

Bourne Conservation Trust

NEWSLETTER Number 26

Spring 1997

Eight Wooded Acres Donated by Nickerson Brothers

(On December 31, 1996, Robert and Paul Nickerson deeded over to the Bourne Conservation Trust eight acres of woodland off Old Monument Neck Road. We asked them for information about the property and Robert Nickerson responded with the following letter.)

The property that my brother Paul and I donated to the Bourne Conservation Trust had been in my father's family for many years. Father (Harold B. Nickerson--chief field engineer at the J. F. Kennedy gravesite construction) built a house on his part of the property in the late 1930's. He owned about 1/2 of the 8 acres at that time and later acquired the rest from his sister Sarah B. Nickerson. Father was born in 1899 and had worked on the Cape Cod Canal project when the government took over the canal in the early part of the century. He hired out with a mule and a scraper and worked for some time on the project. The property originally went to the Manomet River which ran where the canal is today.

Father always loved the woods and fields on the property and we went often for walks in the woods, which abound in jack pine, cat briar, white oak (scrub white oak) and a few white pine trees. Near the southwest corner of the property there were always lots of mocassin flowers (lady's slippers), bobwhite (quail) and pheasants were plentiful. The property borders the Aptuxcet Trading Post land on the north, so in all, lots of woods.

My brother Paul and I both acquired a love of the woods and field on the property and a love of nature in general. Undeveloped land is getting to be so scarce on Cape Cod that we wanted those 8 acres left unspoiled.



Given in memory of

**Harold B. Nickerson 1899-1970
Irene M. Nickerson 1903-1995**

THE ENVELOPE, PLEASE.

Inside this very special envelope is a paid-off mortgage. The Nivling-Alexander Reserve-- 41 acres of rolling woodland wrapped halfway around Red Brook Pond finally belongs to the BCT. After a sustained, eight-year effort to raise \$1.3 million dollars, it's time to pause for a few moments of self-congratulation. It took a lot of volunteers: fund raisers, brush cutters, trail blazers, tour conductors, sign painters, bench builders, envelope stuffers, label pasters, record keepers, morale boosters, well wishers and most important generous donors of sums of money large and small.

Along the way many of you jotted down your feelings about the project to send along with your donations. Here are a few typical samples:

"It seems a miracle that so much of those habitats (Red Brook Pond and environs) have been saved thanks to the BCT." Without the efforts of the BCT ". . . Red Brook Pond would surely be overcome by the pressures of development and a gem would be lost." "After walking the paths of the Red Brook Pond Conservation Project, I fully realize what a beautiful area it is and how important it is to preserve it." "The Pond is full, healthy and nourishing. Best of all, there are people who mean to keep it that way."

Of course, those people are you.

. . . LATE BULLETIN . . .

(Again, thanks to all of you, the Post Office Square mortgage has just been paid off too!)

Time now to burn both mortgages!



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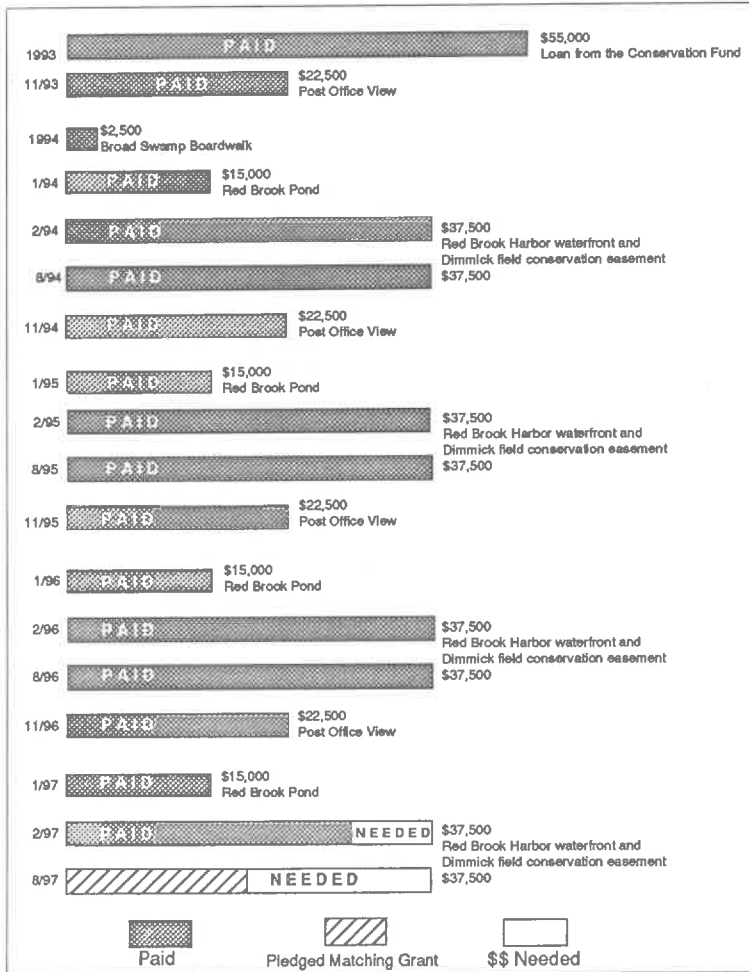
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The BCT is tax exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Within IRS guidelines contributions may be deductible from your taxable income.

(ID Number: 04 2767827).

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.

GRAPHIC EVIDENCE



No, no smoking gun, DNA, or even fingerprints, but rather the predominance of "paid" notations against our property acquisitions, as noted by the graph, to give evidence as to the success of our efforts.

The graph's blanks are few, but still of significance. For 1997, our needs are \$6,500 (2/97) plus \$18,750 (8/97) to secure the Red Brook Harbor waterfront section and Dimmick field conservation easement. Both of these parcels are important visual and ecological additions to our holdings.

Won't you assist and give graphic evidence of your support?



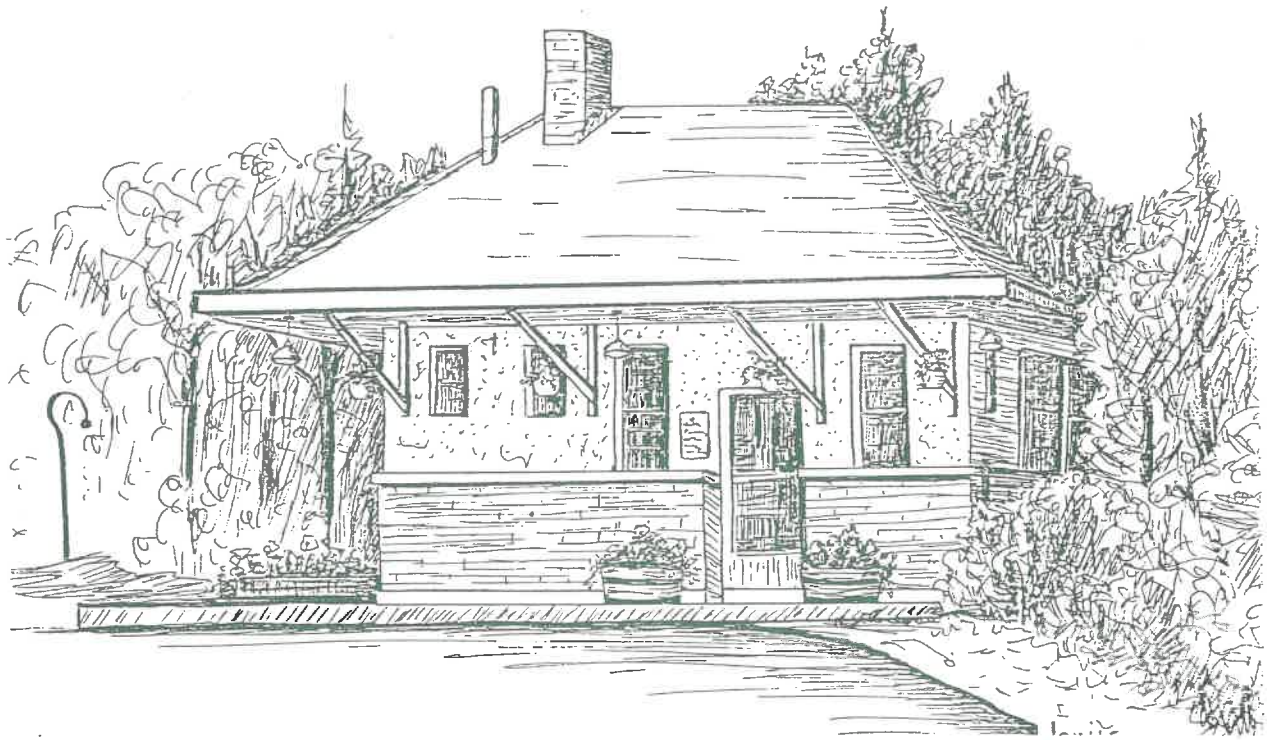
"LITTLE THINGS MEAN A LOT"



Those of us of a certain age will remember that phrase as a 1950-ish song title (who recorded that, Joni James? Help!), but it contains more than a musical truth to our effort.

Some people have apologized for sending in "only a small contribution." These contributions, regardless of the amount, result in more than just dollars. Those friendly folks at the IRS--you remember them--consider the NUMBER of donors to determine if an organization such as ours qualifies as tax-deductible. Also, of course, many small amounts have a large financial effect.

So, whether your pockets be shallow or deep, wide or narrow, extract what you can. We will appreciate it. . . more than the IRS.



S O S

About a decade ago, these code letters (SOS) were used to symbolize "Save Our Station." This was a call for action to preserve the Railroad Station in Cataumet for community use. That call was answered successfully.

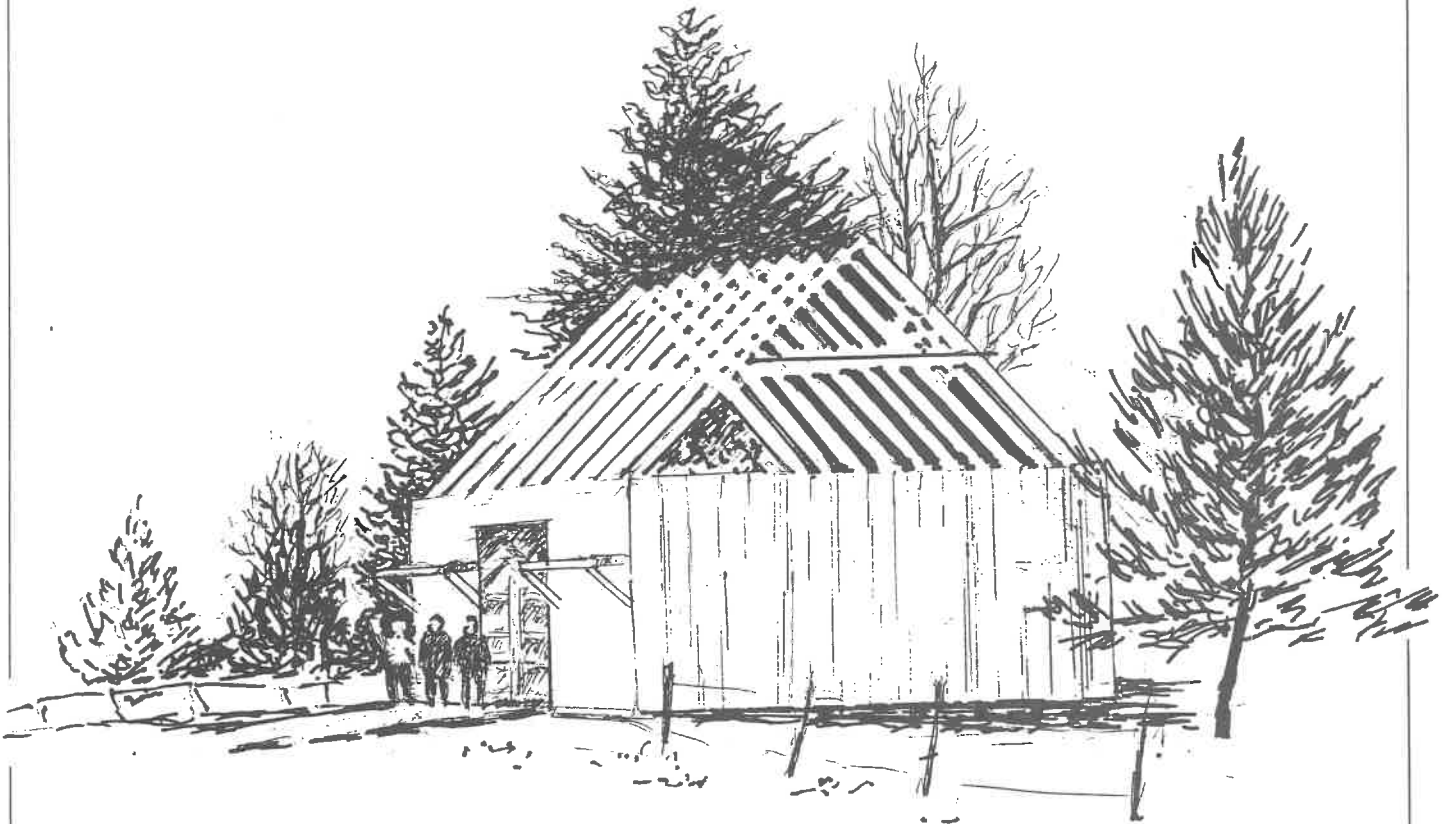
But "saving" is more than a one-time effort: with it we took on a commitment to the station's maintenance and improvements. Most recently, the commitment has resulted in the station's sporting fresh paint on its trim, vents installed into the roof overhang, and gas heat. The costs of the renewal were borne by the BCT and the CCA Beautification Committee.

Since being acquired by the BCT, the Railroad Station has taken on a life apart from the adjoining tracks. Along with its general use as a community gathering point, the annual Christmas tree lighting at Post Office Square, followed by hot cider and cookies in the station--plus an appearance by Santa Claus--has been a memorable part of Cataumet Christmases for many seasons.

BOARD, BEAM, JOIST AND NAIL

As its restoration nears completion, Dimmick's barn on the County Road has risen again and already begun to weather back into its old, familiar early 19th Century self. Ben Heywood of Falmouth whose specialty is 'frame to finish' antique work has been hard at it for three months plus-- rain, snow or shine. Examples of tried and true, time-tested, antique carpentry abound, for Heywood puts his faith in old building techniques (pegged mortise and tenon joints) but not necessarily to the exclusion of modern power tools. It's nice to see the barn whole and sound again.

To ready the barn for dismantling a clean-sweep barn sale was held which netted almost \$1400, a tidy sum which Dave Dimmick and family promptly turned over to the BCT. Thank you, Dave Dimmick and family. Thank you too, Ben Heywood.



IF ONLY. . . ALMOST \$168,000. . .

That's about how much money Bourne would have at its disposal to acquire land for drinking water supplies, wildlife habitat, open space and recreation if only a proposed Land Bank Bill had been in effect in 1995.

The bill, now before the State Legislature, is the same one resoundingly approved in November by all fifteen of Cape Cod's towns. It proposes funding for a land bank to be raised by establishing a one percent fee or tax on real estate transactions, the first \$100,000 of the purchase price being exempt.

Hearings on the Land Bank Bill are scheduled for March. If you favor the bill's passage intact (as it was passed by Cape Codders), now is the time to let Beacon Hill hear from you, even if your primary residence is off-Cape.

Here's who to contact:

All Massachusetts legislators can be reached through central offices:

The Honorable (Name)
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Phone: (617) 722-2000
Fax: (617) 722-2897

(If you need help determining your legislators,
please call the Friends of the Cape Cod Land Bank at (508) 255-4142.)

Direct lines: State Senator **Henri S. Rauschenbach** (Cape & Islands)

Phone: (617) 722-1570 (Boston)
(508) 362-4556 (Barnstable)
Fax: (617) 367-3426

State Senator **Therese Murray** (Bourne, Sandwich, Falmouth)

Phone: (617) 722-1330 (Boston)
(508) 746-9332 (Plymouth)
Fax: (617) 722-1072

Copies to the Governor or calls are also useful:

His Excellency William F. Weld
State House Room 360
Boston, MA 02133

Phone: (617) 722-3600



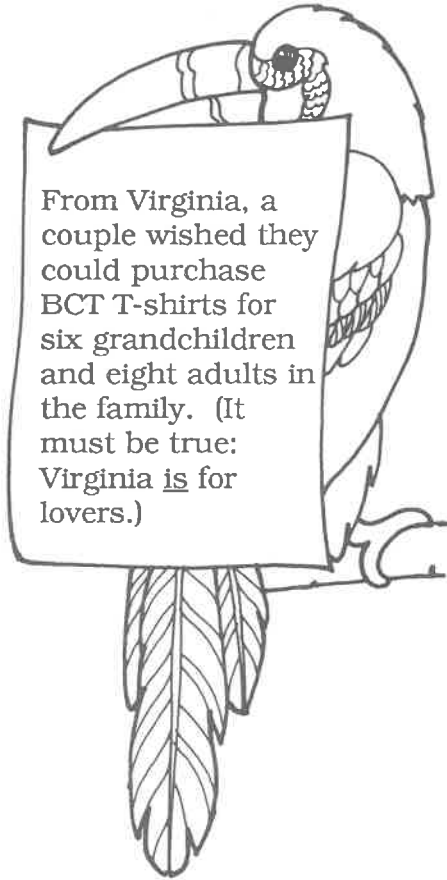
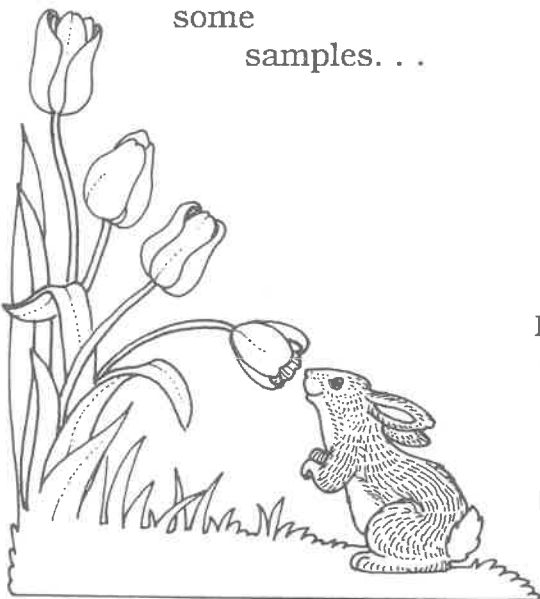


A local family asked that notification of their gift be sent to "the Great Blue Heron who appears frequently on our beach." Another wished that their gift notification be sent to the "fox/otter/deer/swan/osprey/et al." (The lucky recipients--furry or feathered--are all local inhabitants of our holdings, although it has been some time since the otter or the tufted et al. have been sighted.)

Mailbox Musings or Postal Ponderings

You're right: mailboxes never muse, although they may amuse or even bemuse. We have, however, had some mail-borne thoughts expressed to us accompanying contributions or gift orders.

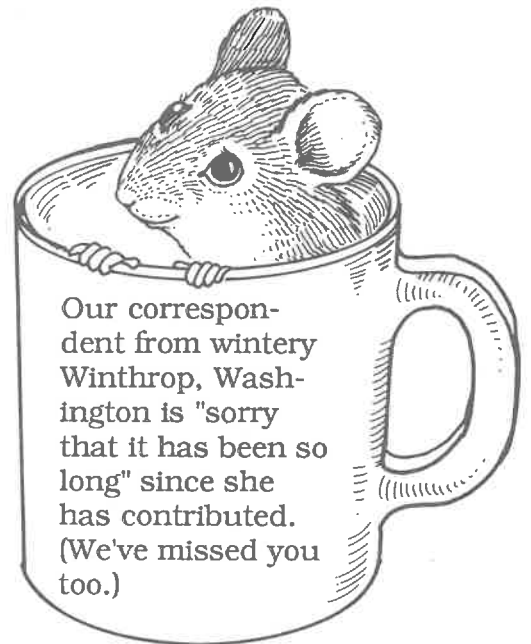
Here
are
some
samples. . .



From Virginia, a couple wished they could purchase BCT T-shirts for six grandchildren and eight adults in the family. (It must be true: Virginia is for lovers.)

From down-Cape, a contributor reports, "I can't tell you how much the other land trusts enjoy your newsletters." (Tell us. We can take it.)

From New York City, we received a kind and encouraging note that "the newsletter gets better with each issue" and affords a "wonderful lifeline for those of us whose lives take us away from Cataumet. . ." (While the "great, big city" may be a "wonderous toy, just made for a girl and boy" etc., it must be a pleasure to cross over the Bourne Bridge and rejoin those of us who are lotus-eaters.)



Our correspondent from wintry Winthrop, Washington is "sorry that it has been so long" since she has contributed. (We've missed you too.)

Editor take note: We have been chided for being cognominally incorrect in the matter of addressing mail. One contributor urged us to forsake the use of "Mr. and Mrs." and, especially, the use of "Mrs. Male Name." (As Miss Manners put it, "Traditional usage has a special sweetness to those who have long known it." On a more didactic level, since "Mrs." has been assumed to mean "the wife of," the use of "Mrs. Female Name" vice "Mrs. Male Name" would be incorrect indeed.)

Memorial Donations

In memory of George & Elsie Ballentine
Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Ballentine

In memory of Jeff Barnes
Amanda Barnes Muckle

In memory of Dr. & Mrs. Maxwell Beal

In memory of Shirely Beale
Henry & Marie Cote

In memory of Alex Beattie
Ruth A. Walters

In memory of Jane Hart Berk
Don & Nina Berk
Frederick M. Berk
Kenneth J. Berk

In memory of Elizabeth Birch
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Birch

In memory of Bill Bolton
Joan Bolton

In memory of Jack Bolton
Joan Bolton
E. J. Presser & Co.

In memory of Helen Bredwell
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Mr. & Mrs. Leonard A. Ballentine

In memory of Hazel Butler
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Fedge

In memory of Robert V. Clegg
Janet Dalton

In memory of C. Norman Collard
Mrs. C. Norman Collard
Clyde T. Collard
Roger W. Collard

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In memory of Mary Corcoran
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Sarah & John Gwynn
The Walter Family
Dick & Isabel Yoder

In memory of Mary Hoyt Cox
Carolyn Cox Dann

In memory of Ralph Crowley, Sr.
Kenneth J. Berk

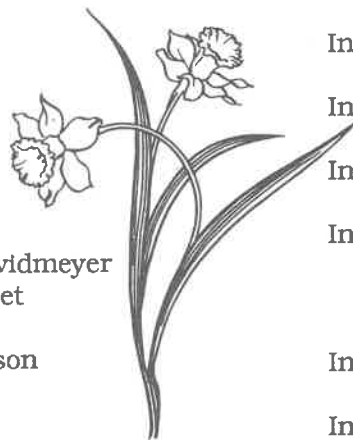
In memory of Thomas Curtis
Lee Mitchell Nilson

In memory of Gladys "Bunnie" Davidmeyer
Mr. & Mrs. Alphonse Ouellet

In memory of Kate Dingess
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E. Elaine Ereksen

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In memory of Robert & Sylvia Fish
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In memory of Theresa Fitzgerald
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In memory of Frederick R. Youngquist
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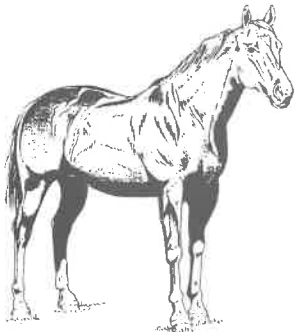


Special Donations

In memory of SaDa
Diane Dreher
The Ballentine Family

In memory of Alice, Maybe, & Tommy
The Ballentine Family

In memory of Misty
Ruth A. Walters



In honor of Stanley L. King
Col & Mrs. Stanley L. King, Jr.

In honor of Frank Knowlton
Richard Shaw

In honor of Richard & Janet Shaw
The Noyes Family

In honor of Ted & Gus Wendell
Lee Lunde

In honor of Becky Wendell
Lee Lunde

In honor of Steve Ballentine
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore H. Teplow



Happy Anniversary, John & Diana Rowe
Hal, Grace, Tyler, & Fig

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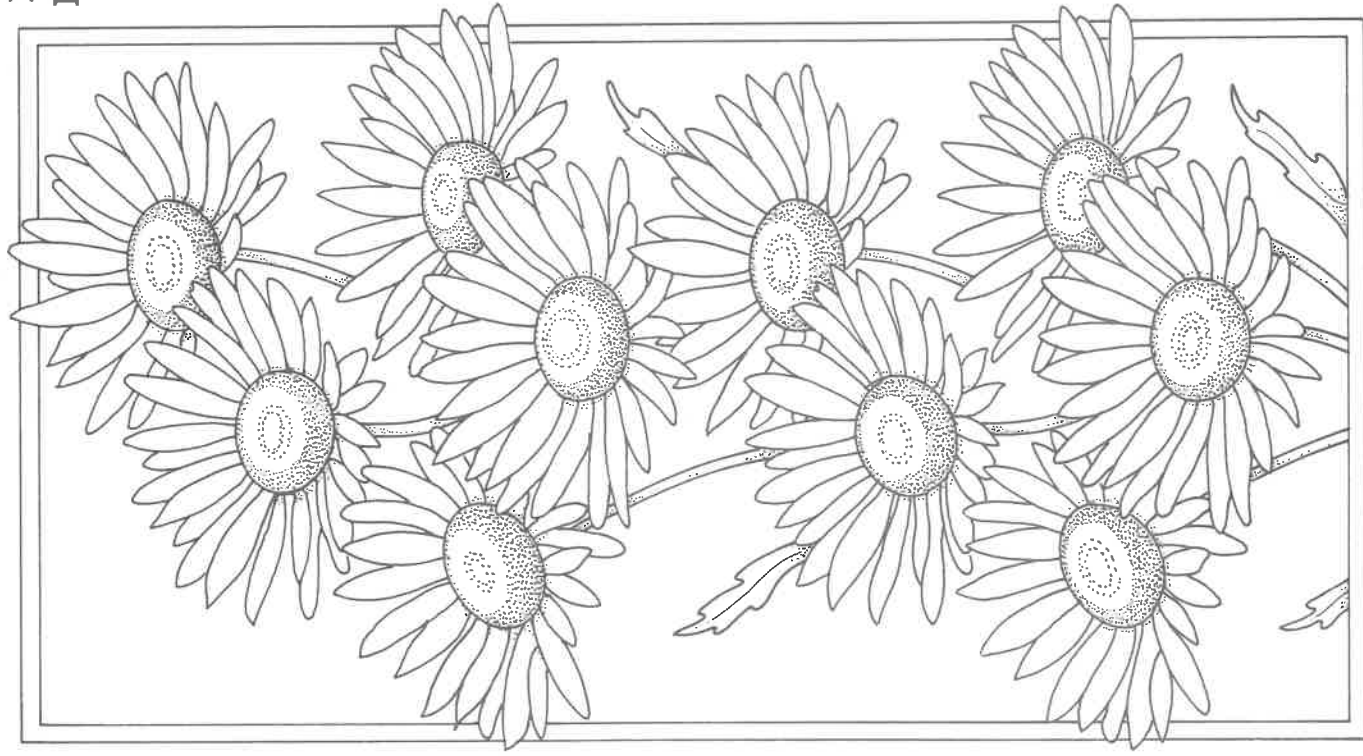
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 the next newsletter.

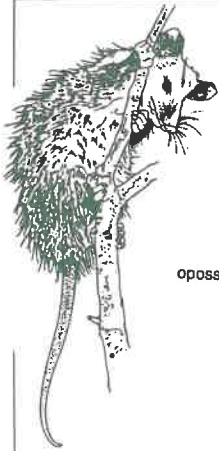




Where Have all the Foxes Gone?

In the fall of '95 it was hard to get from here to there without seeing a red fox, and recently there were mentions of sightings of a coyote off the County Road, but red foxes are no longer a topic of daily conversation. Have they left?

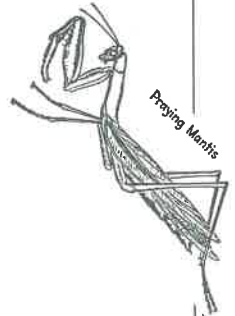
In its next number, The Newsletter will inaugurate a new feature, **I SPY**, to report sightings (by you) of local wildlife. So if you happen across a fox, coyote, woodchuck, otter, deer, whatever, let us hear from you. (Squirrels don't count.)



opossum



Screech Owl



Praying Mantis



Cape buffalo



common seal



wombat



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