

Bourne Conservation Trust

NEWSLETTER Number 24

Late fall 1995

Our Ubiquitous Red Fox

(During the spring, a red fox was seen so often and in so many places around Cataumet that he became a local conversation piece. For a while, "Have you seen the fox today?" replaced the usual greetings exchanged at the Post Office. The fox wasn't shy and seemed to appear everywhere-- trotting through cranberry bogs, across Dimmick's Field,

beside the County Road, around Red Brook Pond, once pausing for a long quizzical look through a kitchen storm door at a startled neighbor. Although Joan Hutton's subject is a *silver* fox, her poem captures the childlike feelings of awe and wonder that welled up in many of us when we chanced upon our *red* fox.)

THE WILD SILVER FOX

Down among the parsley,
Out beyond the phlox,
I have a secret place to meet
A wild silver fox.

So early on a summer's day,
When all *their* eyes are sealed,
I slip from bed without a noise
And pausing by the field,

I repeat some magic words
Like *bud* and *dawn* and *dew*,
To spellbind my excitement
Into coming true—

And then I go along the paths
Where moss conceals the rocks,
Through buttercups and bluebells
Calling "Fox?" and "Fox?"

I stop and count the graceful wheat,
Unhurried as the air,
When like a second waking up—
The sudden fox is there.

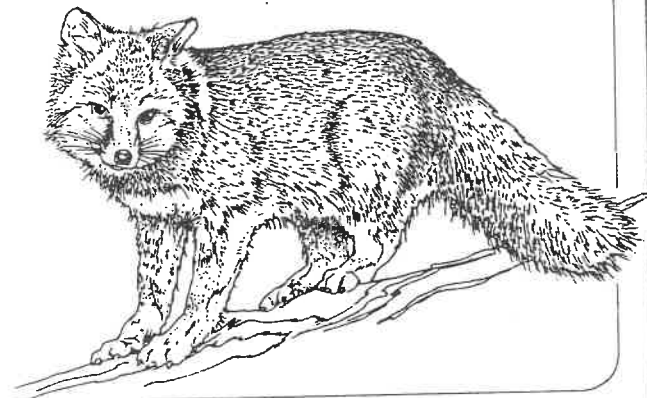
His look is very serious,
And yet his eyes are sweet,
The kind of look you look for
In the people that you meet;

And when we sit a formal time,
He half expresses smiles
That people who don't know him
Call his "crafty wiles".

And sometimes, then, he leads me
Deep among the trees;
He lets me hear the language
A fox will speak to bees.

He shows me where the rabbits go,
The bubbly haunt of frogs,
The copse of firs that hides his lair
Under fallen logs;

He knows all tiny pathways
And every hidden place
Where, whiskery and softly furred,
Each creature leaves his trace.



He counsels me in ferns and brooks
And where the minnow lies,
In mushroom dells like palaces,
And routes where pheasants rise.

Then, as the sun gets stronger—
The morning almost here—
The fox will double on our tracks
And softly as the deer,

Lead me to the other world,
And when we're at its edge,
He disappears, as foxes do,
When out beyond the hedge—

I find the phlox has opened,
The parsley green and deep,
And the swallows making music
To wake the day from sleep.

And then I go inside the house
And, putting on both socks,
I whisper to my wide-eyed toys
Of wonder and a fox.

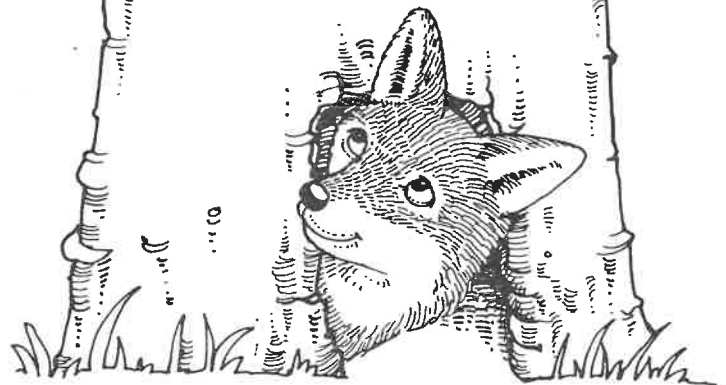
—Joan Hutton

*Reprinted with the author's permission

TALLYHO!

Seen our resident fox lately? Ever? If you have a good fox story, share the details--the what, when and where--with me. I'd appreciate it.

Reynard
c/o BCT, Box 203
Cataumet, MA 02534
Thanks.

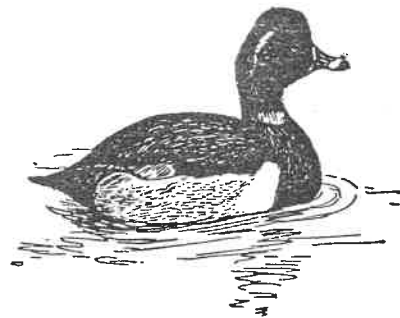


"...a duck with a fishhook in its bill..."

The above quote was just a blip in Mary Zepernick's column in the April 7 Cape Cod Times, a column about Wild Care, the Cape's only wildlife rehab facility. The duck's plight was just a random example of the sort of problem Wild Care faces daily.

But there was a lot more to the story: Early on a spring morning, Maureen and Arthur Forziati set out to discover the source of the piercing sounds they'd heard coming from Red Brook Pond during the night. Their search led them to a frantic ring-necked duck, a fishhook embedded in its bill, a segment of filament weighted with lead sinkers entangled in reeds effectively tethering it. The Forziatis freed the ring-neck and delivered it to Wild Care in Brewster where it was cared for until healed and ready to return to the wild.

And there's more: When the ring-neck was returned to Red Brook Pond, it found its mate patiently waiting. After a bit the pair flew off to the southwest. Together again.

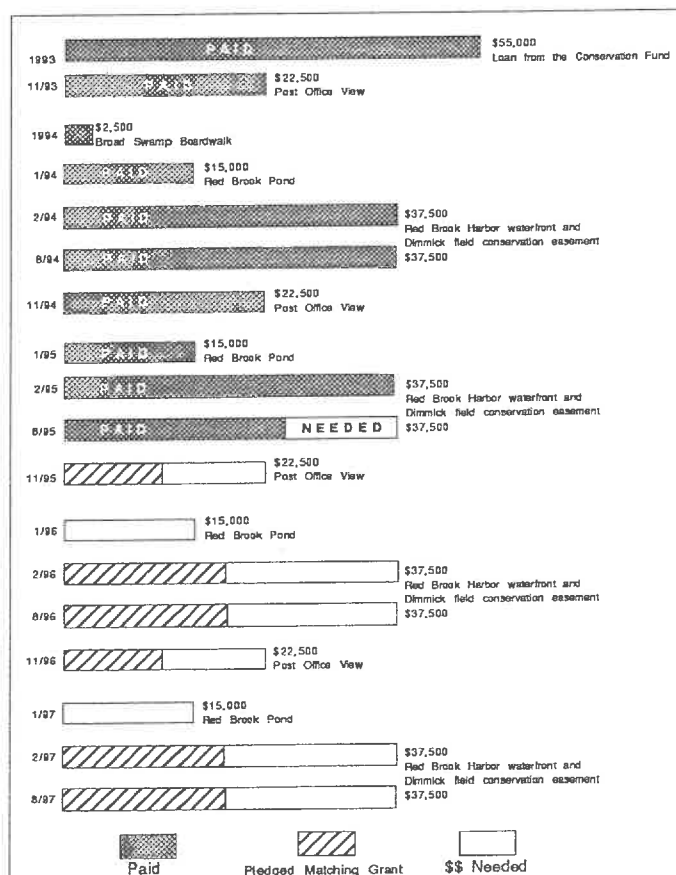


HELP STEM THE TIDE

A recent Boston Globe headlines, "Growth Wave Floods Cape, Islands," pointing out that between 1980 and 1994, Barnstable County grew 32.6%, compared with 4.5% for the rest of the State. A Barnstable town official said that traffic has risen 100% in seven years; others fear that the larger, year-round crowds will "compromise the character of the Cape." Meanwhile, the

report goes on to say, towns are scouring their municipal ledgers for money to keep up services but have no funds to purchase land for open space.

Help us to stem that tide of growth. Consider each bar of the accompanying graph a finger in the dike holding back the population wave now upon us.



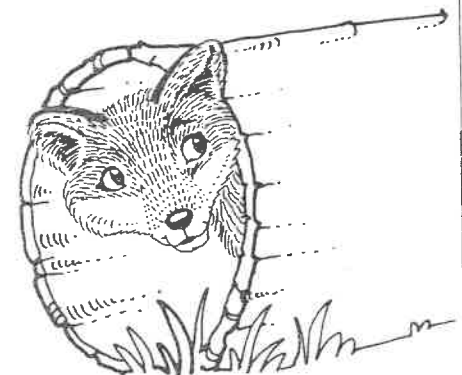
Current Needs

Since our last graph, we have blackened a bit of a bar: most notably, the 2/95 payment towards the Red Brook Harbor and the Dimmick Field easement. We are, however, past due on an August increment of \$12,000 for the same purchase.

Also fast upon us is the November payment of \$22,500 for the Post Office view (of which **\$11,250 is committed as a matching grant**), and, to greet the first month of 1996, an additional \$15,000 towards Red Brook Pond.

Stone School 6th Graders Donate \$50 to BCT

The 'Dimes for Dirt' Earth Day Campaign conducted as part of Thomas Fedge's social studies class raised not only understanding of the Cape's environment, it also raised \$50 in student contributions for the BCT. The Donation was accepted for the BCT by Kathleen Jespersen in memory of whose daughter, Kahlin, the Newsletter page, 'Kahlin's Korner,' was named.



Item 4
Hand Painted Wooden Box
 Painted & donated by:
 Henry Cote

Divine Hors D'oeuvres
 by Fancy Pantry

Item 12

d R design
 Interior Design

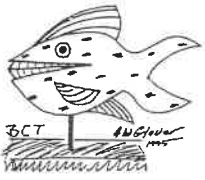
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Item 3



Smiling Fish



Donated by: Alfie Glover

Flowering Tree

Cataumet Garden Center



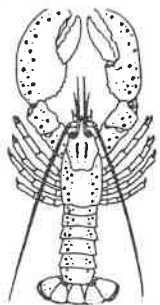
Item 9
Fire the Cook

Item 7
Babysitting

Item 5

Original Watercolor
 by Priscilla Levesque

Surprise Package
 from Cataumet Fish



Value:
 Deeply Unfathomable

Get Out of the Kitchen

Mystery Package



Value: Past all comparison

Item 1
Indian Dinner for 8



Long-eared Owl

Value: \$680.00

Created & donated by:
 Gary Tabor

Awesome Action at the Armchair Auction

Our September Armchair Auction was well unattended: people didn't come from as far away as Florida to bid on an unusual range of prizes. Besides a great deal of fun, and much anticipation, the financial results of the auction were gratifying.

The bottom line was:

Total Income	\$11,765.27
Total Expenses	<u>2,665.27</u>
Net Income...a cool...	\$ 9,100.00

And no one had to leave home!

And the auction winners were:

- Item 1 INDIAN DINNER won by Brenda Baxley
- Item 2 OWL TABLE won by Chris & Susan Riley
- Item 3 CANNONDALE BICYCLE won by Philip DeNormandie
- Item 4 ORIGINAL WATERCOLOR won by Elsie DeNormandie
- Item 5 FLOWERING TREE won by Diana Rowe
- Item 6 SMILING FISH won by Mr. & Mrs. Spencer Field
- Item 7 BABYSITTING won by Jay & Susan Lee
- Item 8 MYSTERY PACKAGE won by Lennart Lindberg
- Item 9 FIRE THE COOK won by William C. Percival
- Item 10 WOODEN BOX won by Beverly Marlow
- Item 11 SURPRISE SEAFOOD PACKAGE won by Mr. & Mrs. Richard Mooney
- Item 12 INTERIOR DESIGN won by Carole Courey
- Item 13 DIVINE HORS D'OEUVRES won by Ted & Robin Worcester
- Item 14 GET OUT OF THE KITCHEN won by Marshall Sloane

The Mystery Package turned out to be Raz Parker's famous Party Cruise aboard the good ship TURMOIL. The Cataumet Fish Surprise Package has yet to be unveiled (unwrapped?), but each loser got a gift certificate for two lobsters--to quote Peter Fisher, "There are no losers when it comes to conservation."

Those who bid/donated \$100 (or more) and received the video of the natural treasures thriving on BCT land holdings surely agree with the comments of one recipient:

"(While we lost our bid, our) despair turned to delight when we reviewed Red Brook. What a fine, tasteful, sensitive and beautiful presentation, with Schubert's 'Trout' supporting the perfect images. We can only say thank you and your technician for a masterful job."

If you wish to see the positive impact of your contributions to the BCT, this 10-minute tour of our preserve of nature's realm will delight you.



Armchair Auction Catalogue

*The Bourne Conservation Trust
cordially invites you to enjoy
an evening at home
relaxing while perusing
the 1995 BCT*

Armchair Auction Catalogue.

Dress comfortably.

Open a bottle of fine wine.

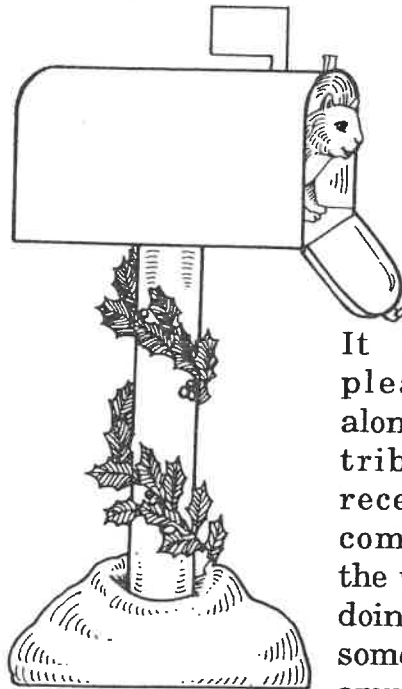
*Nibble on tasty imported cheese,
and*

Have your checkbook handy!

"Great foresight on your part!" exclaimed a North Falmouth contributor, who also looked forward to helping out more in the future.



From Connecticut, from one who has been "enjoying Red Brook Harbor and Cataumet for 50 years," we are urged to "keep up the good work."



MAIL CALL

It is always pleasurable--along with contributions--to receive some comments on the work we are doing. Here are some recent examples:

A Pocasset resident relays her "joy to read of at the activities on Red Brook Pond."

A "small but sincere expression of support" came from North Falmouth.

A Texas resident anticipated taking a break to "walk thru some of (her) old stomping ground" via our VCR tape of Red Brook Pond. She then posed the question: "When did it get changed from 'Mill Pond'?"¹



¹Good question. Prior to being Mill Pond, Red Brook Pond was known as

"Handy's Pond." The pond was created sometime after 1852, by damming a stream at what is now Shore Road, to allow for a 10-foot drop (see From Pocasset to Cataumet, published by the Bourne Historic Commission). **Calling all historians:** The first one documenting when Red Brook Pond received that name will receive a free videotape containing a thoughtful presentation of the Pond, its wildlife occupants, and its changing moods. (Send your response to BCT, Box 203, Cataumet 02534.)



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"ON THE BOARDWALK (but not) IN ATLANTIC CITY"

What high school students do not like to leave the confines of the classroom for an outdoor experience?

Through the efforts of the BCT and others, they can go across from Bourne High School to the adjoining Broad Swamp Marsh, whose environmental wonders can be accessed by a 100-foot boardwalk: a splendid base for the science students to document the life and seasonal changes of a marsh.

The marshland, now owned by the BCT, was donated by Carleton Handy in 1990, and the walkway had been in the planning stage since that date. When a generous donor read of the plan in the BCT newsletter--and the need for funding--a \$3,500 anonymous gift was forthcoming. The architectural design and construction of the walkway was provided by volunteers.

As one of the students said, "I like going outside. It makes me want to get more involved, especially learning about the environment."

The walkway, although unique, is only one of the several nature trails available through BCT purchases. A trail guide is available upon request.



BCT Welcomes Junior Group Campers

Cataumet Club Junior Group campers were again guests of the BCT this past summer. Throughout the 8-week camp season, campers enjoyed the Trust's trails for nature walks, berry picking and mountain biking. In August Gary Tabor gave a talk about BCT efforts to preserve open space for recreation and conservation, then the whole camp spent the rest of the day and all of the night on Lawrence Island where counselors set a good example for campers by leading an intensive clean-up effort.

L.H.



RED FOX

BCT Mini-Doc

Still available is the Bourne Conservation Trust film which 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.

BCT World-Class Christmas Gift Problem Solver

Yuletide Quandary: What to give to special people

BCT Solution: A contribution in (her/his/their) name to the BCT, a donation (S,M,L,XL) in the name(s) of problematic people on your Christmas list, and we will inform (her/him/them) of your kind munificence with an especially designed world-class card. (To order call or write BCT.)

Have a World-Class Merry Christmas!



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.



Liah Wallace
age 7

JACK-O'-LANTERNS

Some jack-o'-lanterns are happy, scary,
Spooky, hairy.
Some are big, some are small,
Some are round like a ball.
And some do not have a face at all.
Some have five
Some have four
And some have none at all.
So on Halloween night look for jack-o'-lanterns
That could really put some fright
On Halloween night!

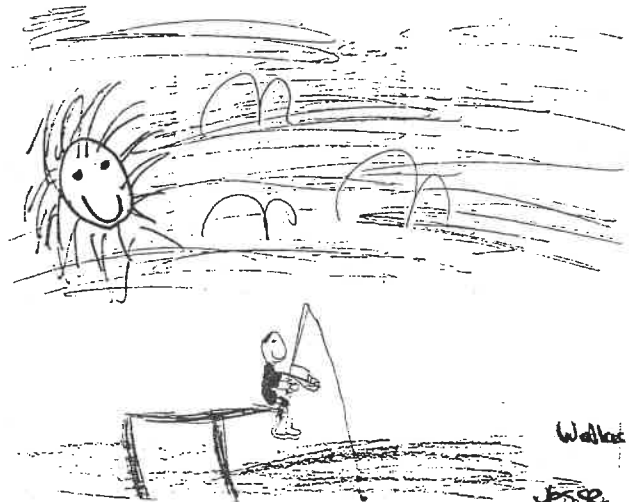
Matthew Geary, age 8, N. Falmouth

WHY?

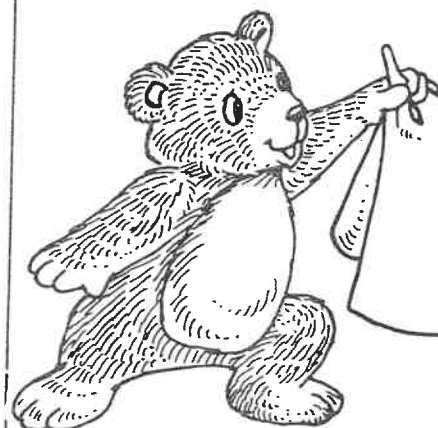
I wish she didn't leave, but she did.
It wasn't her fault, I know.
Why did it have to happen to her?
She did everything right, always, nothing wrong, ever.
She was always so sweet and kind, inside and out.
I think of what life would be like if she was living.
No tears, No thoughts, No memories,
of life without my very best friend.

KAHLIN

by Laura Raymond, age 12, Monument Beach

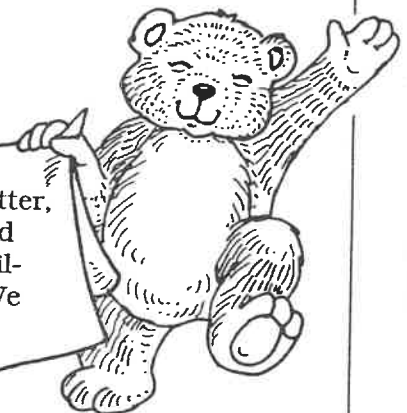


Walker
Jesse
age 5



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)



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Happy 85th Birthday Carlton Buttrick
Edythe & Louis Kraft

For the kindness of Steve Ballentine
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In appreciation to Raz Parker for his "sea stories"
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In memory of Warren Knowlton
Dr. T. Stephen Jones

In memory of Robert Laurell
Ms. Wendy Laurell

In memory of George Loveridge
Mrs. Ruth Walters

In memory of Grace Mann
Mr. & Mrs. Elmer J. Porter

In memory of Robert Mason
Marguerite Chandler

In memory of John H. McCarthy
Mr. & Mrs. Elmer J. Porter

In memory of Eleanor Mears
Mr. & Mrs. Dieter Morlock

In memory of James Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Ballentine

In memory of Madelina Montuori
Mr. Patrick J. Montuori

In memory of Evelyn Moore
Helen Chin Schlichte

In memory of James C. Mullan
Margaret Mullan

In memory of Sterling Myrick
Priscilla Myrick Diamond

In memory of Taber B. Perry
Camilla Nevius

In memory of William Rackemann
Mr. & Mrs. Hildreth Clark

In memory of George E. Rose
Priscilla L. Rose

In memory of Sally Sargent
Mr. & Mrs. Elmer J. Porter

In memory of C. Oscar Schmidt
Mr. & Mrs. Elmer J. Porter

In memory of Jeff Spencer
Ms. Deborah Laurie

In memory of Frances E. Tucker
Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Duval

In memory of Anna Walden
Jane Ann Willis

In memory of Marvin Weaver
Catherine C. Weaver

In memory of Philip Wiggin
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Lacasse

In memory of Dorothy Winsor
John Winsor





SLY IS THE WORD

Some people are busy--
As busy as bees--
And others are quiet as mice;
Or eager as beavers,
Or crazy as loons,
Or happy as larks--which is nice.
Some people are stubborn--
As stubborn as mules--
And others dumb as an ox;
But never was anyone,
Anywhere, anytime
Nearly as sly as a fox.

--Richard Shaw

*Bourne Conservation Trust
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