

SPRING 2025

BREWSTER NATURALLY

*A newsletter for and about the protection of Brewster's
open space, natural resources, and rural character*

OLD E-SPA
TO BECOME
NEW ECO-SPOT

WATER QUALITY
AT A GLANCE

BCT TAKES ON
INVASIVE PLANTS
AND VINES

Photo of the Brewster flats
from BCT's Eddy Bay trail
by Marj DeVault



BREWSTER CONSERVATION TRUST
a private non-profit land trust

BREWSTER NATURALLY

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Sometimes tearing down a structure can be almost as costly as building one. Read what's going on with the E-Spa make-over and how you can help. And check out what else BCT is up to.



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A NOTE

FROM OUR PRESIDENT



With the acquisition of the Sea Camps properties in 2023, the Town undertook a deliberate planning process to determine the community's vision for the future use of these two special places. Plans from this process were approved by Town Meeting in May 2024.

Last Fall, the Town put before voters a debt exclusion article to fund the first phases of work on both the Long Pond and the Bay properties. It was voted down, so the Town and the Sea Camps planning committee have taken a step back to ask voters how to proceed on the development of the two parcels.

During the initial planning process for the Pond property, two options were put before the community. Both options proposed protecting 56 of the 66 acres of the Pond property for conservation and recreation and the remaining ten acres fronting on Rt. 137 for potentially more intensive development. One proposed option for these ten acres was the open-ended "future municipal uses," which included conservation, habitat protection, watershed protection, housing, and other municipal uses. The second option was "housing," which included 44 housing units and a wastewater treatment plant.

After lengthy discussion, BCT's Board voted to support the "future municipal uses" option to indicate our opposition to the idea of building 44 homes and a wastewater treatment facility on a parcel of land poorly suited for such development. Our rationale for this assertion was threefold: the parcel includes sensitive pond front property; half of its acreage is located in our drinking water supply area (Zone II); and it is designated as part of a low density neighborhood. We endorsed the "future municipal uses" option fully believing the wide range of those uses have received thorough public discussion and careful analysis.

We welcome the current pause by the Sea Camps Advisory Committee precisely because it allows for more discussion and consideration of the future uses of the Long Pond property and the fiscal and environmental impacts of more intensive development of the property. The Town promised at the Spring 2024 Town Meeting that this issue will be brought back to Town Meeting for discussion and vote and we look forward to that happening. We urge the Town to continue to look at other more suitable sites, including the Bay property, for much needed housing.

Charlie Sumner
President, Brewster Conservation Trust

THE OLD E-SPA TO BECOME A NEW ECO-SPOT

By removing deteriorating buildings, BCT will restore public access to this seldom seen pond vista



IMAGINE. A deck overlooking a wooded valley. Filtered sunlight sparkling on a small pond. In summer, a soft breeze over the water rustling the leaves. In winter, a frosty stillness quieting the air. Throughout the year a ramp leading from the deck to a footpath approaching a small pond surrounded by shrubby greenery. All this only a few steps from busy Route 6A.

Right now it's only a dream, but you can help make the dream come true.

THE BACKUS OVERLOOK

For years Steven Backus and his wife Kate ran the E-Spa at 2342 Main Street in a 1960 building next to an historic schoolhouse. Between 2016 and 2021 Steve and Kate sold to BCT at a bargain price six acres in the heart of town along Rt. 6A. They also donated the adjoining E-Spa property. Steve, a Brewster boy and Nauset Regional High School track star, wanted to leave something special for his hometown. His hope was that the land could be restored to its natural state and made available to the public.

To create the Backus Overlook BCT will have to remove both the spa and the old schoolhouse, used most recently as an antique shop. The plan calls for a below grade viewing platform to insulate the nature observer from the noisy traffic on Route 6A. The preliminary idea shows multiple benches, a kiosk with historical and nature information and a separate viewing area of the barn's stone foundation with a sign describing what was formerly there. Plantings along Route 6A will make an inviting approach, beckoning passersby in for a little bit of heaven on a busy summer afternoon.

BCT hopes to finalize permitting for the project by early spring. We're looking forward to a ribbon cutting ceremony next summer.

IT WILL TAKE A VILLAGE

The projected cost to create the Overlook is \$200,000. Your donation of any amount (but the bigger the better!) will help the dream become reality. Individual donations can sponsor benches or a kiosk or the native plantings needed to restore the land.

Steve wanted to give something back to his hometown. BCT wants to help and we hope you will, too. Be part of giving Brewster a beautiful park along busy Route 6A, a place to sit, relax, refresh. A place to ponder history and enjoy the path and view of the pond.

For more information or to make a donation for a specific purpose, contact Amy Henderson at 508-694-6720 or amy@brewsterconservationtrust.org.

What Is a Bargain Sale?

Win-win solutions are always popular, which is why conservation-minded landowners may choose a bargain sale when considering the future of their property. As the name suggests, a bargain sale (also known as a charitable sale) is a transaction in which a landowner sells a property below its market value. Another way to think of it is part donation, part sale.

A bargain sale is a good option for both landowners and land trusts when an outright donation of property isn't feasible. The landowners receive significant tax benefits and make it possible for land trusts to protect acreage they otherwise wouldn't be able to afford.

When landowners work with a qualifying nonprofit conservation organization, such as Brewster Conservation Trust, a bargain sale may entitle them to a federal income tax deduction for a charitable contribution. The value of the charitable contribution for the sellers equals the difference between the fair market value and the lower negotiated selling price. Sellers may also be eligible for a state tax credit for a bargain sale.

The sellers may also be entitled to a reduction in capital gains tax. Capital gains are calculated on the sale part of the transaction. A gain is recognized if the property is sold for more than its basis (usually, the original cost-plus improvements and minus depreciation). For bargain sales, the basis of the property is allocated proportionately between the part sold and the part donated. The income tax charitable deduction from a bargain sale could be greater than the capital gains tax that results from the sale at market value.

Many times, the net proceeds of a bargain sale, when the tax deduction is considered, may come close to the proceeds of a fair market sale.

If you are interested in preserving your land or have any questions, please contact BCT Executive Director Amy Henderson at amy@brewsterconservationtrust.org or 508-694-6720.

School Days are Over for the Old Schoolhouse

The sad looking building next to the E-Spa has played a significant role in Brewster history. It began as one-room schoolhouse #3, not at this location but probably on the lot to the east. The "modern" school had more comfortable seats than earlier schools. It had separate entrances for boys and girls, better heat, and good light. In 1908, when the school population had declined, the building was moved to its present location, turned sideways and used as a cranberry barn.

This old building has seen many uses. In the 1970s it was the Whistle Stop Gift Shop and for a while it housed a wood-working business. After its commercial uses were abandoned, it became a repository for accumulated debris which BCT trustees and volunteers spent two days removing in four truckloads full of trash.



BCT and the Brewster Historical Society had hoped to site the old school at the Historic Village next to Drummer Boy Park; but after many months of trying to make the plan work, the expense of moving and restoring the building was found to be insurmountable. Instead the Historical Society plans to use some of the sturdy lumber to create a replica salt works. BCT will honor the venerable building by preserving the foundation, using the old wood on the property for benches or kiosks, and installing a sign providing historical information.

Above: The Old Schoolhouse Number 3 has had many lives. Some of its timbers will be used in structures to be built in the future, including a kiosk at the site.



BCT TAKES AIM AT INVASIVES

Invasive species pose a significant threat to the stability of Brewster's natural spaces. In more recent years, as invasives aggressively flood the landscape, BCT has been taking more proactive measures to combat invasives and promote native species.

Accurately identifying where invasives are present and evaluating the plausibility of effective and efficient management is the first step in tackling infestations. BCT staff and volunteers conduct annual property monitoring to record current conditions, which includes pinpointing any invasives present. Properties in mostly pristine natural condition often take priority for invasive management over those that are completely overrun. After identifying a specific site and the species present, we can devise a targeted control strategy.

BCT uses primarily mechanical control when it comes to invasive removal. This involves pulling up plants by hand or using tools to cut back or dig up large infestations. Species such as garlic mustard and spotted knapweed are fairly easy to pull, however aggressive vines such as bittersweet and wisteria must be dug out completely and/or cut from trees and other vegetation. Once removed, the vegetation is usually bagged and taken to the transfer station or placed in a brush pile to be burned. Removal from the site based on species and maturity is critical to avoid seed spread and re-rooting.

We continuously look for new methods to manage invasives and are currently crafting a higher level strategy to use across our holdings. By supporting our restoration efforts and spreading awareness of the consequences of invasive species and benefits of native planting, you can help support the sustainability of our natural spaces.

BCT Looks to the Future

BCT has built a successful track record over the past 40 years, and we want to make sure that's true of the next 40 also. Our goal is to ensure we meet the needs of the Brewster community and its conservation challenges in the decades ahead. Accordingly, we have begun updating the strategic plan that will guide us over the next five years.

The process started in January with an "environmental scan" that included a survey of BCT members, interviews with Town staff and Boards, and conversations with six other land trusts of comparable size. We learned that natural resource preservation, particularly to protect the health and safety of the community, continues to be a high priority and that BCT is seen as a key player and effective partner in that. At the same time, we found there is room and reason for BCT to engage more with Town boards and staff members. We also learned that our sister trusts are building capacity for land stewardship and public education while continuing to preserve land. BCT, in comparison, is somewhat understaffed to meet these challenges.

In the first of two planning sessions, BCT Trustees and staff reviewed this information, finding within it both challenges and opportunities. We identified key areas that need more attention and resource allocation to ensure long-term success, as well as specific opportunities for engaging constituencies and exercising advocacy leadership. We also took note of larger social and economic contexts that will impact our mission effectiveness, including the potential for economic downturn and the increasing cost of land.

BCT is now working on setting goals and objectives and identifying actions to meet those goals. We plan to have the Strategic Plan available at our Annual Meeting in August.



Defend the Canopy

Massachusetts has long led the nation in environmental and climate action and has an especially long history of public shade tree protection, with current laws being defined in Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87.

Because trees and forests offer significant environmental benefits, this protection is rightly deserved. But because of climate-based changes elevating their vulnerability, trees need additional protection in the form of individual action.

Simply put, Cape Cod's trees are under threat from pests such as the Southern Pine Beetle, pathogens such as those that are causing Beech Leaf Disease, and invasive plants and vines. Knowing the valuable ways in which trees ease and enrich our lives can provide the motivation to protect them.

First, trees, particularly when occurring in large populations such as in a woodland or forest, act as filters to remove impurities from our drinking water. They serve as natural sponges to collect and filter rainfall, straining out sediment and other pollutants from the water before it reaches a deeper underground water source. This makes our drinking water supply cleaner and more reliable. In fact, forest density has been directly linked to drinking water treatment costs, with higher density of trees correlated to lower costs of treatment.

Trees also store carbon dioxide, shelter wildlife, support biodiversity, moderate energy consumption, and more.

Clearly, trees warrant our concern and deserve protective action. Here are a few steps you can take in defense of trees and forests:

- Educate yourself about invasive species. Watch for BCT's new website where we'll post our new Invasive Species Management Plan. For now you can go to our YouTube channel: [Youtube/@brewsterconservationtrust2354](https://www.youtube.com/@brewsterconservationtrust2354) and watch a presentation from Erik Sechler of the New England Native Plant Trust.
- Reduce the size of your lawn and replace it with pollinator habitat. Learn to value a good old-fashioned. "Cape Cod lawn" that doesn't require fertilizers, pesticides, and frequent watering.
- Watch for early signs of tree diseases. Early detection and treatment are key.
- Plant trees, especially trees with long life spans like oaks since they store the highest amount of carbon.

Mark your calendars now

NEW LOOK, NEW LOCATION..

SAME GREAT FUN!

Brewster Conservation Day

Sat., July 12
9:30 - 1:30
at the
SEA CAMPS BAY PROPERTY

ANNUAL MEETING

08/14/25

Ocean Edge Resort

BREWSTER CONSERVATION TRUST

Difference MAKERS



PETER JOHNSON

Peter Johnson grew up with a land preservation spirit as the son of conservation-minded parents in Springfield, Massachusetts. Decades later he sold the family bookstore and moved with his wife Ellie to live full-time on the Cape in Ellie's family's historic home.

Fortunately for Brewster Conservation Trust, that home was in Brewster where Peter and Ellie channeled his parents' conservation spirit by working to preserve land locally. Shortly thereafter they took an even bigger plunge when Peter, Ellie and Ellie's twin brother donated land on Pleasant Bay in Orleans to conservation.

Peter's early conservation efforts centered on trail maintenance for both BCT and the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History. Beth Finch, a BCT Trustee, took note of his work ethic and enthusiasm for the outdoors, and asked him if he wanted to join her on the Board of BCT. The rest, as they say, is history.

Peter served as BCT president for almost seven years, presiding over a much different BCT than exists today. During his tenure, BCT had no paid staff, no endowment, no Hay House, and little money. It relied on fostering relationships and forging alliances to get enough money to purchase target properties.

When questioned about his time as president, Peter said he was most proud of urging Mark Robinson, the Executive Director of the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, to aggressively seek out properties in town for conservation purposes. Quivett Marsh Vista was such a parcel, made possible only by Mark cobbling together an amazing coalition of partners in the purchase. Peter stepped down as a Trustee earlier this year, but wanted to stay involved. In recognition of his past contributions and his desire to continue in his service to BCT, Peter has been designated our first Emeritus Trustee. It's an honor made possible only by the steadfast help of Peter's partner, anchor, and loving wife, Ellie.



DEIRDRE DETJENS

Deirdre Detjens has worn many hats in her professional life, but they all have three things in common: education, people, and the environment.

Newly-hired by Brewster Conservation Trust in the role of Administrative Assistant and Volunteer Manager, Deirdre brings years of outdoor recreation and community engagement experience to BCT. She has guided sea kayak excursions, worked in museum settings, and coordinated the Master Gardeners' program at Hyannis West Elementary, to name a few of her various positions.

Having many jobs has meant having many homes for Deirdre and her family. But the Cape is the place where they've lived the longest, having moved here in 2008, and are now beginning to think of as home.

Environmental Series Draws a Crowd

Brewster residents turned out in large numbers over recent months to examine environmental challenges facing the community. Brewster at the Crossroads was a three-part series jointly sponsored by Brewster Conservation Trust and the Brewster Ladies' Library Discovery and Enrichment Program. Topics included coastal erosion, water quality, and the significance of trees and forests past, present, and future.

The January program on coastal erosion opened with the showing of *No Refuge: The Cape's Coastal Crisis*, a film by Jan Crocker and Tim Wood chronicling the loss of buildings at the Monomoy Wildlife Refuge Center. Coastal geologist Mark Borrelli from the Center for Coastal Studies followed with sediment mapping to show how some areas of Brewster are gaining beach area while others are losing it. Chris Miller, Director of Brewster's Dept. of Natural Resources, explained how the Town is responding to these changes, citing road improvements and the Breakwater Beach reconfiguration as examples.

In February, speakers addressed the status of and threats to Brewster's ponds and drinking water. Kimberley Cocker Pearson, chairperson of Brewster's Natural Resources Advisory Committee and a member of the Water Task Force reported that Brewster's drinking water meets or exceeds both federal and state standards. The status of pond health, however, is a bit murkier (pardon the pun). According to Crocker Pearson, algae blooms caused by nutrient overload are a reoccurring problem, with human activity responsible for much of the problem... and the solution.

Dr. Laurel Schaidler from the Silent Spring Institute discussed the rising threat from the forever chemical known as PFAS, which makes its way into public water supplies through sources that are sometimes hard to trace, but most certainly include wastewater. Water treatment remedies such as carbon filtration exist for both personal and municipal use. Additional protection can be achieved by avoiding consumer products containing PFAS.



A full house listens to Kimberley Crocker Pearson

The final program in March explored how the Cape's trees and forests have been impacted over time. Michelle Manion, Vice-President of Policy and Advocacy for Mass Audubon, said both clean energy and nature must play a part if Massachusetts is going to hit its emissions reduction target by 2050. That's why it's critical to reevaluate where solar farms are sited, and to shift new solar projects away from natural lands like forests and farms and toward developed sites. Doing so makes it possible to expand solar energy production while safeguarding the natural protective factors of trees and forests, she said.

“Clearly these issues matter to the community. The attendance tells us that.”

- Susan Rice, BLLA Discovery & Enrichment Program

Jim Rassman, a Service Forester with Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, provided a historical overview of how trees and forests have intertwined with the Cape's economic and population development. He showed how many current building and landscaping preferences do not favor the health of our trees and forests, putting the questions of zoning and land management squarely on the table.

The three programs were among the most attended events held by the library, according to library personnel. “Having conversations about these topics is important,” said Susan Rice, a member of the Discovery and Enrichment Program. “Clearly these issues matter to the community. The attendance tells us that.”



What PFAS mean to our Drinking Water

By Laurel Schaidler, PhD,
Senior Scientist, Silent Spring Institute

PFAS—often called “forever chemicals”—are a growing concern in our everyday lives. The chemicals are used in a wide range of consumer products like nonstick pans, waterproof jackets, stain-resistant upholstery, and even dental floss and cosmetics. Scientists are concerned about exposures to PFAS because they have been associated with many harmful health effects such as immune system suppression, increased cholesterol and risk of obesity, and cancers. What’s more, PFAS don’t break down and move easily through the environment, reaching every corner of the globe. PFAS can accumulate in our bodies, and studies show more than 99 percent of people in the US have PFAS in their blood.

This is a huge concern.

Silent Spring Institute scientists first detected PFAS in public drinking water supplies on the Cape in 2010. The two public wells we tested in Brewster did not contain PFAS, but we did find PFAS in public wells serving residents in other towns. Across Cape Cod, high levels of PFAS in some public wells have been traced to certain firefighting foams used at nearby fire training areas, while lower levels of PFAS in some public and private wells may come from septic systems. We have continued to study PFAS in drinking water on Cape Cod, as well as exposures from other sources such as consumer products and food packaging.

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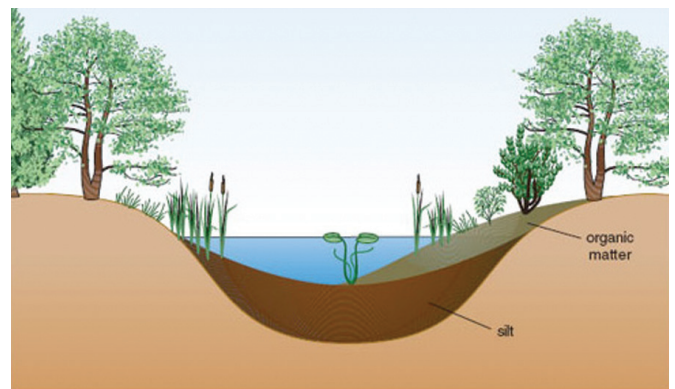
Brewster’s pond and drinking water quality

By Kimberley Crocker Pearson,
Brewster Water Resource Commission

On Cape Cod, hardly a day passes without a news article about our present and future water quality. We are constantly reminded that we rely on a sole-source aquifer, meaning that at least 50% of our drinking water comes from a single underground source with no readily available alternative.

Here in Brewster, we are fortunate to have high-quality drinking water, protected by significant investments in open space. The Brewster Water Department publishes an annual report detailing rigorous water quality monitoring. These tests, conducted on a strict schedule, ensure that our drinking water consistently meets or exceeds all health standards.

There are also concerns about Brewster’s ponds. Formed in the wake of the last glaciation, these ponds have evolved naturally over thousands of years, supporting a succession of bacteria, plants, and animals. Over time, they undergo natural eutrophication, a gradual process in which sediment and nutrients accumulate, making the ponds shallower. As this continues, rooted plants take over, eventually transforming ponds into marshes and bogs.



However, human activity can accelerate this aging process, leading to cultural eutrophication, in which excess nutrients contribute to water quality decline. This can result in more frequent and severe algae and cyanobacteria blooms, which deplete oxygen levels and disrupt aquatic ecosystems. The additional stress of climate change further accelerates pond aging.

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BCT AppleCorps Bears Fruit

Early spring is the ideal time to prune apple trees, so on a crisp March morning a group of BCT volunteers donned hats, gloves, and layers to do just that.

But these aren't just any volunteers. They're part of BCT's "AppleCorps," a group of volunteer stewards who have grown attached to BCT's two-year-old heirloom apple orchard. Many of them were on hand to prepare the ground and plant the saplings when the orchard first took root in April 2023, so they have a vested interest in the annual spring pruning that shapes growth patterns in the season ahead.

Under the guidance of Barnstable County Cooperative Extension Service's Russ Norton, an apple expert in his own right, AppleCorps members pulled back the deer fencing around each tree, put on a new layer of compost and mulch, pruned off a few unnecessary young shoots, and tied down some branches that were too vertical for optimum tree form.

Russ gave each tree careful inspection before declaring it ready for the coming growing season. He even noted a few flower buds on some of the trees, raising hopes within the AppleCorps of progeny in the fall. While it's a bit early for cigars and champagne, the watch is on!



Above: Barnstable County Cooperative Extension educator Russ Norton demonstrates proper pruning technique.

Water Matters (Cont'd.)

PFAS

While it may feel overwhelming to learn that PFAS and other toxic chemicals surround us in our everyday lives, there are things we can do to protect ourselves and our communities, and to keep PFAS from polluting our local ecosystems in the first place.

- Avoid stain-resistant coatings on textiles
- Eat more fresh foods to avoid food packaging when possible
- Choose waxed, silk, or nylon floss rather than Glide
- Let retailers know you want safer products
- Support stricter chemical safety testing and regulations
- Ask about procurement policies in your town or work place
- Find out about local organizations working to protect water quality

For more information about PFAS, visit the PFAS Exchange resource center (www.pfas-exchange.org). And for other helpful tips on avoiding PFAS and other harmful chemicals, download Silent Spring's Detox Me smartphone app.

PONDS

While some Brewster ponds are aging naturally, others are deteriorating more quickly due to human impact.

As part of the ongoing updates to the Integrated Water Resource Management Plan and Water Master Plan, Brewster is developing a Pond Management Plan aimed at reducing human-driven nutrient input through watershed management. Key strategies include controlling nutrient inflow through land use policies, improving stormwater and wastewater management, and preserving shoreline vegetation to naturally filter nutrients before they reach the water.

Additionally, in-pond treatments such as alum applications and aeration may provide temporary improvements in suitable ponds, giving long-term watershed strategies time to take effect.

Memorials and Bequests

In Honor of

All Caregivers • Olga Sherry
Kirsten Deering • Lawrence & Marjorie Austin
Beth Finch • Judith & Richard Galligan
Meg Fowler • Mary Loftus
Amy Henderson • Sandra Rhodes & Robert Singer
Carroll & Jane Johnson • Linda Johnson
Debra Ann Johnson • Sally Johnson
Peter Johnson • Thomas Keating & Carolyn Canavosio • Jeffrey & Ellen Plaut
• McKelway & Cate O'Neill
Ben McKelway & Cate O'Neill • Russell McKelway & Laura Dabinett
Rev. Terrence Moran • Denis & Martha Johnston
Jack Popler, Amelia Popler, Benny Popler-Adams, Molly Popler-Adams
• Kenneth & Lois Popler
Nancy Roach • Mary Roach
Carolyn Sprogell • Jonathan Sprogell & M. Kathryn Taylor
Sarah Stranahan • Page Armstrong
Susan & Paul Talbot • Thomas Talbot
Jim & Joan VanBaalen • Nina Lubeck

In Memory of

Nicole Bizzotto • Lawrence Bizzotto
Frederick Budreski • Mary & Thomas Noering, David & Sally Schrumm
Paula Capparella • Catherine Hession
Murva Deneen • Donald Deneen
Chip Doherty • Karen Doherty
William and Agnes Dowling • Susan & Richard Stewart
Mary-Louise and Ruth Eddy • Stephen & Diane Jones
Steve Erickson • Dickens Family
Patricia Farber • Renee & Patrick Kleaveland
Robert Finch • Benjamin McKelway & Cate O'Neill, Roger Wolford & Pamela Scott Wolford, Katherine & Donald Nardi, Gregory & Melissa Sottile, Stephen Wolford, Peter & Joan Scheffer, Baldwin Obenaus
Jane Furst • Steve Marx & Michele Furst
George Ganss • Karen & John Bulwidas
Diane Gately • James Gately & Family
Margarette Harper • JoAnne Ackman
Lawrence S. Harris Jr. • Gwentyth Ruppert
Mary Haynes • Ellen Gleason, Douglas Wilcock
Bob Hirschman • Marianne Hirschman
Carroll Johnson • Jane Johnson, Bruce Johnson
Eleanor "Ellie" Johnson • Frank & Kelly Farrell, Thomas Keating & Carolyn Canavosio, Chester & Marion Lay, William & Patricia Wood
Wilbur H. Johnson, Jr. • Daryl Bladen, Ruth Lederle
Herb Lach • Michael Lach
Helen MacGregor • Abbey Massaro
Jean MacKenzie • Peter Johnson, Henry Minis & Patricia Hughes
Susan McNair • John McNair
April Major • Laura Major
Robert Mastromatteo • Joe & Lesley Gonzalez, Heather & Jonathan DiPaolo
Phil and Dolly Minis • Hal Minis & Patricia Hughes
Charles Mitchell • Sally J. Mitchell
Mary Mooney • John & Lisa McDonald, Brian & Rosemary Mooney
Dwight and Jennie Nickerson • Paul & Bonnie Arabasz
Rita M. O'Neill • John O'Neill
Adam Opiela • Joseph Opiela
Glenna Outwin • Christopher Outwin
Carol Parisi • Chip Parisi
Susan B. Penha • Joseph Laplante
Adam D. Pettengill • John & Bridget Dickson
Anne and Denis S. Philipps • Denis Philipps
Barbara Popper • Steven Popper
Joanne Andershonis Reich • Kevin Reich
Ed Rios • Cape Cod Nordic Walkers
Doris Saccone • Alex Saccone
Frank Steponaitis • Susan & Alan Wellington
Ruth Walters • George & Katherine Williams

How will you leave your LEGACY?

The Brewster Conservation Trust is committed to preserving the places people need and love to build healthy communities and protect our natural heritage. And we couldn't do it without individuals like you.

Because everybody benefits from a healthy, scenic, and sustainable environment, everybody can play a part in protecting and preserving it. If you're a landowner, you're in a position to ensure that future generations will be able to walk the same trails, enjoy the same views, and savor the same sights and sounds as you. Forever.

Land donation is but one way you can make a difference in shaping the future of Brewster. Because circumstances differ for all of us, it's worthwhile to consider the full range of planned giving options and choose one that meets your situation. Consult your professional advisor for information and guidance. Gifts of any size will help.





BREWSTER CONSERVATION TRUST
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*Administrative Assistant and
Volunteer Manager*

Deirdre Detjens

Spring Gardening Tips

- Get your soil tested to determine the right amount of lime and organic fertilizer to apply. Contact the Barnstable County Cooperative Extension horticulture program at www.capecod.gov/
- Natural fertilizers such as rotted manure and household compost are excellent sources of nutrients and help condition the soil.
- Companion planting can reduce pest risk, build nutrient up-take, and enhance pollination.
- Plant native plants which are adapted to the soil, climate, and local pollinators, particularly "keystone" species that have the highest food and habitat value for animals and pollinator insects
- Mulch, including leaf litter, can be the first line of defense against weeds and helps maintain soil moisture.
- Prune fruit trees in late winter or early spring. Prune off broken or diseased branches, remove up-right shoots (suckers), remove crossing branches, and remove shoots at the base of the tree.

For more information, go to [Cape Cod Extension Service
/agriculture/mastergardener/factsheets](http://CapeCodExtensionService/agriculture/mastergardener/factsheets)

