

Bourne Conservation Trust

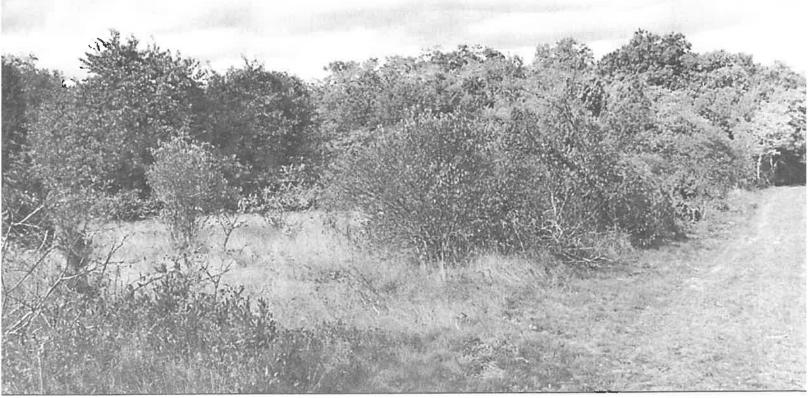
Newsletter Number 37

Spring 2003

FREEMAN FARM

The Bourne Conservation Trust has just signed a purchase agreement with the South Sagamore Water District for a beautiful tract of land. The parcel is about eleven acres and is located on the Sandwich/Bourne border in South Sagamore. Formerly part of the historic Freeman family farm, the land includes trails that give access to the Cape Cod Canal and a large open space that for centuries had been a hay field.

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Edmund Freeman developed the land under terms of a grant he received in 1637. His original home was across the Manomet River (the course of the present canal) in West Sandwich, now Sagamore Heights. When Freeman's wife, Liz, died, he chose a spot on a knoll looking out over the farm for her burial place. Because they had traveled to church services on the same horse—he on the saddle, she more primly on the pillion behind the saddle—he set a pillion-shaped marker on her grave and had a saddleshaped stone prepared for his. These stones are still in place on the hill behind the Snow Goose Shop at the junction of Tupper Road and Route 6A. Bronze plaques memorialize the couple in a well tended plot at the site.

Descendants of the Freeman family rebuilt the farmhouse in



Canal view from the Freeman Farm property.

1800 not far from the parcel being purchased by the BCT. The house and barns were considered to be among the most authentically preserved examples of that era. The farm continued to be a working hay farm with a small herd of dairy cattle until the early 1950s. Regrettably, the buildings were completely destroyed in 1983 in a fire of

suspicious origin two days before negotiations were to begin to have them relocated for historic preservation.

Bourne Selectmen walk the boundaries of the town every three years and, in doing so, they pace the edge of this parcel which represents the easternmost border of the Bourne line on the south side of the canal. An historic way, Freeman's Lane (east of the Sagamore Inn), constitutes this boundary and is still well trod by walkers who have enjoyed the natural beauty of this land which will soon, thanks to the benefactors of the Bourne Conservation Trust, be forever in trust as open space.

(The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection must give approval to the sale of the South Sagamore Water District land. A June closing is anticipated.)

This trail leads through a wooded portion of the Freeman Farm property, opening into a field.



MAKE "NEXT TIME" "THIS TIME"

Next time you're at the junction of the County and Shore roads, take an admiring look at the handsome repointing of the stone wall that borders a BCT property. Next time you have an urge to make a tax

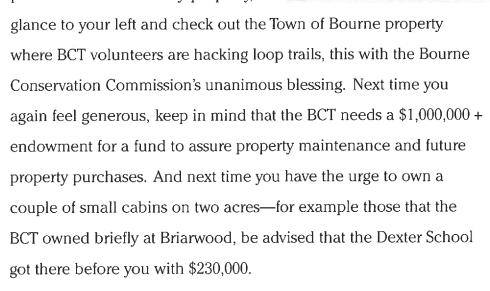


Repointed stone wall at BCT DeNormandie Woods.

deductible donation, remember that the BCT is looking for \$100,000, the cost of the acreage soon to be purchased from the South Sagamore Water District—11-plus wooded acres between Route 6A and the canal. Next time you're driving north (or south) on Route 28A, slow down, look east, so you can get a good look at the 2.5 acres retained by the BCT after the sale of "Cataumet"

Crossing" (house and single acre), the \$400,000 proceeds from the sale plus private

donations made it possible to pay off the mortgage quite early. Next time you're driving down Valley Bars Road past the BCT's Little Bay property,



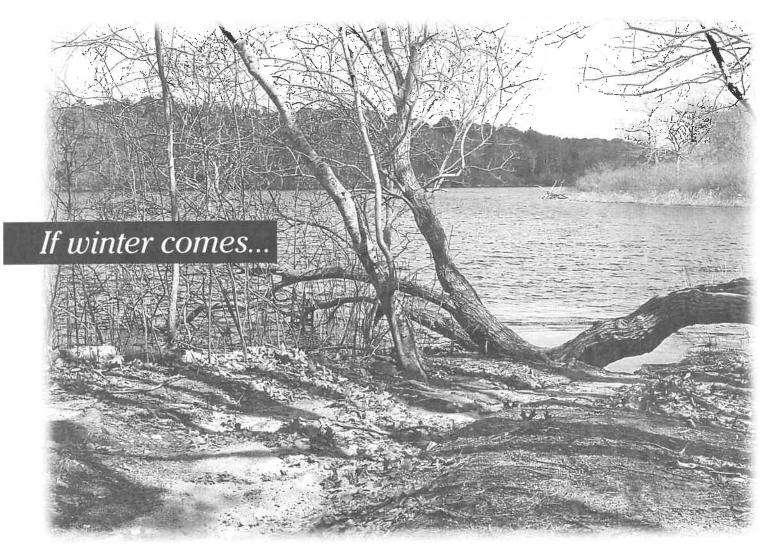


BCT
Patterson property
at junction of
Route 28A and
Long Hill Road

Spring break on Red Brook Pond. No more jet-black crows silhouetted against the snow-covered ice, no more an encroaching ice veneer shrinking the open-water, crowding the scores of bufflehead and mergansers into a single open-water access to food. Up from Peru, an osprey, a regular summer resident, checks

and were bobbing about near Bassett's Island after checking out the shards of the fractured ice floe on Buzzards Bay. It's too early for the kingfishers to emerge from the pond's banks and man their lookout posts on overhanging branches. No hungry terns or swallows circle over the ice as later on they will with an eye to

will be driven off while down below thousands of herring invade to spawn among the year-rounders—perch, bass, catfish, sunfish, bluegills and the snapping, leatherbacks and painted turtles snoozing in the ooze. And there are always gluttonous cormorants over from the bay. At the Pond's verges winter's



out possible conning perches while a lone great blue heron takes a leisurely early morning stroll across the south-shore peninsula which the female swan seems to be casing as a likely nesting site. Earlier in the month, the swan pair deserted their iced-over home

finding a meal below the Pond's wrinkled summertime surface. Regulars—gulls, mallards, black ducks watch—and keep their distance—from Canada geese whose visit will be cut short by a hissing and snorting 'mute' swan, and invading, home-seeking swans

stay-at-homes—cardinals, sparrows, jays, chickadees, finches, woodpeckers and just arrived robins go about their business. All of this hustle and bustle once again raises the poet's question:

"Can spring be far behind?"
Answer: Don't hold your breath.

BCT Christmas Trees

The spirit of Christmas was alive and well in Cataumet last December when David and Freddie Dimmick opened their County Road property to one day of live Christmas tree cutting.

Families who purchased a tree were treated to a tractor ride and a holiday reception. Around the decorated Christmas tree in the barn, they enjoyed music, holiday snacks, and good conversation. By selling trees for \$30 each, the Dimmicks raised as much as \$900 for the Bourne Conservation Trust, while providing a warm holiday experience for 30 families.

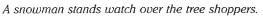
Tod Dimmick, who, with his wife Jennifer and their two young sons, Spencer and Kurt, was on hand to help his parents with the event, said his family had planted more than 100 balsam fir and white

spruce trees on the land six years ago, as part of a forestry woodlot project. The Christmas tree lot is adjacent to their Tree Farm, where the family has planted more than 3,000 white pine seedlings. By last December, the Christmas trees were large enough to be harvested.

"That was when my dad came up with the idea of selling them to

benefit the Bourne Conservation Trust," said Tod. "At that time, we came up with the two objectives. We wanted to raise some money and put on an event to bring the whole community together." The day of the tree cutting was beautiful and sunny. David Dimmick hooked up his 1956 International Harvester tractor to his stake-sided flatbed trailer, threw on some hay bales for seating, got out the saws, and waited for the people to arrive. Nature had delivered a new coating of snow the night before, which brightened the day and would later entice children of all ages to throw a few snowballs and build snowmen.

The people needed little publicity to draw them to the







Picking out a perfect tree are Greg Dadak, Grace Rowe, Linda Dadak, and Otter.

farm. The Dimmicks had erected just one small sign on the road announcing the cutting, and let word-of-mouth do the rest. At the end of the day, 30 families had dropped by to drink some Christmas cider, learn a bit about the Bourne Conservation Trust, and pick the perfect Christmas tree.

"More than one person said to me that theirs was the most magical Christmas tree they had ever found," said Tod.

He noted that one person who had just purchased a Christmas tree elsewhere came by the farm, saw the sign, and turned right around and returned her tree. She immediately came to the Dimmicks to cut down her perfect tree.

Next year, the Dimmicks plan to do it all again.

"We have enough trees," said Tod. "Even if it is twice as popular next year we will be all right. But if it is more than twice as popular, we will have to grow some more trees."

Winter Fun Run

It was a beautiful sunny day on Sunday, January 5, as 141 registered for the 23rd annual Winter Fun Run sponsored by the Cape Cod Road Runners. Runners as young as 11 and as old as 69 ran the 4.9-mile course along the roads of Monument Beach. An award ceremony featuring seafood chowder and fritters was held afterwards at the Weary Travelers Masonic Club on Valley Bars Road, the starting and ending point for the race.

Robert G. Burt of Pocasset, director for the race and longtime member of the Cape Cod Road Runners, was on hand to wish the runners well as they took off from the starting line at 10:30 AM. Fellow road runner and Bourne Conservation Trust President Stephen Ballentine of Cataumet led the pack of runners through the course, riding in a borrowed, bright red convertible Corvette.

Mr. Burt noted the annual Winter Fun Run is truly a race for runners, held at a time when there are few opportunities to get out and run

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Stephen Ballentine, *President*Walter Everett, *Treasurer*Philip DeNormandie, *Trustee*John Corcoran, *Trustee*Robert Birch, *Trustee*Don Mears, *Trustee*Dick Boyden, *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. Please consult your tax advisor for more information. (ID Number: 04 2737827).



The names of donors
who contribute money
to make possible BCT
purchases and support
its projects are regularly
published in the BCT
Newsletters—our way of
expressing gratitude for their

generosity. However, there are also scores of members who donate not only money, but also their time and energy to BCT programs. Their names do not appear in the Newsletter because we're not always sure who they are. Their efforts, however, are critical to our success. They make up a small army of trail blazers, litter patrol squadrons, fund raisers, planters, bench builders, sign painters and contributors to the Newsletter—writers, photographers, proof readers, artists, and graphic designers.

with other people. He said the low entry fee, the food, free giveaway of cotton gloves, and the quick production of race results are all part of creating a perfect event for runners.

Raising money for the Bourne Conservation Trust is an added bonus, he said, but is not the primary reason for the race.

Kendall G. Jones of Bourne Village, a Weary Traveler Club member and former merchant mariner, was hard at work stirring a gigantic pot of chowder in the Weary Traveler's kitchen at 9 that morning. Mr. Jones said he made the 15 gallons of chowder himself, starting work at 5 AM. The hot chowder was made from quahogs, cod, flounder and fluke caught fresh for the event. He noted fellow masons Michael Wrighter and Clifford R. Jones were responsible for the fritters.

The race raised \$469 for the Bourne Conservation Trust.

Thomas S. Cahir of Pocasset, charter member of the Cape Road Runners who ran in the race, said it was a great day to be running, but noted the difficulty of keeping up with some of the younger, more energetic runners. "It doesn't get any easier," he joked as he crossed the finish line.

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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.

A CROSSWORD By Tyler de Waltoff, et al		3	5
8	9	Down 1. Part of BCT 2. An Endangered Shoe 3. A Lymey Guy 4. Great Blue 5. Man's Best Friend 8. Another Word for Paths 9. Sevena-swimming	Across 1. Creepy Crawler 2. Larry's Place 6. Part of BCT 7. There are 4 of them 8. Part of BCT 10. A High Nester

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)

Memorial Donations

In memory of **HOWARD ETTER**

Mr. & Mrs. Ransom Parker Ted & Wendy Rose Martha S. Tripp

In memory of MARY EMILY (MEG) GOFF 1918-2002

Whose love affair with Cataumet began as a young bride on her honeymoon in 1942. For many years a summer resident, she and her husband retired to their home on Scraggy Neck in 1970. She loved the fresh salt air, the cry of the gulls and the sound of the waves breaking on the beach and she treasured the many friendships she developed over the years.

In the later years of her life, in spite of failing health and memory, she never failed to stop to watch the swans when passing the shores of Red Brook Pond. It gives her family pleasure to know that due to the generous contributions of family and friends the BCT, the Pond, and the swans will be there for a long time to come. And that she will continue to enjoy the swans from her gravesite overlooking the Pond.

Joan Bolton
Sam & Theresa Carchidi
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In memory of

ELEANOR THOMAS NELSON

She spent many summers enjoying the beauty of Cataumet, beginning in 1952 when her family first rented Mrs. Fiske's "Dream House." Her husband Arthur proposed on the beaches of Scraggy Neck.

Cataumet was a refuge where she spent many happy hours swimming, walking on the beach with her dogs, and relaxing with her family. She was proud to support the work of the Bourne Conservation Trust.

Maris L. Abbene Dr. & Mrs. James Allen

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In memory of **BEBE KARSTAD**

A mother to all, a collector, a nature lover, a tennis player, a lover of life, a caring energetic spirit always full of hope and strength that taught and helped so many, so much, so powerfully, that her love and legacy will live in all our hearts forever.

Nancy York Ambler
Susan M. Barnes
Nancy Barry
Joan Bolton
John & Susan Carpenter

Linda Carpenter Fritz Casselman & Susan Ashbrook Cataumet Club **Bob & Carole Courey** Barbara Davidson Robert R. Downey Elizabeth Dubuque Miriam Dubuque Karen & David Firestone Marilyn & Rich Fisher Pete & Kris Fisher Sarah & John Gwynn Marie Johnson Miles Cary Johnston, Jr. Joan Kerssenbrock Mr. & Mrs. Peter Loomis

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In memory of HELEN BERK

1919-2003

Helen Berk spent 36 summers at her home on Scraggy Neck. She loved the salt air, walks with friends around the island, working in the yard, reading, playing bridge, antiquing and entertaining. She was an avid collector and will be missed at the Pocasset Exchange and Mashpee Flea Market, where she knew many of the vendors. She loved the quiet of weekdays in Cataumet and waited with anxious

anticipation for the arrival of her children and grandchildren on Friday night. She marveled at the parade of boats past her home on Hospital Cove, especially as the daylight faded toward vespers. She thought it was the most beautiful sight in the world.

Mr. & Mrs. Eliezer Apteker
Penny Chisholm & Don Sisson
Patricia Coates
Marjorie, Alex, Greg, & Molly Cote
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In memory of DOROTHY HANCOCK HALL PARTRIDGE

Nanny, as known to so many, held her 92 summers in Cataumet near and dear. Although not a fan of the stiff So'Westerly, she loved sitting on the bluff enjoying the views of Buzzards Bay. Nanny's gardens and beach were important; however, the focus of her life was her growing family and vast number of friends. She would share memories about her youth when rooftops were scarce, trees were saplings, and

sheep roamed freely on a nearly uninhabited Scraggy Neck. Nanny cherished the open spaces and beauty of the earth.

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Donations received between January 1 and March 31, 2003.

- In memory of the
 Amend & Handy families
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- In memory of **Carl Cecchini**John & Susan Carpenter
 Edith, Deborah & Bruce Webster



A snowy trail through DeNormandie Woods.

- In memory of **Oscar Barr** Alan & Jeanne Kuzirian
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An icy Red Brook Pond.

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- In memory of **Lois Bell Smith** Mr. & Mrs. John Geishecker
- In memory of **Roger Stokey** Edith Stokey
- In memory of **Valerie Sullivan** Philip G. Sullivan

- In memory of **Sunny Thompson** Lennart & Ann Lindberg
- In memory of **Anna Walden**Jane Ann Willis Pearce
- In memory of
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 Walter & Marian Haas
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HORSE

In memory of "**David**"
Grace, Hal, & Tyler DeWaltoff
The McGurl Family
"O'Brien" & "Cassie"
Jane O'Shaughnessy
The Tournas Family
The Ballentine Family

DOGS

In memory of "Midnight" Maryellen & Phil Kozar

In memory of "Tyler" & "Tucker" Linda & Art Nilson

> In memory of "**Tansy**" The McGurl Family

In memory of "Fred" Brian Balmer

In memory of "Bailey" The Parker Family

ROOSTER

In memory of "Black Bob" Sally Ballentine Grace, Hal, & Tyler DeWaltoff The McGurl Family

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

from Marion LaCasse to Paul Ware III

from Ann Ware & Dutton Alden to Paul & Abby Ware III

from Edith Stokey to **Leigh Stokey**

CELEBRATIONS

In honor of **Walter Kammler** Ruth Walters

In honor of **Andrea Lamb** Maryellen Kozar

In honor of **Margaret Mehmel** Chris Mehmel

> In honor of **Flo Prince** Ann, Sef, & Ben Sefrna

In honor of **Richard & Janet Shaw**Keith & Barbara Noyes

In honor of **Russell Cookingham**(for his time & effort
in structuring the MBCA)
Monument Beach
Civic Association

In joy & gratitude to the **Cataumet community**Richard & Rosamond Reiber

In appreciation of
Linda Cocca
(for a Cape Cod Christmas)
Sandra Cofran
Dorothy Cofran

In celebration of **David Firestone**'s birthday Pete & Kris Fisher

In celebration of the birth and baptism of James Waterman (Jake) Swent IV Sue & Fred Abbe Steve & Sally Ballentine Joan Bolton Pete & Kris Fisher

In celebration of the marriage of **Paul & Abby Ware** Nancy Barry

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Donations received between January 1 and March 31, 2003

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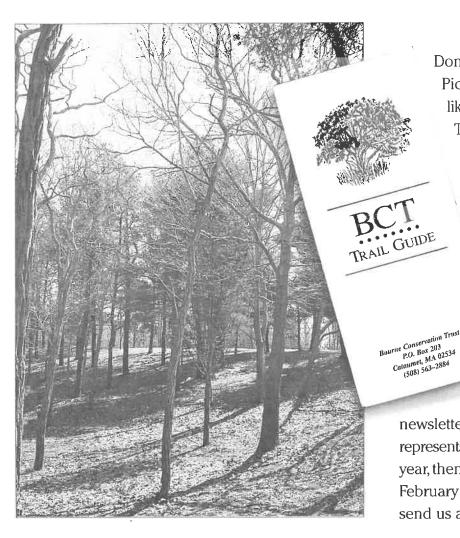
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Triangle at the junction of County and
Shore Roads at left. You can get one by:

- ◆ Calling us at (508) 563-2884
 - ◆ Writing us at Box 203, Cataumet, MA 02534
 - ◆ Picking one up at Ballentine's Boat Shop, 1104 Route 28A, Cataumet

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