S MOST WANTED (cont'd from page 1)

Pond Frontage

Land fronting on ponds is the most critical to the preservation of water quality in Brewster, both for pond ecosystems and for drinking. The BCT's Priority Ponds Project has made the acquisition and conservation of properties on ponds at the top of the Most Wanted list. At present, the Brewster Conservation Trust has acquired 19 pond front properties and placed another 7 under conservation. All available pond frontage is on Brewster's Most Wanted list!



Paine's Creek Marsh

Swamps, Bogs, and Marshes

We've got 'em all! Brewster's wetlands come in a variety of shapes and sizes. Our marshes, salt and fresh, are open, have relatively few trees, and are wet all the time. Because Brewster used to be Cranberry Central, there are now many deserted cranberry bogs that still hold water and provide unique habitats. And swamps abound, providing a place to live for hundreds of species. All three wetland types are important not only because they provide a home for wildlife, but because they're open windows on the Monomoy Lens – our drinking water – and need protection from development. If you have one of these on a piece of property, now is the best time to put a conservation restriction on it – and go for the State tax credit.

Vernal Pools

These are temporary pools of water that are dry for some part of the year. They fill with the winter rains or snowmelt, hence the name 'vernal' or springtime pools. Because they're devoid of fish, vernal pools are critical breeding ground for wood frogs, spadefoot toads, spotted salamanders, mole salamanders, fairy shrimp, and a whole host of special plants and insects. Sometimes ducks use them to lay their first clutches of the year. The State is trying to identify and certify vernal pools, so if you have a piece of property with a vernal pool, it's on Brewster's Most Wanted list.

Special Habitats

When Cape Cod was made by the great glaciers of the last Ice Age, the edge of one glacier sat right along the shore of Cape Cod Bay, towering over the present string of Bayside towns, from Sandwich to Orleans. It created a type of landscape known as "glacial moraine", identified by a kind of terrain known as "knob and kettle". It's characterized by deep holes surrounded by high ridges. This unique geological formation is often special habitat, for rare stands of beech trees, or plants like lady's slippers, wintergreen, and carnivorous pitcher plants, and provides sanctuary for birds and wild animals. Not to mention that a kettle hole is a 16,000-year-old Ice Age artifact. All of which puts this kind of property on the Most Wanted list, too.



Bound Brook

You have already helped BCT protect over 800 acres of open space in Brewster.

Where are they? Find out at www.brewsterconservationtrust.org

Visit the interactive map of BCT properties. Click on the map just below the home page banner and explore details of each BCT property.

Find the properties that are near you!

DONATE NOW! BCT HAS A LOT TO DO!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When Frances Nickerson saw something that needed to be done, she did it. The Minnesota girl who married into Brewster's Nickerson family gave her heart to Brewster. She served on the Board of Health and the Planning Board, was president of the Brewster Ladies' Library Association and the Brewster Conservation Trust. She opened her "private" beach to any who wanted to use it, and she donated beach and upland property to BCT to be used by the public forever. Fran also assured that her generosity will continue through bequests made at her death to benefit the causes important to her – and to all of Brewster.



Mary Louise and Ruth Eddy were stalwarts in Brewster, serving as volunteers and town officials in the town where their family had deep roots. They were active members of BCT. They donated land that includes the Community Gardens and the Eddy Sisters Trail. And they established a trust that since their deaths continues to make annual gifts to support natural resources and other causes they embraced during their lifetimes. Like Fran, their gifts continue to improve the community they supported.

You, too, can make a difference. A gift made in your Will or estate plan allows the Brewster Conservation Trust to continue the work you support.

While some are able to be munificent in their generosity, modest gifts also make a difference. Imagine how much good could be done if each of us remembered BCT in our Will. Leave a legacy to enhance the quality of life in Brewster. Make your legacy a living memorial to the land you call home. Make a difference that will live after you. Leave a legacy so future generations will know you cared.

Peter Johnson

PLAN AHEAD TO LEAVE A LEGACY

While many of the changes to the federal estate tax structure are still up in the air until the new Congress is seated, it is always wise to consider an estate plan for you or your family that includes an allowance for land conservation if you own valuable property. Assets removed from the value of your estate lowers the potential taxable amount of the estate. Check with your attorney about adding a codicil (clause) to your will that leaves land or other assets to BCT and see our website: Support BCT.



WHAT A YEAR IT HAS BEEN

In 2012 YOUR contributions have enabled BCT to:

- ✓ Complete eight open space projects for a total of 26 acres
 - received gifts: 2 new conservation restrictions
 - won at auction 6.4-acre parcel of beech forest on Greenland Pond
 - received gift of buildable lot on Tubman Road
- ✓ Host two workshops for landowners to educate them about the new state tax credit for land conservation
- ✓ Facilitate one of the first state tax credits for land conservation of a 2 acre parcel abutting other conservation land near Nickerson State Park
- ✓ Dedicate the Eddy Sisters Trail, our first official nature trail, about one-third of a mile
- ✓ Organize the first Brewster Conservation Day, partnering with the Town's environmental departments
 - 8 different walks
 - Kayak trip
 - Exhibits at Drummer Boy Park attracted several hundred visitors
- ✓ Help fund an analysis of Town lands that were thought to be protected open space, but lacked the proper dedication.



GREENLAND POND BEECH FOREST

The Brewster Conservation Trust has its eyes on conserving wetlands – pond frontage, swamps, marshes, streams, vernal pools – any property that will help Brewster hold the line on water quality and ecology. We usually look for donations or bargains; but every so often, something so special and unusual comes along that we have to respond – and act.

In 2011, owners of 6.4 acres on Greenland Pond approached BCT with an offer to sell a parcel capable of supporting two houses – but the asking price was too steep for our treasury.

The property has 66 feet of frontage on Greenland Pond, so the purchase further protects the pond. The land rises quickly from the edge of the pond into upland where the stands of beech trees are striking.

American beeches were here when the first settlers arrived. They were desirable hardwood, so most were cut and used. A stand of beeches today may be remnants of a bygone ecological era, an echo from a pre-European Cape Cod.

So, BCT waited and learned this summer that the land would go to "absolute auction," meaning no bid was too small. BCT decided that the importance of this parcel for its rare beech forest habitat and protection of the pond watershed required us to bid.

On a bright August morning on the landing at Greenland Pond, the tension grew in the small group present as the auctioneer read off the rules. Beachgoers wandered over to see what the commotion was all about. The BCT was represented by Peter Johnson and advisor Mark Robinson.

Mark and Peter gulped as the bids quickly moved past \$150,000 but then stalled at \$200,000. Several bidders dropped out, leaving just BCT and one real estate speculator. The bidding went quickly, settling at \$222,000. Then the speculator turned, shrugged, and said, "I'm out." BCT had won the bid! The beautiful beech forest rising from the edge of Greenland Pond is preserved forever!

With access to a little capital, BCT can jump on opportunities such as the Greenland Pond Beech Forest and not miss out when the land is important enough to preserve.



BREWSTER CONSERVATION DAY - July 14, 2012

It was a big day! The first (of many we hope) Brewster Conservation Day drew more than 300 visitors to exhibits at Drummer Boy Park and trails in all corners of Brewster. The purpose of the daylong event was increase the public's awareness of Brewster's unique natural resources and the value in protecting them.

More than 250 people visited Drummer Boy Park where there were exhibits for all ages. Children flocked to AmeriCorps' puppet show on conservation and recycling and, of course, to the Fire Department's ladder truck. Visitors tasted Brewster oysters raised on the Town's shellfish grants. Other popular exhibits included IFAW, Barnstable County's mobile marine lab, and the Cape Light Compact – nearly 20 exhibits in all!



AmeriCorp's
Puppet Show

BCD featured tours guided by area naturalists of eight sites around town, including BCT's newly opened Eddy Sisters Trail at the Community garden, Huckleberry Hill, Namskaket Marsh and Crosby Mansion, and Eagle Point in the Punkhorn.



Trail Guide Beth Finch led hikers at the Punkhorn Parkland

The Day was sponsored by the Brewster Conservation Trust and the Town of Brewster (Natural Resources Department and Conservation Commission) with the collaboration of many other local groups. Several Brewster businesses donated lunch for all the BCD volunteers. All funding came from donations to BCT.

BCD's success has spurred the organizers to start thinking about next year's event and developing a walking guide to Brewster trails.

2012 CONSERVATIONISTS OF THE YEAR

John and Carol Ericsson were honored at the Annual Meeting in August for their donation of a 2.3-acre building lot on Tubman Road to BCT.



John Ericsson signing papers with his wife Carol, along with Mark Robinson looking on

Not many landowners are willing to part with a buildable lot on Cape Cod, but as Carol said, "I could not stand the thought of looking over and seeing a large house in our side yard. This historic property deserves much better than that." She formerly kept sheep to provide wool for her many projects. The sheep are gone, but the land will maintain its rural character forever.

The property is part of the Tubman Farm, which served several generations of that venerable Brewster family for most of the twentieth century. Historic Tubman Road follows an ancient trail from the south side of Cape Cod to the herring run.

Members of the Tubman family, who still live in the neighborhood, attended BCT's deed-signing ceremony with their friends the Ericssons. Phil Tubman, who grew up in the house, was there with his daughter Sara, along with Sandra Tubman and Sandra's grand-daughter Ivy, a Brewster Bayskipper.



Stephen C. Erickson (1938 – 2012)

Steve Erickson, chair of the Land Stewardship committee and trustee of the Brewster Conservation Trust, passed away suddenly on September 27, 2012.

Steve came into the life of the Brewster Conservation Trust at a time when we needed his talent, dedication and work ethic. Steve, a retired Navy investigator, was just what we needed to keep track of the over 150 parcels of land the Trust has acquired since its inception.



For each property a book describes the land and contains the deed, maps, town plot identification, photos, as well as observations about the property itself. Steve took on the job of reviewing, page by page, the over 100 books, assigning them to volunteers for inspection, and following up on issues found on the properties.

Steve was regular on monthly Trust workdays to clean up properties or remove invasives. He christened them “work parties,” and his enthusiasm was boundless. Steve was usually the first to arrive, and the last to leave... “Just going to finish up this section...” as we all petered out. Often he had a tee time the same afternoon. As his son Todd said in his eulogy, “You could trust Steve, when he said he was going to do something, he did it.”

Steve gained his love of the outdoors growing up in Sonoma County, California where he spent summers swimming, canoeing and exploring. He later inspired his children and grandchildren to treasure the outdoors, leading them on hikes and fishing trips throughout their lives.

We are grateful that Steve turned his love of the outdoors into a vital role in the Trust. We will miss this champion of land management and all-around nice person.

BREWSTER WINS TWO ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS



Chris Miller, Dept. of Natural Resources, Town Manager Charles Sumner, and selectmen Dan Rabold and Peter Norton accept the Tsongas Award.

Paul Tsongas Environmental Excellence Award

In October, the Association to Preserve Cape Cod awarded its Paul Tsongas Environmental Excellence award to Brewster in a ceremony in recognition of the town’s commitment to environmental protection and its numerous natural resource preservation initiatives:

- restoration of the Stony Brook Marsh
- adoption of the Natural Resource Protection zoning
- integrated water planning
- successful record of working with BCT and other partners in preserving hundreds of acres of open space to protect water resources and wildlife habitat.

Town Manager Charles Sumner noted that the hard work and contributions of many boards, committees and town meetings has resulted in the protection of so much land around waterways that Brewster may be able to avoid town-wide sewers.

The President’s Coastal America Partnership Award

The creatures of the Stony Brook Marsh and the alewives making their annual fresh water trek should be grateful for easier access to Stony Brook. In a ceremony at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History in September, The President’s Coastal America Partnership Award was presented to the Stony Brook Project Team for its work in restoring and preserving coastal ecosystems and addressing critical environmental issues. The Stony Brook Team is one of only six recognized nationally this year and the only one from the northeast. The team included state and federal agencies as well as the Association to Preserve Cape Cod and its herring monitors, the Brewster Department of Natural Resources and BCT for their efforts to preserve and restore the habitat within the Stony Brook watershed.

The Stony Brook project was funded by a federal stimulus grant to NOAA and the town of Brewster. The initial project was restoration of tidal flow to Stony Brook marsh through replacement of the four-foot culvert with an 18-foot culvert.

Altogether, 41 acres of salt marsh will be restored, 3,000 linear feet of herring run will be improved and fish passage to 386 acres of spawning habitat in five ponds will be restored.

JOIN THE LAND MANAGEMENT TEAM

Becoming a BCT land steward requires a willingness to work and a love of the outdoors.

Do you respect the natural environment and want to protect it? Do you like to explore new areas? Learn to be a Land Steward for BCT. Land Stewards visit Trust properties and maintain records for each parcel.

Land Stewards also gather the third Thursday of each month at 9 a.m. to maintain Trust properties with clippers, pruners, mowers and saws. All are welcome.

Email Pat Bertschy at rcb13@verizon.net to confirm the day before.



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”? 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

James Altavesta
Suzanne Knowles

Anna Campbell
Claudia Cassone

Hilda Cash
H.D. Cash

Florence Dunn
Pam Rosenbluth

Steve Erickson
Alan and Kathleen Airoidi
Charlie and Freddi Ashby
Janet and Neil Bantley
Pat and Bob Bertschy
Gen. Richard Beyea
Jan de Boer
Allan Brackett
Ann and Bill Brown
Kay and Jim Burrier
Susan and Elliott Carr
Marian Cawley
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Christopher
Ken and Lynn Cline
Franklin Coursen
Carol and James Cranford
Leonard Cuneo
David Dickens
Pat Eggers and Chris Kenney
Sylvia Erikson
Nellie Grant
Linda Hill
Heidi S. Hooper

Steve Erickson
Sally and Charles Jacob
Peter and Ellie Johnson
The Larkin Family
Robert Magnuson
Jeanne and Bob McCullagh
Elizabeth and Gilbert Merritt
Hal Minis and Pat Hughes
Helen and Bill O'Donoghue
Karnig and Diana Ovia
Lynn Prescott
Janet and David Pyne
Don and Anne Ricther
Louis Salaber
Satucket Farm Stand
Orin and Nancy Segall
Richard and Jean Snopkowski
Gaye Stuart
John and Jean Sweeney
K. H. Udall
Dorothy Walsh
Susan and Chris Warren
The BCT Land Stewards

John and Kristi Hay
Donald Schall
Mr. and Mrs. G. James Twite

Mike Hentschel
Anthony Pires

Bob Ker
Arthur and Sylvia Stringer

Richard Lazarus
Ellen L. and Leonard B. Farrell

Heather Casey Milano
Anne and Phil Wise

Werner P.B Plaut
Marianne Plaut

Joanne Reich
Kevin Reich

Betty Roberts Ritter
Barbara and Ellis Baker

Buck and Eleanor Rodgers
Derek Halberg and Christy Johnson

John J. Sullivan
Hilary and Steven Hickok

Thorp Wolford
Bob Finch

In Honor of

Taylor Boas, Heidi Boas
Robert and Suzanne Boas

John and Carol Ericsson
Beth Finch

Samuel J. Feher
Michael and Gayle Feher

Joyce J. Jensen
Jacqueline Jensen

Metz family
Trish Metz

Elizabeth Taylor
Jim Monahan

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WHAT YOU CAN DO: To Prevent Water Run-off

Septic systems and fertilizers are the most likely pollutants to our water, but run off from hard surfaces also carries damaging materials. The goal is to prevent runoff from flowing into the street or into catch basins that eventually drain into ponds or salt water.

Driveways - Instead of asphalt consider:

- Grass for lightly used areas
- Gravel for flat areas
- Paving stones with gaps between to allow water to drain
- Grass pavers -- stone base that allows grass to be planted on top
- Permeable pavers for heavy use -- filigree stone base that can be filled with grass or aggregate
- Permeable asphalt looks like asphalt but allows water to seep into the ground beneath

Driveway that slopes to the street

- Design a rain garden at the bottom of the slope; channel runoff into the garden
- Do not let driveway water flow into the street, especially if near open water

Roofs and gutters

Drain into a rain barrel that can be used to water gardens
Channel runoff into a rain garden, a small depression holding native shrubs, perennials, and flowers

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.