

Newsletter Number 41 Summer 2008

Snowbirds

by Bill Grace

Pocasset

t's just before dark on an afternoon in late April a year or so ago. A group of about a dozen bufflehead ducks are patrolling the waters of Little Bay adjacent to the Bourne Conservation Trust property just north of the Pocasset River.

They have been here since November, feeding underwater on periwinkles and other small shellfish. In icy rain and blowing snow they maintain their regular routine, moving as a team across the bay, disappearing under the

In March the un-paired ducks selected mates in a quiet Darwinian ritual that seemed to satisfy all the participants. The males, cheeks and sides bright with white-feathered flashing, all first pursued one female, swimming smartly behind and beside her as she passively noted each one. The other females followed the courting group, probably making their own assessments of the anxious males. After several sweeps of the area, the lead female allowed one male to get closer and that pair moved away from the others. In short order the

frigid surface for twenty seconds at a time, seemingly

oblivious to the wind and cold.

other males gave and got signals of approval and pairs of ducks made themselves known.

On this April evening a fairly large group of buffleheads flies overhead, calling out their presence. The buffleheads in

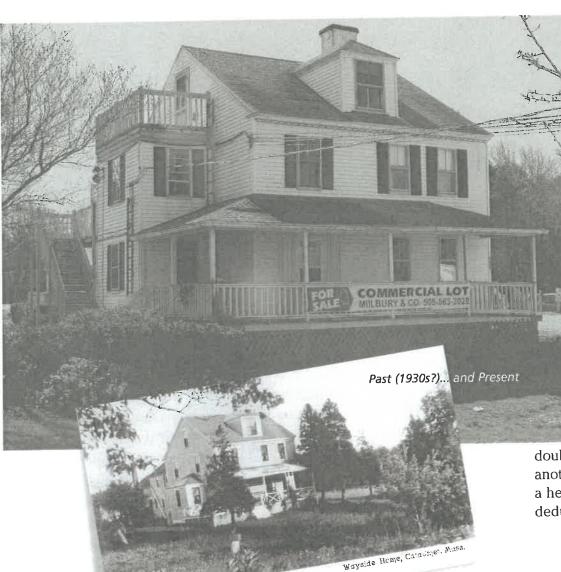
Little Bay rise from the water and make their way up to the larger group, trailing behind as the flock continues up the

bay. Other groups of buffleheads further along the shore begin to leave the water to join the fliers. The ducks, now more than two hundred strong, turn west and then south, calling out to flocks on the western side of Buzzards Bay. Now the group is large enough to see as it flies south, gaining even more members. This giant mass of ducks then completes the circle near the end of Wings Neck and comes back north over Little Bay to make one more canvass of the area. It is dark enough to see the first stars and on their final turn the flock appears to number a thousand or more and leaves the bay in the direction of the north star, headed to the Arctic Circle for the remainder of spring and summer.

MONEY MATTERS

Cataumet Garden Center

Matching Grant Update



In review: In June 2007, the BCT purchased the land and buildings known as the Cataumet Garden Center located on Route 28A near the Bourne/Falmouth town line. The reasoning behind this purchase was to control the future of this relatively

large parcel, preventing large-scale commercial/ residential development, and encouraging a low impact village oriented business use on the portion fronting on 28A. In order to cover the purchase price plus expenses and to preserve the back eight undeveloped acres, it is necessary to sell the two business zoned buildings and also to raise nearly a million dollars.

In August 2007, the BCT received a \$400,000 matching gift. If we can match that gift, we will have \$800,000 or 80% of our million-dollar goal. As of mid April (2008), our generous donors have contributed \$205,000 or 51.25% of the matching grant.

It is not too late to double your money, to help preserve another corner of Bourne, and to get a head start on your 2008 IRS tax deductions.

Thank You in Advance

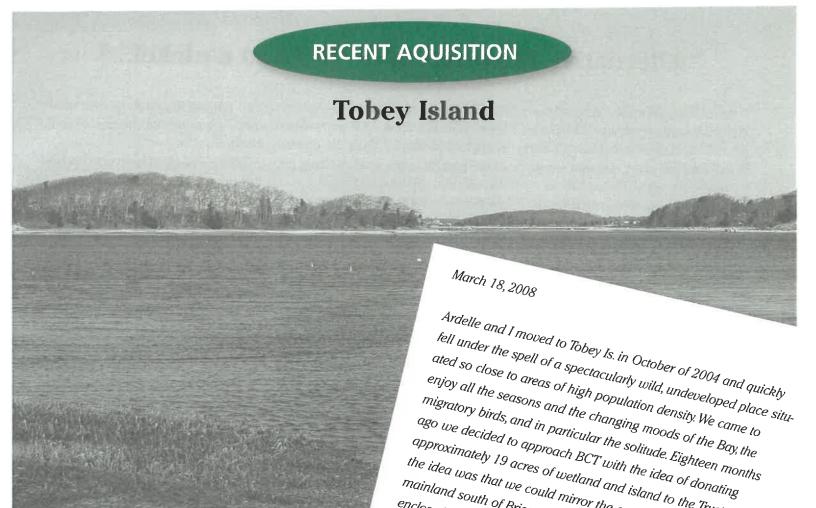
Some areas of the BCT (like Tobey Island and the Dimmick Waterfront) are delicate natural habitat and are for our "eyes only" to enjoy. Thank you for respecting these areas and for enjoying them with your eyes and not your feet.

Most BCT properties are meant to be enjoyed on foot. Thank you for your consideration of other hikers and for the homeowners who abut these conservation areas. Also, thank you for scooping Fido's poop.

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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 tax deductible from your taxable income. Please consult your tax advisor for more information.



Tobey Island sits peacefully just off the shore of Monument Beach bordered by Buzzards Bay to the west, Phinneys Harbor to the north, and Little Bay to the east. The island is approximately 60 acres and has 8 homes. But more important than the number of houses, the island has a broad range of habitats: woods, fringing salt marsh, beach, salt pond, tidal pool, tidal flats, potential vernal pool and coastal banks and is home to a wide variety of animal and plant species. Thanks to the generosity of Ken and Ardelle Legg a significant portion of this beautiful and sensitive island is now protected. Conservation restrictions held by Orenda Wildlife Land Trust were

Ardelle and I are happy that we have participated in a gift that will give pleasure to many future generations. placed on 19 acres and then this land was donated by the Leggs to the Bourne Conservation Trust. Conservation restrictions held by the BCT were placed on an additional 8 acres.

We are immensely grateful to Ken and Ardelle for this extremely generous donation to the Bourne

Conservation Trust. This gift does much to advance the goals of the BCT and is a significant step in securing the future environment and character of Bourne.

Ken Legg

approximately 19 acres of wetland and island to the Trust. Part of the idea was that we could mirror the conservation land on the mainland south of Brianvood to Monks Park and provide an enclosed sanctuary. Steve (Ballentine) suggested that we place a Conservation Restriction on the property first, and after a bit of a battle we were able to accomplish that this past fall. This ensured that there would be no development beyond what already exists (and those buildings are severely restricted in what can be done to modify them). The 19 acres of undeveloped wetland and island (and 1.5 miles of shoreline) will be forever wild. We felt, as did Steve and others, that because of the sensitive nature of the wet-

lands, no public access to the property should be allowed. We

have now completed the gift of those lands to the BCT. Both

Alternative Fundraising or "If I had a nickel..."

If the BCT could collect a small fee every time someone says, "I love seeing the horses in the field on County Road" and for every car that slows to view the pastoral scene, there would be no need to solicit funds in traditional ways.

The horses of Dimmick's field don't live there; they live at the small barn

there is the occasional horse-eating lawn chair. But crossing County Road is the real challenge. Over the course of the past 18 years, while waiting for the opportunity to safely cross this often busy street, there has been ample opportunity to observe driver behavior. Some drivers are oblivious, a few fly by with the radio blasting so loud that

turn around taking their eyes off the road and point out the horses to the children.

While a pack of motorcycles has not been encountered to date, there have been individual riders and they tend to be courteous, either slowing down or stopping. Trucks can be scary, depending on their size and speed. Bicycles (too quiet) and school buses (too big) are frightening.

The Most Considerate Driver Award goes to the driver of one extremely noisy and large truck that rounded the curve, spotted the horses waiting to cross, stopped immediately, and even turned off the engine. The engine did not start again until the horses had crossed and were well out of sight. Thank you whoever you are.

The adventure of crossing County Road to "the field" will happily continue each day. Once safely to field, the horses may practice "airs above the ground" or scratch their back with a good ole "roll in grass", but most of the day will be spent doing what horses do best-eating. As every horse owner knows, there is nothing more peaceful than a horse contentedly grazing and you are invited to slow or stop and enjoy the tranquil scene-no charge. The horses of Dimmick's field, and the numerous other horses tucked away in Bourne enhance the rural atmosphere of the town that is so important to residents and visitors.

Dimmick's field is on County Road in Cataumet. It is owned by the Dimmick family with permanent conservation restrictions held by the BCT. The maintenance of the field and fence is a joint effort between the Dimmick family, the BCT, and the smiling critters who graze there.



Cassie and O'Brien grazing in Dimmick's field.

on Red Brook Harbor Road. Each morning, weather permitting, they are led from their barn, through the woods, the neighbor's backyard and across County Road to the field and back again in the evening. This trek is part adventure and part challenge. Together Cassie and O'Brien are approximately 2000 pounds of mass, muscle, momentum, and motivation. When moving they can be hard to stop and, with the anticipation of delectable young blades of grass, moving is what they want to do. The walk through the woods is generally peaceful, but one never knows when monsters could appear in the form of a rabbit, a discarded soda can, or a fallen branch that wasn't there yesterday. The walk across the neighbor's back yard with its lush grass takes willpower and, to add to the adventure, the pavement vibrates, and most slow down and smile as they pass. Fortunately, many drivers not only slow down, but also stop to allow us to cross—they are the best!

Unfortunately, not all drivers are considerate. A few actually speed up. Some drivers, intending to be friendly, honk and wave, not understanding that a sudden loud noise can spook a horse. Occasionally, a car will actually swerve around a car that has stopped to allow safe passage and will endanger everyone as they race on by.

One of the most common scenarios is the responsible parent, driving (usually a minivan) with their children safely and legally secure in the backseat in car seats. Their behavior upon spotting the horses at the side of the road is amazingly predictable: slow down (don't stop but slow to a crawl),

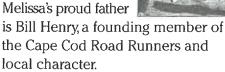
NEWS & NOTES

Local Talent Wins Winter Fun Run

The annual winter fun run hosted by the Cape Cod Road Runners was held on January 6,2008 at the Weary Travelers Club in Monument Beach. It was the 29th running of this 5-mile event, which for the last 8 years has donated the proceeds to the BCT.

It was a gray day of 40 degrees, which, for January, provided ideal

running conditions. The men's winner was Joe Navas with a time of 24:55. For the women, the winner was Pocasset's Melissa Henry in a time of 31:41.



The men's course record is 24:37 run by Lou Ristaino in 1991 and the women's record is 26:47 which was run in 1999 by Lynn Jennings.

Thank you to the Cape Cod Road Runners for their donation of \$1,233 and for holding this fun event.

Trail News

Spring Hill Farm: The underbrush on the back portion of the farm

was cleared this spring and our trailmeisters, Don Mears and Dick Boyden,

together with friends had a day of burning to get rid of the brush piles. This completes the major work needed to return Spring Hill to farmland. Annual maintenance will, of course, be needed. It is a pretty walk from County Road along the outside of the horse paddock to the scenic overlook of

the bogs.

Be sure to say hi to Ben and Peter, the BCT goats and Blami and Finny, the horses boarded there.

Handy Conservation Area:

Again this year the Cataumet Civic Associates held an Easter Egg Hunt in the

clearing tucked away in the Handy Conservation Area between Depot and County roads in Cataumet.

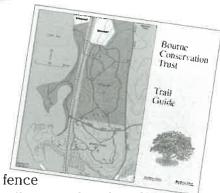
Bourne Sisters Woodland: Dick and
Don have been working
on the new access to the
Bourne Sisters
Woodland in Monument
Beach. The BCT has
secured a parking area

from the Town of Bourne. It is located opposite the Leary Conservation Area on County Road. This will allow safer access for visitors to the trails of this beautiful preserve.

Cataumet Garden Center: A special thanks to Brian Handy for the huge help he provided in cleaning up the garden center property.

General Maintenance: Thank you to Dick and Don, and all the friends of the BCT who have picked up trash, moved branches, cut up downed trees, replaced rotted





rails, mowed, replaced signs, installed benches, burned brush, and a hundred other things that help to maintain the BCT trails and land.

Trail Guide

Need one? BCT GPS accurate trail guides are free and are available at Town Hall, Ballentine's Boat Shop, Parker's Boat Yard, the Bourne Library, or we will be happy to mail one to you, just call with your request (508-563-2884).

Too many? If, by chance, you have too many Trail Guides, please share them with friends or return them to one of the above mentioned locations.

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 cor-

ner represents the date of your last donation—first the year, then the month, then the day. For example, "051215" means December 15, 2005. No number? We hope you will send us a donation soon.

We Make Mistakes

We proof and reproof and

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Memorial donations for Virginia Olmsted and John Black will appear in the next newsletter.

Given in memory of

MAJORIE FITZPATRICK

to honor her as a long-time conservationist. She grew up roaming the woods and meadows of western Massachusetts and developed a love of the land that stayed with her throughout her life. She loved her dogs, wild-flowers, and special places for both.

Sylvia Ballentine Irene Bayley **BHBL High School** Ginny Borden Nancy A. Boston John & Susan Carpenter Ruth Clegg Mr. & Mrs. John E. Cookson James & June Dixon Caroline A. Esperson Jan Finton Sylvia Groskin Marina Hantzes Nancy & Gary Hayward Mrs. Madelene Jackson Mary Jevdet

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Given in memory of

DAVID SQUIRE CODY

(1954-2007)

who summered in Cataumet for 50 years. Cataumet and Buzzards Bay brought him joy and contentment that he loved to share with friends, and most importantly, his daughters Allyson and Gwen.

Benjamin & Mary Louise Beale
The Bierwith Family
Rev. Katherine Bryant
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Elizabeth Gill
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Linda M. Rando
Stacy Reinhart
Lynn Sobel
The Toffolon Family
Frank S. Waterman III
Joan T. Wheeler

Given in memory of

CLEMENT F. HUTCHINS

who truly loved Cataumet, where he could enjoy his favorite pastime, clamming.

Joan R. Bolton
John & Susan Carpenter
Barbara B. Cole
Phyllis & James Doerger
Anna Hutchins
Joyce & Win McLane
Don & Allen Mears
Mary Mikita
Camilla Nevius
Carolee & Donald Packard, Jr.

Given in memory of

TALBOT ALLEN

who, during his 87 years, treasured virtually every summer on Red Brook Harbor, sailing, water skiing, hosting Labor Day clambakes and enjoying the company of scores of family and friends. He greatly appreciated the good work of the Bourne Conservation Trust.

Mark, Kelly & Lily Allen T. Langdon & Marilyn Allen Louis D. Cox, Jr. Mary Mapes Cox Patricia M. Dumser James E. Flavin Alison D. Goldberg Judith N. Goldberg Barbara & John Griffin Carol & Henry Herman Bruce & Kathleen Jernigan Jeff & Nancy Jernigan Chris & Laura Klint Judy & Andrew Manderson Jane & Scott Miller Virginia C. Randall Charles Stasey

Given in memory of

J. ARTHUR BALMER

who loved to walk the trails and endlessly listen to the bird calls of BCT land.

Ellen L. Augusta
Brian Balmer & Todd Hahn
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Berggren
Mr. Mario J. Bufo
Ann L. Mackey
Will Milbury & George Leontire
Holly Roth
Grace Rowe & Hal DeWaltoff



Given in memory of

VIOLET SIKORA loved the rain, the sun, a

who loved the rain, the sun, and the change of the seasons in this special place.

Cape Cod Times

Margaret Mehmel

Donald & Carolee Packard

Gordon Waring & Patricia Gerrior

Given in memory of

LUCILLE HOPE HASLAM

a resident of Cataumet for over seventy years, she would have been pleased to be remembered in this presentation.

> Carl & Jan Finton Mrs. Paula Irish Phil & Carol Jacobs Allen Mears Edith H. McAvoy Patricia McGowan

CELEBRATIONS

In celebration of **Mel Cutler's** 75th birthday Frederic & Victoria Mulligan

In celebration of **Bucky Barlow's** 90th birthday Linda Barlow-Palo

In celebration of **G. Stanley Johnson's** birthday

Marie Johnson

In celebration of **Shirley Johnston's** birthday Sarah Johnson

In celebration of **Sara York's** 90th birthday Linda Carpenter

In celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary **Donald & Judith Manthei**

In celebration of
Ellie & Mort Myerson's
65th wedding anniversary
Marie T. Johnson

In celebration of **Henry & Jane Keene's** 60th wedding anniversary David & Susan Malcom & family

In celebration of the marriage of **Brian & Graceann Case** Carla Forlivesi

For **David & Emily Beal** in celebration of Christmas Cynthia Beal Hurley

For **John & Susan Carpenter** in celebration of Christmas Jane & Craig Johnston

In appreciation of **Hope Baker's** kindness Amy Ballentine

In appreciation of **Don Mears** George & Kathy Gillis

In appreciation of **Mort & Ellie Myerson** Ted & Wendy Rose

In appreciation of **Dick & Isabel Yoder** Dave & Polly Leshan

In appreciation of the work that was done by the **BCT** to get the conservation restrictions on the Legg property passed.

Liz & Norbert Brown

From Barbara Sabulis in recognition of her classroom volunteers:

Bridget Bass, Karen Fleming, Kate Callahan, Kathy Guinen, Marie & Randy Buckner

In honor of **Barbara Ahalt**Catherine Offinger

In honor of **Franklin E. Barlow** Bucky Barlow's Boat Yard

In honor of the founders and trustees of the BCT Frederic & Victoria Mulligan

In honor of **Randolph Woodruff**Madeline B. Woodruff

In honor of **John Carpenter**"Father's Day"
Jane & Craig Johnston

In honor of **Katie, Liam, & Molly** Stephen & Charlotte Ryan

In honor of **Elizabeth R. Kiebala** Mr. & Mrs. William R. Reynolds III

In honor of **Beth & Frank Mitchell**Florence D. Prince

In honor of **Amanda Muckle** Brent, Alice, Emily, & Phoebe Smith

In honor of **Flo Prince**Robert Prince
Ann & Ron Sefrna

In honor of **Leigh Stokey**Edith Stokey

In honor of **Dorothy Thompson**Florence D. Prince

In honor of **Roberta Wetmore**Florence D. Prince

In honor of **Louise Williamson** Charles G. Williamson, Jr.

For **Aly Rando** in thanks for all her care "Finlandia"

For **Joan Richards** in thanks for all her care "Finlandia"

For the **Dimmick family** in thanks for many hours of contented grazing "Cassie" & "O'Brien"

For **John Parker** in thanks for greener pastures "Cassie" & "O'Brien"

For **Grace Rowe & Hal DeWaltoff** in thanks for access to green pastures & cool water on hot days. "Cassie" & "O'Brien"

For **Phil Duddy aka "Goat Boy"** in thanks for all the TLC "Ben" & "Peter"

Dogs

In memory of **Max** Craig Smith & Karen Lacasse

In memory of **Patton**Linda Carpenter

In memory of **Rexxy**Kevin Malone & Aly Rando
The Ballentine Family
Marie Tournas

Cats

In memory of **Jingles** Dennis & Grace Diemand

In memory of **Shadow** Sally Ballentine

In memory of **Eli** and **Abbott**The Ballentine Family

In memory of **Colby** The Ballentine Family

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Memorial donations received after April 1, 2008 will appear in the next newsletter.

In memory of

Robert & Carol Annable

Linda Annable Cocca

In memory of **Ann Austill**Drs. Henry & Marie Cote

In memory of **Betty & Spencer Baker**Rev. Christina Laurie

In memory of

James "Howard" Baker

Amy Ballentine

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Nancy Bradley Pratt

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In memory of **Bob & Dodie Casselman**Rev. Christina Laurie

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Harriet & Leonard Schley
Helen Chin Schlichte

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Ann S. Carton

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A hawk hangs out on the bench at Cobb Corner, apparently quite interested in what's written on the bench.

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