

Bourne Conservation Trust

NEWSLETTER Number 31

WINTER 1999

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 5, 1999

CONTACT: (508) 563-2884

BCT to Purchase Briarwood Conference Center Property

The Bourne Conservation Trust has agreed to purchase the Briarwood Conference Center in Monument Beach. The 30-acre property of the Episcopal Diocese lies between the Shore Road and Little Bay and is primarily woodland and waterfront. A 7.8-acre tract, site of a large 3-story house built in 1900 as well as various outbuildings, will be resold to help defray the cost. The remainder of the property will be funded through private donations and be conserved as open space. Inquiries and donations may be directed to the Bourne Conservation Trust, PO Box 203, Cataumet, MA 02534.



The above press release answers routine who-what-when-where journalistic questions but, of course, it's only a small part of a story that began last summer when the heavily wooded hills and gulleys of the Briarwood Center were shaded by a lofty canopy of green. Late in September as the canopy began to hint at the startling reds and yellows soon to appear, an agreement to purchase was reached. In December when a million rattling brown leaves have been

stripped from countless oaks, maples and beeches and have drifted down to rest in the underbrush, the sale will become final. Only then will the existing trails which lace the property from Monks Park in the south and extend north between Little Bay and the Shore Road, trails that have been off limits to the public for more than a century, only then will these trails be open to everyone and protection for a wide variety of native vegetation and wildlife assured.

“Briarwood” on Little Bay

By The Rev. Allen W. Swain

(Director of Briarwood Conference and Retreat Center, 1978-1990,
and current Pocasset resident)

It's a Victorian love story. In the 1890's young George Monks, later a surgeon at Boston City Hospital, met Olga Gardner and they fell in love. Miss Gardner was a niece of Isabella Stewart Gardner, and her parents owned a home and property on Little Bay, Monument Beach. George's family had adjoining property on Little Bay.

The Gardners and Monks put together a wedding gift of about 100 acres of land fronting on the bay—about 3000 feet of waterfront, Ram Island, and the upland woods. The gift property ran from Little Bay to about County Road, and from what is now owned by the Julian Harwoods (and others) to Valley Bars Road. The wedding gift included the Main House and Carriage House as well. (I wish I had known this 35 years ago – I would have mentioned it to my in-laws).

Throughout the Monks' time at Briarwood, the New York, New Haven, and Hartford Railroad provided regular passenger service to Monument Beach. Each summer the Monks family would arrive with a full complement of domestic help to spend the season at the shore. This practice continued for more than forty years.

The Studio, a large, square building east of the tracks, was built sometime after the turn of the century to accommodate the growing number of children visiting the family during the season, as well as to provide good light for the sculptures done by Mr. Monks.

Local men developed the Rose Garden, a formal garden (still in evidence in front of the Main House), and an extensive vegetable garden below the Studio. Deep topsoil is still evident there.

Vegetables were stored in the root cellar, which can still be seen over by the cabin area. Each week during the winter months someone would drive a truckload of firewood and vegetables to the family home on Beacon Hill.

During the time the Monks family used the property, several local people were employed in various capacities, including Antonio (“Tony”) Delsie. Bucky Barlow is another local boy who had an involvement with the family: he learned to sail in Little Bay and was allowed to keep his sailboat in the boathouse on the north side of the Main House during the winter.

The widowed Mrs. George H. Monks died on April 22, 1944, survived by two sons, the Rev. George G. Monks, headmaster of the Lenox School, and John P. Gardner, a doctor in the Navy, and by her daughter, Mrs. Constantine Pertzoff of Lincoln.

In 1945 the Monks family graciously donated the property to the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts for use as a conference and retreat center for young adults. This huge gift was made just as church youth conferencing was being developed throughout the country, and represented very current and "cutting edge" thinking on the part of the church and the Monks family. At about this time the family also donated 15+ acres to the Town of Bourne for recreational use. Thus, Monks Park (a.k.a. Mud Cove) was formed at the end of Valley Bars Road.

After the church received the property, Frank A. Murphy, father of Betty Perrault, worked for the Rev. Arthur O. Phinney to develop the Briarwood Camp and Conference Center. The Rev. George Hunter and The Rev. Robert Derr, among others, followed the Rev. Mr. Phinney's ministry.

In the mid-1980's a new access road was built from Shore Road, over the tracks and to the waterfront. Seven cabins and a bathhouse in the woods above the tracks, along with the recycled "Coal Man's" office from Sagamore, were added around the same time. Various renovations of the Carriage House and Main house made the site more user-friendly for adult groups as well as young people. Over the years, thousands of children and adults have been part of Briarwood experiences ranging from summer camps to Elderhostel events, baptisms, weddings, memorial services and everything in between.

In the mid-1990's, however, it was apparent that children's ministry, camping, and conferencing needs were changing. It was around this time that the church began to look for a more suitable site for children's camping. It was also around this time that the Town of Bourne decided to purchase 45 acres of Briarwood property on the east side of Shore Road as open space and for a baseball field.

Note of interest: numerous arrowheads, both finished and broken, have been found on Ram Island, to the north of Monks Park. It is thought that Native Americans may have used this area as a staging ground for the fall harvesting of waterfowl from Buzzards Bay. The stone used for the arrowheads is not found locally. There is also evidence of a shell midden near the big rock about mid-way between the Studio and the High Place.

From 1945-1998, under the leadership and encouragement of several outstanding clergy and lay people, Briarwood remained in service as a conference and retreat site as well as a children's summer camp.

(As a personal aside, I want to say how thrilled I am that the Bourne Conservation Trust has taken on stewardship of this incredibly beautiful stretch of waterfront and woods. The love story continues – this time with a love for open-space well preserved for future generations. I believe the "High Point", at the south edge of the property, is the highest point of land on the waterfront between Sandwich and Woods Hole. Who knows how many kids at summer camp held hands looking out at the incredible view: now it will forever be available to the general public. What a legacy! Thanks.)

Voice Your Opinion About CanalSide Loud and Clear

The negative impact of the oversized CanalSide Commons (a 750,000 to 1,000,000 square foot, mixed use development located at the already overburdened Bourne Bridge) is and will continue to be of major concern to the BCT which strongly urges its members to convey their views to the Cape Cod Commission (P.O. Box 226, Barnstable, MA 02630), to Bourne town officials (24 Perry Avenue, Buzzards Bay, MA 02532) and to the Massachusetts Environmental Protection Agency (100 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02202).

1999 Donor List

The BCT 'List of Donors' for 1999 will appear in a "Report of Donors" in January, 2000.

Board of Directors

Stephen Ballentine, President
Walter Everett, Treasurer
Philip DeNormandie, Trustee
John Corcoran, Trustee
Robert Birch, Trustee
Don Mears, Trustee

BCT Trail Guide

The latest BCT trail guide is now available. To get one:

- Call us at (508) 563-2884
or
- Write us at Box 203,
Cataumet, MA 02534
or
- Pick one up at
Ballentine's Boat Shop,
1104 Route 28A
Cataumet.

Tempus Fugit

If you can't recall when you last made a donation to the BCT, check the mailing label on this newsletter. The number in the upper right corner represents the date of your last donation--first the year, then the month. For example, "9802" means February 1998. No number? We hope you will send us a donation soon.



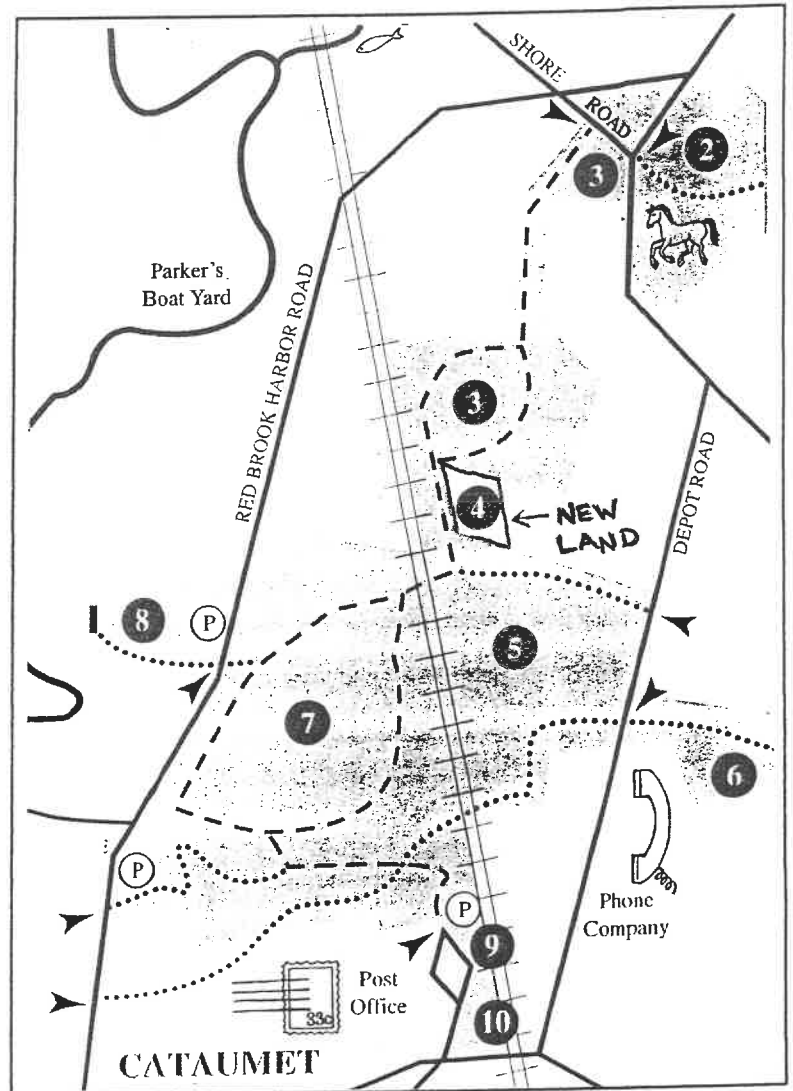
The BCT is tax exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Within IRS guidelines contributions may be deductible from your taxable income. (ID Number: 04 2737827).

Key Cataumet Land Purchased

Last month's BCT purchase of 1.4 acres of land (see map) from the Joyce family expanded the protected linkage between the Broyer and DeNormandie areas in the center of Cataumet. Of the purchase price of \$81,000, the BCT has already paid down \$50,000, the balance to be paid over the next three years.

Map Key

2. Dimmick Field
3. DeNormandie Woods
4. Joyce Path & New Land
5. Broyer Conservation
6. Handy Conservation
7. Robinson Conservation
8. Dimmick Waterfront
9. Cataumet Depot
10. Washington Park



Three recent purchases-- the Briarwood, Joyce, and Kingman properties-- have resulted in a current need of approximately \$1.5 million, \$650,000 of which is already in hand as cash or pledges. However, since there still remains a sizeable shortfall, we're asking you to be part of the BCT's faithful broad base of support with a donation--

small, medium, large, or jumbo.

Memorial Donations

In memory of Louise Alden
Chris & Steve Gegg
Michael & Catherine Gwynn
Cataumet Club

In memory of Leonard Ballentine
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Vickery

In memory of Jeff Barnes
Susan Barnes

In memory of Dr. & Mrs. S. Maxwell Beal
Mr. & Mrs. David Beal

In memory of Virginia Blakeman
Cataumet Club

In memory of Beth Bourne
Ida Little & Michael Walsh
Dick & Flo Prince
Russell Cookingham
Mr. & Mrs. Nelson Seaver

In memory of Jasper Burns
Cataumet Club
Bethany Jason Kauff

In memory of the Carleton Family
Arthur & Mary Amend

In memory of Robert Casselman
Rich & Debbie Dow

In memory of Carolyn G. Clair
Cynthia C. Norkin

In memory of Phyllis Collett
Robert Collett

In memory of Christine Collins
Maureen & Dick Jason

In memory of Mary Corcoran
Robert & Eliana DeNormandie

In memory of Elaine Darling
Cataumet Club
Chris & Steve Gegg
Cheryl & Tom Franco

In memory of Aili H. Dineen
Joseph F. Dineen

In memory of Marge Dolberg
Elsie & Alan Green

In memory of Norman Dow
Rich & Debbie Dow
Gail Graham & Richard Lee
Lyle Middle School



In memory of Carol Downey
Karen & David Firestone
Nancy G. Barry
Cataumet Club
Michael & Catherine Gwynn
Chris & Steve Gegg
William C. Fallon Family
Heidi Lewitt
Cynthia Koch
George Seaver
Steve Downey

In memory of David Joseph Dunbury
Mr. & Mrs. William Henry
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Ballentine

In memory of Helen Dupre
Upper Cape Organic Garden Club

In memory of Peter Emmons Jr.
Elizabeth M. Schultz

In memory of Frances Fitzgerald
Marguerite Chandler

In memory of Rita M. Geary
Paul Geary

In memory of Katherine A. Gegg
Chris & Steve Gegg

In memory of Robert E. Gegg
Chris & Steve Gegg

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Greene
Chris & Steve Gegg

In memory of Clinton Hampson
George & Barbara Hampson

In memory of Henry Hinden
Philip & Maryellen Kozar

In memory of Elizabeth Hoffman
Robert S. Hoffman, Jr.

In memory of Bill & Nancy Holden
Jim & Judy Cressy

In memory of Nancy Holden
Dr. & Mrs. Harold Berk
Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Schley
Maureen, Dick, & Tim Jason

In memory of Polly Horner
T. Stephen Jones

In memory of Kahlin Jespersen
Gordon & Cathy Pierce
Bob & Debbie Guy

In memory of Bradford Johnson
Margo H. Johnson

In memory of Robin McGreevy Karns
Joan Leary

In memory of Rev. John J. Keohane
Chris & Steve Gegg

In memory of Katherine Laurie
Cataumet Club
Maureen & Dick Jason
Nancy G Barry

In memory of Lawrence F. Leach
Sarah L. Leach

In memory of Richard Martel
Jay & Margaret Jenkins

In memory of Arlene McMann
Haydon & Mary Jo Coggeshall

In memory of James Miller
Shirley Douglass Miller

In memory of Sterling Myrick
Angela & Matt Mitchell

In memory of Sally Nardi
Heidi Lewitt
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Watson

In memory of Harold & Irene Nickerson
Robert A. Nickerson

In memory of Dorothy Oberfell
Jean Davock

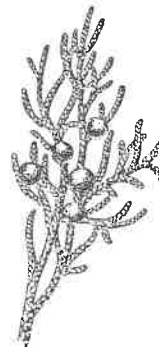
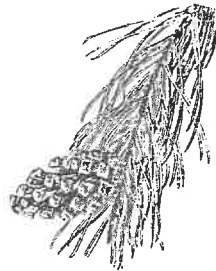
In memory of Eve Oberfield
Elsie & Alan Green

In memory of Enok & Etta Olofson
Catherine C. Weaver

In memory of Hugh O'Shaughnessy
Cataumet Club

In memory of Rad Ostby
Mr. & Mrs. H. Holton Wood

In memory of Merton Perry
John & Susan Carpenter



In memory of Cary Potter
Mrs. Hildreth M. Clark
Mary Louise Potter

In memory of Irene Prete
Maureen & Dick Jason
Chris & Steve Gegg

In memory of Henry Schoenherr
Russell & Edith Webster

In memory of Lois C. Smith
Eugene Smith

In memory of Lois Bell Smith
Joan & Jack Geishecker

In memory of William Spurrier
George & Margaret Jenkins

In memory of Eric Starck
Maureen, Dick, & Tim Jason

In memory of Anna Walden
Jane Ann Willis Pearce

In memory of Mary Waldron
Jean Davock

In memory of Marvin Weaver
Catherine Weaver

In memory of Bob Willman
Linnea Willman
Ruth Willman

In memory of Dorothy Winsor
John Winsor

In memory of Andy Wood
Mrs. Hildreth M. Clark

In memory of Harold P. Woods
Dr. & Mrs. Carlton Buttrick

In memory of Rosamond Wright
Mary Louise Potter
Mrs. Hildreth M. Clark
Frank W. Knowlton, Jr.



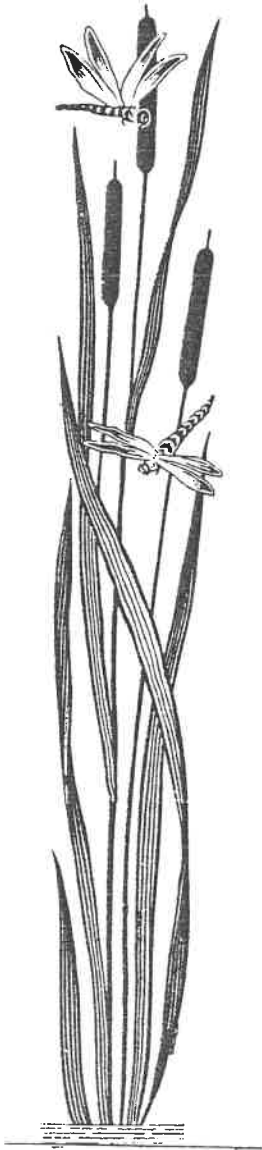
Given in Memory of
Arthur Fedge

a man from Brooklyn who enjoyed
watching his granddaughters grow
up among the trees and beaches of
Cape Cod.

Richard Butler
Pete & Jean Duval
Tom & Leslie Fedge
Stuart & Charlotte Fyfe
Philip & Carol Jacobs
Lyle Middle School
E.C. Stone School

Given of Memory of
Nelson Seaver

Who enjoyed watching nature's beauty and the boats of Squeteague Harbor and Buzzards Bay from his living room window.



- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Susan & Fred Abbe | David Laurie |
| Nancy & Lew Ambler | Jane Lazar |
| Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Ballentine | Wardwell & Viola Leonard |
| Susan Barnes | Heidi Lewitt |
| Joan R. Bolton | Sarah Macurdy |
| Mr. & Mrs. William Bursaw, Jr. | Phyllis Manley |
| John & Susan Carpenter | Sarah Graham Mann |
| Linda Carpenter | Mr. & Mrs. Donald Mears |
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| Keith & Patricia Dickenson | N.A.R.F.E. |
| Miriam Dubuque | The Douglas Nickerson Family |
| Peter Emmons | William & Janet Percival |
| Hans & Catherine Engelmann | Noreen Redmann |
| Robert Evans | Llewellyn & Sharon Seaver |
| Pete, Kris, & Ben Fisher | Charles & Sylvia Seidenberg |
| Richmond & Marilyn Fisher | Elizabeth Smith |
| Charles & Ann Frame | Howard & Virginia Smith |
| Chris & Steve Gegg | Tobey Taylor |
| Lois B. Green | Evelyn Underhill |
| Michael & Catherine Gwynn | Esther & Walden Whitham |
| Sarah & John Gwynn | Albert & Barbara Whiton |
| Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hallinan | The Wildt Family |
| Joe & Alice Hathaway | Barbara Winslow |
| Maureen & Dick Jason | Jean & Hal Wylie |
| Cyrus Kano | Laura B. Wyman |
| Cynthia Koch | Sara York |
| Berkley & Margaret Latimer | Gordon B. York |
| | Mr. & Mrs. Faris Zeghibe |

Given in memory of
Dr. R. Clement Darling

Who felt at home sailing on the ocean
 but most of all in Cataumet.

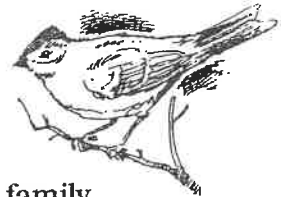
- Joan Bolton & Family
 Cataumet Club
 Kris, Pete, & Ben Fisher
 Cheryl & Tom Franco
 Chris & Steve Gegg
 Lisa Kenny
 Paul & Allison Lelito
 Heidi Lewitt
 Cynthia Clair Norton
 Jane O'Shaughnessy
 Caroline M. Wright

Given in Memory of
Martha K. (Cowles) Douglass
 (1906-1999)

Who spent ninety-one of her ninety-three years in, on, and around Squeteague Harbor. She sailed, swam, and fished these waters throughout her life and fought repeatedly to preserve the shellfishing in the harbor and its approaches. Known by family and friends as "the Admiral of Squeteague", she kept track of the comings and goings of all the watercraft from her "command post" at the head of the harbor. An avid bird-watcher and gardener, she labored to beautify the grounds of her home and to embellish them with well-fed songbirds of every variety. Her devotion to the children of Cataumet led her to help found a summer camp aimed at promoting the full enjoyment of these beautiful surroundings. We will miss her.

Nancy York Ambler
 Tom & Jeanette Barnes
 Susan Barnes
 Nancy G. Barry
 Mr. & Mrs. William J. Bursaw, Jr.
 Richard & Jane Carter
 Susie Carter
 Cataumet Club
 Freddie & M'Lou Douglass
 Miriam G. Dubuque
 Faculty & Staff Falmouth H. S.
 Chris & Steve Gegg
 Sarah & John Gwynn
 Michael & Catherine Gwynn
 Julia & Roger Hoar
 Franz Hover
 Henry Cowles Hover

Mark & Maryann Hughes
 Maureen, Dick, & Tim Jason
 Heidi Lewitt
 Hope M. Morse
 Amanda Muckle
 Katherine Peebles
 Tom & Ann Peebles
 Jamie & Elaine Peebles & family
 The Douglas Peebles Family
 Irene Scribner
 Nelson & Adele Seaver
 The Stanek Family
 Milton & Peg Steele
 Penelope D. Swanson
 Dr. John B. Taylor
 David & Lisa Torchiana
 Sara York



Given in Memory of
Frances Flood Thomas

Who loved to watch and share the changing seasons, and birds of Lawrence Island from her porch, and who valued the commitment of all those who made this possible through the BCT.



Steve & Sally Ballentine
 Josephine S. Blagden
 Mrs. Hildreth M. Clark
 Kris, Pete, & Ben Fisher
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry Goff
 Marie Johnson
 Frank Knowlton
 The Luick Family
 The Michael McSherry Family
 Raymond & Mary McSoley
 Eleanor & Morton Myerson
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 Carol D. M. Strasburger
 Mrs. Ralph Williams
 Katherine West Walles
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert B. Watson
 Mr. & Mrs. H. Holton Wood
 Caroline M. Wright
 The First Parish Church
 in Weston

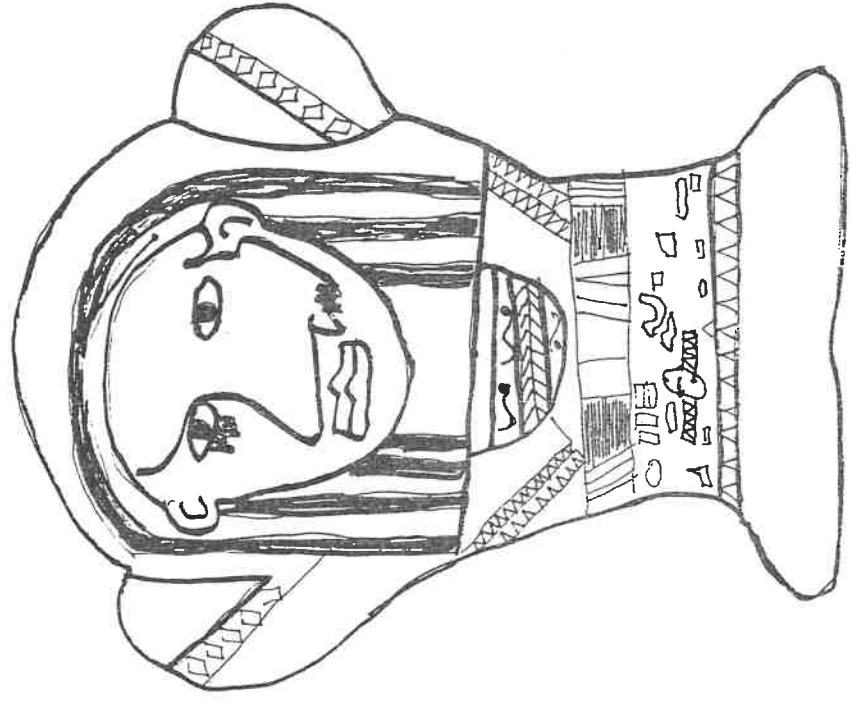
Kahlin's Korner

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.

by: Molly Jespersen
age 7

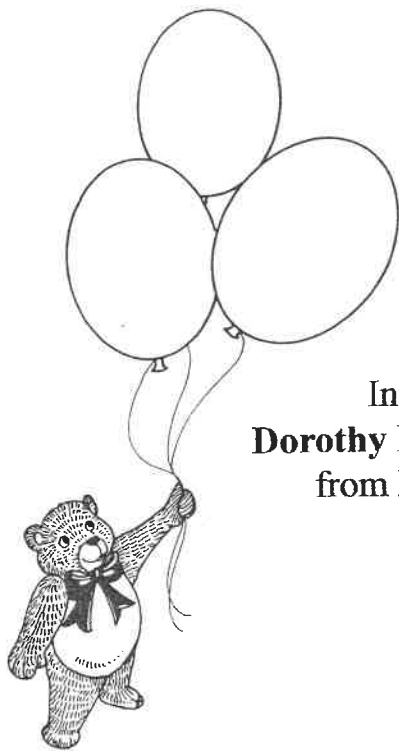


Kahlin



by: Peyton Walsh 7

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)



In honor of
Stevens T. M. Wright's 90th birthday
from Caroline M. Wright

Celebrations

In honor of
Dorothy Berry's birthday
from Heidi Lewitt

In honor of
Bill Percival's 75th Birthday
from Heidi Lewitt

In honor of
the Parkers: Raz & Jean, Bruce & Patti
from Bill & Kathy Whitney

In memory of the Nickerson family pets:

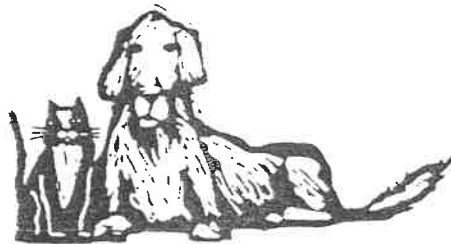


Hellenakki (sheep)
Muffin & Licorice (rabbits)
Perseverance (rooster)
from the Ballentine family



In memory of
Bear Duddy,
Champion Cat of the
Wood Duck Inn
I miss you,
from Beavis

Special Donations



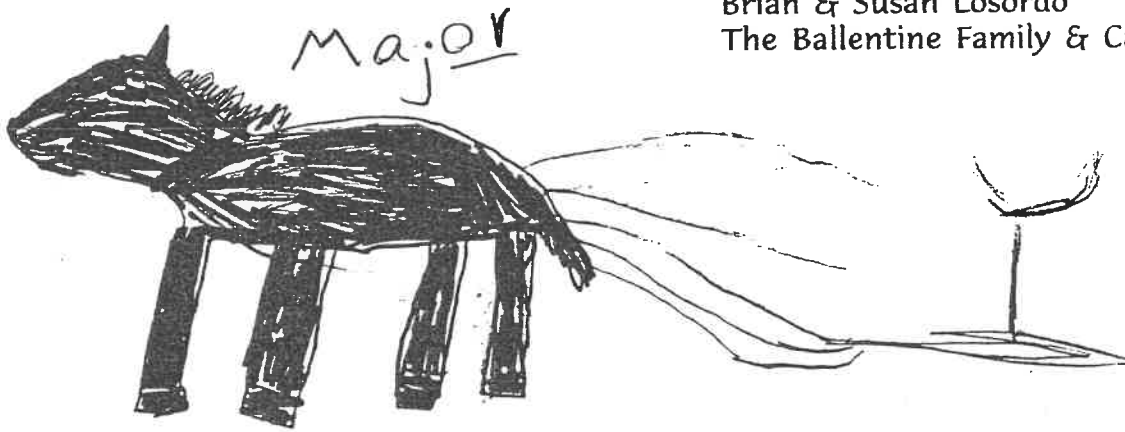
In memory of **Tyler**
(the Milbury/Leontire family dog):
Grace, Hal, & Tyler DeWaltoff
Maureen, Dick, & Tim Jason
Bethany & Maurice Kauff

In memory of our dog **Margot**
from Mr. & Mrs. David Beal

In memory of **Bubba** (Leone family dog)
from the Gegg family

In memory of Major, the best snow plower

from
Grace, Hal, & Tyler DeWaltoff
The Gegg Family
Bunky Hurter & Geary Kaczorowski
Maureen & Dick Jason
Brian & Susan Losordo
The Ballentine Family & Cassie



Drawing by Tyler DeWaltoff

Bourne Conservation Trust
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