# **Bourne Conservation Trust**

**NEWSLETTER Number 33** 

**WINTER 2001** 

# AFTER MANY A SUMMER ...THE SECOND TIME AROUND

"At long last the adults could enjoy their now cygnet-free Pond. They had the three cold months of winter to ready themselves for the springtime hatching of a new broad in constant need of nurture and protection."

--BCT Newsletter, Summer 2000



In the spring when the cygnets were very young, both of their parents were militantly protective. However, as spring and summer passed, the unity of the family slowly fragmented until the father began to drive away the finally self-sufficient cygnets, one by one.

Here are some glimpses of the swan family's year on Red Brook Pond.

September 21-- The four surviving cygnets of this spring's brood got their first flying lesson. All failed to lift-off and settled down to a twenty-minute preening session.

September 26-- The parents gave a demonstration: The Art of Flying. After an upwind take-off, they circled the Pond twice in close formation, then landed next to the four cygnets. A minute later they repeated the demonstration.

September 27-- Two of the cygnets achieved lift-off.

October 1-- An alien male swan alighted on the Pond. The resident male drove the intruder off while the clustered cygnets watched. This was the first of many invasions, sometimes by a single male, sometimes by a couple, once by a quartet. Often the result was a fierce, day-long battle. So far, the resident family has maintained its hold.

October 9-- The family divided, one cygnet staying with the father, the others with the mother.

October 17-- A third cygnet achieved lift-off and was joined in flight by two siblings. They circled the Pond and landed, one near the father, two near the mother.

October 30-- At last the whole family took off at the same time. There was a great clatter of feet and wingtips slapping the water. They flew out of sight, then returned to alight on the Pond.



November 25-- The temperature at dawn was 10 degrees. The Pond was almost iced over. The three remaining cygnets established a pecking order.

December 1-- The puffed-up father nipped at any cygnet that came close to him.

December 4-- During the night the Pond iced over again. Shortly after dawn the again-unified family waddled east from the Shore Road and slipped into the open water of the delta.

December 15-- The family consisted of parents and two cygnets.

January/February-- Except for small areas of open water along the eastern shore, the Pond was iced over. Even when the temperature rose well above the freezing mark, the ice remained strong if a bit punky. Snow storms and squalls frequently left it snow covered-- a dramatic backdrop for strutting crows. The buffleheads left. A dozen ducks hugged the eastern shore. The adults normally would have driven the cygnets off the Pond weeks before, but on January 27, the whole family of four circled the Pond before settling on the open water near the delta. Before that they were behaving a bit oddly-- even for a swan family. Could this be due to ignorance on the part of the previously-mated adult pair? Haven't they heard that for swans, there is no second time around? (If swans were humans, their family would be labeled dysfunctional.) Since that family outing of January 27, the cygnets have not been in evidence.

February 11-- Driven by strong, gusty winds, a small ice pan-- a trio of crows on board pecking at it-- glided across the Pond's choppy open water. Hungry buffleheads and mergansers joined the feeding male swan and crowded the edge of the remaining thin ice in the southwest corner. A great blue heron swept in from the northwest, landed gingerly on the punky ice before beginning his stiff,

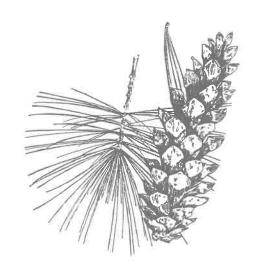


precise strutting. Meanwhile in the Pond's northeast quadrant the female swan keeps to herself, close to last year's nest site where the now-absent cygnets were hatched. Soon the swan couple's winter respite will have ended, she will become nestbound as she warms new-layed eggs, he will take up 24-hour guard duty and warn off all intruders.

### Little Bay Conservation Land

#### October, 2000

The midday sun rides a low trajectory as the earth tips away from the higher angles of June and July. The more diffuse overhead lighting of summer becomes a brilliant face-on illumination that probes directly at and into the screen of scrub oak and white pines. At every turn of the trail a new grouping of trees, shrubs and leaves poses for a family portrait in this unaccustomed studio lighting. The water in Little Bay provides a deep blue background for the dark oak and pine green tableau.



### December, 2000

A wet snowfall layers an inch of adornment on the nearly bare branches of the oak trees. Crispy oak leaves defy the rigors of the season that have brought the maple leaves to earth throughout the fall. The snow discloses early morning visitors to the network of trails looping the property and leading to wide prospects of Little Bay and Buzzards Bay. Rabbits, squirrels and perhaps a fox have chosen the trails as comfortable routes for their early morning investigations. A pair of mergansers feeds quietly in the low-tide shallows of the bay. A patrol of bufflehead ducks circulates at a somewhat deeper spot,

yielding the easier work to the itinerant visitors. Five males preen for eight admiring females, bobbing rapidly to wet and shine their brilliant white cheeks and sides. Flirtation continues during lunch, but no serious liaisons seem in the making so early in the season.

### January, 2001

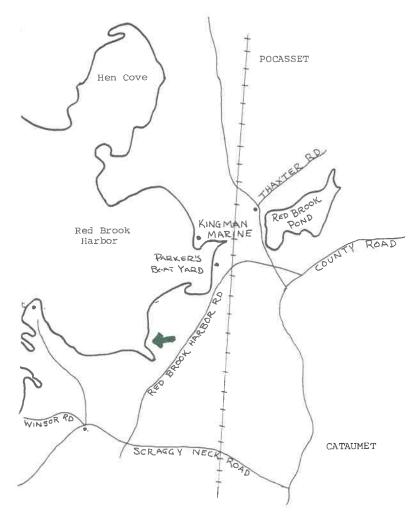
Shingles of crusted ice accumulate in plates with each change of tide. In the quieter waters of Monk's Pond the ice already forms a cap covering the entire surface. Further off shore, eddies of blue water run out to the larger expanse south to the river. A single blue heron circles the pond slowly from the air and

glides inland to the frozen marsh. An unusually large number of buffleheads paddles well off shore in the bright sun of noontime. Y2K has passed uneventfully; there's plenty of life to be lived in the new millennium.



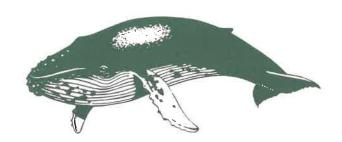
### Not So Dandy, even for Dandelions

A bit of BCT property that fronts on Red Brook Harbor (see map) is finally being nourished back to health. In the 1950's mega-tons of sand were dredged from the bottom of the harbor and dumped on the waterfront plot. It proved so lacking in nutritives that little vegetation could take hold. For months now, however, organic materials-- leaves, grass clippings, wood chips-- have been hauled to the site and added to the sand to upgrade its quality. When leveled, the area will be planted with low shrubs, wild flowers and meadow grass, and an open vista will be maintained.



### **BCT Spin-off Put to Good Use**

The buildings and eight surrounding acres—the only developed portion of the Briarwood Conference Center in Monument Beach acquired last year by the BCT—have become the focal point for the Dexter School's Marine Science Program at Briarwood, inaugurated last summer. Students study marine biology, ecology and meteorology and take field trips to the Stellwagen Banks to observe whales and to Woods Hole to visit the National Marine Fisheries Aquarium, the Oceanographic Institution and the Marine Biological Laboratory.



The eight-acre complex-- land and buildings-- was resold by the BCT which retained the remaining twenty-two wooded and waterfront acres of the original thirty-acre purchase.

#### BCT's Own Lewis and Clark

The inviting network of trails that wind through the Conservation Trust properties receive regular care and maintenance from the dedicated team of Don Mears and Dick Boyden. Working with ax, chain saw, bow saw and small tractor, Don and Dick remove dead-fall branches and trim back overgrowth several times a year on the miles of picturesque pathways.

The Little Bay property had a few trails in place from the Briarwood days, but the new loop trail was created to give visitors an easy access to the variety of the terrain and vistas. In this case, Dick walked the loop first, picking the most natural and comfortable line and Don followed with his brush-clearing tractor. They will do some additional work this year to improve the narrow trail on the island adjacent to Monk's Pond.



### Cape Cod on the Prairie

Dr. Ralph Tanner, a transplanted Cape Codder now in Norman, Oklahoma, writes to inform us of a town near him called Pocasset, Oklahoma. It seems that a train engineer from Massachusetts had to name stops along a new rail line and was encouraged to use Native American names. He remembered Pocasset on Cape Cod and, perhaps wistfully, transplanted this Native American name on a flat-as-a-pancake cattle pasture in the middle of nowhere. Dr. Tanner says "You can't get there from here," but advises, on the chance you do pass by, "Don't blink or you'll miss it."

Board of Directors Stephen Ballentine, President Walter Everett, Treasurer Philip DeNormandie, Trustee

John Corcoran, Trustee Robert Birch, Trustee Don Mears, Trustee 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).

#### **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.



# **Celebrations**

In celebration of Jan Percival's 75th birthday Mort & Ellie Myerson

In celebration of
Mr. & Mrs. Donovan Beachley's
Golden Wedding Anniversary
--Anne Gegg

In celebration of
Jay Swent & Janice Leah's
50th Birthday
--Emily & David Beal

A special thanks to everyone in Cataumet who supported the Cataumet Depot
Bed & Breakfast over the years!

--Jim & Linda Bagdonas

To Patty McGurl in appreciation of many hours of T.L.C.
--"Cassie & David"

"With gratitude for all the saved places we can still enjoy" Joan Mayhew

In honor of Kris Fisher for her support and dedication --Hillary Nickerson & family

In honor of Mr. & Mrs. Richard R. Morner
--Col. & Mrs. Stanley L. King, Jr.
In honor of Chris Richards
--Mr. & Mrs. Phil Kozar
In honor of Dick & Janet Shaw
--Keith & Barbara Noyes
In honor of Leigh Stokey
--Edith Stokey
In honor of Samuel K. Swift & family
--Charlotte & Ted Teplow
In honor of Louise Williamson
--Charles & Gwenda Williamson

# **Special Donations**

In memory of "Sandy"

Nancy Ambler & "Happy"

Linda Carpenter & "Bandit"

The Douglas Nickerson Family

In memory of "Bandit" who stole our hearts.

Scott & Linda Carpenter

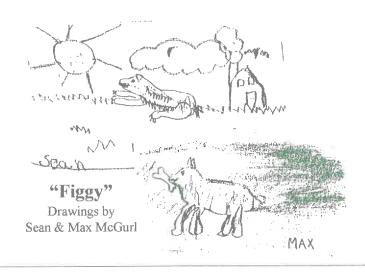
"Happy" & Nancy Ambler

The Douglas Nickerson Family

In memory of "Figgy"
who loved the paths more than
anyone and kept them well patrolled.
The Ballentine Family
The McGurl Family
John & Diana Rowe

In memory "Bosam", our 17 1/2 year old cat Joseph & Ruth A. Walters

In memory of "Bruiser" (the Cataumet Garden Center cat) The Douglas Nickerson Family



## \$ \$ \$ Current Needs \$ \$ \$

- 1. A payment of \$10,350.00 is due in November on the Joyce 1.4 acre parcel (adjoining DeNormandie Woods and Broyer Conservation areas) in Cataumet.
- 2. \$60,000 is needed in March for the purchase of a one-acre lot which is nearly surrounded by the Red Brook Pond Conservation Area.
- 3. \$75,000 is needed for the purchase of another one-acre lot abutting the Animal Rescue League property in Cataumet.
- 4. Three additional parcels are being considered in various Bourne villages.
- 5. An endowment to provide the funds for maintaining the properties owned by the BCT has been established. Our goal is \$1,000,000 and, to date, approximately a third of that has been raised.

### CANALSIDE COMMONS

The BCT continues to monitor this significant development. CanalSide is presently proceeding through the Development of Regional Impact (DRI) process with the Cape Cod Commission. A hearing is expected in March. Our readers are encouraged to keep themselves informed about this project and to voice their opinions.

### Say "Cheese"

Photographs or drawings of BCT properties, wildlife, flowers, or trees to use in the BCT newsletter. Send to or call: BCT, Box 203, Cataumet, MA 02534 (508) 563-2884.

# BCT Trail Guide

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

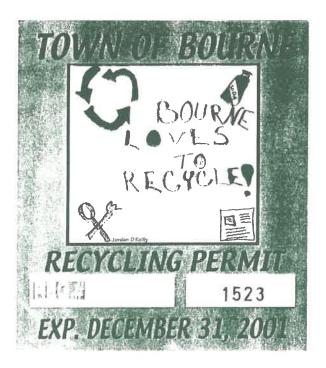
- -- Call us at (508) 563-2884
  - or
- --Write us at Box 203, Cataumet, MA 02534
  - OF
- --Pick one up at
  Ballentine's Boat Shop
  1104 Route 28A,Cataumet.



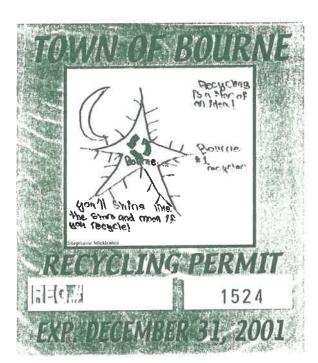
# Kahlin's Korner

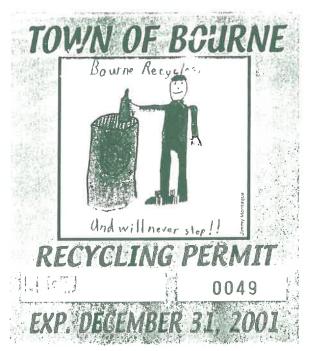
is dedicated to the memory of Kahlin

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.



This year's "Recycling Permits" were designed by 3rd and 4th graders in Bourne. There are 10 different colorful designs which are available, free of charge, at the dump.





Kahlin's Korner is a regular feature of the Newsletter, featuring children's articles or drawings. Included will be activites 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)

### Aandacht! Attenzione! Uppmarksmhet! Atencion! Achtung!

"Tis pleasant, sure, to see one's name in print."
--Lord Byron

Especially if it's printed the way one prefers it.

So

One owes it to oneself to print it exactly as one wants it to appear in the BCT Newsletter.

Mr. & Mrs. Julius Caesar
Julius & Calpurnia Caesar
Calpurnia & Julius Caesar
Mrs. Julius Caesar
Mrs. Calpurnia Caesar
Mr. Julius Caesar
Julius Caesar
Julius Caesar, esq.
Gen. Julius Caesar
Ms. Cleopatra Caesar-Anthony
et cetera

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Memorials donations received after January 31, 2001 will appear in the next newsletter.

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In memory of Patricia Anderson
Mrs. Shirley Bean
In memory of Anne Austill
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In memory of Joan Baker
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In memory of Jeff Barnes Muckle
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In memory of Florence Johnson Edward A. Johnson

In memory of John Johnston
John & Susan Carpenter
Mr. & Mrs. William S. Kerrigan

In memory of Eleanor & Ted Jones Frank W. Knowlton, Jr.

In memory of Myra Keene Julia Tucker

In memory of Lainie Knowlton Frank W. Knowlton, Jr.

In memory of Samuel Labate
John & Susan Carpenter
Adeline & Bill Kerrigan
Elizabeth Worley

In memory of Katherine Laurie Bradley, John, David Laurie Kit Augland

In memory of Lynne Love Susan Quirk

# Given in memory of Michael Marge

Michael, dressed in overalls, driving his red truck, will be remembered for his humor, kindness, ready smile, and his willingness to lend a helping hand.

Fred & Kay Alvezi
Karen Anderson
Stephen Ballentine Family
Sylvia Ballentine
Don, Julie, Brooke, & Grant Barton
Alice DeNormandie/S. Shah
Denise Douce & Drew Rock
Jayne Doucette
Kris & Pete Fisher

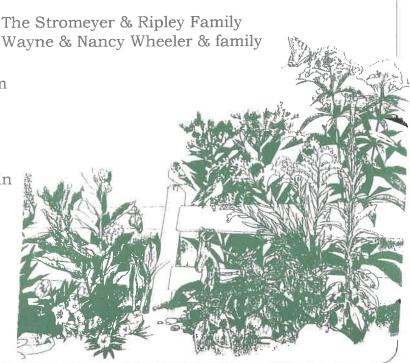
June & Henry Graessle
Ann & Bill Koros
Alice Mastroianni
Don & Allen Mears
Laura & Robert Murphy
Parker's Boat Yard
Superior Office Systems
Connie & Martin Tulloch
Julia Westwater

# Given in memory of

## Bill Fitzpatrick

his greatest pleasures were found in his gardens (bettered through his composting skills), his field dogs and their joy in being out in the right environment, and the awesome beauty of the natural world. He wanted later generations to enjoy a walk in the woods.

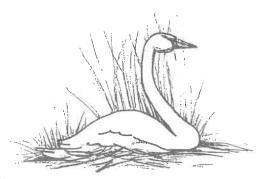
Richard & Joan Burrell John & Susan Carpenter Constance & Noel Coletti Russell & Gloria Cookingham Wayne & Waneta Douce Hastings & Barbara Keith Employment Links, Inc. Eleanor Hammond Deb Houston/Lee McLaughlin Madelene B. Jackson Parker & Kay Jones Ida Little & Michael Walsh Mary & Larry McKenna Henry Murphy Charles & Virginia Powers Flo Prince Mr. & Mrs. L. Schlotterbeck



### Given in memory of

## **Trudy Fulton**

She was an unassuming, and gentle, little lady who appreciated simple pleasures and natural beauty. She was forever grateful to BCT for helping to provide a safe haven for "her" swans. And she was certain that Cataumet was a little bit of heaven here on earth.



Ines & Albert Aegerter Ms. Ruth Bamberg John & Susan Carpenter Carolyn Moulton & Arturo & Nilda Cordero Mr. & Mrs. Harry Goff Margaret N. Hanssen Jack & Marcia Lanting Paul L. Lewis

Leo Locke **Betty Mortimer** John Holland Mr. & Mrs. James Russo Marion Ruzzo Janet & Ritchie Smith Elizabeth B. Worley

### Given in memory of

### **Dick Prince**

Dick's love of Cape Cod stems from childhood summers spent in a close New Silver Beach summer community where days were spent in the woods, on the beach or off fishing with his father on local ponds. Upon retiring to Monument Beach he worked hard to get the Cape Cod Commission Act approved and then served as Bourne's representative on that board for eight years. A gentle man, he worked hard to educate himself and others to the necessity of fair and safe regulations that would preserve and protect as much of our land and water as possible in these days of rapid development. He was impressed by the work of the Bourne Conservation Trust in doing the same.

Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Baker Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bolling Richard & Lois Bertini Kenneth & Anne Brock Mrs. Bradford Brown Bob & Marsha Burt Cape Cod Commission John & Susan Carpenter Lexes & Vera Coates Mary Susan Cobb Russell Cookingham Mr. & Mrs. Robert Deane James & June Dixon Marge Fitzpatrick Mary Fuller General Electric Capital

Paul & Sarah Goodrich Ron & Mary Haley Phil & Maryellen Kozar Richard & Eileen Jackson Beverley LeBlanc Janis Lendh Ida Little & Michael Walsh Victoria Lowell John & Gaile McShane Mr. & Mrs. John Mead Margaret F. Moore Don & Penny Myers Mr. John F. Myers Herbert Olsen Ruth Potter The Prince Family

Bob & Jane Putnam Austin & Rosella Rich Nancy Riley Virginia Santamaria Ann Sefrna John & Diane Shages Valerie Stares & Stephen Paulus George & Rainelle Tomlinson Dorothy Thompson Jim & Eleanor Watt Roberta Wetmore Paula Wevel Jane & Koon Woo Nam Donald Stephen Young

### Given in memory of

### **Robert Watson**

Robert Blake Watson, a Cataumet resident for fifty years, died in August, 2000, at his Scraggy Neck Road home. He was an ardent vegetable gardener who joked about being outwitted by the woodchucks and raccoons.

Known as "Pop" to his children and all their friends--like a pied piper adored by all the young.

"Of the hundreds of letters we received there is hardly one that doesn't mention his gentlemanly qualities, kindness, and concern for others." quotes Polly, his wife.

Mr. Watson is buried in the Cataumet Cemetery. A memorial service was held at Harvard in mid-September conducted by Rev. Peter Gomes. Remembrances were given by his sons Robert and Peter, Dick Button and Gen. Morrison.

Fred & Susan Abbe Berryfield Farm Mrs. E. Francis Bowditch Mr. & Mrs. F. Gorham Brigham, Jr. Marjorie L. Brodeur Joan Cave Morton & Jane Claflin Ned Claflin Mrs. Margaret Clark Mr. & Mrs. Charles Clough Mr. & Mrs. John G. Cornish Kathleen Cross Mr. & Mrs. Donald F. Cutler Sarah & John Dawley, Liza & Anna **Decision Resources** Sue Denny Wendy Harding deRham Florence S. Earl John L. & Susan K. Gardner Barbara & Chandler Gifford Juliana Hallowell & Mark Phillips

Goody & John Harding Mr. & Mrs. William G. Harding Nancy Harris Elizabeth Haskins Sadie & Dick Howe Mr. & Mrs. John Craig Huff, Jr. Jane & Henry Keene Frank W. Knowlton, Jr. Leila J. Linen Brenda Payne Luquer Miss Jean MacIver Henrietta Meyer Mr. & Mrs. David Mittell Don & Penny Myers Arthur & Eleanor Nelson The Douglas Nickerson Family Dr. & Mrs. George M. Olive The Parrot Family Sis Potter The Pratt & Dawley Families The Reiber Family Mr. & Mrs. Walter M. Ringer, Jr. Ann Sargent

Mr. & Mrs. John M. Sayler
John W. Scully
Douglas Sloane, IV
Mr. & Mrs. John Spring
Thomas W. Stephenson
Hope H. Swasey
Margaret H. Treadway
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Wellington
Mrs. John J. Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. H. Holton Wood
Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Wright
Stevens Wright
Seraphine & Lawrence Wu
Mr. & Mrs. Faris S. Zeghibe



