

Bourne Conservation Trust

NEWSLETTER Number 21

Spring 1994

After David Dimmick entrusted two parcels of land to the Bourne Conservation Trust, a 2.5 acre waterfront overlook of Red Brook Harbor and the field on County Road opposite the Shore Road intersection (Newsletter, Fall 1993), we asked him to write something about the Dimmick land and the people who lived on it. He graciously obliged with his account of his family's long association with Cataumet.

200 YEARS IN CATAUMET

by David H. Dimmick

Our home in Cataumet, and the lives that formed it, have a history that parallels many homes and lives in coastal New England. The principal difference may be that the place has essentially remained in one family for over 200 years. Documents tucked away in drawers and cigar boxes illuminate parts of the past, so prodded by a desire to separate fact from fiction, I started going through old records--letters, receipts and bills, deeds, legal documents, etc., dating from 1751 through 1929 and made visits to local libraries, the Barnstable County Courthouse, and the Bourne Archives. Here is a glimpse of what I have learned so far.

The Nye family held much of what we now know as Cataumet when David Dimick, a sixth generation Cape Codder, bought property in the second parish of Sandwich 200 years ago, now the Arsenault property, located on Red Brook Pond. His earliest ancestor in this country, Thomas Dimock, had come from England in 1635 and, four years later established the village of Barnstable with the Rev. Joseph Hull. Succeeding generations lived in Barnstable and Falmouth before coming to Cataumet.

David established a wayside inn or tavern, on the site of our present home. He identified the inn with a sign displaying an American eagle and a shield showing 15 stars and 15 stripes. Recent writings refer to the place as the "Half Way House," because it was about half way between Falmouth and Wareham. A stable was in the barn and travelers could stay the night in the big salt-box-style house with center fireplaces.

Gradually, David acquired wood lots, salt marsh meadows, a wharf, and other dwellings. His brother and sisters lived in the area and married into familiar Cape families such as Wing, Nye, Swift, Hall, and Lawrence. In 1823, at the age of 59, David made written instructions to pass his property on to his oldest son, Frederick.

Today the "homestead" remains much the same size and layout as it was 200 years ago. The pasture (now our wood lot), meadow (the field covered by Conservation Restriction where the Bourne Conservation Trust owns the development rights), and house lot (then including house, barn, windmill, other outbuildings, orchard, vineyard, and garden) are all mentioned in the early records. It has served as a family farm with cows, horses, hogs, chickens, and produced apples, grapes, pears, corn, and other vegetables.



Frederick Jr.'s principal trade was that of carpenter. The proof of his skill is our home which he built in 1876, just behind the original house. The house frame is post-and-beam construction and is still true and square in all directions. He also built and owned an ice house on Cuff's Pond which provided ice to the summer residents. He was the proprietor of Bay View House, which seemed more a boarding house for the schoolteacher, circuit minister, traveling salesmen, and summer residents checking on their unheated houses in the off season. Today, the one-room schoolhouse in Cataumet where my grandmother taught still stands near the town tennis court.

The salt meadows described in early documents were a source of valuable salt marsh hay. The Scotch House Overlook, recently given to the BCT, was included in the family salt meadow. It is somewhat changed in appearance today because it was filled with sand when the channel around the south side of Bassett's Island was dredged in 1961. The marsh below the McGreevy property on Red Brook Harbor Road has seen fewer changes. The long straight channel on that marsh, visible today from the road, was used as a boundary line when portions of the marsh changed hands.

When my grandfather retired in 1934, he brought our house up to 1930 standards and developed a perennial garden behind it. He researched all branches of his family's genealogy: Mayhew, Hatch, Swift, Eldred, Doane, Paine, Hinckley, Lawrence, Lowell, Nickerson, Eldridge, Robinson, etc., pursuing matriarchal and patriarchal lines. We're all cousins!

My parents, Henry Stuart and Harriet, retired to Cataumet in 1965, made good friends, and upgraded the house.

Now we are the senior generation and it is our turn to sink resources into the old place. It cheerfully swallows any amount of money, but it is a special place that reflects the history of the area. It is our home and everyone's history. *Walk the trails and enjoy it!*



Special Contributions to the BCT

In appreciation for our Cataumet lineage-
 David; 1734-1794 and Thankful Hatch
 David; 1764-1843 and Mercy Doane
 Capt. Frederick; 1793-1871 and
 Mary Ann Lawrence
 Frederick, Jr.; 1837-1905 and Tirzah Hatch
 Henry Burgess Lincoln; 1869-1962 and
 Jennie Lovell and Elisabeth Carpenter
 Henry Stuart; 1900-1969 and Harriet Stewart

David and Frederica Dimmick

To Dave and Freddie Dimmick
 in appreciation of
 their generosity in preserving
 the field on County Road

Hal and Grace Rowe DeWaltoff

In honor of:

Stanley L. King from Stanley L. King Jr.
 Dick Shaw from Frank Knowlton
 Foster L. Birch from Mrs. Elizabeth Birch
 Leigh Stokey from Edith Stokey

Webster E. Collins in honor of
 his 90th birthday
 from Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Gordon

Sammy Sambrook in honor of
 her walking
 from Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Porter

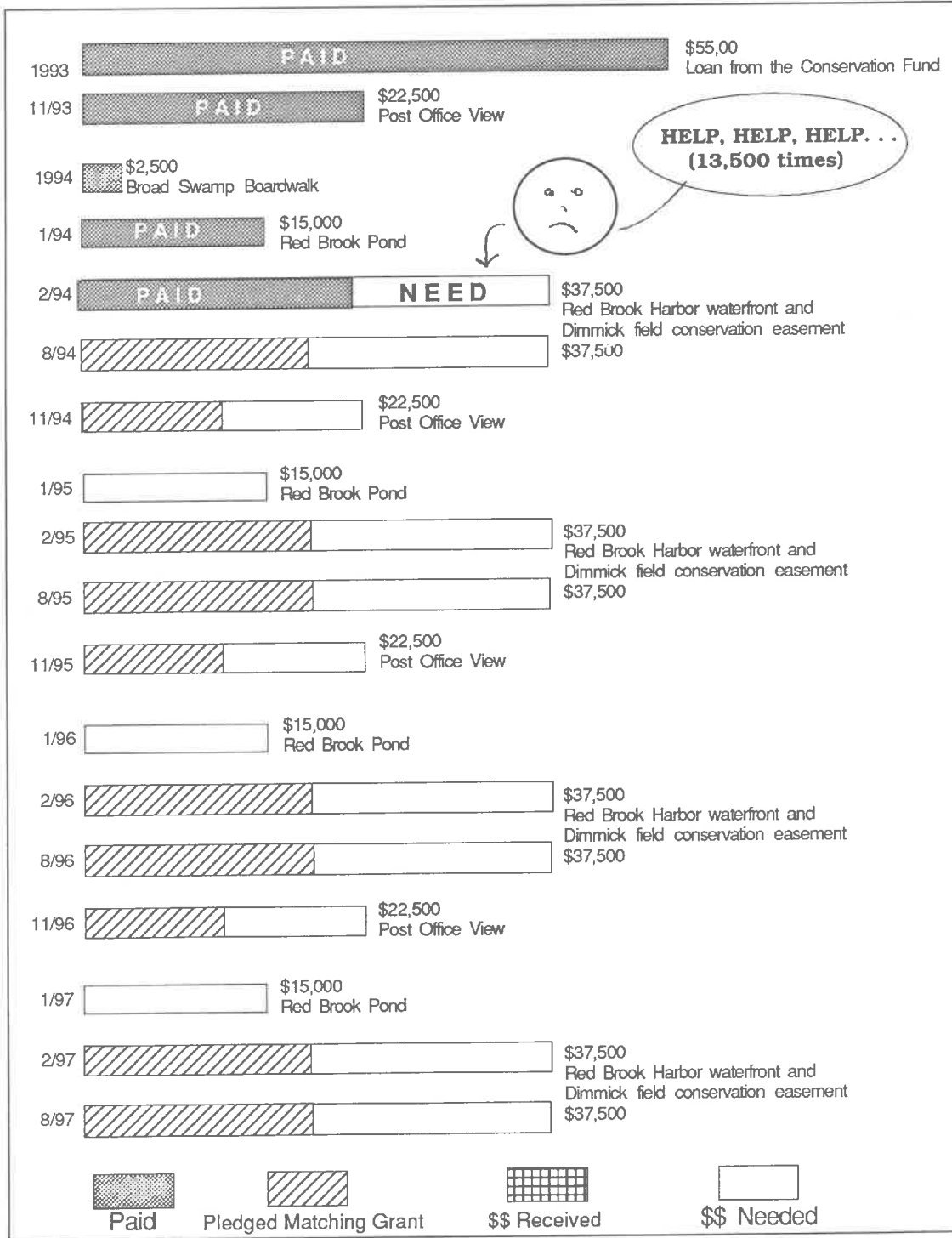
Mrs. Thomas Hanna in appreciation
 from Mrs. Robert Fish

Marilyn & Rich Fisher in honor of
 their 50th wedding anniversary
 from Heidi Lewitt

Tailing, a loved pet
 from Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Walters

MONEY MATTERS

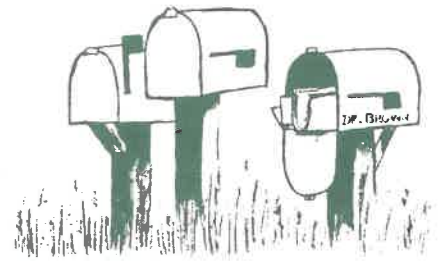
Or, if you prefer, *money* matters . . . or maybe, money *matters*. Regardless of your choice of emphasis, we would like to emphasize that we still lack \$13,500 for our February payment. The graph details our progress, both in acquiring choice properties for preservation and in meeting our obligations. Won't you **help**?



The BCT has a compelling need for your financial support-- both in number and frequency-- because a sustained flow of small contributions from widespread sources does add up and not only helps us to honor our financial pledges, but also impresses the foundations to which the BCT applies for grants.

IN THE MAIL

We frequently receive written comments about how the efforts of the BCT are perceived by contributors. Here are some samples:



A Florida correspondent regarded our last newsletter as "a meaty issue." (In that particular instance, the writer helped make it so.)



A Connecticut family is "very pleased to be part of such a successful trust and successful effort."

From historic Winthrop, Washington, we are urged to "keep up the good work." (We will . . . if you will.)

Since we vie with many other groups looking for support, it was gratifying to read, "When I look at the organizations that beg money, and try to prioritize them, BCT comes out first with the lowest administrative costs and the most visible rewards! Just being able to recognize Cataumet (and other parts of Bourne) tells me what a tremendous job BCT is doing!" (To paraphrase Sir Christopher Wren's epitaph, "If you wish to assess our work, look about you.")



A Pocasset resident regards our newsletters as "a joy to read."



In contributing towards the Post Office lot, one member recalls "the woodworking shop which stood there during World War II. During summer vacation, local teenagers had jobs there making typewriter tables for the military." (Many of our acquisitions touch a cord of memory in residents with long local associations.)



A Cataumet family thanks us for "saving the field on the opposite corner of Shore Road-- I love that field." (See the article by David Dimmick.)



10c

And how about this one!



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Boston, 02202

WILLIAM F. WELD
GOVERNOR
ARGEO PAUL CELLUCCI
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

TRUDY COXE
SECRETARY

January 12, 1994

Tel: (617) 727-9800
Fax: (617) 727-2754

Mr. David H. Dimmick
10 Sassamon Road
South Natick, MA 01760


Dear Mr. Dimmick:

As I look back over the environmental successes this past year the bargain sale gift of a conservation restriction over 5 acres of your property in Cataumet to the Bourne Conservation Trust was indeed one of the many significant contributions in Massachusetts during 1993.

Your gift serves to protect the last remaining and particularly scenic, historic pasture in the village of Cataumet. The willingness by you to work with the Bourne Conservation Trust in allowing a public trail access serves to further the objectives of the trust by linking its other properties through a continuous public trail system. Your generosity and willingness to work with the Trust has not gone unnoticed.

Personally and on behalf of a grateful Commonwealth I thank you most sincerely.

Sincerely,


Trudy Coxé
Secretary

cc: Bourne Conservation Trust
Bourne Board of Selectmen

Public Workshop

METHODS TO PRESERVE IMPORTANT OPEN LAND

DATE: Tuesday, 21 June 1994
TIME: 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm
PLACE: Sandwich Library,
Sandwich Village

All are invited to attend.
Admission is free and
refreshments will be
served. For more
information, call 888-
7629 or 362-9131.

SPEAKERS:

John Cullity, President, Sandwich Conservation Trust
"WELCOME & INTRODUCTION"

Mario DiGregorio, Principal, Sabatia Consulting, Inc.
"THE FUNCTIONS AND VALUES OF WETLANDS"

Mark Robinson, Executive Director,
The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts
"TAX ADVANTAGES OF LAND DONATIONS
AND CONSERVATION EASEMENTS"

Sponsored by:
*Sandwich Conservation Trust &
Bourne Conservation Trust*



Tempus Fugit

Perhaps you can't recall when you made your last 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. For Example, "8906" means June 1989. A "g" following the number (8906g) means that a donation was made in your honor in June of 1989. No number? We hope you will send us a donation soon.



Board of Directors

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Walter Everett, Treasurer
Philip DeNormandie, Trustee
John Corcoran, Trustee
Robert Birch, Trustee
Donald Mears, Trustee

\$\$ Help Us Save Postage Charges \$\$

If you receive more than one
Newsletter or have a new mailing
address, please let us know.

The BCT is tax exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Within IRS guidelines contributions may be deductible from your taxable income.
(ID Number: 04 2767827).

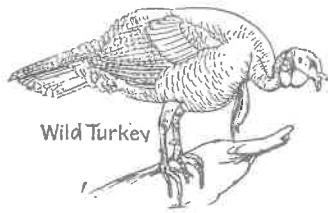
Broad Swamp Boardwalk update: Remember when a swamp was something to be filled in? Now we know better. In our last newsletter, we solicited funds to enable Bourne High School to construct a boardwalk in Broad Swamp across from the school. Such a walk will make the wetland accessible as a "living laboratory" for biology and science studies as well as art and photography classes.

We are pleased to announce that sufficient funds were received; we will report on further progress from the High School in the next newsletter.

Our village center, the Post Office Building, has been purchased by local Andrea York and the BCT is most pleased to have someone local for a neighbor. The P.O. Building is a most appropriate showcase for the many talented people we have in the area.



Partial to group singing and storytelling around a campfire? Want to take a guided moonlight tour of the Red Brook Pond Conservation Area? Watch the local papers for dates and times.



Wild Turkey

More than one (or one more than once) wild turkeys have been spotted in the DeNormandie Woods Conservation Area.

H A P P E N I N G S

THE COALITION FOR BUZZARDS BAY



presents

The Buzzards Bay Guardian Award

to

Bourne Conservation Trust

for outstanding service in the stewardship
of this magnificent estuary entrusted to our care

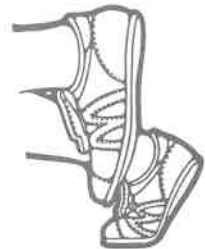
on this 29th day of January, 1994

Stephen C. Smith
President, Board of Directors

Mimi A. McConnell
Executive Director

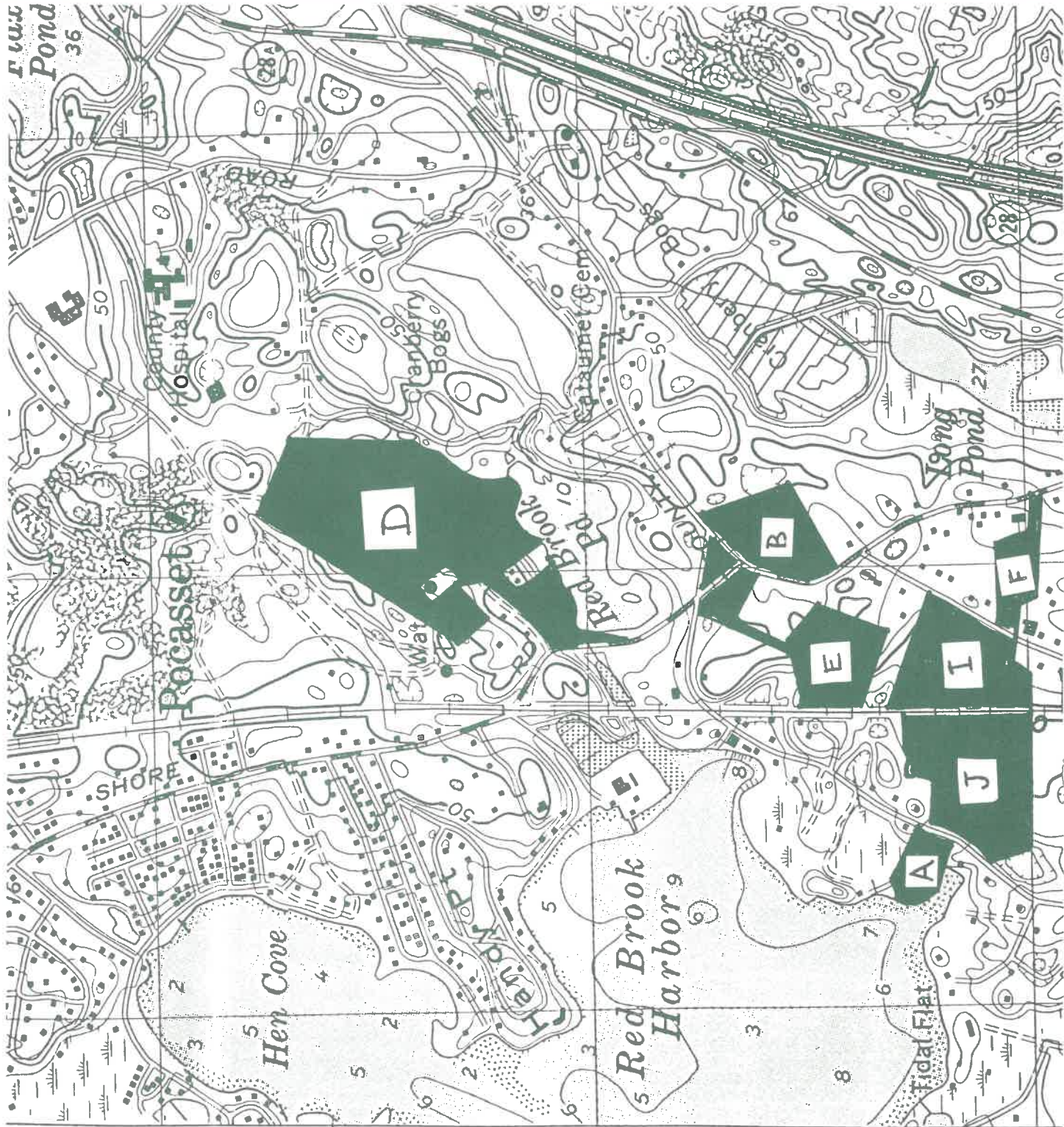
An editorial in the Cape Cod Times noted that the Coalition for Buzzards Bay gave its Guardian Award to the BCT for its work in land preservation. The award was presented by George R. Hampson, the Coalition's president, and was accepted by Sally and Steve Ballentine in the name of the BCT. Mr. Hampson had high praise for the work of the BCT and the fine support of its members.

In a separate communication, the Coalition's executive secretary, Mimi McConnell, made special note of Sally and Steve's "Dedication, imagination, tenacity, leadership, and selflessness"-- qualities that we all have observed and admired



The BCT received some cold cash in January when entry fees for the annual Cape Cod Roadrunners Weary Travelers road race were donated to our efforts. Thirty-plus runners came out in teen-temperatures for the event and needed no urging to keep moving.

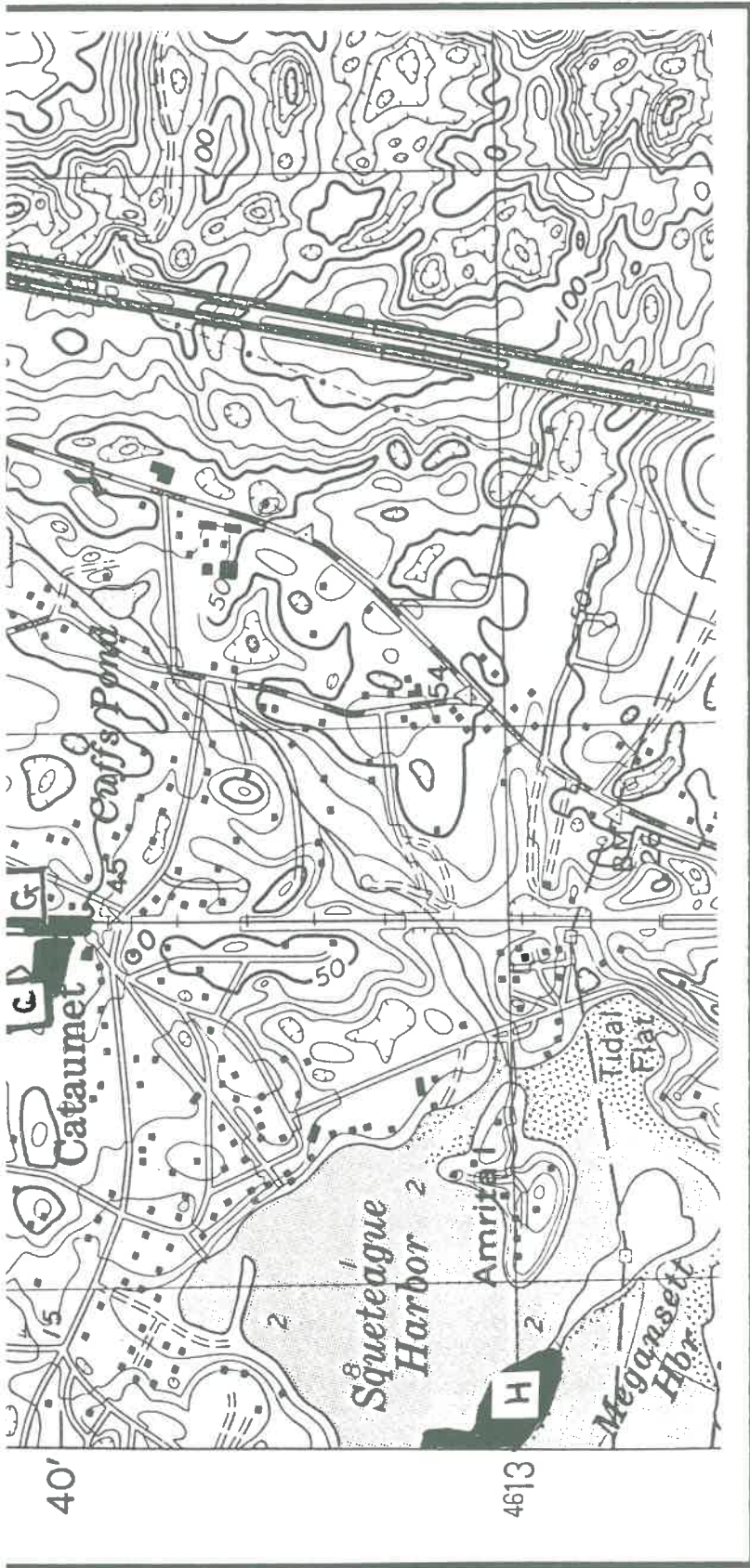
BCT PINUP OF THE MONTH



6867 II NW (ONSETT)

4615

4614



Our Current Projects:

- A. Red Brook Harbor Overlook
- B. Dimmick Field (Conservation Restrictions)
- C. Post Office View
- D. Red Brook Pond Conservation Area
(Nivling-Alexander Reserve)

Town of Bourne Owned Conservation Areas:

- I. Broyer Conservation Area
- J. Robinson Conservation Area

The Bourne Conservation Trust also owns land in Sagamore, Pocasset, Gray Gables, and Bourne.

BCT owned Conservation Areas:

- E. Denormandie Woods
- F. John E. Handy Conservation Area
- G. Cataumet RR Depot
- H. Lawrence Island

GIFT PACKAGING

Gifts to the Bourne Conservation Trust are charitable contributions with resulting tax benefits. The amount of the benefit depends on the kind and size of gift. A well-planned gift can combine financial and charitable objectives by providing tax benefits thereby meeting personal and charitable goals.

CASH: Cash donations provide immediate funds for use by the BCT and can result in tax savings for the donor.

REAL ESTATE: Real estate can be given as an outright gift. Such donations have both real estate and income tax benefits.

BARGAIN SALE: By special arrangement, you may sell your property to the BCT for less than its fair market value (a bargain sale) and the difference is considered a charitable gift.

LIFE INSURANCE: The Bourne Conservation Trust can be named as a beneficiary on a life insurance policy.

SECURITIES: Gifts of appreciated securities may save on capital gains taxes.

WILL: Naming the BCT in your will creates a gift and can reduce or eliminate federal estate taxes.

LIFE INCOME GIFTS: The transfer of cash, securities, or other property to a charitable trust will provide a life income to the donor, donor's spouse, or other beneficiaries. After the death of the last named beneficiary, the principal becomes available for use by the BCT. Current tax deductions and eventual estate tax deductions provide a double benefit.

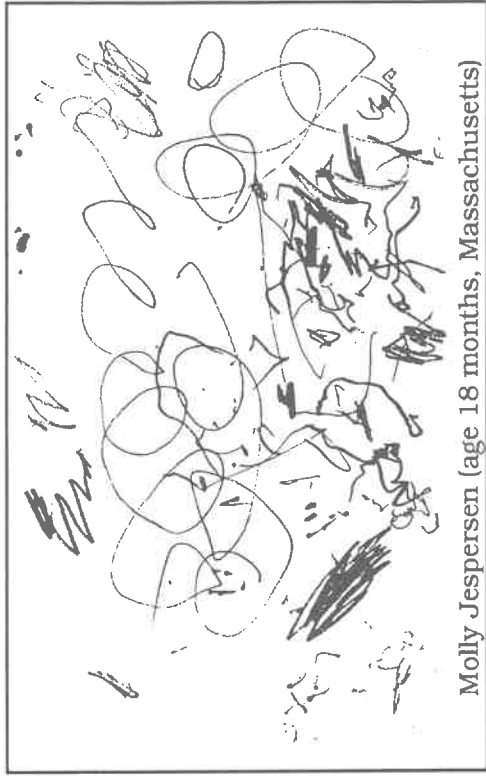
CHARITABLE LEAD TRUST: Cash or securities can be placed in a charitable trust for a specified period of time, with the income directed to the BCT. At the end of the trust period, the principal reverts to the donor or some other beneficiary.

The BCT is tax exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Within IRS guidelines contributions may be deductible from your taxable income. (ID number: 04 2767827) Donors should consult their own tax advisor for financial and legal advice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
Please call (508) 563-5196 or write to the Bourne Conservation Trust, Box 203, Cataumet, MA 02534-0203



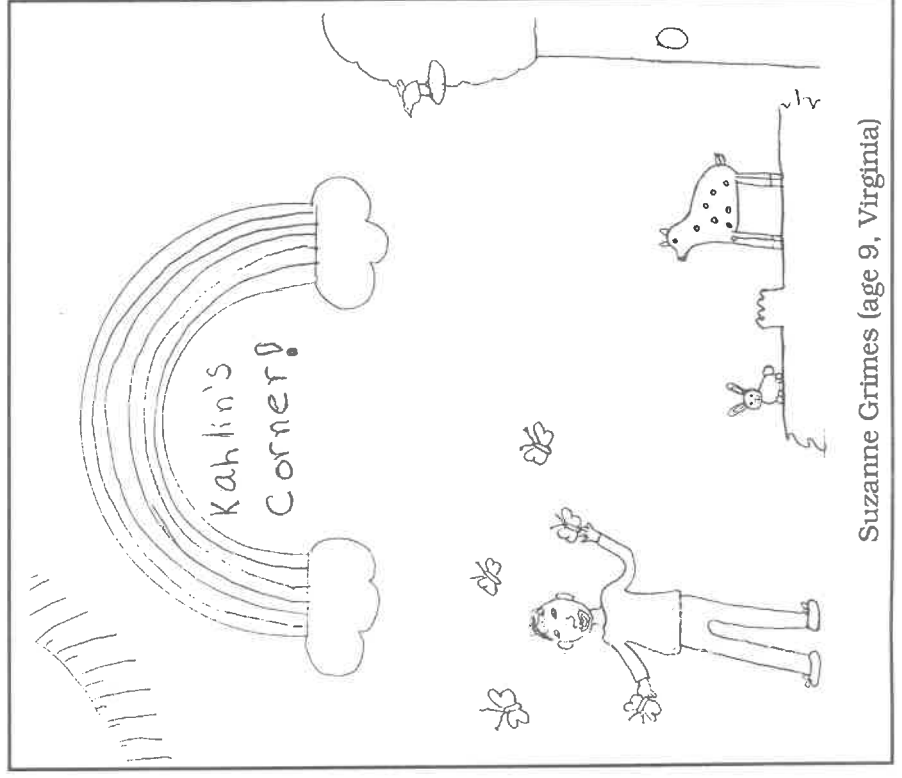
Kahlin's Korner is dedicated to the memory of Kahlia Jaspersen, a child full of sunshine and a love of nature, and also to all children for whom we preserve a part of the natural world.



Molly Jaspersen (age 18 months, Massachusetts)



Andy Casio (age 14, Massachusetts)



Suzanne Grimes (age 9, Virginia)

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In memory of Richard Aldridge
Mr. & Mrs. Elmer J. Porter

In memory of Dorothy Alexander
Mr. & Mrs. Elmer J. Porter

In memory of Martin S. Alvey
Mrs. Martin Alvey

In memory of Pasquale Arnone
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In memory of Walter & Grace Atwood
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Forget-me-not

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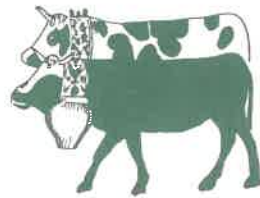
OXEN OWNERS REJOICE!



Questionable Old Wives' Tales about two plants that flourish in the Pond:

1. In summer do pike really spring spontaneously from the pickerel weed growing in its quiet, sun-warmed shallows? and,

2. Will a team of unruly oxen actually pull together joyfully if their fodder is laced with swamp loosestrife?



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