

Brewster Conservation Trust

508-362-2565

info@brewsterconservationtrust.org
www.brewsterconservationtrust.org

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Brewster Conservation Trust
P.O. Box 268, Brewster MA 02631

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Summer 2010

Help finish our Fishing Rock Trail purchase



BCT Trustees Hal Minis, Roger O'Day and Peter Johnson celebrate on Fishing Rock

On July 12th, Trustees of the BCT joined three generations of the Somers family for our first open-air "closing." We celebrated BCT's purchase of a half-acre along Lower Mill Pond, including the trail to Fishing Rock.

The Somers family has owned this shoreline since 1944, including the big granite boulder known as Fishing Rock that juts out into the pond. We have raised over half of the \$10,000 project costs, including the land buy and survey. Please consider making a donation to this small but important project. And then walk the trail!

"This just makes so much sense, to open the trail for others to enjoy," said Caroline Trickey, representing the Somers family. "The first thing we would do upon arriving for the summer as children was to run down the path from the house to Fishing Rock. It was our playground. All children should have that opportunity."

Allen Somers, father of Caroline Trickey and Sarah Adelaide Walker, also attended. His parents had bought the property as a summer retreat during World War II. "I know and expect the Conservation

(continued on page 2)

Finish the job: Fund the trail to The Fishing Rock

(cont. from page 1)

Trust will keep the land as is," he said. "It's been a special place to us, as I know it is to many other people who enjoy the herring run."

BCT Vice-President Peter Johnson brandished a pair of bolt cutters and cut the chain that had previously barred public use of the trail to the boulder. He then lead celebrants over the narrow trail to the Fishing Rock, the first ever legal visitors there. We hope many herring run enthusiasts will also find their way to the new vantage point.



BCT's Peter Johnson cuts the chain to open the trail to public use on July 12

Photo credit: Sue Carr



We need your help to raise the remaining few thousand dollars to complete our Fishing Rock Trail deal.

It's easy to contribute online at www.brewsterconservationtrust.org.

BCT thanks the Somers sisters, Sarah Adelaide Walker and Caroline Trickey

Almost everyone focuses on the adult alewives and blueback herring swimming upstream in April and early May. The run downstream of the new young-of-the-year goes relatively unnoticed. In fact, happily, the second alewife run of the year has now begun in earnest - countless little alewives pouring downstream, like a torrent of silver nickels. White, blue, green, and night herons will all appear shortly on the north side, roosting in the trees when they're not in the brook, spear-fishing. Muskrats, otters, water snakes, even crows will all try to get their share. Anyone snorkeling the eelgrass meadows of the Brewster Flats offshore will see new schools of little alewives coalescing as they feed and try to survive their first summer, evading bass, blues, and later the gannets.

That's Brewster for you! - - Paul Gasek, Stony Brook Road, BCT Trustee

LAND PROTECTION TALLY: Continued Success in Recession

Despite one of the most troubling years economically in our lifetimes, BCT emerged from 2009 in good shape, land-wise. Our remarkable citizens continue to preserve the land they love, setting it free from development with BCT as the perpetual custodian. Our equally remarkable donors continue to dig deep and spare us what they can to help us succeed.

When the recession hit in September 2008, BCT kept its head up and continued to tackle ambitious projects. We negotiated the Quivett Marsh Vista site (3.8 acres on Route 6A) for \$675,000, helped the Town secure a \$351,000 State LAND grant, and raised \$224,000 for the Town's purchase. We completed six land donations totaling five acres. We accepted 2 conservation restrictions protecting 8.5 acres. We purchased 2 properties totaling four acres. In total, in the past 18 months, BCT has completed 11 projects preserving 21 acres at a total net cost to BCT of \$259,000, or \$12,300/acre.

Late last year, BCT accepted a conservation restriction on Schoolhouse Pond. Once the estate of Capt.

Benjamin Freeman, a 19th Century blue-water ship captain, the Main Street property is now the home of Admiral Donald C. Arthur, recently retired as Surgeon General of the U.S. Navy. Dr. Arthur preserved the 2-acre vacant lot next to his home, with frontage on the pond and the Old Kings Highway, by extinguishing his right to build a second home there through the conservation restriction.

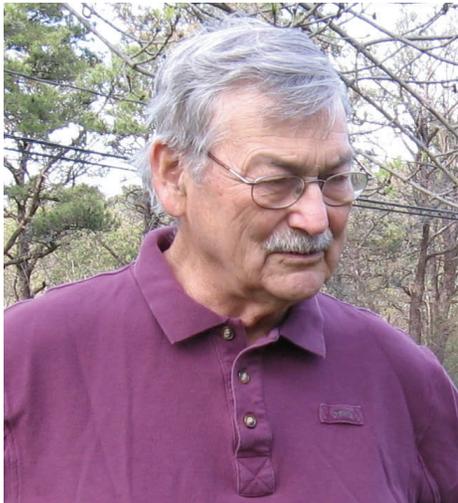
This winter, we purchased a woodlot in the Punkhorn Parklands from Robert. L. Norum of Harwich. Mr. Norum's wife Ethel had received this land as a gift from her parents in the 1950s. When she died last year, Mr. Norum recalled that she had some interest in selling it to BCT for conservation. We negotiated a sale at \$10,000 and accepted the deed in March to the 1.37 acre of pine forest. This parcel abuts the 36-acre Bates property bought by the Town.

And John & Pat Mahoney of Dennisport donated a 1/4-acre bog at Wash Pond, in memory of the late Stephen P. Miske and in honor of his wife Anna C. Miske.

BCT now protects 714 acres.



Dr. Arthur's conservation restriction protects the north shore of Schoolhouse Pond.



READ KINGSBURY (1925– 2010)

Read Kingsbury was a journalist, writer and editor who lived his convictions. Perhaps it was growing up on a farm that wakened his interest in the outdoors. He loved camping, especially with his children. His wife, Neva Flaherty, taught him to ski. He climbed tall mountains, then he worked to protect them.

In Rochester, NY, he joined the Adirondack Mountain Club and became a “46er” by climbing the 46 peaks over 4,000 feet. He served on a state commission to plan the future of the Adirondack Park. On Block Island, RI, he was president of the Block Island Conservancy, where he worked with other community organizations to raise \$6 million to preserve a large tract of property

In Brewster he was a member of the Town Conservation Commission, the Open Space Committee, and a member of the Brewster Conservation Trust. As a Trustee he wrote for and edited the newsletter and oversaw announcements of Trust activities. As a journalist, his editorials often supported land preservation and the benefits of nature.

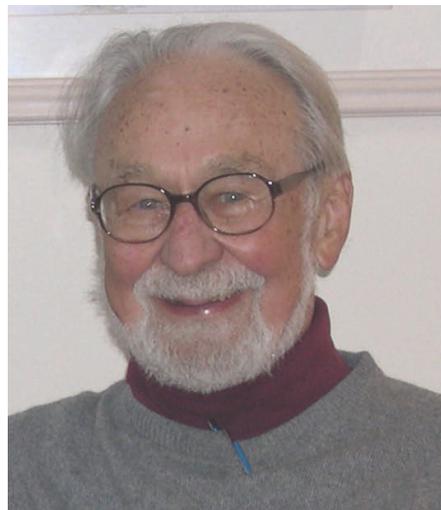
“There was something about being close to nature that excited him, whether it was climbing mountains or preserving our natural resources,” said his daughter Laura Lutz. “He never stopped caring about what we were doing to the world.”

We will miss his skill, his calm guidance, and his dedication to Cape Cod.

REPORT FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

Sincere thanks to Ocean Edge and Bob Newman for hosting the annual meetings of the Brewster Conservation Trust and the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts on August 12. New trustees elected to BCT were Stephen Erickson and Paul Gasek. The Conservationists of the Year Award was given posthumously to Andrew and Margaret Kamarck.

BREWSTER’S CONSERVATIONISTS OF THE YEAR: The Legacy of the Kamarcks: Innovative Giving



After three decades in Washington, DC and the world arena, Margaret and Andrew Kamarck “retired” to their beloved Brewster.

Andy explored the Cape’s hidden byways, finding beach vistas, vernal pools and off-road trails. Margie was an artist who, when tending her garden, exalted in the natural and the naturalized, weeding out the artificial and the invasive.

They were also strong supporters of conservation efforts. Andy, an economist with a long-term perspective, understood that incremental purchases of strategic parcels would gradually divert development and assure the maintenance of open space – all without disrupting the market.



Andy and Margie gave generously to BCT and encouraged others to do the same. At their 50th wedding anniversary they began the tradition to mark all significant celebratory occasions with donations to BCT in lieu of gifts.

Margie passed away in 2007, and Andy slipped away this past March. To the end, they continued to be appreciative of Brewster’s natural beauty and were concerned that BCT would continue to protect and preserve that beauty.

As they requested, the most enduring manner we can honor them is to support the work of BCT and its sister organizations. *(read the entire article about the Kamarcks on our website:)*

Walk in the Woods by Pat Bertschy, Land Management Committee

One of the best parts of Cape Cod life is taking a walk in the woods or along the bay. Would you like to explore Brewster's old cart paths, cut a trail in the woods, find an old animal path as yet undiscovered? As a volunteer with the Brewster Conservation Trust (BCT) you may join the Land Management Committee and discover the hidden gems of Brewster: natural dunes protected forever by the BCT, large boulders left as remnants of the glacial age, the remains of Native American settlements, vernal pools, former cranberry bogs. All of these are on display for the wanderer in Brewster.

When I first moved to the Cape from busy Norristown, PA, just outside of Philadelphia, I saw the many acres of woods, meadows and marshes along 6A and wondered whose land this was. Why was so much of it still natural? I was accustomed to seeing field after field giving way to building after building. What made Brewster different? I wondered.

I found out: The Brewster Conservation Trust and the Town of Brewster have both worked hard to preserve open



Old cartpaths make pleasant trails, as here on the Clay Hole Road parcel BCT bought

space. Why is this important? To safeguard our water resources, for habitat for animals to live and residents to enjoy, but also for its beauty. The Brewster Conservation Trust cares for over 120 properties in its domain.

Come and visit a few. Discover the natural landscapes, the fields of grasses and trees, hear the birds that dwell there and breathe the air that passes through these acres. Explore hidden gems of unspoiled Brewster by volunteering for the Land Management Committee. Call the chair, Pat Bertschy (508 896-9556). Visit our website to learn more about the work BCT does.

RECENT CONTRIBUTIONS

We will send a note to persons you would like to honor with a gift.

In Memory of

Margaret Anderson
Ellen Anderson
William Baker
David & Sally Schrumm
Elizabeth Greene Bowers
Barbara & Brent Bowers
Ethel & Henry Enos
Donald & Maureen Enos
Robert Delory
John Damian
Betty Eldredge
Daniel Eldredge
Richard E. Favreau
Alyce Favreau
Charlie Forbes
Linda & Jim Mills
Diane Gately
James H. Gately
Colleen Heaney
Bob Heaney
Seward T. Highley
Barbara & Ellie Baker
Read Kingsbury
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Gail Feest
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Debra Johnson
Peter & Ellie Johnson
Tom & Gayle Kerr
Edward & Valerie Lewis

Andrew M. Kamarck
Joan Fasser
Thomas & Leslie Fedge
M.J. McDonald
Joel & Elizabeth Rhymer

Andrew E. Lange
Alfred & Joan Lange
Dorothy A. Lamont
Lorraine Lamont

Tom Latham
Linda & Jim Mills
Ellie & Peter Johnson

Susan McNair
John McNair
Daniel J. Sullivan
Alice Sullivan

Joanne Andershonis Reich
Kevin Reich
Phil & Dorothy Minis
Hal Minis
Helen Mehue
Brian Shea
Emily Murray
Dominique Turco
My Parents
Katharine Reynolds
Nancy Waltz Peach
Crispin & Christine Fletcher
Jocelyn Pond
Henry A. Anderson
Joan Fasser
Virginia Verrochi
John Verrochi
David F. Whitten
Elaine & Elliot Whitten
Joanne Ray
Ethel Whitten
Elizabeth & J. Randall Williams III
Gerald Howard & Susanne Williams

In Honor of

Bob Bowser
Linda & Jim Mills
Sue & Elliott Carr
Linda & Jim Mills
Kate & Colin Daley
Ed & Karen Daley
Pam Demetron
Mary Ellen Kelly
Grandchildren Zach & Marisa
Carole W. Bell
Peter & Eleanor Johnson
Carolyn & Stewart Goetz
Richard Johnson & Patricia Russell
Peter & Ellie Johnson
Edward T. Peach aka King Neptune
Vicki Plaut
Karen & Don Taranto
Jerry & Barbara Rosenbaum's
50th wedding anniversary
Steve & Diane Boettcher
Harden Smith
Derek Halberg & Christy Johnson
Town of Brewster
The Lurier Family
Betsy Unger & Paul Parsons
John & Mitzi Unger
Connor George Woodland
Judy & Bill Engster
Ann Sage
Lawrence & Joanne Norris