



Brewster Conservation Trust

www.brewsterconservationtrust.org

Spring 2018

BACK TO NATURE

**"When my realtor suggested the Brewster Conservation Trust,
I knew that was the only way to go."**

- Margaret Holland

Four-year old Margaret Holland moved to Slough Road, Brewster, with her parents, Mark and Mary, in 1964. Through a series of land swaps and small purchases they acquired about 1/2 acre of filled wetlands, land formerly owned by Jennie Baker, and moved onto it a four room steel cottage from its site off Rte. 134 near the old East Dennis Drive-in. Brewster was a small town then, and people and names keep reappearing. Jennie Baker's forbears were the Harris/Black family who owned the John Hay land where the BCT now has an office and a nature preserve. Jennie's family once lived in the small house now in the Historic Village of the Brewster Historical Society.



In 1964 Slough Road had only been paved for a few years and ran through land that was bare of trees on all sides. Margaret swam with her father in Slough Pond just across the road, and she delighted in the wildlife around her home. Besides the ruffed grouse, pheasants, quail and whip-poor-wills that often visited, she also enjoyed the geese, Muscovy duck, guinea hens and domestic chickens her family raised. Perhaps best of all was the state licensed aviary where Mark studied captured birds to prepare for his bird carving craft.



Margaret visited the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History to see nature films, walk out to Wing Island and volunteer in the summer. As a child she went to Bassett's Wild Animal Farm owned by her aunt and uncle, Harry (Bud) and Olivia Bassett. She knew Slough Road when there was little traffic, when the access to Slough Pond was a steep dirt drop and behind her home was a trailer park. Her memories span the transition from an older Brewster to the modern large homes and busy roads.

By 2017 the house was aging and the property was too much for Margaret to care for alone. Her uncle Harry Bassett had earlier donated land next to hers to BCT. The two properties together will bring the entire BCT holding to nearly 2 1/2 acres, and it will include 155 feet of frontage on Slough Pond. Slough is one of Brewster's top five freshwater ponds in terms of water quality and swimming use, and it is in Brewster's western Zone II water supply area. BCT will remove the cottage and restore the site with native plants.

*"I'm glad it's going
back to nature.
That's the way it
should be, back to
the way it was.
It's my legacy,"*

- Margaret Holland

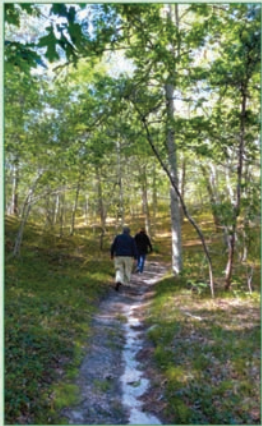


BCT has secured an \$85,000 state grant to help in funding the purchase price of \$207,500. That still leaves \$122,500 to raise. Please help BCT raise this final amount to protect the land and the water. Help fulfill Margaret's wish.

**BCT Mission: To preserve open space, natural resources,
and the rural character of Brewster, and to promote a conservation ethic.**

BREWSTER'S WALKING TRAILS

2017 Brewster Walking Trails



Brewster Conservation Trust
P.O. Box 268
Brewster MA 02631
www.brewsterconservationtrust.org



Town of Brewster
www.brewster-ma.gov

BREWSTER'S WALKING TRAILS are less well-known than its beaches and pond shores, but when the sun is too hot and you are tired of sand in your bathing suit, look for a wooded path for some peace and quiet.

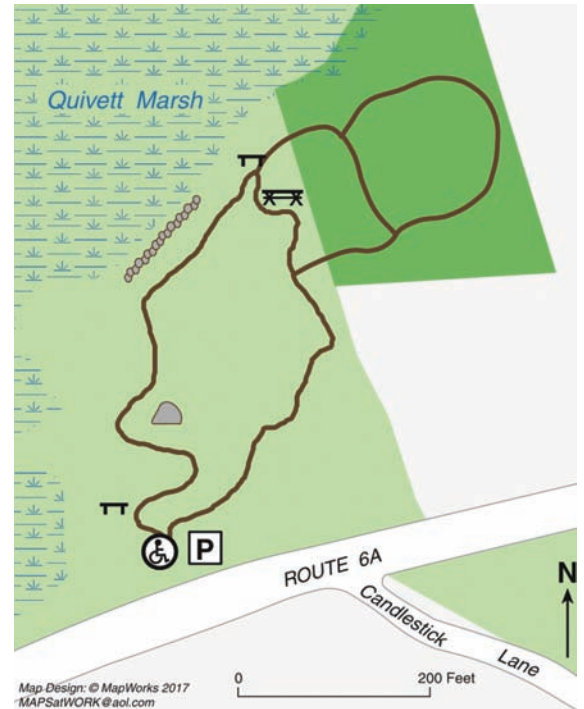
The 2017 Brewster Walking Trails guide put out by BCT and the Town of Brewster is available at the Brewster Ladies' Library and the Visitor Center at Town Hall. Here's what BCT has done to expand the walking trails in Brewster.

Of the 12 featured walks, the Bakers Pond Trail is new this year, the Quivett Marsh Vista Trail has been expanded and the No Bottom Pond Trail is so new it didn't make the brochure.

The **Bakers Pond Trail** greatly expands an older path. Now over two miles with one long and two shorter loops, the trail is a cooperative effort by BCT and the towns of Brewster and Orleans. Located right on the Brewster/Orleans boundary, the parking lot is on Bakers Pond Road Extension in Orleans. While the longer yellow trail has a satisfying climb up Huckleberry Hill, the shorter blue loops are relatively flat. The forest is a mixture of white pine, sassafras and American beech with wine-red huckleberry bushes in autumn. There are conveniently placed benches and overlooks of Bakers Pond.



Quivett Marsh Vista, about 0.9 miles west of Drummer Boy Park on Rte. 6A, has been expanded to a round trip trail of 0.3 miles. There is a handicap accessible platform near the parking lot and a short trail leads to the marsh where a picnic table overlooks the Crowes Pasture Conservation Area in East Dennis.



Behind the Eddy Elementary School is the 1/2 mile **Vernal Pool Trail** with two vernal pools connected by ditches. The trail was created and is maintained by the BCT work crew with AmeriCorps volunteers. With a variety of native trees, explanatory signs and a small amphitheater, the area is a living science laboratory for students to learn about the creatures that depend on the health of vernal pools. It is open to the public after school hours.



Spotted salamander in vernal pool

The **No Bottom Pond Trail**, under the power lines on Rte. 137, is about 1.6 miles from Rte. 6A. The 4' wide trail has timber steps to help walkers on the steeper parts of the kettle hole while the path around the lovely pond is a quiet oasis of wilderness where there are no signs of development and no road noise. The path was created by the BCT work crew and AmeriCorps volunteers and is supported by BCT, Orenda Wildlife Land Trust, The Town of Brewster and Ocean Edge and is part of a total conservation area of over 50 acres. Despite being so new that it didn't make it into the Walking Trails Guide, it is already popular. One hiker wrote:

"Kathy and I walked around No Bottom Pond and it was obvious that the BCT did a lot of hard work to make this little gem available to the public. Great work! We even saw a couple of Buffleheads swimming around. They had the whole place to themselves as did we. Congrats to the BCT and all their good works."



OPEN SPACE AND BEACH ACCESS

At fall 2018 Town Meeting, Brewster voters will be asked to approve the purchase from BCT of a one-acre parcel of land on Paine's Creek Road. The prospective purchase has generated concern that BCT may be selling conservation land. The facts tell a different story.

The parcel had been owned by Albert (Allie) Ellis whose family had owned the house since 1883. By 2000, the house was abandoned and taxes were no longer being paid on the parcel. The Town began the tax taking process under which it would eventually take title to the property. Because of the storm damage to the Paine's Creek parking lot, the Town considered the Ellis property as a potential retreat option - a place where off-site parking might be established for the Paine's Creek Landing. At the same time, BCT expressed interest in the property as a logical access point to an abutting 9-acre marsh front parcel we had acquired in 1996 from the Walker-Ellis families. Over the years, the house deteriorated and the slow tax-taking process continued.

In 2015, the situation changed when an outside party paid off the back taxes and a court allowed the sale of the land by representatives of the estate of Allie Ellis. The parcel came on the market for \$375,000, a price similar to the cost of other lots near Brewster beaches. The Town could not rapidly mobilize to purchase the property and that price was far greater than BCT had ever paid for conservation land. However, the idea of sharing both the use and the cost of the parcel made sense. BCT was able to act quickly and our offer of \$330,000 was accepted, even though there was no formal agreement with the Town. We would not have made the offer on the parcel if the idea of cost sharing had not been a possibility.

The Ellis parcel purchase creates access for a public trail to our marsh front property to the west. It also keeps open the possibility of the Town establishing off-site parking for Paine's Creek – an idea consistent with the Brewster Coastal Adaptation Strategy.

Also by acquiring the Ellis property, BCT prevented a large house from being built if the parcel had been purchased by a private party. A large structure on the property with no tall trees in front of it would dominate the view up Paine's Creek Road, ending what is now a typical Brewster rural view-shed. A large structure would add considerable hard surfaces (roofs and drive-ways) causing storm water to flow into the nearby marsh and would create a need for a septic system adjacent to the marsh.

BCT is now working with the Town to design a small parking area that will provide beach access for people who do not live near the beach. The plans will be presented to the public for discussion before they are finalized. According to BCT conditions, the parking area will be limited to 15 places largely on the disturbed area near the road (where the dilapidated house and septic system had been located). There will be a buffer from the neighbor to the north, the parking area will not be paved but will have a surface of local stone, and the entire western portion of the parcel will be protected from development by a conservation restriction. With a trail from the parking area the public will have access to BCT's 9-acre parcel and the views over the marsh.



For BCT, this is a win for conservation and a win for maintaining beach access for those not fortunate enough to live at Paine's Creek landing.

Hal Minis, President, Brewster Conservation Trust

EDDY SCHOOL SCIENCE CLASSES



BCT trustees, Eddy school students and science teachers unpacked boxes containing microscopes, binoculars, tree labels,

What kind of bird is in that tree? What creatures are living in the vernal pool? What kind of trees are these? The Eddy School science classes can now answer these questions with a raft of equipment that the Brewster Conservation Trust has donated to the school, thanks to a grant from a supporting foundation. On May 3,

bug boxes, compasses, and more. The equipment is part of a larger BCT program to support the science program and help bring the students to conservation properties to explore the outdoors. A gift from a generous Brewster donor funds a naturalist from MassAudubon's Wellfleet Bay Sanctuary to conduct the field work as a complement to their classroom instruction.



HELLO BCT VOLUNTEERS!



Students from the Lighthouse Charter School clean the Eddy Bay trail on Lower Road

Spring cleaning has begun and our door is OPEN! No matter what your talent or interest, we can use your help. Volunteers are critical to our mission to protect open space and our natural resources here in Brewster, so if you have a talent or a hobby or just a little extra time and energy – please let us know. Whether it is outdoors or behind the scenes – there is work to be done. Only have one day a week...one day a month? That's OK.

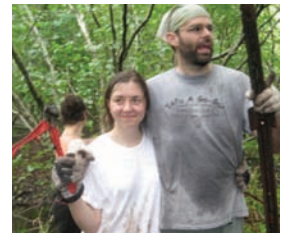


Just a few examples of the fun stuff volunteers do:

- Get out in nature, clear trails and open vistas as a stewardship volunteer! Our “work days” are posted on our website and Facebook page weekly! facebook.com/BrewsterConservationTrust/
- Get trained and complete inspections as a property monitor!
- Do you have surveying or GPS skills? Join the Boundary Search Team to find boundary markers for conservation properties.
- Do you love numbers and can't get enough of them? Do you have an interest and background in accounting/book keeping? Come work with our Treasurer a few hours a month.
- Enjoy a rainy day by helping us in our office-with-a-view!

**Please call Dee Marsh at 508-694-6720
or email at dorria@brewsterconservationtrust.org**

*Richard Johnson and Patricia Russell,
with their friends and families, cleaned up
conservation property the day before their
September wedding.*



ANDY PERKINS: FROM ACTUARY TO LAND MANAGER

Andy Perkins spent his working life managing a group of actuaries for Travelers and then General Reinsurance; now he manages a crew of ax wielders for the Brewster Conservation Trust. For the past four years, Andy has been managing the volunteer work crews who have spent hours maintaining the over 500 acres that BCT manages.

Andy has been a part-time resident of Brewster since 1988 and moved here full time with his wife Lisa in 2013. “Most of my adult life,” said Andy, “I have enjoyed getting out in the woods. I enjoy the exercise and love the beautiful scenery.” When he retired and moved to the Cape, Andy said, he wanted to make a contribution to a worthwhile cause.

There was a long list of work projects to be done on BCT properties when Andy took the job in 2014. He and a trusty band of strong-armed men and women have worked every other week, and since 2017 almost every week, to whittle

the list of projects down. Andy golfs, plays tennis, reads, skis, and is grandfather to very active 5-year-old twins, but manages to keep track of BCT properties and lead work days.

The tasks can include clearing new trails, chopping fallen trees, removing old wire fencing and other debris, installing boundary markers and benches.

The volunteers – a list of about 25, but about 6 or 7 regulars – all feel like Andy. They enjoy getting out in the woods and doing hard work. “I’m an introvert,” Andy said, “but I enjoy the time spent with others. There are nice people who do this work; there’s no nasty discussion of politics, just an enjoyable social interaction.”



SAVE THE DATE

Lots to do at Brewster Conservation Trust:

BCT PHOTO EXHIBIT

Starting June 1
Brewster Town Offices lower level.



If you missed our show last spring or would like to take another look we will share our wonderful "signature properties" photo collection.

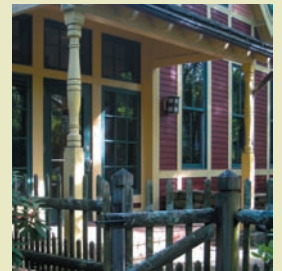


EDIBLE PLANTS WITH RUSS COHEN

June 19 at 5 p.m.
Co-hosted with Dennis Conservation Trust.
Space is limited.
For reservations call 508-694-7812 before July 12
Office hours: 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

BREWSTER CONSERVATION TRUST'S ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, August 16
5:45 - 7 p.m.
Brewster
Ladies' Library



BREWSTER CONSERVATION DAY • JULY 14TH!

6TH ANNUAL BREWSTER CONSERVATION DAY

Saturday, July 14
9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
at Drummer Boy Park

This event just gets better and better each year. Come join us for a fun day of activities where the whole family can explore and learn about conservation and our natural resources.

This event is FREE.

- over 40 exhibitors from all over Cape Cod
- dozens of volunteers
- more than 1,000 visitors



Partners in this venture: Brewster Conservation Trust, Brewster Historical Society, Brewster Department of Natural Resources, Brewster Water Department



BECAUSE OF YOU

Your Brewster Conservation Trust has had a whirlwind of activity in new land acquisitions since our fall 2017 newsletter. This increase in effort is a direct result of your financial contributions. Every dollar raised from our members now goes to support BCT's open space land purchases. Here is a quick summary for the past eight months:

Airline & Satucket Road corner BCT purchased two parcels totaling 2.18 acres along the busy corner of Airline Road and Satucket Road for a total of \$230,000 in November 2017 and January 2018. The two lots include a deep dry kettlehole depression, an interesting geological feature. This pine-oak preserve is a "green gateway" into Brewster and is in a drinking water supply area. Satucket Road was the original east-west Native American trail through town. BCT thanks landowner Edward Porter.

Wild Pond, Buggy Whip Road BCT purchased the 1.21-acre parcel for \$40,000. Wild Pond's shore includes a stand of unusual water-willow, the only host breeding plant for the rare water-willow stem borer moth. The parcel is adjacent to the larger conservation area anchored by the John Hay estate which BCT now owns and is in a Zone II water supply area. BCT thanks landowners Brent and Barbara Bowers.



Dollar Pond, Stony Brook Road BCT purchased one 3.5-acre parcel with 190 feet of shoreline on Dollar Pond for \$280,000. There are existing paths to the pond, a high bush blueberry patch and ancient stone walls. This parcel adjoins other BCT and Town conservation lands. BCT thanks landowner Hank Foster.



Consodine Pond, Main Street BCT purchased a 1.85-acre lot with 300 feet of pond shore for \$75,000. The Trust had previously acquired two adjoining lots totaling 4.5 acres, including the other half of this pond. With an easement from Main Street, our Vernal Pool Trail will connect through to the Eddy Elementary School. The teachers use the trail as a nature's classroom, which will now be extended and will be open to the public except during school hours. BCT thanks Steve and Kate Backus.

Slough Pond, Slough Road BCT purchased two parcels totaling 1.17 acres straddling Slough Road in SW Brewster for \$207,500. The property includes 155 feet of frontage on Slough Pond, one of Brewster's top five freshwater ponds in terms of water quality and swimming use. A small house on the property was built on filled wetlands in the 1960s; BCT will remove the cottage and restore the site with native plants. We secured an \$85,000 state grant to help in funding the purchase. BCT thanks landowner Margaret Holland.



In Memory of a Friend

Jim and Paula Nicholson retired to Brewster in 1999, and they quickly became part of the Town – the library, the Historical Society and the Conservation Trust. They had a plot in BCT's Community Garden where they grew vegetables and made friends; they donated to the purchase of Quivett Marsh Vista where they would stop at the parking area to enjoy the peace and beauty. They loved the history of the Town and the pastoral quality. It is "a place out of time," Paula said.

Jim died in January 2018. Paula remembered that 10 years ago the obituary of their friend Jim Tobin had requested donations to BCT. It seemed to her the right way to remember her husband Jim. "Every time I see a BCT sign, I'm glad to see what is being preserved. Land is eternal." she said. "Brewster is my home."

MEMORIALS & BEQUESTS Contributions to BCT honor the memory of a loved one; give a donation to the Brewster Conservation Trust "in lieu of flowers". The address for donations: P. O. Box 268, Brewster, MA 02631. For guidance on planning a bequest or gift, contact Jeff Thibodeau at jeff@brewsterconservationtrust.org.

In Memory of

Helen Baran

Stephen J. McKenna & Cynthia A. Baran

William M. Baxter

John & Marcia Kielb

Lawrence Bernhardt

Eugene P. & Patricia A. Denegri

Sylvia & Alcide Berube

Guy & Marie L. Berube

Sara Booth

Gene L. Smith

Leslie Ann Brooks

Joan C. Fasser

Ted Brown

Ralph S. MacKenzie & Georgene Riedl

Alphonse & Eva Budreski

Frederick A. & Kathleen T. Budreski

Jack Bush

Frank H. & Mary E. Wojciechowski

Thomas & Marjorie Chaffee

Donald C. Arthur & Mary W. Chaffee

Martha Clapp

Frances & David E. Clapp

Louise Doherty

William J. Doherty

Ethel M. Enos

Donald H. & Maureen M. Enos

Charles K. Foley

John F. Murphy & Ellen S. Foley

Lynn Galiano

Kenneth V. & Laura K. Nordstrom

Diane L. Gately

James H. Gately

Raymond Girard, Sr.

Patricia A. Girard

Cora Elizabeth Greene

Barbara & Brent Bowers

Kathleen Grose

Constance Jensen
Joseph & Marilyn Kreitz
Jane Steimer
Mary Voigt

Ruth Hanlon

Olga L. Sherry

John & Kristi Hay

Donald G. Schall

Mary Wade & Dr. Barton Heller

Ivan S. Heller

Ted Heuchling from *Four Winslow Kids on Bonnie Doone*

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Carroll Johnson

David J. Andrews
Jane E. Johnson
Susan G. Johnson

Linda Lanier-Keosaian

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Leonard B. & Ellen L. Farwell

Christian Patrick Lester

Meredith Pollard
Edward Prevost

Jean D. Lieberman

T. Edmund Daly &
Karen Lieberman-Daly

Richard Lockyer

Jan & Joan Carstanjen

John C. MacKenzie

Jane A. MacKenzie

Florence ""Nona"" Merullo

David C. & Sally B. Schrumm

Harold R. McKenna

Stephen J. McKenna &
Cynthia A. Baran

Marjorie Moerschner

Elizabeth Gibbs
Eliot Raymond

Thornton B. Morris

F. Rosalie Morris

John F. Murphy

John F. Murphy & Ellen S. Foley

James Nicholson

Arthur & Bette Bresnahan
Edward & Mary Cummings
George Every
Cheryl T. Kyle
Edward S. & Valerie E. Lewis
John W. & Elizabeth B. Martiner
Reenie McCarthy, with condolences
to Heather Vaz's family
Thomas F. & Katherine L. McCombs
Dennis W. & Margretta E. Morris
Mary Carolyn & T. W. Noering
Carol B. & Robert L. Porter
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Carol Parisi

Robert K. Ax
Robert T. Findlay
Sandra P. MacLean
Alfred M. & Jennie M. Porrazzo

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Mary E. & Frank H. Wojciechowski

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John & Marcia Kielb

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Elliot & Sue Carr

William J. & Linda A. Mills

Beth Finch

Mary Haynes & Douglas Wilcock

Grace Gilday

Carla Fernando-Gilday

Carol Johnson

Jane E. Johnson

Debra Johnson

Nancy Hilary Hays

Sally A Johnson

Peter Johnson
Roger & Jeane Samuelson

Peter & Ellie Johnson

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Thomas Keating

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Sarah, Pace, Hannah & Leah Cooper

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Jonathan H. Sprogell & Kathy Taylor

Karen Williams

Robert M. & Karen E. Williams



Brewster Conservation Trust

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www.brewsterconservationtrust.org

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**Brewster Conservation Trust**

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PERMIT #17

Leave a Legacy

Leave a legacy that will last for generations. By making a bequest to BCT you can make a difference in Brewster by preserving the natural beauty that drew you to Cape Cod. A bequest in your Will can be a certain amount or a percentage of your estate; it can be specific, such as a piece of real estate, a life insurance policy or a retirement plan. Your attorney can discuss which is most appropriate for you and explain the tax advantages of some plans. Without a Will there is no mechanism in place to make a bequest. The future inhabitants of Brewster, people and wildlife, will be forever grateful.

**LEAVE A LEGACY**

THE VERY BEST WATER



Are you still buying bottled water? Does your business order water from commercial operations? Save time and money with some of the best water in New England – right from your own faucet.

Brewster water was judged best in all New England in 2012 and 2016, best in Massachusetts in 2017, and seventh in the whole USA in 2016. So instead of bottled water, buy a thermos. Your wallet and your taste buds will appreciate your choice.

Water Department Superintendent Paul Anderson noted: "The best way to prevent water quality problems? Preserve open space, particularly in Zone 2 areas." With your support, that is exactly what BCT does. Thank you.

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