

Newsletter Number 34

Fall 2001

# From Bay (Cape Cod) to Shining Bay (Buzzards)

Twenty-one years after its founding, the Bourne Conservation Trust administers almost 200 acres of woodlands, beaches and marshes located in 6 of Bourne's villages—Cataumet, Pocasset, Monument Beach, Gray Gables, Bourne, and Sagamore. In size BCT holdings range from .06 acres to 33.7 and include a 7.8 acre island. The Trust maintains more than three miles of trails and makes its holdings available for recreational and educational purposes.

In this world of ping-pong politics and stumbling stocks, ponder this: If the acreage now under the protection of the Bourne Conservation Trust were to be sliced up into a path three feet wide, then rolled out like new lawn turf, you could lay the resulting strip from Fenway Park in Boston to the Culinary Museum in Providence to the

Mark Twain House in Hartford and end up in the parking lot of a brass factory in Waterbury, CT. Or, starting at Worcester Poly Tech you could wend your way to the Indian Motorcycle Museum in Springfield, stop for a look-see at the Scenic Railway Museum in Lenox, then walk right out of New England and into Albany, NY. But if you opted not to hike to Albany or Waterbury and instead took a leisurely stroll about the BCT acreage, you might, as reported in earlier Newsletters, have noted that-"During a mid-February warm snap, misled skunk cabbages sent up shoots in the marshes, while frigid rhododendrons curled their leaves into green enchiladas, and hasty robins pecked hungrily at the scarlet seed pods of staghorn sumacs."

Or you might have been present on a mid-December morning when— "A sharp-shinned hawk alighted in an east-shore swamp maple and while peering down at the neighborhood's only sheltered bathing and preening spot some fifteen feet below, nodded his swivelmounted head mechanically like a wind-up toy. Meanwhile local sparrows, chickadees, cardinals, titmice, nuthatches and bluejays were eerily silent and strangely invisible. A half hour later, still hungry, the hawk launched himself into the wind, headed north and was last seen being urged on his way by a squadron of raucous, dive-bombing crows."

Or you might have been one of the mid-April strollers out on Lawrence Island who— "spotted"

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a tagged harbor seal basking in the sun in the Squeteague side of the island, a seal who was as curious about the strollers as they were about him and allowed them to venture quite close before slipping into the water."

Or, as you made your way along the— "ancient paths that wind among stands of pine and oak and skirt kettle holes where foxes, muskrats, and raccoons live among the wild flowers and blueberries," you might have caught sight of a resident fox,

perhaps the same one that—
"wasn't shy and seemed to
appear everywhere—trotting
through cranberry bogs, across
Dimmick's Field, around Red
Brook Pond, once pausing long
enough for a quizzical look
through a kitchen storm door at
a startled neighbor."

Or, if you time your early winter's morning stroll to land you on the south shore of Red Brook Pond at the right moment, you might be lucky enough to see what happens—"when the pre-dawn temperatures drop into

the 20s, just before the sun's rays have cleared the southeast scarp, when the Pond's windless north shore is still in shadow, when great blue herons glide in from the east—sometimes one, sometimes a pair, normally a half dozen and once a record fourteen. Like high-wire artists, they alight unsteadily on hospitable branches of the tall north-shore pines and teeter precariously, waiting for the sun to thaw away the night's deep chill."

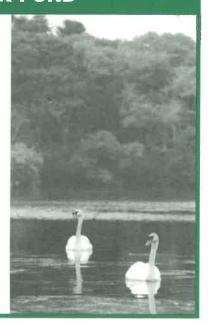
Then—"In the spring, newly hatched cygnets meld into an animated fuzzy blob that swims and feeds between watchful parents, staying close to the Pond's edges. Until the blob begins to unravel and the cygnets emerge as separate individuals, their exact number is hidden. Soon, however, they begin to shape up, forming a line—father first, cygnets next, mother to the rear. Only when the cygnets grow restive of restraint will the followthe-leader pattern be broken. Then, like teen-agers, they will step out of line, sometimes trying to lead, sometimes lagging behind and sometimes paddling off by themselves, but not far and never for long."

And on any summer's day, you'd be likely to see—"forty or fifty feet above the Pond, an osprey circling, braking, hovering, then diving talons first, and vanishing

# **ON RED BROOK POND**

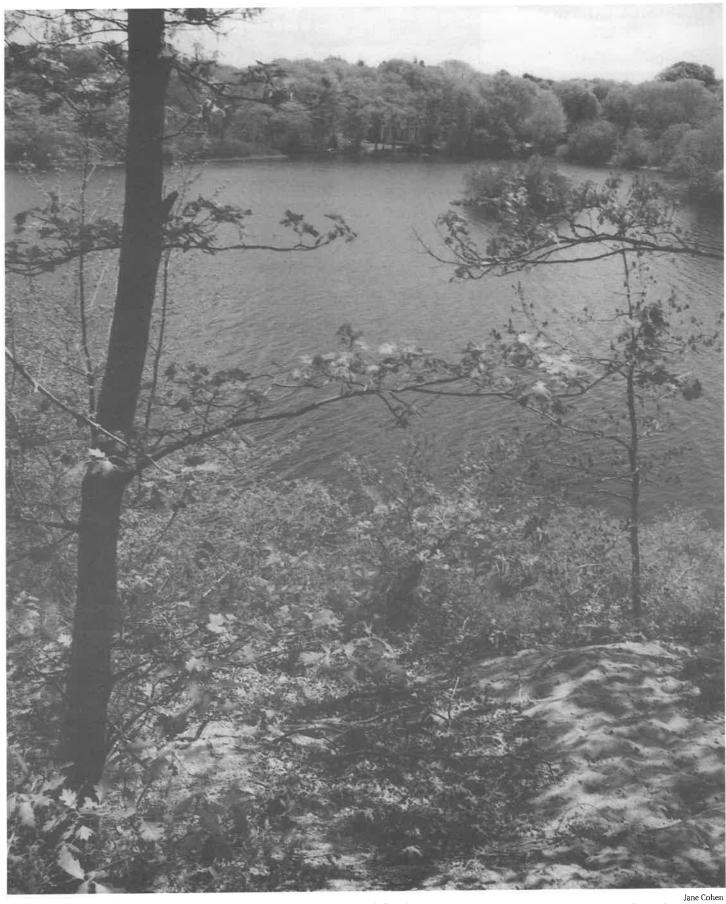
# **A Cygnetless Spring**

Only once within memory has a swan couple lost its entire brood of cygnets before they were mature enough to venture from their nest a few yards up Red Brook out onto Red Brook Pond proper. Early in May an unknown predator made short work of the recently-hatched cygnets and only then did the mother swan reappear on the Pond in the company of her mate.



# **New Comedians in Residence**

The lone otter that dropped by to check out Red Brook Pond in May seems to have decided to stay. He's back with his mate and consequent kits. In daylight the family can be seen splashing about and at night can be heard chuckling and chirping all the while sampling the Pond's wealth of fish and frogs. The dignified swan couple remains aloof—even indifferent—to the new comedians on the Pond, who will be in the comedy spotlight until the fall when the fun-loving buffleheads sail in from the Arctic to join the show.



into the spray of impact before reappearing with his meal secure in his talons." Or—"A

Red Brook Pond great blue heron drift silently out of the east, a squealing osprey

circle overhead and, at the Pond's center, a cormorant splashing himself silly."

## CANALSIDE COMMONS UPDATE

In June, the Cape Cod Commission (CCC) held its final hearing in regard to the "CanalSide Commons," a proposed million-square-foot housing and commercial development at the Bourne Bridge rotary. Citing numerous instances of non-compliance with Regional Policy Plan (RPP) standards as detailed in a recent CCC staff report, the full CCC was on the verge of disapproving the plan, but instead granted a 90-day extension after directing developer Leonard Cubellis to downsize his plans to diminish impact on traffic—this, or face a denial.

On September 10th, the CCC approved an additional 45-day extension to further review Mr. Cubellis' current, much reduced plan. It involves "20,000 square feet of retail (consisting of a 7,500 square foot restaurant and 12,500 square feet of high end specialty retail); 97 units of housing; 40 units of over 55 housing and a 300 room hotel with conference center." This plan is much closer to RPP adherence, yet remains too high in traffic generation.

#### **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 tax deductible from your taxable income. (ID Number: 04 2737827).

## **TRAIL NOTES**

# Pooch Pollution

Most of us have become accustomed to carrying a plastic bag and a scoop when we take our dog for a walk. It's simple; it's courteous to others; and it's the law. Still the fecal coliform bacteria count in local waters is causing some traditional shellfish areas to be closed. The State Division of Marine Fisheries has closed some parts of Squeateague Harbor for shell fishing and is monitoring other areas closely.





Susan

Nivling Trail

other dog owners will make a difference in protecting our precious shore area.

# **Trail Etiquette**

BCT trails are sometimes very close to property lines of adjacent homeowners. Please be considerate of those property owners when enjoying your walk in the woods. We don't need "good fences" to be "good neighbors;" just some courtesy.

## THE BOURNE CONSERVATION TRUST

Trust Overview and How You Can Help

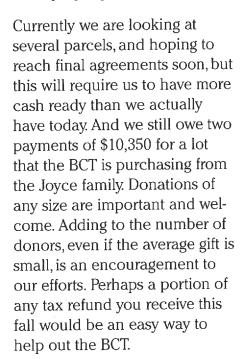
## This Land Is Your Land

Since 1980 the Bourne Conservation Trust has been obtaining and administering parcels of land for conservation purposes. Beginning with the donation of DeNormandie

Red Brook Pond Conservation Area. Just in the last three years more than 36 acres were added through the acquisition of the Briarwood and Kingman properties and a few smaller lots. A conservative estimation of the real value of all the property is

ty possible is paper—your greenbacks and checks. The recent acquisition of two parcels has brought our cash account to a very low level. BCT is often successful in getting a purchase agreement because we are able to move ahead

quickly with a cash payment. We did this in buying the one-acre water tower lot in the Red Brook Pond Conservation Area and the oneacre lot off Oak Street adjacent to the Animal Rescue League and Town of Bourne Conservation Land property in Cataumet.





Dimmick Waterfront

Woods, the Trust now owns 168 acres and has obtained conser-

vation restrictions on 14 other privately owned acres. BCT has raised \$3,945,000 to purchase 91 acres and has received 77 acres as outright gifts. The parcels range in size from a lot in Cataumet that is .06 acre to one parcel of 33.7 acres in the

about \$6 million. All of this has been made possible through the generosity of many, many donors whose gifts have ranged from \$5.00 to \$500,000.

# **Turning Paper Back Into Wood**

"Whose woods these are..." is the question that BCT asks whenever it considers adding a new parcel to the acreage owned by the Trust. And the resource that makes the acquisition of new proper-

# AN INVENTORY OF **BOURNE CONSERVATION TRUST** REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS

#### **BOURNE**

## Nickerson **Conservation Area**

8 wooded acres. 1996 gift from Robert & Paul Nickerson in memory of their parents, Harold and Irene Nickerson. Located between Old Monument Neck Road and the Cape Cod Canal. Trails accessed from Aptucxet Trading Post entrance road.

# **2** Broad Swamp

1/2 acre, 1991 gift from Carleton Handy. A "living laboratory-outdoor classroom" for Bourne High School students. Access enhanced by a boardwalk built by the students. The area has been certified by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program as a Vernal Pool (breeding area for certain amphibians). Located off Waterhouse Road across from Bourne High School.

## MacArthur Boulevard

13.5 wooded acres located east of MacArthur Blvd. One parcel of 7 acres donated in 1990 by Robert Walsh. One parcel of 6.5 acres donated in 1991 by Mary Korpf.

#### **GRAY GABLES**

# 4 Mashnee Causeway

5 acres just before Mashnee causeway. Wetlands. Donated in 1986 by Christopher A. Pantaleoni.

## **MONUMENT BEACH**

# **5** Bourne Family Property

22 acres. Pristine pine woods. 1995 gift from the Bourne family. Located off County Road. No trails at the present time, but will be in the future.

## Little Bay **Conservation Area**

See box, next page.

#### **POCASSET**

# 7 Paulinda Road

1/2 acre. Donated in 1989 by Paul J. Medeiros. Two rare plant species have been found on this land, Tinker's-weed (Triosteum perfoliatum) and Wild Columbine (Aquilegia canadense).

## R Pocasset Park

.9 wooded acre. Located at corner of Barlows Landing and Shore roads. Purchased with funds raised by the Pocasset Village Association and the BCT. The park is maintained by the PVA. Park benches.

# Wings Neck lot:

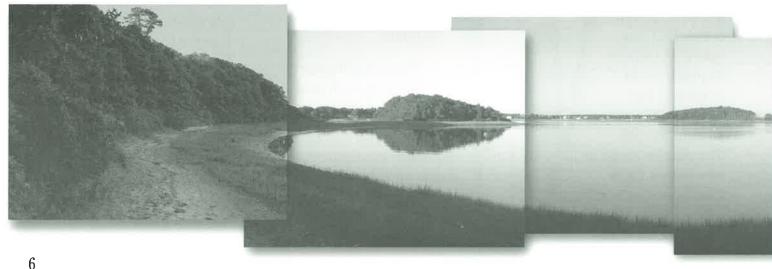
1/2 wooded acre located off Old North Road. 1993 gift from Marian B. Lane.

#### **CATAUMET**

## 10 Red Brook Pond **Conservation Area**

41 acres. Half mile of trails bordering on Red Brook Pond and cranberry bogs. A protected cool half hour walk through the woods. Watch for geese in





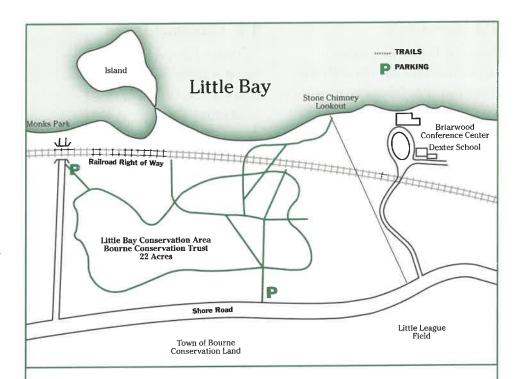
the bogs and swans on the pond. Acquired in 1989 with member donations. An additional 1-acre, where the old water tower stood, purchased in 2001. Parking available at the beginning of Thaxter Road, adjacent to Red Brook Pond.

## **11** Dimmick Field

5 acres privately owned, conservation restrictions purchased by the BCT. Area will be maintained as a field in perpetuity. Watch for horses (large and small) and flocks of goldfinch.

## **12** DeNormandie Woods

11 acres. These parcels were our first, donated by Philip and Tina DeNormandie (1980). Consisting of the triangle of land between Red Brook Harbor, Shore and County roads—plus 9 acres of wooded upland with a trail leading to the Town owned Broyer and Robinson Conservation Areas via the Joyce Path. From Shore to Depot Road is about 2/3 of a mile. Watch for Lady Slippers in the early summer.



# **Little Bay Conservation Area**

The Little Bay property was formerly used as the Briarwood Conference Center, a retreat facility for young adults, run by the Massachusetts Episcopal Archdiocese since 1945. During the 1990s, as the Diocese looked for a more suitable property to meet their changing needs, the 22-acre tract of woodlands became available and was purchased in 1999 by the Trust. The area features rolling terrain, marked trails, and lovely views of Little Bay. Parking is available just before Monk's Park, or off Shore Road.



# **13** Joyce Path

Wooded trail that connects DeNormandie Woods with the Broyer and Robinson Conservation Areas. Gift of the Joyce family (1982). An additional 1-1/2 acres were purchased in 1999.

## **14** John E. Handy Conservation Area

4 1/3 acres. One acre acquired with member donations, 3-1/3 acres donated by Brad and Martha Townley and George and Pam Christodoulo. A quarter mile trail connects Depot and County roads. Location of the annual Cataumet Civic Associates Easter Egg Hunt.

# **15** Robinson Conservation Area

29 acres. 18 acres owned by the Town of Bourne and 11 acres (Kingman land) purchased (1998) by BCT with member donations. Almost a mile of wooded trails with Lady Slippers, Rhododendrons and Spruce trees.

# **16** Dimmick Waterfront

2-1/2 acres, gift of the David Dimmick family, scenic view of



Red Brook Harbor. Stone bench (Ferne Robinson memorial) ideal for viewing sunsets over the harbor.

# **17** Cataumet Depot

3/5 acre. Historic building available for community use, home of Cataumet Civic Associates. 1989 gift from Philip and Tina DeNormandie. One adjacent plot gift of George F. Ballentine Jr. and an additional acre purchased with member donations. Adjoins Washington Park, Town owned playground.

# **18** Lawrence Island

7 acres. Sandy/rocky beach and wooded upland, our first purchase (1985) with member donations. Access down Grasslands Lane and then along the shoreline (below high tide mark) or by boat.

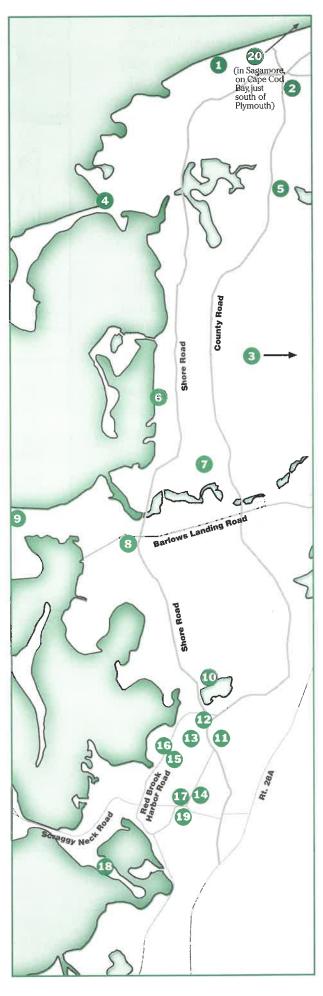
# **19** Seaver Lots

1 acre located off Oak Street adjacent to Town of Bourne land and conservation area owned by the Animal Rescue League of Boston. Purchased with member donations in 2001.

#### **SAGAMORE**

# 20 The Strand

11-1/2 acre stretch of beach along Cape Cod Bay in Sagamore. Donated in 1986 by Devaney Real Estate Trust.



# **DONATIONS 2001**

Donations received between January 1 and July 31, 2001

Fred & Susan Abbe Mr. Talbot Allen Fred & Kay Alvezi Lew & Nancy Ambler Arthur & Mary Amend E.S. Arsenault Simone Aubry The Bakers The Baker family Talbot Baker, Jr. Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Ballentine Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Barnes III Dr. & Mrs. Harold Berk Mr. & Mrs. Robert Birch Carolyn & Courtney Bird, Jr. Mrs. Rita Blount Joan R. Bolton Mrs. Alvina Brooks Kathleen H. & Phillip Burgess Richard & Joan Burrell Janice & Laurie Butler Cape Cod Life Mr. & Mrs. Sam Carchidi Mr. & Mrs. John Carpenter Mrs. Hildreth Clark Mrs. Helen Cobb Sandra & Dorothy Cofran Arthur & Barbara Colburn Karen Colbert Mira Coleman Charles & Edythe Collins Mr. & Mrs. W. Robert Connor Russell & Gloria Cookingham Drs. Henry & Marie Cote Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Crocker Priscilla & Christopher Cross Paul & Mary Cusick Ruben & Tamara Davis Mr. & Mrs. Robert DeNormandie Keith & Paddy Dickenson Wayne & Waneta Douce

Mr. David Dow Mr. Robert Downey Richard & Deborah Dow Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Dunlavey Mr. & Mrs. Kingsley Durant Jean & Pete Duval Mr. & Mrs. Hans Englemann Ms. Dorothy Erickson Mr. & Mrs. Walter Everett Thomas & Leslie Fedge Frances Field David & Karen Firestone Mr. & Mrs. Richmond Fisher Una H. Fleischmann Mr. & Mrs. Richard Gallego Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gaynor Anne D. Gegg, PTY 1035 Alice M. Gibbs Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Gordon Mr. & Mrs. William Grace Bob & Bonnie Gray **Eleanor Hammond** George & Barbara Hampson Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hardiman Mr. & Mrs. William Harding Mr. & Mrs. J. William Henry Suzy & Arch Hodge Colleen Hurter/Doug Handy Clement & Mary Hutchins Madelene Jackson Philip & Carol Jacobs Mrs. Jaqueline Jacobson Mr. David Jarvis Dave & Joy Jenkins Mr. & Mrs. George Jenkins Mr. & Mrs. John Johnson Margo H. Johnson Marie T. Johnson Parker & Kay Jones Dr. & Mrs. T. Stephen Jones

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John & Mary Sturgess
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Elizabeth Tarala/Jane Cohen
Barbara (Bee) Tracey
Mrs. Evelyn Underhill

Mr. & Mrs. J. Burke Walsh
Ruth & Joseph Walters
Julia Westwater/Jane Doucette
Wayne & Nancy Wheeler
& Family
Phil & Betty Whittaker
Ms. Linnea Willman
Margaret B. Wood
Joan & Orrin Wood
Mrs. Madeline Woodruff
Caroline M. Wright
Sara L. York

### **MEMORIAL DONATIONS**

Memorial donations received after July 31, 2001 will appear in the next newsletter.

In memory of

Adolph & Ruth Amend Arthur & Mary Amend

In memory of **Ian Baldwin**Mr. & Mrs. William G. Harding

In memory of **Shirley Beale** Henry & Marie Cote

In memory of **Jane Hart Berk**Dr. Harold & Helen Berk

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

In memory of **Charles Brooks**Alvina Brooks

In memory of **Martha Bryant**Lew & Nancy Ambler
Jeannette & Thomas Barnes
Evelyn Underhill
Sara York

In memory of **Phillip Burgess**, **Jr.**Kathleen & Phillip Burgess

In memory of **Richard Burgess**Ruth Walters

In memory of **Frank Butler**Janice & Lawrie Butler

In memory of Michael Butler
Bob & Lisa Moon

In memory of **Paula Carey**Clement & Mary Hutchins

In memory of

Mr. & Mrs. Francis Chase
Mr. & Mrs. Kingsley Durant

In memory of **Frederic E. Cobb** Helen Cobb

In memory of **Christine Collins** Chuck & Edythe Collins

In memory of **Sidney Collins**Hans & Cathy Engelmann
Alice M. Gibbs
David Gardner Gibbs
Karen Gibbs Moore

In memory of **Jane Ware Colven**Fred & Susan Abbe

In memory of **Mary Corcoran**Mr. & Mrs. Robert DeNormandie

In memory of **Peter Cutone**John & Susan Carpenter

Given in memory of **TOM LYON** 

who for 35 years lived by and loved Red Brook Pond, the woods and cranberry bogs. He rejoiced that BCT is preserving the land and that swans can still nest safely and turtles lay eggs on the shores of the pond.

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Ballentine
Kathleen & Phillip Burgess
Arthur & Barbara Colburn
Elizabeth Lyon
Helen McCullough Lyon
Michael & Julianne Palmieri
John & Mary Sturgess

In memory of

Maurice W. Daniels

Mr. & Mrs. William Kerrigan

In memory of **Norman Dow** Richard & Debbie Dow

In memory of **Mary Eustis** Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Crocker

In memory of

Frederick B. Douglass
Shirley Douglass Miller

In memory of Carol Jean Downey Robert Downey In memory of **Robert Story & Sylvia Draper Fish**Mira Coleman

In memory of William Fitzpatrick
Ida Little & Michael Walsh
Virginia Santamaria
Valerie Stares &
Stephen Paulus

In memory of **Joy A. Fortune** Mrs. Shirley A. Johnston

In memory of **Norma Jackson**Mrs. Madeline Woodruff

In memory of **Stanley Jacobs**Phil & Carol Jacobs

In memory of **Peter Jacobsen**Jacqueline Jacobsen

In memory of **Kahlin Jespersen**Mr. & Mrs. Monown Kisor
Burke & Lory Walsh

In memory of **Bradford D. Johnson**Margo H. Johnson

In memory of **Laura Johnson** Tom & Leslie Fedge Mr. & Mrs. J. William Henry Mr. & Mrs. Philip Kozar

In memory of

Margaret Louise Keane
Robert Keane

In memory of **Helene S. Knowlton**Lindsay Knowlton

In memory of **Andrew Laurie**(on his April 4th birth date)
Rev. Christina G. Laurie

In memory of **Kay Laurie** Colleen Hurter & Doug Handy

In memory of **Lawrence Leach** Sarah Leach

In memory of **Lynne Love** Ruth & Joseph Walters In memory of **Michael Marge** Simone Aubry Waneta & Wayne Douce

In memory of **Dave Mohre** Mrs. Helen E. Mohre

In memory of

Elizabeth Alden Morrall

Laura Morral &
Joseph Duggan
Steve & Susan Morrall

In memory of **John Perrin**Joan & Orrin Wood

In memory of

Richard Plummer Sr.

Jean & Pete Duval

In memory of **Richard Prince**Monument Beach
Civic Associates

In memory of Richard Schofield

Mr. & Mrs. William G. Harding

In memory of **Mary Schull** Dorothy W. Porter

In memory of **Elizabeth Shultz**Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Barnes

In memory of **L. J. T.**Elizabeth Tarala & Jane Cohen

In memory of **Robert A. Talbot, Jr.**Talbot Allen

In memory of **Anna Walden**Jane Ann Willis Pearce

In memory of **Dorothy Ward** Hans & Cathy Engelmann

In memory of **Robert Watson** Caroline M.Wright

In memory of **Harriet Weeks**Grace Rowe & Hal DeWaltoff
Rev. Christina G. Laurie

In memory of **Ruth & Bob Willman**Linnea Willman

#### **CELEBRATIONS**

In honor of

#### **Diane Bartkus**

—Ted and Wendy Rose

Thanks to

#### Linda Cocca

for use of the cottage.
—Sandra & Dorothy Cofran

Thanks to the

## **Dimmick Family**

for allowing us to graze in the field.

—Cassie, David & O'Brien

#### **SPECIAL DONATIONS**

In memory of "**Pirate**" The Ballentine Family Maryellen Kozar

In memory of our special friends "Topper" (Jack Russell) & "Meow"

Susan & Steve Morrall

In memory of our "person cats" **Rufus**, **Arthur**, & **Dax**Jeff & Elizabeth Stolz

In memory of "**Scuppers**" (Jespersen's family dog)
The Ballentine Family

In memory of "**Brewster**" (He enjoyed the BCT trails for over 14 years.) Steve & Charlotte Ryan

In memory of **Andy Wood**Mrs. Hildreth Clark

In memory of **Courty & Andy Wood**Margaret B.Wood

In memory of **Elizabeth Worley** Steve & Sally Ballentine Sam & Theresa Carchidi John & Susan Carpenter

# **INQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW**

A Bourne Conservation Trust Survey

Please fill in and return this survey in the enclosed envelope— want to hear from you.	–with or without a donation.We just
Do you have a favorite BCT conservation area? Where? Why?	?
Have you seen any unusual wildlife or plant species on BCT	land? What?
If you would like to be called to help with trail maintenance	e, where can we reach you?
Would you be interested in adopting a trail or area? If yes, w litter patrol, reporting major maintenance problems/suggesti	rhich one? (Includes hand trimming, ions, checking signs, etc.)
Do you enjoy the newsletter? What do you like best? Any st	uggestions for the newsletter?
General comments, suggestions, interesting stories:	
Name (optional)	80V/ 1977

Bourne Conservation Trust

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