



## Brewster Conservation Trust

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

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The view from Rt. 6A, across the new Quivett Marsh Vista Conservation Area and the marsh to Crowe's Pasture Conservation Area in Dennis and Cape Cod Bay beyond.

## Help protect the Quivett Marsh vista

The Brewster Conservation Trust needs help to close the deal on a wonderful piece of land tucked between Rt. 6A and the Quivett Marsh in West Brewster—a lot of help.

It can come only from you, the friends of Brewster's marshes, estuaries, ponds and woods.

BCT is on the hook for \$133,100, an odd number, to be sure, but it's what remains of the purchase price after the town, the state and several foundations and generous individuals have paid a share.

The land was once the site of the Skyline Motel, a remnant of the 1950s that had fallen into disuse and was finally demolished two years ago, opening up a broad view of marsh and a glimpse of bay, one of the few places where

**"If all those who gave \$25 or \$50 or \$100 or any amount last year to the Brewster Conservation Trust would double their contribution this year, or if every donor brings a new donor, the Quivett Marsh property will be fully paid for."**

*Bob Williams, fund-raising chair*

travelers on Old Kings Highway in Brewster can get a full frontal view of the town's famous marshes. Then the lot was divided into two and marketed for housing at more than \$1 million.

The prospect of houses with their attendant septic systems, fertilizers and pesticides, cats and dogs so close to a wonderfully fecund salt marsh, the habitat and spawning ground

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## Quivett Marsh vista

From page 1

for a great variety of common and rare marine life, was not something the BCT wanted to let happen. And nobody wanted to see buildings shut off that great view again.

So the Trust talked with the owner, Addison Pratt, again and again. Finally the price of \$675,000 was negotiated and the purchase became doable – but not doable by the BCT alone. A partner was needed, and quickly found: the town of Brewster, of course.

Fortuitously, the state announced a round of grants in the Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity Land program which helps protect land for conservation and recreation purposes. Together, BCT and the town hatched a plan with several moving parts.

BCT would make a major commitment of funds, the town would apply for a LAND grant and ask voters to approve Community Preservation Act funds for the purchase. It was decided to give title to the town and management of the property to the town Conservation Commission – if, of course, the state grant was received and if townspeople approved use of the CPA funds.

After a long period of uncertainty the town learned that it would receive a grant of \$351,156 for the purchase from the state. At town meeting May 4, voters unanimously approved the use of \$100,000 in CPA funds for the property.

Meanwhile, the Trust had begun its fundraising effort, needing to come up with \$224,000 to complete the purchase. “This is by far the largest sum BCT had ever tried to raise for property acquisition in its 26 years,” said Peter Soule, treasurer and a BCT founder.

With the help of grants from Cape Cod Five, the Dennis Conservation Trust, the Ruth and Mary Louise Eddy Foundation, BCT board members and several generous initial donors, the BCT moved \$90,900 toward its goal.

And that explains the \$133,100 that must come from members of the BCT, Brewster residents and property owners.

“The board of the Trust is under no illusion that this will be a walk in the park,” said Peter Johnson, the Trust president. “We understand it’s a big challenge. But we felt it was really necessary to get this precious piece of land into public ownership for conservation purposes. We will work hard at the fund-raising as long as it takes.”

Bob Williams, chairman of BCT’s fund-raising activities, was more specific. “The amount we must raise is more than twice the donations that we normally receive in a year. So it’s simple – if all those who gave \$25 or \$50 or \$100 or any amount last year to the Brewster Conservation Trust would double their contribution this year, or if every donor brings a new donor, the Quivett Marsh property will be fully paid for.”

# The Window on the Marsh

By Beth Finch

Every once in a while a window opens: a window on a vista that expands the spirit; a window in the mind that excites new ideas; a window of opportunity that must be acted on before it closes.

## THE VISTA

Ever so rarely in Brewster, a building is taken down and suddenly travelers on the Old King's Highway can see across an ancient marsh to the sparkle of Cape Cod Bay and for that moment we know what the Old Comers saw when Harwich was young and before Brewster was born.

About a mile and a half from the Dennis boundary, just west of the

Spectrum Gallery, was the old Skyline Motel, built in 1953, closed in 1998, and for several years an abandoned eyesore. It was taken down in 2007, revealing an expanse of Quivett Marsh, a hint of Cape Cod Bay and 600 feet of frontage along the Old King's Highway with enough upland for a small park.

Or, it could become a building site for two houses.

## THE IDEA: A scenic overlook at the entrance to Brewster.

Other than Wing's Island and Drummer Boy Park, this park opens up one of a very few scenic views from Route 6A in Brewster. Brewster's Main Street charms visitors with historic homes and serves the town with shops, but Quivett Marsh Park is a place where passing motorists can appreciate a long-distance panorama of the extensive Brewster salt marsh and tidal creek ecosystems.

The proposed park, 3.8 acres, connects to 100 acres of town-owned Paines Creek-Quivett Marsh system and to 70 acres of beach and upland at the Crowe's Pasture Conservation Area in Dennis. The proposed parkland is within or adjoins the documented habitat of two rare species,

salt reedgrass and the diamondback terrapin, but more common plants and animals also depend on an undisturbed expanse which this addition will augment. The park is bounded on the west by Quivett Creek, a tidal estuary that provides pond access to alewives and blueback herring. Biologists know of the decline in the numbers of these native Cape Cod fish, but not why. The effluent of septic systems, lawns and gardens can seriously damage the sensitive marsh ecosystems and contribute to the increasing deterioration of Cape Cod Bay. By eliminating two house lots, the marsh and 800 feet of shoreline are protected from the damaging effects of normal household use.

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The Skyline Motel in 1955, built for the baby-boomer generation of travelers.

## The Window on the Marsh from page 3

### THE OPPORTUNITY: Make this park your own.

Don't be content to drive by this Window on the Marsh. Stroll across the land toward the marsh, weaving between stately oaks and red maples, passing through small meadows reminiscent of the greater meadow that allowed these trees to grow tall and spreading. Walk softly from shade to sun and back again till you come to the salt marsh, bought by Brewster Town Meeting some 50 years ago. Look across toward Crowe's Pasture, protected from development in a joint venture with the Town of Dennis and conservation groups including the Brewster Conservation Trust.

Follow the edge of the marsh past flowering bushes, as blue jays and redwing blackbirds pursue their springtime enterprises. You might take notice of tall standing trunks filled with woodpecker holes or of trees that invite you to sit, lean back, and watch. Or you might bring a picnic basket and discover

that you are miles from civilization although only a few dozen feet from the road.

The owner of the property, Addison Pratt, demolished the old motel at his own expense. He offered these shorefront building lots as a true bargain sale. He was interested in seeing it go into conservation and asked only \$675,000 for the entire 3.8 acres. The appraised value in January 2009 was \$825,000 and the asking price in 2008 was more than \$1 million.

The proposed funding for the purchase is coming from a variety of sources: state, town and private. The Brewster Conservation Trust is committed to raising \$224,000 from foundations, other private sources – and you. Please be a part of this very special effort. Help BCT save this scenic view, this small piece of sun-dappled repose, the Window on the Marsh.

# Hands across the marsh

Once again, the conservation trusts of Brewster and Dennis are partners in protecting the fertile Quivett Marsh that divides the two towns.

Brewster Conservation Trust provided crucial support when the Dennis Conservation Trust was assembling the bits and pieces of the multi-million-dollar deal that protected the Crowe's Pasture Conservation Area, the 70-acre point between the marsh and Cape Cod Bay.

Another important piece of that deal was a conservation restriction granted by Daryl and the late Chris Bladen, owners of a piece of the marsh and a house on its very edge in Brewster.

Then, when Daryl Bladen donated the house to the BLT, the Dennis Trust paid half the cost of demolishing it.

And now the Dennis Conservation Trust, with a donation of \$15,000, was among the first contributors in the drive to protect the old marsh-side Skyline Motel property from redevelopment.

## Be generous and save our necks

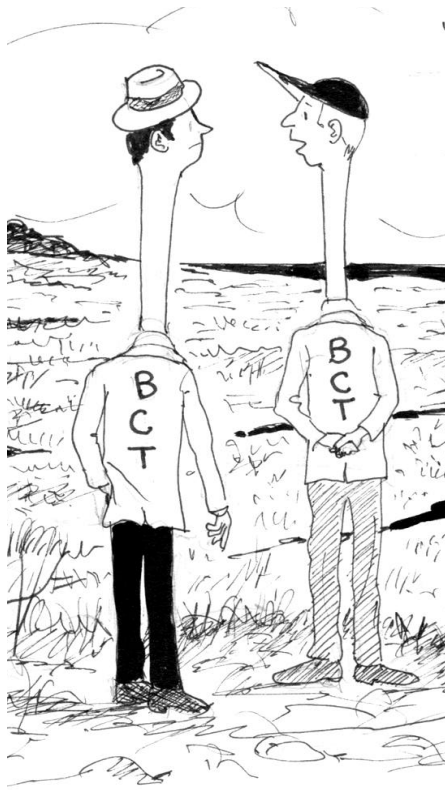
Dear friends,

Cartoonist Gordon Brooks is right -- the Brewster Conservation Trust has indeed stuck its neck out to help preserve the Quivett Marsh Vista property. We know the community understands the conservation and scenic value of this land and strongly supports its acquisition. So, to move the project forward, we borrowed from the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts in anticipation of your help.

Please repay our trust and save our necks by using the enclosed envelope to send your contribution.

Many thanks for your support.

Peter Johnson, BCT president



We stuck our necks out on this one.  
Hope the community supports us!"

# Contributions to BCT . . .

## In Memory of

Abby, our best friend  
Valerie & Ed Lewis

Jennifer Kay Baringer  
Charles & Nancy Baringer

Mrs. Mary Beacon  
Bill & Judy Barnstead

Michael Berry  
Lucy & Richard Hersay

Charles Sands Dedon  
Lenore Dedon

Elizabeth M. Dill  
Kate & Larry Taibbi

Mary Louise & Ruth Eddy  
Diane & Stephen Jones

Betty Eldredge  
Lucy Devries Duffy

Vera Fields  
George & Frances Malone

Jane Furst  
Michele Furst

Paul & Dorothy Grueninger  
Susana B. G. Lopatka

William C. Harvey  
Lorraine C. Harvey

My Parents  
Janet A. Golden

Kristi Hay  
Ellen Althouse

Margaret G. Kamarch  
Ellen Davies

Alice R. Kassman  
Diane Z. Goldrich  
Richard & Gloria Greenough

Carolyn Hastings Keith  
Averill, John & Carolyn Keith

Richard Kingston  
Jane Sterling

Peter Kirstad  
Elizabeth McKnight Paulson

John L. Lobingier, Jr.  
Margaret R. Lobingier

Joe Robinson  
Martha Miley

Charles A. Weisel, Sr.  
Floy & Roberta Weisel

David Wexler  
Carol & Chip Parisi

## In Honor of

BCT's good work  
Alyce & Richard Favreau

Bennett's Future  
Stephen McKenna & Cynthia Baran

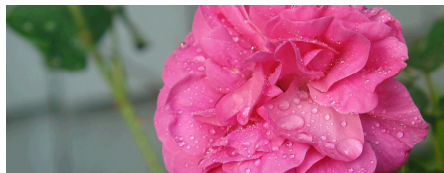
Our Family  
Edmund & Karen Daly

John T. Haney  
Joan & Timothy Hogan

Peter Herrmann  
Jeannette Herrmann &  
Christopher Owens

Peter Herrmann's 50th birthday  
Elsie Herrmann

Keith Johnson & Family  
Leonard & Pat Johnson



## 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”? It’s a gift that never wilts, a gift that will help protect lands of special beauty or environmental value in Brewster. The BCT welcomes such memorials and records them in our newsletter. The address to be used for that purpose is PO Box 268, Brewster, MA, 02631.

We also welcome bequests, which may be made in several ways. Mark Robinson of The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts is available at 508-362-2565 or e-mail [compact@cape.com](mailto:compact@cape.com) for guidance on planning a bequest or gift.

## A BCT property on Upper Mill Pond

The Brewster Conservation Trust has acquired Winn's Point, a scenic point of land in Upper Mill Pond across from the town's Eagle Point in the Punkhorn. "It's the first parcel that the Trust has owned on Upper Mill Pond and it's a key acquisition in our Priority Ponds Project, in which we seek to protect the most important undeveloped pondfront parcels remaining in Brewster," said Peter Johnson, BCT president.

The 2.3-acre parcel on John Wing's Lane, once a small cranberry bog, was purchased for \$25,000 with the help of a \$5,000 grant from Cape Cod Five.



The former owner was Peter Damon, who bought the point in 1984 as a duck-hunting site. In 2003 a contingent buyer submitted plans for a house on the steep slope; the plans would have required a variety of variances. They encountered resistance from neighbors and the Conservation Commission and the plans were withdrawn.

## A theater benefit for BCT

"Blue Straw Hat," a one-woman play by Wellfleet summer resident Corrine Demas, will be presented at the Cape Rep Theater at 8 p.m. Monday, Aug. 10, for the benefit of the Brewster Conservation Trust and Cape Rep.

Ms. Dumas, an English professor at Mt. Holyoke College, has written a score of children's books, many short stories, two novels and other works. She has often spoken at bookstores and libraries throughout the Cape.

The structure of the play is a woman's experiences on a series of computer dates, alternately comical and poignant. The role is played by Sarah Wilson, who is active in western Massachusetts theater as is the director, Steve Morgan.

**For tickets to the performance, which will cost \$20, please contact the Cape Rep box office at 508-896-1888.**



## Brewster **Conservation** Trust

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