

Brewster Conservation Trust

www.brewsterconservationtrust.org

Fall 2021

A Bold Vision

by Mark Robinson, Executive Director,
The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts

What is the ultimate opinion poll? Seeing 1,500 souls gather together on a brilliant fall Sunday afternoon to vote on a single issue that will raise their taxes, and finding that it is almost unanimous in favor. Now, that's consensus!

"In the end, our society will be defined not only by what we create, but by what we refuse to destroy," said the late John Sawhill, president of The Nature Conservancy. Brewster citizens refused to let developers come in and destroy the two largest remaining parcels that have

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— OUR MISSION —

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

Cont'd from page 1

been part of the community fabric for 100 years – the 66-acre Long Pond parcel and the 55-acre Cape Cod Bay parcel owned by the Cape Cod Sea Camps. They are both landmark properties that will now be available for public enjoyment for the first time.

In my 35 years of helping Cape Codders to preserve open space, I have never seen the outpouring of support from the region for a local land purchase as we have seen in this Sea Camps project. There is public sympathy for the boldness of vision of the Brewster Select Board to make sure the community did not lose out on the opportunity to save the Sea Camps properties. So too we need to help the



Brewster Conservation Trust to meet its unprecedented goal of raising \$1.75 million towards the \$6 million purchase of the Long Pond parcel.

The Long Pond property is exceptional in that it provides Zone II drinking water protection along Route 137 as well as pond front property on Long Pond. By connecting with the 40 acres of the adjacent Robinson property it adds invaluable habitat for wildlife and walking trails for the public.

The Compact provided a \$150,000 donation to that fund drive this fall. This is a good beginning, but your help is needed. I hope we can all come together and get this done. Let's prove Brewster voters right!

Ways to Donate

The Town voted overwhelmingly to support the acquisition of the CCSC properties “for the Public.” With this vote we recognized the important conservation value of the Long Pond parcel. BCT has pledged \$1.75 million toward that purchase for the Community and future generations.

Make a Pledge – Your pledge, payable over five years, will help BCT fulfill its commitment to the Town to conserve the water, wildlife, and natural areas of the Long Pond parcel.

Donation by Check – Make your check payable to Brewster Conservation Trust and mail it to: 36 Red Top Road, Brewster, MA 02631.

Donation by credit card – Go to our web site: brewsterconservationtrust.org and click the Donate button.

Gifts of Stock – Gifts of appreciated securities helps the Brewster Conservation Trust preserve open space while offering you tax benefits.

Give from your IRA – Eligible donations from your IRA made directly to the Brewster Conservation Trust qualify under the federal IRA Charitable Rollover law, which allows the donation without incurring income tax on the withdrawal.

For more information, please contact Amy Henderson at 508-694-6720.

How will you leave your legacy? The Brewster Conservation Trust achieves its mission because of individuals, like you, who share a love for Brewster and want to see the natural and rural characteristic of the town preserved forever.

A gift of land makes sure that future generations will enjoy what you love about a special property. Any donation of cash or securities will be put toward the preservation of open space that will further protect water quality and habitat. Gifts from your IRA can count toward your required minimum distribution.

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. 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. Consult your professional advisor for further information and guidance. BCT can accept gifts of cash or securities.



LEAVE A LEGACY

What Brewster says about the Cape Cod Sea Camp Long Pond Property

The Town of Brewster has a track record of commitment to land protection, and the Long Pond parcel is such a critical piece for our town's healthy future. We can tell future generations that we are stewards of the land. We are in this together and we dream the possibilities that will unfold well beyond our years in Brewster.

Katie

By acquiring the undeveloped land around Long Pond we protect Brewster's water supply and single source aquifer. It will also have access to the beach on Long Pond and preserve the character of our town.

Liz



Brewster's open space policies are the primary reason that the town currently does not need a large, centralized wastewater treatment facility.

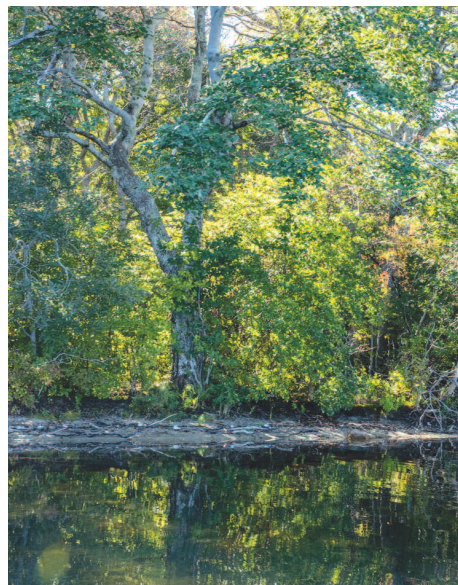
Lem

By acquiring this property the town prevents major development and eliminates significant septic flows to protect Brewster's groundwater and Long Pond.

Brewster Ponds Coalition

The purchase of the Sea Camps property prevents additional dense development that would destroy fields, forests and meadows and overtax our natural resources. The Town is living up to its Vision Plan.

Sally



When I walk with my friends each week, our favorite hikes pass by a pond. With the purchase of the Sea Camps property on Long Pond, we'll be anxious to try new trails, with a look at Long Pond as well.

Jan

The Long Pond property provides an opportunity for seasonal and non-seasonal recreation and will be valuable for long-term drinking water protection.

Ellie

Water is essential to life. It is wonderful to see that Brewster's aquifer will now be better protected with the Long Pond Parcel purchase.

Peter



The town is so lucky to have had the chance to buy this amazing large amount of land on Long Pond today when large parcels in Brewster have mostly all been subdivided. The majority of this land is in our Zone II - where we pump our town drinking water. It would be a travesty to have houses or septic systems polluting our water there.

Furthermore, any additional septic systems on the lower $\frac{1}{3}$ of this land would also be going directly into Long Pond and further "impair" (as defined by the EPA) it.

Peter



Putting our money where our values are . . .

In BCT's first decades after our founding in 1983, we didn't have much funding, but luckily there were many conservation-minded landowners who donated their land. We welcomed these gifts but acknowledge that they were accepted without a strategic vision as to what lands were most important to protect. Over the past decade, a doubling of donations, accessing more grant resources, and a few significant bequests have allowed BCT to be more aggressive in purchasing land for conservation. In the past decade, we've increased the number of parcels BCT owns by 60% – from 118 at the end of 2010 to 188 parcels in 2021.

Along with more land preservation, we've also been honing our focus on those lands that are most related to achieving our mission of preserving open space, natural resources, and Brewster's rural character.

Now, each prospective purchase is subject to a rigorous review according to a checklist of factors that assure that we are protecting land with high conservation value. Key values include protecting Brewster's water supply, preserving land with unique and fragile habitat, building

larger blocks of protected land, and providing trails for passive recreation. Here are a few indicators of how we've done in the past decade – 2011 to 2021.

- Increased the number of protected parcels in Brewster's drinking water supply area (Zone II) by 74%, from 96 acres to 167 acres.
- Increased parcels containing rare and endangered habitat (Biomap2) by 123%, from 158 acres to 352 acres.
- Increased the number of parcels protecting certified vernal pools (unique habitat in fragile pools that dry up in the summer) by 310%, from 19 acres to 78 acres.
- Increased the number of parcels which abut other protected lands by 133 parcels, or 480 acres.
- Opened five public walking trails, from none in 2011.

We're proud of our progress, but there is much more to do: less than half of the land in the drinking water supply area is protected, development is far outpacing land protection, and public demand for walking trails has soared during the COVID pandemic. Please continue to be part of BCT's efforts to protect our special resources.



At the BCT Annual Meeting the Conservationist of the Year award was presented to Toby Stamm and Jane Ditzel for being passionate conservationists and protectors of 27 acres of natural habitat and a beautiful garden.

Jane thanked BCT and responded with her prose poem inspired by a card depicting "The Tree of Life":

Conservationists of the Year

A Tall Tree Tale

Do trees whisper? Do trees sing? Do trees dance?

Ask Hawk who soars and screeches above the tree canopy to survey its territory...

Ask Swallowtail who floats on dainty wings and swirls up and around amidst tree diversity.

Ask White-Tail Deer who leaps with grace and adventure, sure-footed through shrubs and trees...

Ask Box Turtle who emerges from hibernation in rotting logs to awaken and forage in Spring...

Ask Fungi who lives amidst roots in the rhizosphere microbiome to promote tree growth for generations to come after this one...

According to these five forest creatures, it's unanimous! Trees do whisper, sing, and dance!

A long time ago...On a blustery, rainy moonless August night, Hawk, Swallowtail, White-Tail Deer, Box Turtle, and Fungi huddled together under the sturdiest White Oak Tree on Moss Ridge over on the banks of Ed Snow Pond.

"If you listen intently," said Hawk, "You may hear Red Maple whisper to Scarlet Oak during a breeze..."

"And," said White-Tail Deer, "Did you hear that Tupelo and Honey Locust are singing later when the rain stops?"

Then Swallowtail chimed in, "And, did you know that Poplar began to Pine over a lass named Sassafras?"

"Well then" said Box Turtle, "According to Juniper, both Holly and Bayberry will be decorating for a Tree Dance tonight!"

"Quickly, quickly," said Hackberry to Hickory, "Tell Beech to send everyone a tweet!"

"Yes, Yes," said Fungi, "Let's all meet tonight to sing and dance over in the Meadow of Summersweet!"



President's Message

Greetings! Apart from the start of school (which has special resonance this year), new beginnings are not typically an autumnal theme. Nevertheless, as I start my tenure as president of BCT, excitement about potential opportunities is in the crisp autumn air. The people of our Town voiced our overwhelming support for buying the Sea Camps properties, and conversations among friends and neighbors are buzzing with ideas about possible uses of those properties “for the Public.” We trust each other and our Town officials now to put in place an open process for public engagement that will distill these ideas into practical plans in the best interests of all.

But we start with some grounded assumptions, such as – most importantly for BCT – the fact repeated often in the presentations and discussions leading into Town meeting and the special election that the land in the Long Pond parcel is most suitable for open space conservation. On that basis, the Trust’s committees and Board voted unanimously to make a commitment of \$1.75 million to support the Town’s purchase of that parcel.

To raise that sum, BCT is now embarking on the most ambitious capital campaign of its almost 40-year history. The enthusiasm of early donors – even before the fundraising campaign has officially launched – underscores our message that an important use of the Long Pond parcel “for the People” should be *Conservation for the Community!* That’s the theme of our capital campaign, and together, we’ll make those slogans into a reality of woodland, trails and pristine pond frontage that can be enjoyed by generations to come. Thank you for your support in this endeavor.

Tino Kamarck, *BCT President*



Thank You



Transitions are a part of life and I face this one with pride and hope. After eight years at BCT’s helm, I felt it was time for new energy and ideas. I look back knowing that BCT has made great strides - we’ve increased the acreage we’ve protected by 75%, we’ve started new education and outreach programs, we’ve opened up more trails to the public. Most of all, I think BCT is a stronger organization with a strategic vision, clear procedures and strong committees, and active participation by my fellow trustees.

We’re lucky that the BCT board includes many people capable of leading, in fact five of the current board members are past presidents. And I know that Tino Kamarck will lead with energy, creativity, and commitment to BCT’s mission. I look to this transition with pride knowing where we’ve come from and with certainty that BCT will continue to new heights.

Hal Minis

Conservationists of the Future

FROM THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Since 2016 BCT has supported the science curriculum at the Eddy School by providing science equipment, hosting field work at Windmill Meadows and at the Hay woodlands, and by working closely with educators from the Mass Audubon Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. Mae, now a fifth grade student at the Eddy School, remembers when she was younger.



I remember having Audubon visit us when I was in second grade. They brought different animals for us to research. We were working on what they need to survive, like food, shelter and water. We discussed adaptations and life cycles, too. Right now, life science is my favorite. I have even taught my science teacher, Mrs. Marchant, about bees! She calls me an expert. I know about bumble bees, mason bees, carpenter bees, honey bees and wasps. I'm happy we can do more science this year. I can't wait to study chemistry in middle school so I can do experiments.

AMERICORPS CAPE COD

Welcome to Vincent Tanguilig, BCT's Individual Placement member from AmeriCorps Cape Cod. A 2021 graduate of Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Biomedical Engineering, Vincent hopes his career will be working on medical devices and healthcare sustainability.



His early college years were spent in Worcester; but after a Covid year studying from home in Sandwich, he found he appreciated Cape Cod more than city life.

By the end of his year of service he will know Brewster as well as he knows his hometown of Sandwich. With a busy schedule of trail maintenance, detailed computer planning, mowing fields, and boundary marking he will have a deep understanding of what conservation involves and Brewster will have benefitted from his assistance as it has from all that previous AmeriCorps members have done.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Each spring the Brewster Garden Club and the Brewster Conservation Trust award scholarship funds to one or more graduates of the Nauset Regional High School from Brewster for the purpose of higher education in the fields of landscape design, horticulture, conservation, environmental, marine or related sciences.

We are pleased to honor the 2021 Winners:

Shayla Flaherty, studying Environmental Science at the University of Vermont
Isabella Valentino, studying Environmental Engineering at Northeastern University
Delaney Smith, studying Marine Affairs at the University of Rhode Island

We congratulate these young women for their scholarship and hard work and wish them well in their studies and future careers.

Thank you to these businesses that support BCT

CONSERVATION HEROES



CONSERVATION PARTNERS

Brewster Ace Hardware, Brewster Bookstore, Cobie's Restaurant, Crocker Nurseries, Kate's Seafood, Ryder and Wilcox, Supfair Adventures, Troy Wall Associates

Learn about our Business Partnership Program!

Contact Amy Henderson at amy@brewsterconservationtrust.org.



Mary Haynes (1944-2021)

"I like Ms. Haynes. She thinks like a kid." So said a middle schooler referring to Mary Haynes who died August 4, 2021. Mary loved teaching. Her life-long love affair with poetry and her lively presentation of Shakespeare inspired her students to appreciate the power and subtlety of written and spoken English. Between her 15 years teaching at Cape Cod Tech and her later time at Cape Cod Academy she taught in England, Turkey, and New York City.

Always the champion of the underdog and dedicated to Brewster, she served on the Brewster Housing Authority, the All Access Citizen's Committee, the board of the Brewster Lower Road cemetery. She was president of the board of the Wells Court Brewster senior housing, was both trustee and volunteer for the Brewster Ladies' Library and was president of the Nauset Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Brewster is richer for all she did.

We thank Mary's family for suggesting that donations be made to BCT in her memory.

MEMORIALS & BEQUESTS

Contributions to BCT honor the memory of a loved one; consider 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 Memory of

Phill & Barby Balasa

Barbara G. & Charles Frazier

Robert Boskus

Natalie & Jack Schuster

Frank Merriwell Eldredge

Tom & Michelle Moore

Tim Hammond

Seymour B. & Lorraine C. Hammond

Richard Hanson

anonymous

Patricia Anzalotti

Thomas & Nancy F. Creed

Martha M. Daly

Paul Davis

Constance M. Decelles

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John Ferrante

Judith Green

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Jill B. & Andrew D. Staniar

Barbara J. & Carl A. LeGrand

Robert E. & Joan B. Matson

Diran C. & Patricia M. Nahigian

Sandra M. Rhodes and Robert P. Singer

Albert K. & Kathleen H. Weyman

John & Kristi Hay

Donald G. Schall

Mary Haynes

anonymous

Donald C. Arthur & Mary W. Chaffee

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Elliott & Susan Carr

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June A. Chamberlain

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Jennie Nickerson

Paul & Bonnie Arabasz

Glenna Outwin

Winfield S. Brooks

Alfred & Marilyn Cali

Chicago Gang: Mary-Helen Steindler,

Jane Cahill, Becky Danisch, Nancy Kelly

Christopher Outwin

Joanne Andershonis Reich

Kevin M. Reich

Jean L. Sempier

Burt N. Sempier

In Honor of

Joe & Susan Biernat

Garden Club of Brewster

Mary Doucette

Karen E. & Dr. Calvin F. Mutti

Suzanne Kenney

Cynthia A. Bingham & Judith L. Miller

Mike Lach

Sally & Bob Bullard

Steve Petruska

Barbara L. & Peter A. Schaible

Donald Puza

Patricia Ann Fortier & Sheila E. Wynne

Pam & Leonard Schaeffer

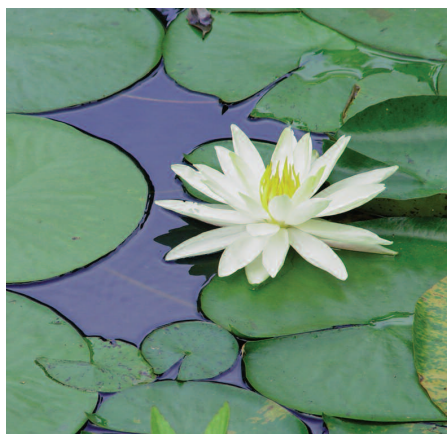
Peter R. & Eleanor R. Johnson

Bob Smith

Frederick A. & Kathleen T. Budreski

Douglas Wilcock

anonymous



Brewster Conservation Trust
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UPCOMING BCT EVENTS

REGISTRATION REQUIRED Sign up on our website under EVENTS.

For more information and to register for Events go to brewsterconservationtrust.org/2021-walks-and-talks/

First Annual Thanksgiving Hike with Amy Henderson

Thursday, November 25 at 9:00 am, location to be announced

StoryWalks®

The Very Best Bed by Rebekah Raye, at the Eddy Sisters Trail Nov. 15 - Dec. 10, self-guided

Learning About Lichen with Tom Walker

Sunday, December 12 at 11:00 AM, Location to be announced

Brewster for the Holidays and Solstice Story Time at Windmill Meadows December 21



Brewster Conservation Trust joins the Brewster Historical Society in decorating Windmill Meadows at Drummer Boy Park. Follow the twinkling lights through the meadow pathway and discover the majestic cherry tree adorned with lights as we celebrate Brewster for the Holidays!

BCT will host a Solstice Story Time in the meadow with hot cocoa, mulled cider, and treats - look for registration to come at brewsterconservationtrust.org.

SHARE US WITH YOUR FRIENDS! Follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

Check out our website to stay connected all year long! **brewsterconservationtrust.org**