



Brewster Conservation Trust

www.brewsterconservationtrust.org

Autumn 2019

UPPER MILL POND WATERSHED FOREST PROJECT:

Three Generations of Family Work Together to Preserve over 40 Acres



As with so many things in life, we like it when a whole is greater than the sum of its parts in land conservation work. What has been going on along a wide swath of Satucket Road is the story of a family, six sets of cousins, their parents and grandparents, cooperating to see that the forest that means so much to them will stay intact. With BCT's help and your donations, the pine-oak woods will be preserved from the twenty houses that could be built there.

Ralph and Blanche Doble had owned land at Upper Mill Pond since 1955. Every summer their son and five daughters and 18 grandchildren would come to visit. The children would race up to "the big rock" to climb the glacial boulder out near the street (visible on the south side of Satucket Road), then down to Pop's Palace, a family hangout on the shore of Upper Mill Pond for swimming, music and games. They are now into the fourth generation on the land.

Meanwhile, a large forest was regenerating after its use as a sheep pasture in the 1800s. Pitch pines took hold first, then the slower-growing white and black oaks. Beneath their canopy, a colony of huckleberry bushes and

an occasional lady slipper took off too. The rare Eastern box turtle, not a fan of exposed pastures, liked the way that shade was coming on in the forest.

Ralph and Blanche divided up the forest for each of their six children, while keeping 10 acres for themselves and 10 acres for communal use near the Palace. Each child got frontage on the street and the pond, in long, thin 10-acre slices. Each daughter with her husband eventually built a home on the pond bank. The son sold his slice out of the family. Fortunately, it was to a conservation minded couple that practiced forbearance and never built on it.

In the 1990s, after their deaths, the six children gave some of the road front acreage of Mr. and Mrs. Doble's property to the BCT. The sisters were enthusiastic joiners of the infant Brewster Conservation Trust in 1983, loyal to the vision of their friends Mary Louise and Ruth Eddy who founded the BCT. They would come to workshops to learn about open space techniques, while they were busy with their own careers and children. They knew they could trust the Trust when the time came to think about what to do with all that land.

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— OUR MISSION —

"To preserve open space, natural resources, and the rural character of Brewster, and to promote a conservation ethic."

Upper Mill Pond (continued)

That time came two years ago when health and age concerns caught up with some of the sisters, now in their nineties. Some land might have to be sold for development to pay off mortgages and nursing costs. BCT offered to help find a different path. Representatives of each of five sets of cousins (the son's property having been sold), gathered at the BCT Headquarters on Memorial Day Weekend 2018 and pledged to work together to save up to 40 acres of the forest. In October 2019 we secured our first deed to four acres of Nancy Berbrick's land. In December we plan to acquire her second parcel, 1.38 acres on the road. We will buy Betsy Ward's 8.25 acres of forest by year end. The 11-acre lot that had been sold will be donated outright to BCT in the near future. We have plans in place to move forward with the other three sisters as well.



Jane Kerr, Nancy Berbrick, Sylvia Stringer

All of this is, as you might suspect, very complicated and expensive! We are fortunate to have negotiated sales at discount to us, owing to state tax credits available to our sellers. And we have secured a grant from the Mary Louise and Ruth N. Eddy Foundation of \$30,000 and a State Conservation Partnership Grant of \$85,000. But the rest must come from BCT and its supporters.

We hope you will consider making a tax-deductible contribution. A year-end gift would be particularly welcome so that we can continue on our mission to "save the forest by the pond".



Mark Robinson, Carey Roebuck, Nancy Berbrick, Marcy Berbrick

PLEASE DONATE

*A year-end gift will help to
"save the forest by the pond."*

BCT Welcomes New Trustee

Amy Chesnut has only lived in Brewster for three years, but she brings to BCT extensive experience in land conservation. Born and raised outside New York City, she lived most of her adult life in California and Oregon where she completed her college education, earned a law degree, married, had a son, and worked in land conservation for 25 years.

The Nature Conservancy in California was her early employer even before she became a lawyer, and she quickly decided that land conservation was her true interest. In California she worked with the Pacific Forest Trust, the Sonoma County Ag Preservation and Open Space District and most recently was the Acquisitions Director for the Sonoma Land Trust where she focused on the coastal region of Sonoma County. In addition to her project work, she developed outreach and educational plans and studied carbon sequestration and climate change.

Amy is also a business-woman. She owns Brewster by the Sea Inn, located across from Drummer Boy Park, an historic home dating back to 1846 and the residence of the Dillingham, Foster and Newcomb families. She founded and runs the Sonoma Wool Company which provides fire-retardant, toxin-free wool products for household use such as bedding, dryer balls, and dish drying mats. Amy's son, Sawyer and his fiancée, Kelsie, recently moved to Brewster and are looking forward to growing the family business.



Although Cape Cod projects are decidedly smaller, we welcome Amy's conservation and business experience.



President's Message

Usually at the end of the year, we look over what the last year has brought and what we've accomplished. For BCT, it's been a near record year. As I look over the land we've protected this year, I'm struck by the number of ways we've worked with willing land owners to enable them to leave a legacy of open space in Brewster and to protect our water resources and special habitat. Here are a few examples:

🌲 **The Walsh family** wanted to protect open space and continue their legacy of working with Nickerson State Park.

🌲 **Theodore Mack** thought the best use of his two parcels on Susan Lane was to leave them in their natural state and donate them to BCT thereby helping protect the pond and marsh we had acquired the year before.

🌲 **The Berbrick family** recognized the importance of their part of a much larger tract of land in protecting the water quality of Upper Mill Pond and protecting our drinking water supply - sold their land to BCT at a bargain price and received a state tax credit.

🌲 **Jim Talin** wanted to preserve the wooded nature of historic Tubman Road, so he worked with BCT to create a deed restriction that would prevent future owners from cutting the woods along the road, joining neighboring woodland that had been protected years earlier through a conservation restriction and across the street through a donation to BCT.

What a wonderful legacy these folks have left for our community!

At the same time, I'm reminded of the challenges we still face. Vacant, undeveloped land which looks like open space, but isn't protected, is being converted to development at a far faster rate than it's being protected. This gradually changes the character of the town and we lose all the benefits of land protection – protecting drinking water supply, mitigating climate change, and preserving habitats that are unique to the Cape.

This brings me back to all the ways land owners can leave a legacy of open space and the urgency of supporting BCT as we work with these land owners. Please consider this as you make your end of year donations.

Hal Minis, *BCT President*

36 years
of appreciation
& preservation



BCT's TRADITION OF RESULTS

In 2019

- 73 acres protected
- 10 parcels protected
- 4 parcels in the drinking water supply area

Since our founding in 1983

- 1,384 acres protected
- 39 parcels in the drinking water supply area
- 32 parcels on pond fronts
- 8.6 miles of public trails

SHARE US WITH YOUR FRIENDS!

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

Check out our website to stay connected all year long!

brewsterconservationtrust.org

BCT Annual Meeting

The August Annual Meeting was fortunate to have Gerard (Jerry) Bertrand as featured speaker. Jerry has been science advisor to Presidents Nixon, Ford and Carter, was Executive President of Massachusetts Audubon Society and is a noted bird expert. His message to us was informative and entertaining, but dire.



Recalling that in his elementary school days, students were warned of a nuclear attack which would be sudden, but unlikely. Today, he said, climate change is as serious, but is slow and inevitable. Without significant change 90% of all living things will disappear. Fires, floods, and famines will be threats to national security. Already drought in Syria, Nicaragua and Guatemala has contributed to the large number of people immigrating.

Not only people migrate. Birds and animals are moving north. Now we see on Cape Cod animals, birds and diseases not known in earlier years. Possums and gray fox, cardinals and heartworm are recent arrivals. Already lobsters are finding colder waters more hospitable.

Even tree species move north as warm climate trees find a home here and those needing cooler weather spread seeds to the north.

It is essential to plan for the future by protecting current forests and by planting more trees to mitigate disruptions caused by climate change. Cape Cod is not immune to these problems. This is real and we must face it. We will be affected as much as any part of the country.



A record crowd attended the annual meeting in August

Conservationists of the Year

Carol Garvey has been spending summers in the big old house on Brier Lane since childhood and her husband Tom and their son have joined her for many years. The acres of the old Brier dairy farm have diminished over many years, but Carol and Tom wanted the land behind the old house to remain open to nature. Their donation of 4.71 acres connects



other conservation land to provide a wildlife corridor and habitat.

BCT is pleased to recognize their gift by awarding the Garveys Conservationists of the Year.



A Perfect Preservation Partnership

"I floated on air thinking about how my grandparents would be proud of me bringing this matter full circle. It honors their devotion and love of both the Park and the Town of Brewster."

James G. Walsh III

In 1946 and for several years after that, Jim Walsh's grandparents rented the old Nickerson Lodge in Nickerson State Park. When the Lodge became the Stephen French Forestry Camp, they bought land nearby. By 2018, 19 descendants had an interest in the 6.5 acres abutting the Park. It was time to move on.

The family has deep attachments to Brewster and the Park. They hoped their land would become a connection to the Park. When Jim contacted BCT in April 2018, our investigation showed it has value as water supply protection, rare species habitat and is contiguous to conservation land. BCT uses donations to acquire land; however, this parcel presented a rare opportunity for the state to increase the size of Nickerson State Park and BCT could act as a go-between. A site visit with DCR Land Protection Planner Shaun Provencher confirmed the State's interest. There was an appraisal, an offer, negotiations, and a Purchase and Sale agreement with the family by July. Discussions with the state began in September 2018 and in June 2019 the sale to the state was finalized.

When it was all complete, Jim Walsh wrote, "This has allowed me to honor my grandparents' legacy and their love for Brewster and the Park. Somehow the whole transaction feels like kismet. You guys have hung the moon. I can't thank you enough."

We feel the same about you, Jim. We and all those who love the Park thank you and your family for your good work.



Jeff Thibodeau, Jim Walsh, Hal Minis, and Shaun Provencher

Thank You, Jeff

Jeff Thibodeau will be leaving BCT in December after playing a pivotal role as we have evolved and grown over these past five years. As our Land Acquisition and Stewardship Specialist, he worked on dozens of land acquisition projects, working with landowners to help them place their land in conservation.

As the point person in stewardship, he helped develop and manage the ongoing maintenance of 10 miles of trails. He also oversaw the installation of kiosks, bridges, fencing, signs, benches, and plantings that



enhance our properties and improve access and enjoyment of our properties for the community. He developed a boundary marking protocol, trained volunteers and supervised interns. In recent years, he played a key role in creating the No Bottom Pond Trail, Vernal Pool Trail, and Hay Conservation Center trails. He's written grant applications, designed maps, and collaborated with the town and with the state on projects. He has made an indelible contribution to BCT as an organization and to conservation in Brewster.

Brewster Conservation Day



Trevor the Juggler and his audience



Goats eat unwanted vegetation and can be petted

"At Conservation Day we do exciting stuff and see exciting things. We also make stuff like bracelets that are white in sunlight and turn colors like purple out of sunlight. I saw marine life in a truck. Some stuff is like arts and crafts. I like Conservation Day."

Lily, age 8



Save the Turtles and . . .



Save the Water



Brewster Conservation Day



Blacksmith Norah Bourbon at her anvil



Eddy School students



Don Keeran



Annual visitors to BCD

*"At Conservation Day everyone is kind
and we get ICE CREEEA M!!!"
Alex, age 6*



A teaching moment
with Trevor



A Valentine to our Volunteers

You are the backbone of our organization. You keep trails open and cut new trails, clear fallen trees and remove invasive plants. You train to find boundaries, work with schoolchildren and assist our treasurer. You write for our newsletter, put together notebooks for each property, take photographs, identify flora and fauna and monitor properties.



There is not enough time for a small staff to do all that and hardly enough time to thank you for keeping us going. We welcome your ideas, your hard work, and the fun we have together. We don't say it often enough.

Thank you.



The Volunteer and Neighbors Pot Luck and Barbecue Party in September was a way to appreciate our volunteers and for them to get to know each other. Although we are grateful for everyone who helps, this was an occasion to acknowledge a very special volunteer.

Steve Petruska, BCT Volunteer of the Year

Steve Petruska is a man of many skills, many interests and great energy. He spent his youth and most of his working life in New Jersey and only discovered the Cape on a Memorial Day visit to a friend. He found it more to his taste than his visits to the Jersey shore. He liked the beach activity, the general feel of the Cape, and especially the salt water fishing. Cape Cod offered woods, beaches, fields, fishing, good theatre and golf, so when he retired from ExxonMobil, Steve and his wife Christina settled on the Cape. He has passed his love of the outdoors to his daughter who has an environmental career in Maine.

To encourage nesting blue birds Steve has built, installed and repaired 14 nesting boxes around BCT's open fields and has more boxes in Crowes Pasture in East Dennis. As a Land Steward he sees nature and history come together as he explores 23 properties in every part of Brewster. "It's amazing how many properties have a connection to the cranberry industry," he said. Sometimes the land stewardship experience makes more of an impact. "The Bassett property in the Punkhorn is like stepping into a backroad wilderness."

As a regular member of the Tuesday/Thursday work crews, he has further chances to be outdoors with a group of fellow enthusiasts. "I really love Cape Cod and enjoy being a part of the Brewster Conservation Trust. We've got a fantastic group of volunteers. I encourage anyone who is interested to get involved. It's fun and very rewarding."

Thanks for the plug, Steve. Volunteers are always welcome.

If you would like to join Steve and the volunteer group, contact Dorria Marsh at 508-694-6720.

Bonnie Newman presenting the Volunteer Award to Steve.



BCT and Brewster Garden Club Join Forces: Planning and Planting

Alyce Favreau Garden

BCT and the Brewster Garden Club have many ideas in common and have joint projects to advance these goals. The late Alyce Favreau was a valued member of both organizations. The front garden of native plants at the Hay Conservation Center is named in Alyce's honor and has been developed by both groups.



Garden Club members at the Garden

Scholarship Awarded

Maeve Noone-Price is this year's recipient of the annual scholarship given jointly by the Brewster Conservation Trust and the Brewster Garden Club. The award is given to a graduate of Nauset Regional High School who plans a career in caring for the environment and Maeve fills that description. Volunteering with the Mass Audubon Society and the Wellfleet Wildlife Sanctuary, she has supported the study of shellfish and stunned sea turtle rescue. She plans to major in the environmental science program at University of Massachusetts Amherst.



Kathleen Weyman, Maeve Noone-Price and Dirkie VanAntwerp

BCT is proud to support the education of future conservationists and we wish Maeve a bright future.

In September BCT hosted the Garden Club in the newly planted back garden of the Hay Conservation Center.



Don Schall and Beth Finch share remembrances of John and Kristi Hay and the home where they lived. The Hay family home is now the Hay Conservation Center where Brewster Conservation Trust and The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts have their offices.





Thank you for your legacy

Rosalie Morris was born in Canada, but one of her proudest moments was in 1968 when she became a United States citizen. Although she spent much of her adult life in Connecticut and North Carolina, part of heart was here in Brewster. Her family revealed her personality in her obituary, "She was a tireless advocate and fighter for those less fortunate than herself. Her parents had been determined that as an only child she not be a selfish one. They would have been extremely proud of her."

Her family requested that friends memorialize her with gifts to the Brewster Conservation Trust because "their mission is to protect open spaces and natural resources in the Cape Cod town that was so dear to her heart."

Thank you Rosalie, for your life work and your legacy. To all her family and friends, please know that every gift will go towards preserving the open spaces and natural resources that she loved.

brewsterconservationtrust.org

A Family Remembers a Brother by Preserving Land for Wildlife

Jim Maples was something of a paradox, a gregarious man who lived simply, just himself and his German Shepherds. A mason by trade, in his later years he did landscaping and snowplowing. Sometimes he never sent a bill. He was reported to be a good shot in his youth, but never was a hunter. He loved nature and the outdoors, threatening to live in Alaska or northern Maine; but he moved to Cape Cod after attending college and he never left. “Hadn’t been across the bridge in 20 years,” he boasted.



Jim died in March, 2018. His primary beneficiary was his brother Tom, but along with the other brothers, Timothy and Jonathan and his sister Cassandra, the family offered the house and land, 1.14 acres in West Brewster, to the Brewster Conservation Trust. The Trust took on the responsibility of securing the property, taking down the house, clearing the land and spreading native grass seed. There’s plenty of room for wildlife. We think Jim would approve.



1.14 Acres Preserved in Perpetuity in Honor of James Wynne Maples
1948 – 2018 Steward of Wetlands and Wildlife

What will your legacy be? Do you appreciate the Town’s rural character, the trails, the high quality drinking water? Then consider including Brewster Conservation Trust in your estate plan. Gifts of any size will help BCT carry on its mission and ensure those same valued assets for the next generation.



LEAVE A LEGACY

Making a bequest to BCT in your Will can have many advantages – you can reduce the taxable amount of your estate and avoid paying taxes and capital gains. Gifts can be made from your IRA that count toward your minimum distribution and are tax free. BCT can accept gifts of cash or securities. Consult your professional advisor for further information and guidance.



MEMORIALS & BEQUESTS

Contributions to BCT honor the memory of a loved one; give a donation to the Brewster Conservation Trust “in lieu of flowers”. Send donations to: 36 Red Top Road, Brewster, MA 02631. For guidance on planning a bequest or gift, contact Amy Henderson at:

amy@brewsterconservationtrust.org

In Honor of

Brewster Ladies Library

Katharine S. Reynolds & Mike Schwimmer

Marie & Fred Jones

Deborah J. Jones

Hal Minis

Karen E. & Dr. Calvin F. Mutti

In Memory of

Barb & Phil Balasa

Edward H. & Anne O. Smith

Dorothy J. Breckenridge

R. Warren Breckenridge

Diane L. Gately

James H. Gately & the Gately Family

Ann Geary

Ann & Paul Spindel

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Chris G. & Cheryl Pantos

Carroll Johnson

Jane E. J. Johnson

John L. Lobingier

Thomas C. & Ann L. Boyd

Rosalie Morris

Walter Bernkopf

John F. & Jean E. Blumenfeld

William A. Brown & Carrie A. McCann

I. James & Ruth V. Elmore

Janet R. Fearington

Nancy Ann Ferguson

John & Marianne Fouhey

Gordon D. & Jean Harwood

Ruth M. Katz

Renate & Mark Leedom & Family

Donald & Debbie Lyerly

Rosalie Morris (cont'd)

Barbara McMillan

Jane W. & Alan H. Nichols & Family

Jeanne A. Niederer

William Sadler

Grace Talmage

Tilli Nelson

Cameron S. Avery & Lynn B. Donaldson

Samuel E. & Mary J. Biondi

Virginia E. & Stephen L. Bryant

Willard Gilmore

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Chris Kenney & Pat Eggers

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Brockton, MA

REVOLT AGAINST PLASTIC

CURRENT STATUS . . . FROM YOUR RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Fire Department has a public water bottle-filling station in the lobby for public use.

- has aluminum reusable waters for personnel.

Natural Resources Department uses a multi-gallon water cooler and reusable bottles in the field.**Recreation Department** has a portable water station without cups.**Captains' Golf Course** is considering alternatives to plastic bottles.

- offers multi-gallon water containers and paper cups to golfers on the courses.

Police Department plans to remove single-use plastic bottles from their machine.**Nauset Regional Schools** will transfer some beverages from plastic to aluminum in 2020 at Whitecaps games.**Stonybrook School** is promoting reusable water bottle usage.**Town Hall** offers 5-gallon water dispensers for Town personnel.

- removed a vending machines that offered plastic bottles.
- is proceeding with installation of both interior and exterior water bottle-filling stations at Town Hall.

Water Department distributes reusable aluminum bottles free of charge to residents.

- offers multi-gallon water coolers at Town buildings for bottle reuse.
- purchased a portable hydration station that is used at community events.

The Council on Aging has distributed reusable FOBE water bottles.

RECENT HAPPENINGS

5/2019 Town Meeting passed bylaw banning use of single-use plastic bags in Brewster

9/2019 Select Board prohibits Town purchase of single-use plastic bottles

WHEN YOU THROW SOMETHING AWAY, REMEMBER THERE IS NO SUCH PLACE AS "AWAY"**BRING YOUR
BAG.****NO MORE
PLASTIC BAGS.**