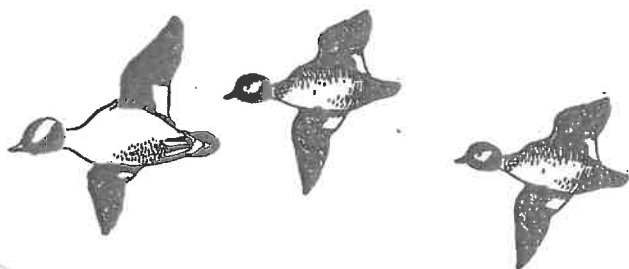


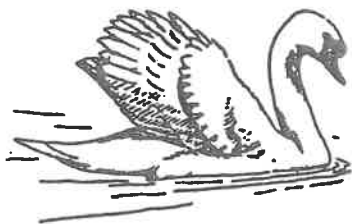
## Period of Adjustment on Red Brook Pond Stoics vs. Hedonists

The lone egret had left, followed by the kingbird couple, then by the whole red-winged blackbird tribe. Early in October the ospreys joined the flight south, and about a fortnight later the fall's first contingent of buffleheads skirred in from Canada. Checking their rapid



wingbeats, the trio-- one male, one female and one juvenile-- alighted and skidded to a waggish halt. Their advent marked an annual change on the Pond: departures for the south had ended, arrivals from the north had begun. It's a change that always unsettles the Pond's year-rounders, particularly the swan couple. Buffleheads, you see, subscribe to a rather free-spirited lifestyle and as they settle in for the winter, the very proper swans may well be muttering, "There goes the neighborhood."

Swans are your basic law-and-order types and have a low disorder threshold, so when the raucous yawpings of a flight of Canada geese alert their hackles, they puff up in preparation



for a showdown with the invading squadron. If the intruders are slow learners, the swans will pursue them the length and breadth of the Pond until they get the message and make their usual loud and scurrilous exit.

Unlike the garrulous geese, the buffleheads materialize quietly, sailing in fast, low



and silent. Suddenly there they are right in the middle of the Pond, spashing, bobbing and diving like they own the place. Now the autumn phase of the annual period of adjustment begins. Everyone-- gulls, cormorants, herons, kingfishers and mallards-- will adjust to the bufflehead incursion, everyone except the swans who will once again do their best to ignore them. They may busy themselves chaperoning the mallards--- even dine with them occasionally-- or supervise clusters of gulls riding out a January nor'easter, but they keep their distance from the buffleheads. And it's mutual. After a hectic sub-arctic summer of nesting, mating and rearing their young, buffleheads want no part of a neighborly relationship that even hints at fettering their freedom.

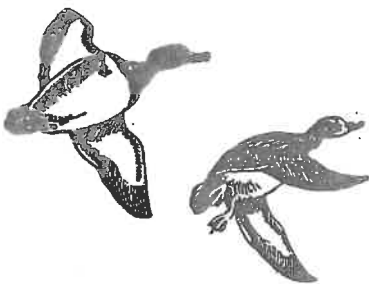
To a swan, bufflehead behavior must seem strange at times, downright disconcerting at others. Buffleheads are forever skittering about, chasing one another. For nourishment they prefer fish to pond weed and unlike swans

and their mallard vassals, they do not employ the conventional tail-up-head-down feeding maneuver. They simply dive and disappear completely beneath the Pond's surface, then reappear who knows where or when. Odd, you see.

Then there's the matter of becoming air-borne. Swans must muscle and sprint their way aloft, wings whistling like corduroy, wingtips slapping out rapid-fire reports and huge webbed feet smacking the water like a beaver's tail. Mallards can achieve lift-off in a single startled leap. But a submerged bufflehead can explode out of the water and into the air like a Navy ICBM, sometimes only inches from a serenely gliding swan. How's that for disconcerting?



A trifle taken aback they may be, but the swans appear as unruffled as an English butler even as succeeding knots of buffleheads skitter in, sometimes just ahead of a flight of



ring-necked ducks or other diving, fish-eating, toujours-gai types bent on joining the buffleheads' joyfully madcap fun and games.

Swans must be stoics. Why else would they put up with such frivolity? Why else would they choose to submit to a Cape Cod February?

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

## Run for the money. . .

Two for the show? More than "three" got ready when in January, 145 runners sped over five miles during the annual Cape Cod Roadrunners-sponsored Weary Travelers Road Race. The Day was overcast but the track was fast. The winner: the BCT, who received the proceeds of \$284. Our deep appreciation to the organization and the participants.



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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).



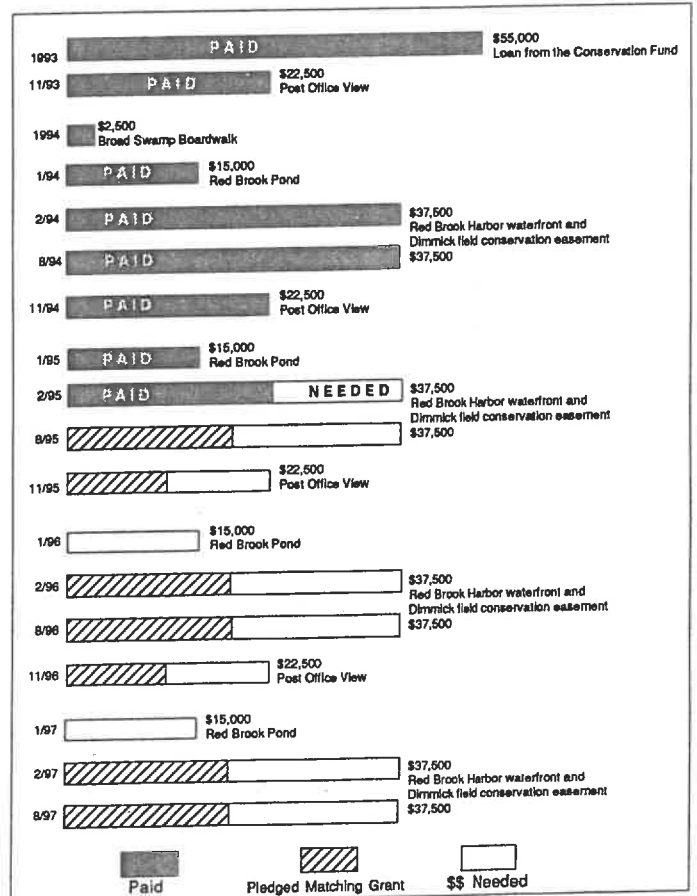
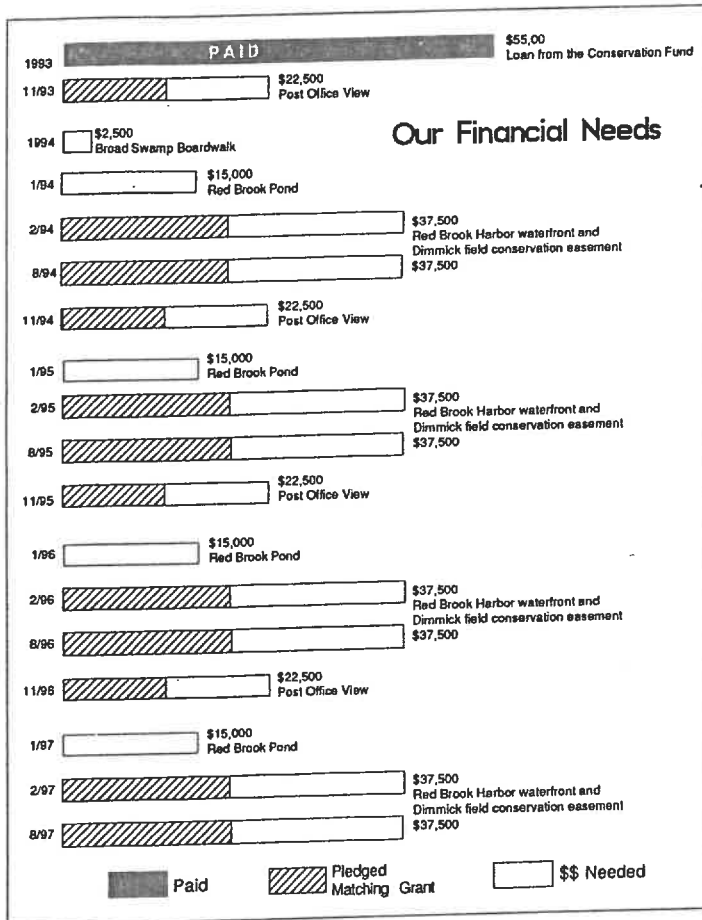
### \$\$ Help Us Save Postage Charges \$\$

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

# Take Our Comparison Test

## Before (Fall '93)

## After (Current)



"Before" is our financial snapshot as of the fall, 1993; "after" is our current status. The graphs depict our successes and future goals in preserving selected scenic and environmentally significant portions of our town. Our immediate press is the overdue (2/95) and approaching payment (8/95) for the Red Brook Harbor waterfront and Dimmick field conservation easement project.

As can be seen by our time line, this is a continuing effort for which we will be asking for your continuing assistance rather than, ah, putting all of our begs in one ask-it...





## Who Sent It? You?


The 'it' in question is a BCT envelope, the kind we send with the Newsletter, the kind that normally is returned to Cataumet PO Box 203 with the donor's name and a check inside. This time, however, there was no name, no check, and this is our only clue: the envelope was mailed in Brockton on January 5. So, if you've been wondering why your gift hasn't been acknowledged (if we'd received it, it would have been), here's the answer. Oh, yes, we're still at the same address.



## Cataumet Beautification Committee

### WANNA HELP?

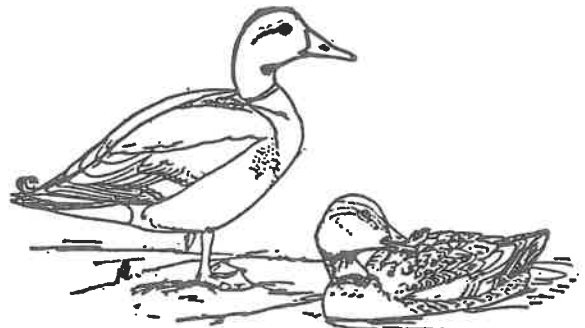
The Cataumet Beautification Committee is seeking volunteers to help with this summer's auction although the date, time and place of the biennial event are still to be determined. In the past the CBC has contributed a generous portion of the auction's proceeds to the Bourne Conservation Trust. If you want to take part, call Sally Ballentine at 563-5196 or Grace Rowe at 563-7846.



BCT  
T-Shirts &  
Sweatshirts !  
...  
Are Available  
For Sale

To Order, Please Call  
Sally Ballentine  
(508) 563-5196  
or Write To:  
Bourne Conservation Trust  
Box 203  
Cataumet, MA 02534

**BCT Mini-Doc** A new Bourne Conservation Trust film includes shots of BCT properties-- Lawrence Island, several wooded areas, marshes and fields, and Red Brook Pond-- and glimpses of local bird, animal and plant life. Copies of the locally-produced 10-minute VHS cassette are on sale for \$18.00 and can be ordered by calling (508-563-5196) or writing (Box 203, Cataumet, MA 02534) the BCT. Proceeds will be used to help pay off mortgages on some of the pictured BCT locales.

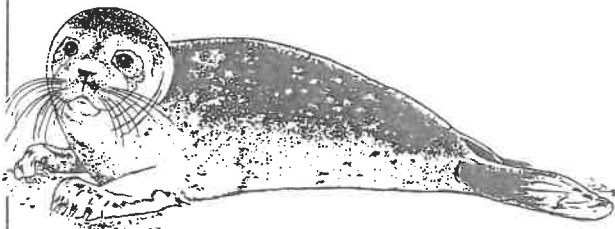
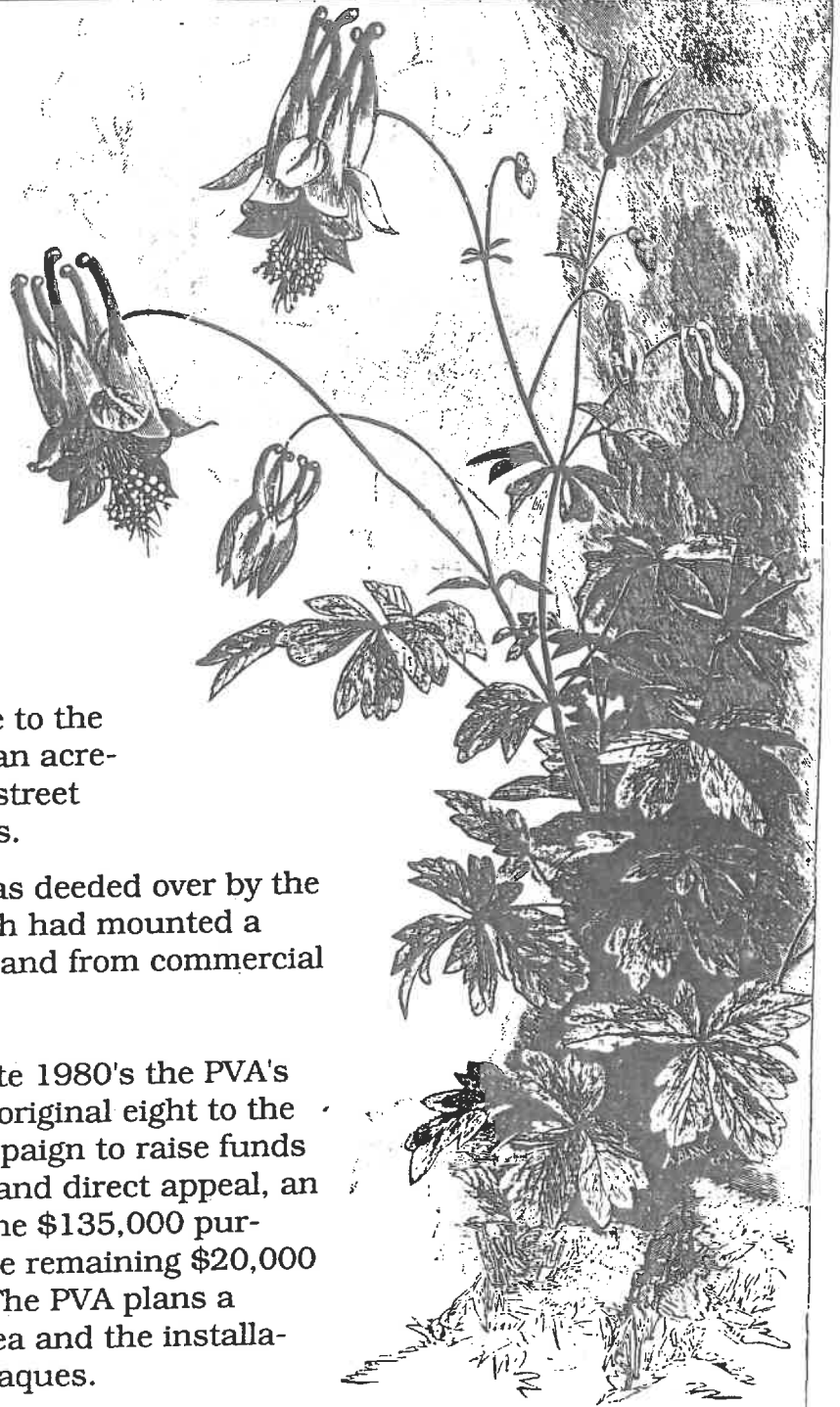


## **PVA's Persistence Produces Pocasset Park**

The BCT has accepted title to the aborning Pocasset Village Park, an acre-minus parcel of land across the street from and southwest of Graziella's.

In January the property was deeded over by the Pocasset Village Association which had mounted a grassroots campaign to save the land from commercial development.

Since its founding in the late 1980's the PVA's membership has grown from the original eight to the present 250 and sustained a campaign to raise funds through yard sales, flea markets and direct appeal, an effort which netted \$115,000 of the \$135,000 purchase price. Responsibility for the remaining \$20,000 has been assumed by the BCT. The PVA plans a spring clean-up of the wooded area and the installation of benches and memorials plaques.



On April 17, strollers on Lawrence Island spotted a tagged ( yellow tag on rear flipper) harbor seal basking in the sun on the Squeteague side of the island (across from "Love Is Eternal"). The seal was as curious about the people as they were about him and allowed the strollers to venture quite close before slipping into the water.



In memory of  
**Gerry Dubuque**

who derived great enjoyment from Bourne's natural resources, especially the shellfishing areas

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*Diaphanous Dinner-Dance Redux*

*Our elusive Dinner-Dance Fund Raiser -- all pay and no play -- was pleased to greet twelve additional no-shows, some of whom doubled their pleasure by not attending twice. Their (dis)appearance raised our total take to \$15,500.*

*To misquote W. Churchill, never have so many given so much for so little.*

*Remember, tickets are still available.*



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Happy 75th Birthday to Fredrick Youngquist, Jr.  
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In honor of Mrs. Penny Cartier

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Lee Wendell Lunde

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In honor of Richard & Janet Shaw

Keith & Barbara Noyes

In memory of "all the ghosts"

Charles & Joan Pratt

In memory of Casey, our beagle

James & Carol Lucas



## Boardwalk Will Link Classroom Education With Environment

By JOHN A. NICHOLSON

The environment is an educational resource for Bourne High School biology teacher Robert M. Gray, who has spent the last four years working with his students on building a boardwalk into Broad Swamp, across Waterhouse Road from the high school.

The project is about 70 percent complete and should be finished in time for the 25th anniversary of Earth Day on April 22. Mr. Gray and his students are currently working on getting approval from the state for a crosswalk.

The project was originally designed as a way of bringing the students closer to the environment, but it has also turned into a labor of love for Mr. Gray. With pride he admits he knows very little about constructing a boardwalk, but he is very in tune with the plant and animal life that make up this fragile little ecosystem in the middle of a residential area.

Like all worthwhile endeavors, there are times when the success of the project was in doubt. This happened nearly a dozen times in the last four years, Mr. Gray recalled.

Students decided to take on the project in 1990. They worked on finding out the owners of the swamp and researched land uses surrounding the property. There was also work done on surveying the plant and animal life in the swamp.

### Work Paid Off

"The students' work paid off and the school received a donation of land from two property owners, Tom Donovan and Paul Medieros," said Mr. Gray. "The parcel makes up a portion of the project site."

All seemed to go well until the high school students appeared before the conservation commission, of which Mr. Gray is vice chairman. "They said they like the idea and it was a great project but our plans were lousy," Mr. Gray said. "We had some work before us to improve the plans."

In the second year a different group of students continued to survey the swamp.

"We were getting some local media attention and this helped a lot. Carlton Handy followed the story in the paper and he was one of the landowners. He ended up conveying his land to the Bourne Conservation Trust for school use. This was an important piece because it is the parcel closest to the school," Mr. Gray said.

Biological data was sent to the Massachusetts Natural Heritage office and the wetlands were certified as a vernal pool. During the 1992-93 school year, the students also participated in a number of evening swamp walks to document amphibian breeding.

"We also successfully got an order of conditions from the conservation commission. The work being done was noticed by an engineer from Eagle Engineering and Survey in Sandwich and they agreed to prepare a survey of the land for us at no charge," Mr. Gray said. "Paul Ryll works there and at that time I had his son in my class."

The biggest disappointment in the second year was there was no construction done as initially expected.

"We picked up the ball in year three. We continued on with the biological survey work, but then underwent a harsh lesson in economics. We had a great idea but no money to complete the project. The town had no extra money and there was no money in the school budget, so we started to look at ways to raise the funds."

The class turned to the Bourne Conservation Trust and it established a Broad Swamp Fund. "A single article in their newsletter resulted in an anonymous donation of \$3,500 for the construction materials," he said.

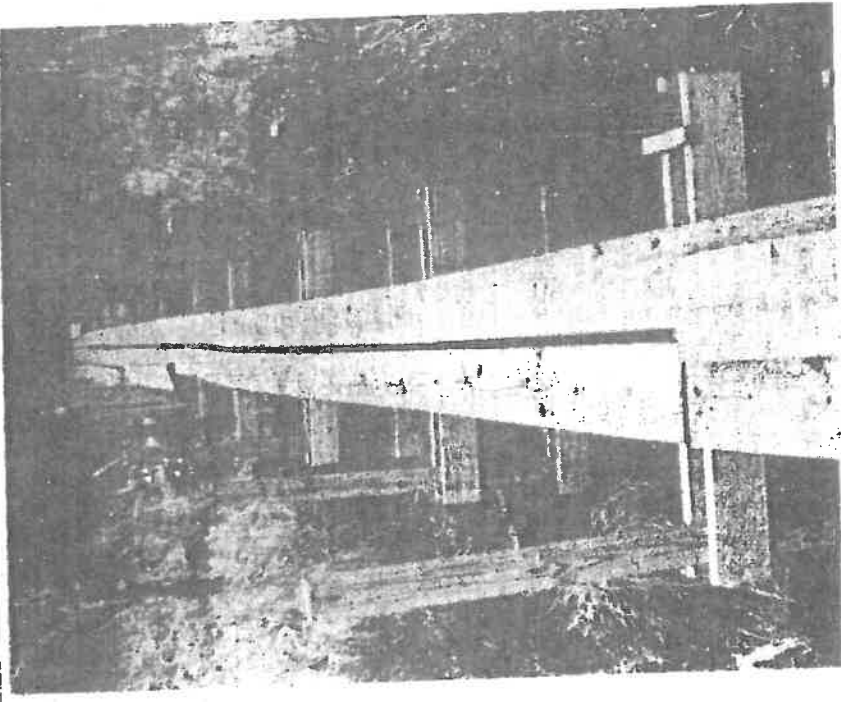
It is now year four and there were plans for construction to begin this fall with assistance from the high school shop class. However, a turnover of three shop teachers since the fall made it nearly impossible for construction to continue. The students settled for boardwalk supports made at the high school, but even with that, Mr. Gray said, no students have been involved in the construction work since it began in February.

Working by himself and with Neil Gasper, a carpenter, and a member of the conservation commission about half the walkway is

complete. Mr. Gray has also had help from student teacher Steve Hayes and local builder Bob Fountain. "I even had my brother-in-law, Robert Ruth, help when he was here visiting from New York," Mr. Gray said.

A work crew will be at the swamp this weekend. When completed, the boardwalk will extend 120 to 130 feet into the swamp. A T-shaped deck will cap the end and there will be enough room for 20 to 24 students at a time.

"This presents the students with a great opportunity. This can be used in the science classes but is not limited there. It is also a site that writing classes and art classes would appreciate and learn from," Mr. Gray said.



The Boardwalk Into Broad Swamp

(Photograph by John Nicholson)

Reprinted from the  
March 24, 1995  
Bourne Enterprise  
with permission of  
John A. Nicholson



**Kahlin's Korner** is dedicated to the memory of Kahlin Jespersen, 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.

I like living on Cape Cod  
because I like going fishing  
off the dock.

Les Crosby

I like living on Cape Cod  
because there is fresh  
air.

Joshua David Woelstein

**Mrs. Fisher's  
first grade  
class at  
Hoxie School**

I like living on Cape Cod  
because I can look out  
my window and see  
the ocean.

I like living on Cape Cod  
because I can go to  
the beach and  
collect rocks.

Christy Robinson

I like living on Cape Cod  
because kids go surfing  
(I can go surfing).

Mike Westling

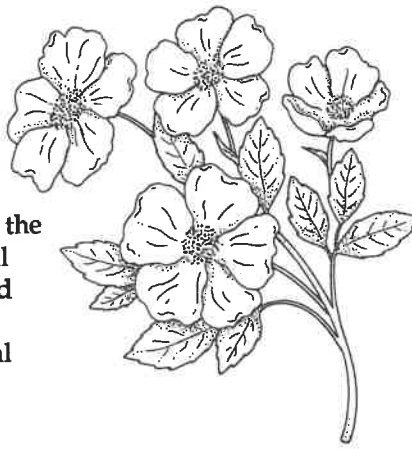
I like living on Cape Cod  
because me and my  
uncle can  
collect crabs.

Brandon Gibbs

Kahlin's Korner is a regular feature of the Newsletter, featuring children's articles or drawings. Included will be activities that are fun and will also help children to understand their natural environment.

We hope you will submit ideas for future issues.  
(BCT, Box 203, Cataumet MA 02534)

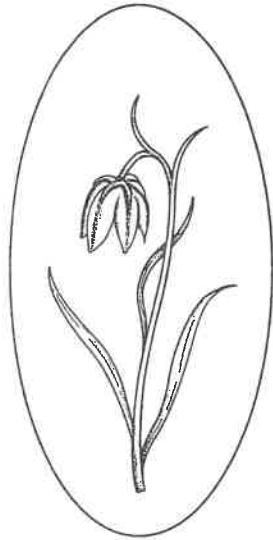
**LIFE INSURANCE:** The Bourne Conservation Trust can be named as a beneficiary on a life insurance policy.



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

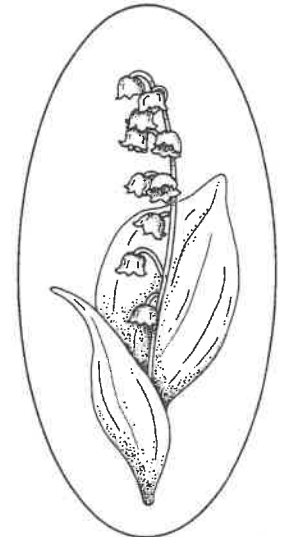
**BARGAIN SALE:** By special arrangement, you may sell your property to the BCT for less than its fair market value (a bargain sale) and the difference is considered a charitable gift.

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



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

**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.**



**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.



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

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



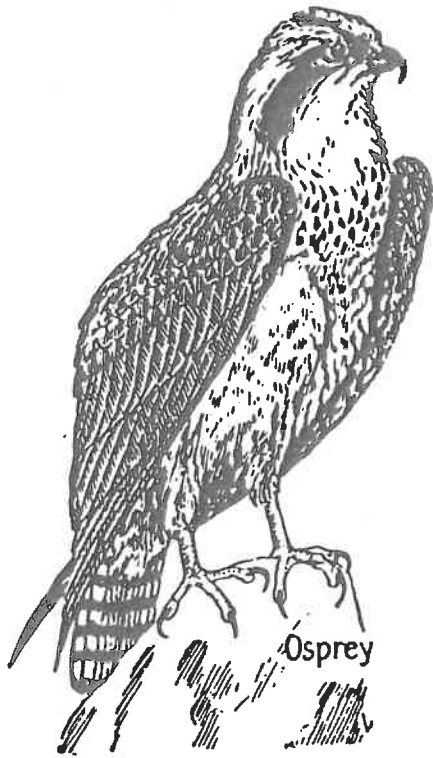
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**CHARITABLE LEAD TRUST:** Cash or securities can be placed in a charitable trust for a specified period of time, with the income directed to the BCT. At the end of the trust period, the principal reverts to the donor or some other beneficiary.

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## Osprey Update

An osprey couple-- probably the same pair described in last fall's BCT Newsletter-- returned to the Cape from their winter quarters on April 5 and were observed checking out the nesting platform erected for them last year on Red Brook Pond. Stay tuned.

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