

The Bourne Conservation Trust

NEWSLETTER Number 12

Summer 1990

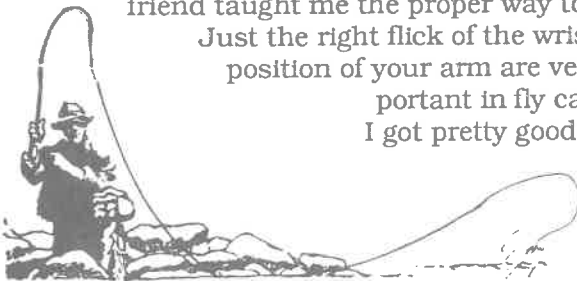
Fishing on Red Brook Pond Really Is For The Birds

Just before a calm July dawn, before a suggestion of wind roughs it up, before the sun's early rays turn it from silver to gold, the quiet surface of Red Brook Pond is dappled with mysterious concentric rings, random ripples that suddenly erupt, gradually spread, then slowly subside. Fish! Feeding fish.

In response, and for as long as anyone can recall, eager fishermen have been materializing at the Pond's edge at daybreak.

Charles Gorton was one of them and in the 1930's-- long before he began spending summer holidays at his hilltop house just north of the Pond-- he made weekly treks to the Cape just to fish. "Every Sunday morning I'd get up around two o'clock and in the dark drive Route 6 from Providence where I lived to New Bedford where I'd pick up a friend. After a great breakfast we'd start for the Cape and by dawn we'd be in Cataumet. In those days you had to join a club and pay dues to fish the Pond. And you had to pay a fee to use the access road just to get to it. But it was worth it. The Pond was stocked, you see, stocked with trout from a hatchery somewhere in Wareham, so the fishing was always good. We'd launch our skiff right by the pump house and spend the morning fishing. At lunchtime we'd come ashore, build a fire and cook the morning's catch, then go back out on the Pond and fish till dusk. My friend taught me the proper way to cast.


Just the right flick of the wrist and position of your arm are very important in fly casting. I got pretty good at it."

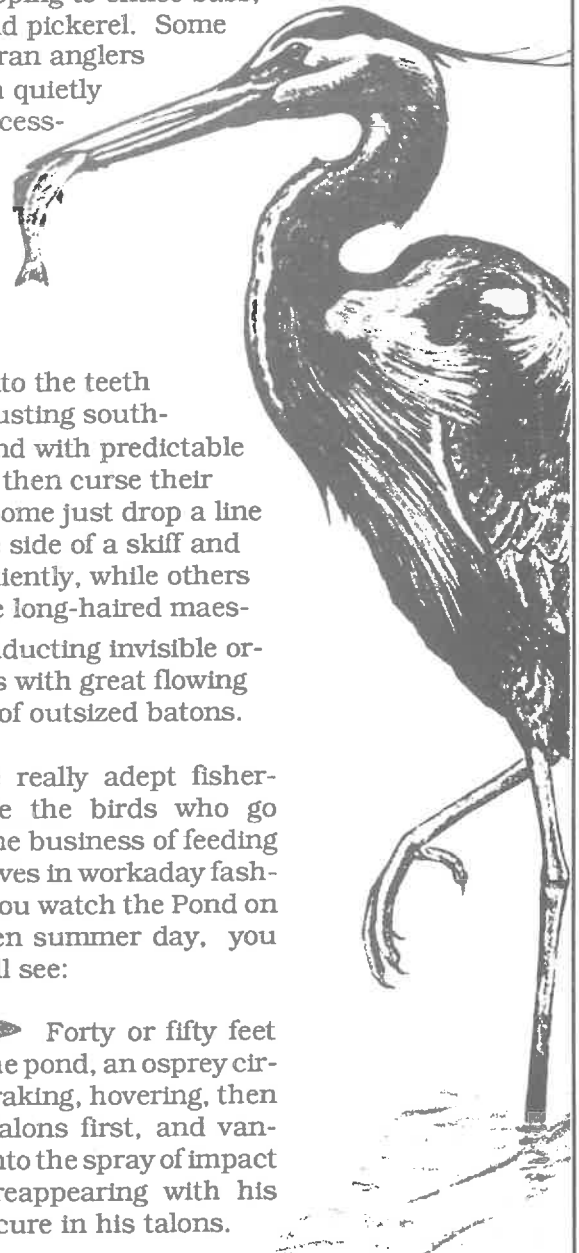


Today the Pond is no longer 'stocked' but there are still fish lurking in its depths, so fishermen continue to try their luck and cast flies and plugs hoping to entice bass, trout and pickerel. Some are veteran anglers who fish quietly and successfully.

Some are novices who cast their plugs into the teeth of the gusting southwest wind with predictable results, then curse their reels. Some just drop a line over the side of a skiff and wait patiently, while others cast like long-haired maestros conducting invisible orchestras with great flowing sweeps of outsized batons.

But the really adept fishermen are the birds who go about the business of feeding themselves in workaday fashion. If you watch the Pond on any given summer day, you may well see:

 Forty or fifty feet above the pond, an osprey circling, braking, hovering, then diving talons first, and vanishing into the spray of impact before reappearing with his meal secure in his talons.



Fishing . . . Cont.



On the deeper water a gluttonous cormorant performing an effortless surface dive and disappearing only to emerge perhaps half a minute later with his quarry secure in this hooked yellow bill.



In the shallows a watchful great blue heron standing frozen-- perhaps for minutes-- until he spies a fish and in a blur of action impaling it on his dagger-like bill.



Perched in a convenient tree at the Pond's edge, a kingfisher searching for the quick flash of a fish scale, plunging beak-first into the water and emerging triumphant with a glinting minnow.



Off the eastern bank a strayed tern, reverses and doubles back at random, then plummets at the water, abruptly breaks his dive and swoops upward to resume wheeling.

Meanwhile, a pair of stately swans survey the scene with vegetarian indifference. ■

Managing the Land: What Are The Costs?

In our last newsletter, we promised to address the question of "overhead" (although some of our expenses can more correctly ascribed to "underfoot").

For The Fiscal Year 5/1/89 - 4/30/90

Total Income \$455,935.00

Operating Expenses

Office	\$ 532.75
Legal	2313.50
Insurance	698.00
Membership & Education & Fundraising	7,489.90
Property Maint.	1,566.50

Total

	\$13,174.64 or 3 % of Income
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* Legal expenses were unusually high because of negotiating purchase and sales agreements & property closings.

? How Are We Doing?

Here, in mid-summer 1990, is where we stand: We have just made our 1/1/90 payment of \$250,000. Our payment/temperature is closing in on the half-way mark.

? Where Are We Going?

Up. We need to raise our temperature another 24°. This represents the additional \$316,500 needed by the end of the year.

? How Will We Get There?

1. Your donations -- now more than ever. If we worked out of "boiler" rooms, we would hype this offer as:

Rare Investment Opportunity
Double Your Money - - -High Return - - -No Risk !!!

No, there's no junk in our bonds and this investment is not found on that street called "Wall.

**A most generous friend of the BCT has made an offer to match all donations made between now and the end of the year up to a Total of \$50,000!
Surely, Louis Rukeyser would approve.**

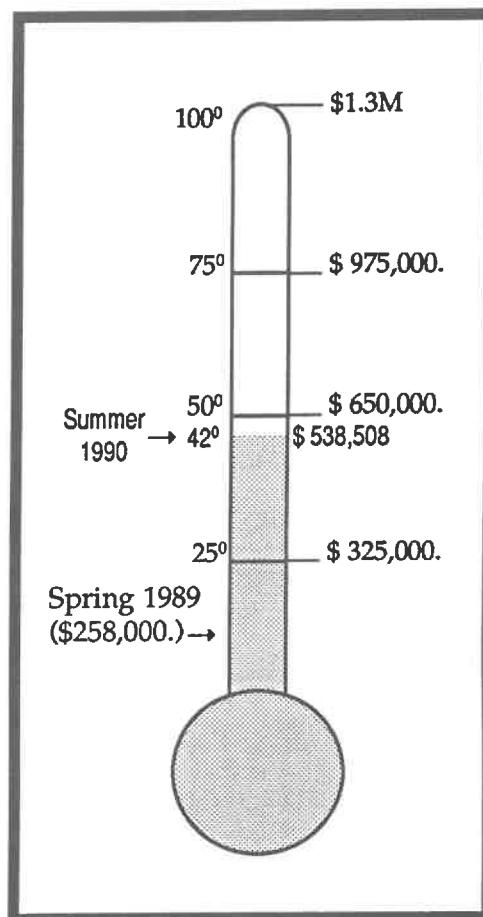
2. A *SUMMER SPECIAL!* The First Annual BCT House, Garden & Grounds Tour. Visit some of Bourne's more intriguing houses. Stroll through a three-acre garden. Peek into a 'hidden room' used to hide fugitive slaves. Feel round-the-compass natural air conditioning. Walk the grounds of a house with a spectacular water views. React to graceful, offbeat architecture. Relax in a real turn-of-the-century summer cottage. All this and more the afternoon of August 25. \$15 for one, \$25 for two.

Tickets on sale at:

Cataumet Fish
Hair Boutique at Five Corners
Larry's Market
Parker's Boat Yard

The Silver Lounge Restaurant
Buzzards Bay Pharmacy
North Falmouth Pharmacy
Perriwinkles at Kingmans Marine.

3. Foundation Grants. We have a continuing program of applying for foundation grants. The support we receive from each of you, in this context, does double duty, not only as a major source of our funds but as clear evidence to foundations about our strong local support.



A stroll along the trails bordering Red Brook so inspired John Black of Pocasset that he was moved to record his feelings in poetry. We thank him for sharing "Cape Pond" with us.



Cape Pond

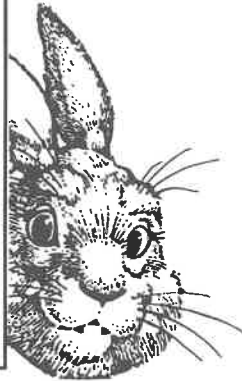
**This cloister needs no tapestries.
Water and trees absorb
the turnpike din, and keep
the traffic barely heard and visible.**

**Even debris has been absorbed
and leaves a sublimated stain,
as if that taint were understandable
beneath this vault of sky.**

**Do you detect a sense of listening,
a sense that in this place you could,
if you so wished, offer
unburdening, and would be heard?
Yet no one else that you hear speaks,
nor is another body seen.**

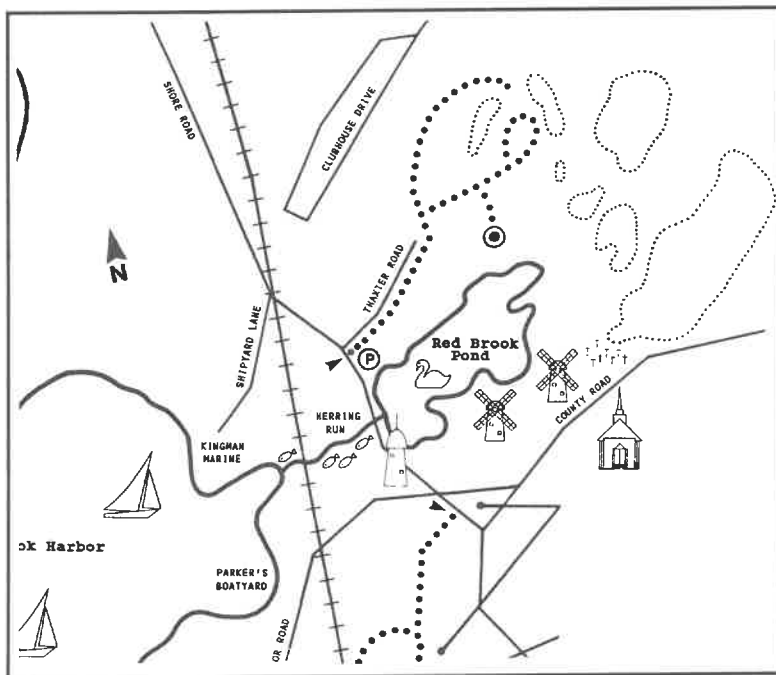
TAKE A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE!

SEE YOUR DONATIONS
AT WORK



Guided tours of the Red Brook Pond Project will be held on these dates:

Saturday	11 August	10 P.M.
Sunday	19 August	2 P.M.
Sunday	2 September	2 P.M.
Saturday	22 September	10 A.M.



You have not experienced the pleasures of a local open area until you have strolled the trails about the pond and bogs. Meet at the end of Thaxter Road.

The BCT has published a Trail Guide of BCT Trails. Each donor will receive a copy.

CAN YOU FIND THIS TREE ?

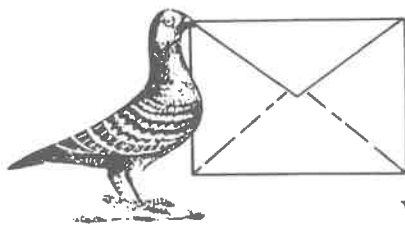
No, it isn't lost.
No, it wasn't
stolen. No, it
hasn't strayed.
But do you know
where to find this
tree? It posed for
Sally Ballentine's
mother, Dorothy
Porter, on a recent
visit. It is some-
where on Bourne
Conservation
Trust Land.

Let us know if you
know where this
tree can be found.
There might be a
prize!



We have had contributions mailed in from 27 states plus one new one. We can now place California in the shade. (California: that's the state that's washed by the Pacific on one side and cleaned by Las Vegas on the other.)

On the international scene, we have received a second donation (in dollars) from France. France is the country where one area Parisian tourist reported this provocative sign in English in his hotel room: "Please leave your values at the front desk."



We Get Letters


A donation was received with an apologetic note, "taxes take all." (Ah taxes, that other certainty).

"Great newsletters once again. Let me know if I can lend a hand. Hope to add more \$ later." (There's an offer we can't refuse - - - neither of them).

"What an important job you are doing." (The importance of our land purchases, we feel, can only grow over time).

"You must make your goal! I'll knock over a bank . . . I can't afford this pledge but so what?" (Yes, we will make our goal . . . you can "bank" on that).

"(We) are so pleased to learn of your worthy cause . . . it is a comforting thought that there will remain some undeveloped land for (all) to enjoy." (Amen).

Our authors? In response to occasional queries as to the perpetrators of these pages, we are Dick and Chuck, men of a "certain age" & less certain talents. We must record that our efforts are infinitely improved by the artistry of Linda, whose virtuosity at the keyboard and the mouse of the Mac SE - - breathes life onto these pages. 

As Time Goes By . . .

Perhaps you can't recall when you made your lastest donation to the BCT? Check the mailing label on the envelope of this newsletter. The number in the upper right corner represents the date of your last donation--first the year, then the month (example: "8906" is June 1989). No number? We hope you will send us a tax deductible donation soon.

Send It Where. . .

The Bourne Conservation
Trust
Post Box Office 203
Cataumet, MA 02534

The BCT is tax exempt
from Federal income tax
under section 501(c)(3) of
the Internal Revenue
Code. Donations to the
BCT are tax deductible (ID
Number: 04 2767827).

Board of Directors

Stephen Ballentine, President
Walter Everett, Treasurer
Philip DeNormandie, Trustee
John Corcoran, Trustee
David Dimmick, Trustee

Memorial Donations • April, May, June 1990

Mr. & Mrs. John Winsor in Memory of John Alden
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Birch in Memory of Tom Blakeman
Mrs. Dorothy Casselman in Memory of Tom Blakeman
The Cataumet Club in Memory of Tom Blakeman
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Downey in Memory of Tom Blakeman
Mr. & Mrs. Morton Myerson in Memory of Tom Blakeman
Mr. & Mrs. Robert S. Thomson in Memory of Tom Blakeman
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Thomson in Memory of Tom Blakeman
Mrs. Martha DeNormandie in Memory of James DeNormandie
Mr. & Mrs. Surendra Shahin Memory of James DeNormandie
Mrs. Robert Fish in Memory of Robert Weldon Draper
Mr. & Mrs. Lennart Lindberg in Memory of Lavinia Smyth Gamble
Ruth Walters in Memory of Robert Gardner
Mr. & Mrs. Hans Engelmann in Memory of Theodore Grant
Mr. & Mrs. William Holden in Memory of Warren Gribbons
Mr. & Mrs. John Quinn in Memory of Warren Gribbons
Mr. & Mrs. Richard S. Halloran in Memory of Richard F. Halloran
Mr. & Mrs. James Halloran in Memory of Richard F. Halloran
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Mrs. John Harvey in Memory of John Harvey
Joan Mayhew in Memory of Kilmer Joyce
Thomas W. Kingman in Memory of T. Barry Kingman
Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Daniels in Memory of Cazemiro Martin
Mrs. Mary Martin in Memory of Cazemiro Martin
Mr. & Mrs. William Shultz in Memory of Matthew Masch
Mr. Ernest Miller in Memory of Gladys J. Miller
The Cataumet Club in Memory of Dr. George Nardi
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Nickerson in Memory of Dr. George Nardi
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Winslow in Memory of Philip Nichols
Mrs. Thomas Lyons in Memory of Dexter Round
The Ballentine Family in Memory of "Squire"
Julia Tucker in Memory of Shirley Keene Tucker
Jane Ann Willis-Pearce in Memory of Anna Walden
Joanne Willey & Jeff Shelkey in Memory of Misha P. Willey
Mr. & Mrs. Hildreth Clark in Memory of Andrew C. Wood

Special Donations • April, May, June 1990

From Mrs. Jane Lazar to wish Mr. Nelson Seaver a speedy recovery.

From Mr. & Mrs. George Eckstrom in Memory of "The Anniversary Cottage".

Donations to the RED BROOK POND CONSERVATION PROJECT through June, 1990

Mrs. John Alden
 Mr. & Mrs. Ben Allen
 Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Amend
 Mr. David Amering
 Aputoxet Garden Club of Bourne
 Mr. & Mrs. F. S. Arsenault
 Anna Austill
 Mr. & Mrs. Arlan Baillie
 Mrs. Hope Baker
 The Baker Family
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 Mr. & Mrs. James Barrett
 Mr. & Mrs. David Beal
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 Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Beyer
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Birch
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 Mr. & Mrs. Hildreth Clark
 Coalition for Buzzards Bay
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 Mr. & Mrs. Frederic Cobb
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 Karin Martineau
 Jeanne Swan & David Masch
 Mrs. Joan Mayhew
 Mr. & Mrs. Jim McIntosh
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