



# Bourne Conservation Trust

Newsletter Number 49

Fall 2015

## Land and Seascapes by the Mind's Eye

By Tom Gelsthorpe

**T**he Bourne Conservation Trust's parcels weave through the town like Bourne's version of Boston's Emerald Necklace, from Freeman Farm on the northern border with Sandwich to Lawrence Island overlooking Bourne's southern border with Falmouth. If you were an osprey—one of the grandest birds nesting hereabouts—you could gather an overview in a matter of minutes. If you were a fox, deftly appearing and disappearing in the blink of an eye, the trek would take a while.

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## Landscapes and Seascapes by the Mind's Eye

Robin Sohlman

*Continued from cover*

**P**eople are mere plodders when we get out of our cars. We can spend leisurely days and weeks exploring each parcel one by one, to enjoy the vistas, trails, and the astonishing variety of habitats. It's good for body and spirit to get away from pressing matters, to step into a pastoral world, let our imaginations take flight with the grandeur of the osprey, or burst into a sunbeam or vanish into shadows with the jaunty confidence of a fox. The physical eye feeds the imagined possibilities of the mind's eye. Of course, such respite from the

hurly-burly is made available by dedicated conservationists.

Landscape architect Frederick Law Olmstead designed the Emerald Necklace of Boston with the benefit of public funds. It must never be forgotten that the Bourne

Conservation Trust (BCT) was founded with private donations, and continues to be supported privately, including work by sturdy volunteers maintaining the beauty, serenity and convenient access.

Samples of BCT's variety might begin with the Lawrence Island or Monk's Park parcels that hug protected seashore, yet offer long views across the rich marine environment of upper Buzzards Bay. With luck, pairs of ospreys will practice "avian family values" before your eyes, as they team up to capture fish for nesting young. Ospreys are migrants (like some of the Cape's humans) who arrive in spring and leave by late summer. The distinctive call of the osprey is so delicate and their flight so graceful, you can't tell what a big bird it is, until they fly close. Exercise patience and you might witness low flight. You'll see how methodical ospreys are, plucking fish from the water's surface, and flying away holding the prey head-to-wind to minimize air resistance. Ospreys are not unfriendly to people, they're just busy, with little inclination to lollygag.

The Red Brook Pond Conservation Area encompasses habitats that mix old with new. Regrown forests surround century-old cranberry bogs (privately owned), irrigation ponds and grassy fields. The parcel's



Bill Danielson



title feature is a glacial kettle hole pond whose waters tumble down fish ladders designed for herring, and drain into namesake Red Brook Harbor, a center for local recreational boating. This area's rich variety of wildlife includes wading birds and rebounding populations of bold, native wild turkey.

Cape Cod as a whole is blessed by a long, lingering autumn. Bourne experiences that effect best, owing to the microclimate created by the

warm waters of Buzzards Bay.

When summer wanes and gives way to fall, leaves turn from greens to the scarlet and rust of maples and oaks, the yellows of hickory, the bronze and buff of ferns in the understory. For contrast, laurels and pines keep their evergreen, and

nearby waters become bluer as the mix of plankton changes. Life doesn't get much better than autumn on Cape Cod.

You needn't overlook winter, either. After leaves fall, long views reappear that you've forgotten since April. Ponds and bay sparkle from farther away. Bugs vanish. You can walk vigorously without breaking a sweat. Snowfall carpets shores beside blue waters, highlights gray tree trunks dappled with lichens, and adds yet another striking contrast of colors. The Bourne Conservation Trust offers something to enjoy every day of nature's year.



Sue Morrill



Sue Morrill

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*The BCT is a private nonprofit land trust with a primary objective of acquiring land and leaving it in its natural state to: protect habitats, provide groundwater recharge, preserve rural ambiance and make it available for recreational and educational purposes. The BCT owns and maintains more than 250 acres of open space. Miles of walking trails thread their way through these protected woods and water-front areas. The BCT is always looking for volunteers and donors to help achieve its mission and both maintain and enhance its properties. Learn more at [www.bourneconservationtrust.org](http://www.bourneconservationtrust.org).*



## EVENTS



### A BCT and Dimmick Family Tradition

The opportunity to cut your own family Christmas tree is a cherished tradition. Not so easy to do on the Cape, unless of course you live in or near Bourne. BCT supporters can cut (saws and assistance will be available) their own fresh Christmas tree right in the Village of Cataumet! Drop by the Dimmicks (1167 County Road) on Saturday December 5, between 1:00 and 3:30 pm. You'll find Scotch Pine, Blue Spruce and Balsam, White and Concolor Firs, and maybe a few other varieties. The trees come in all shapes and sizes; a few are over 10' tall. Be warned, there is a limited quantity and while these trees are pruned, they are very definitely "natural" shape, each different from the next, each with plenty of room for ornaments and lights.

This is a win-win opportunity. You will never find a fresher tree, and 100% of the proceeds will be donated to the BCT. If December 5th doesn't work for you, contact Sally Ballentine at 812-234-8040 or Dave Dimmick at 508-561-6812 to find a time to visit after the 5th. For photos, check out <http://capechristmastrees.blogspot.com/>. The BCT sends a big thanks to the Dimmick family for their ongoing and loyal support.

### Cape Cod Road Runners "Winter Fun Run"

The 35th running of the Winter Fun Run, sponsored by Cape Cod Road Runners, will be held on January 3, 2016. It's an annual tradition and a

great way to kick off the new year, get some exercise and support the BCT at the same time. The race starts and ends at the Weary Travelers Club, 77 Valley Bars Rd., Monument Beach. The course is 4.9 miles, on paved and somewhat hilly roads.

Start time is 10:30 am...rain, snow or shine. There are awards for all ages, from juniors under age 20 to super seniors age 70 and older. For the race held last January, 247 people completed the course; the winner Justin Torrellas with a time of 27:36. The reward for participating: clam fritters, seafood chowder, plus a pair of the popular cotton running gloves. There is a cash bar all afternoon following the race. The fee is \$12 for pre-registration; \$15 if you register on race day, by 10:00 am. All proceeds from the run are donated to the BCT to help in its efforts to purchase land for conservation. The BCT sends big thanks to the Weary Travelers Club and Cape Cod Road Runners for their ongoing support. Note: For a complete list of 2015 racers and times, go to [www.capecodroadrunners.com](http://www.capecodroadrunners.com).



### Open House at Spring Hill Farm

Remember last winter...all those piles of snow and huge snow drifts that seemed like they would never melt away. Hard to forget to be sure. The late spring thaw forced a cancellation of one of our favorite events, the annual Easter Egg Hunt,

### SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, March 19, 2016, 10:30 am,  
for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt,  
and a visit with the Easter Bunny,  
at Spring Hill Farm (1079 County  
Road, Cataumet). Rain date:  
March 26.

co-sponsored by the Cataumet Civic  
Associates (CCA) and the BCT. The  
fields at the farm were just too wet  
and too muddy for kids and candy.

So what to do instead? How  
about an Open House! In June,  
families were invited to come to  
the farm, meet the new in-residence  
goats and see their improved “digs;”  
pat the horses and feed them a bite  
of apple or carrot; get a fun tattoo;  
buy some home baked goods; and  
play some games. This day, with  
winter finally long past, was a perfect  
family day at Spring Hill Farm.

### Support the BCT with an Event!

There are many ways to help  
support the BCT. Give a  
donation as a Christmas gift.  
Sell Christmas trees or other  
holiday items! Run in the  
Winter Fun Run! Invite friends  
for a special BCT dinner! Run  
a yard or bake sale! Offer a car  
wash! Sponsor a golf or tennis  
tournament! Make a donation  
in someone’s (or a pet’s)  
memory, in someone’s honor,  
or as a gift to the person who  
“has everything.” The oppor-  
tunities are endless. Why not  
think about a unique way you  
could help support the BCT.



### Welcome Mrs. M,\* Her Son Ollie and Daughter Buttercup!

There are three new residents at Spring Hill Farm. A family of goats who needed a new home, and a home that would keep them together. They are Nigerian Dwarf goats, a type of goat brought to the states years and years ago from West Africa. This type of goat is gentle,

friendly and easily trainable.

Mrs. M



The three goats belonged to a family in Sandwich. Due to a relocation to Florida, the goats needed a new home just as the BCT was looking for new goats. Mrs. M is 5; her kids Ollie and Buttercup are 4. The names were chosen from several suggestions submitted by children and adults alike.

Come meet them! Perhaps bring along a treat: some raisins, pieces of fruit or vegetables or an occasional cracker or cookie. Not too much... the goats are on a diet. When you visit, take note of improvements to their home: more shelter, a great big “scratch your back” roller and, coming soon, other “goat-enrichment” apparatus.

**Note:** Currently there are no horses stabled on the Farm. Gracie and Partner have moved on to New Hampshire. We hope other horses will soon take up residence.

*\*Named for Joan Mayhew who so generously donated Spring Hill Farm to the BCT.*







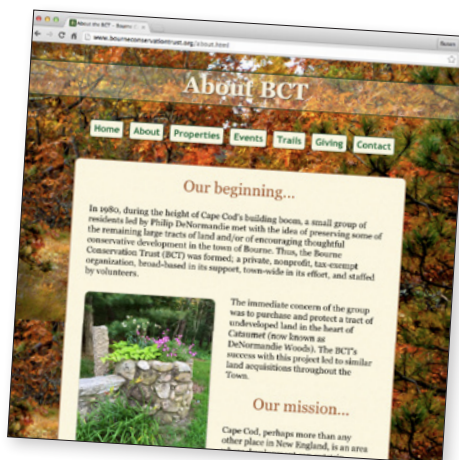
### Let's Build a Fence!

The horse paddock area at Spring Hill Farm needs a new fence. It's time to replace the current wire one with split rail, which will be nicer for both the horses and visitors alike. It will be a Memorial Fence. Donations of \$100 will buy a section, which can then be dedicated in memory of, or in honor of, a pet, a family member, or an animal or people friend. The plaque is included in the \$100 donation. To reserve your section, go to [www.bourneconservationtrust.org](http://www.bourneconservationtrust.org). There is a link on the home page to the donation form. Simply fill out the form, print it and mail it along with your check to the BCT, PO Box 203, Cataumet MA 02534. The goal is to have the new fence in place by next spring. The BCT wants to thank you in advance for your help completing and installing this fence.

### Stay in Touch

We urge you to visit our website: [www.bourneconservationtrust.org](http://www.bourneconservationtrust.org), to learn more about our history, mission, properties, trails, events and the many ways you can support the BCT. You could also "like us" on Facebook.

As you navigate through the web site, look for pictures contributed by numerous gifted photographers of the goings-on in Trust properties, particularly pictures of local wild-life that wander among our fields



and along our trails. The quiet happenings on our conserved parcels give us daily reminders of the wonders of nature, a break from

the oftentimes hectic pace of everyday life and time to reflect.

If you have a picture to share, perhaps birds at your bird feeder or wild life in your yard or out on the trails, please email it to [bct.trails@gmail.com](mailto:bct.trails@gmail.com). We'll try and include it on our web site or in future mailings to donors.

### Help Wanted

The Trust is always looking for help. You may volunteer at Spring Hill Farm to help maintain the grounds. You might prefer to support the Trail Meisters out on the trails. There are also needs for help at the office, monitoring conservation restrictions, reviewing possible land donations or purchases, maintaining Trust records and communicating with donors and potential donors through a variety of media. Involving new people on BCT sites and behind the scenes helps ensure that the administration of the Trust and the stewardship of the land will endure and prosper for generations. Please pitch in any way you can. If you are interested in volunteering, contact the BCT at 508-563-2884 or [bct.trails@gmail.com](mailto:bct.trails@gmail.com).

### Got Your BCT Hat?

BCT hats in a rustic forest green with our initials on the front are



available for purchase for \$15. They can also be earned by volunteering. Contact the BCT at 508-563-2884 or [bct.trails@gmail.com](mailto:bct.trails@gmail.com) for details.

## GIVE to the BCT!

### Get a Year-end Tax Deduction!

#### ***Your Ongoing Financial Support Is Key to Our Success***

Good News! Currently, the BCT has very little debt. This gives us the opportunity to build up cash reserves so that we have funds on hand to meet our obligations and, most importantly, allows us to act quickly as new properties become available.

Cash donations large and small help maintain the BCT's 501(c)(3) status and grow our general funds for present needs and our endowment funds for future needs. Monies in the general fund are used to purchase and maintain properties, as needed. They are also used when we feel the need to hire professional help, for example legal services or professional tree services. These costs can be significant.

Our fundraising efforts are based on a soft-sell approach, with this newsletter the most important tool. Donations of any dollar amount are important, because the number of donors shows foundations and other large donors the degree of local support and helps us to retain our status as an IRS 501(c)(3) organization. This status allows your donation to be tax deductible. In other words, please contribute what you can, as often as you can.

***Important:*** *The BCT has decided to delay listing donations, including memorial donations, until January 2016. At that time, the BCT will send out a complete list of all those who made donations to the BCT in 2015.*

### Other Ways of Giving

In addition to cash donations, there are many *ways of giving* to the BCT. Here are a few other ways you can support the Trust:

- Name the BCT in your will or as beneficiary of a life insurance policy
- Give appreciated securities
- Give the gift of real estate (or sell it to the BCT for less than its fair market value; the difference is considered a charitable gift). Note: A gift of land is a win-win for donors, the BCT and residents of Bourne. Such gifts provide tax advantages and help preserve the scenic character of our area, maintain air quality and provide a natural habitat for local wildlife.
- Offer a matching gift to support our efforts to purchase property. People respond generously when they know their gift will be doubled.

Log on to [www.bourneconservationtrust.org](http://www.bourneconservationtrust.org) for more information.

### It Works

The BCT approach to fundraising works because our preserved woodlands, shore frontages, marshes and walking trails speak for themselves, and because we are surrounded and supported by people who understand the value and importance of open space, know what our Town might be like without it, and understand that it is everyone's responsibility to protect and maintain it.

*The Bourne Conservation Trust is tax exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Within IRS guidelines, contributions and gifts may be tax deductible from your taxable income. The Trust's tax identification number (TIN) is 04-2767827. Please consult your tax advisor for more information.*



## OUT on the TRAILS *with Dick Boyden, Trail Meister*

The BCT has now come full circle in the creation and maintenance of its walking trails. From the early labors of one Don Mears now to a team of 10 Trail Meisters who monitor their trails from the Cape Cod Canal to the Cataumet Post Office. Below is a list of their names and assignments:

Nickerson/ Aptucxet	Joe Hurley
Bourne Sisters Woodland	Carl Wirsén
Perry Woods (Town of Bourne)	Rick Rhinehardt
Little Bay	John Woodley
Monks Park (Town of Bourne)	John Woodley
Red Brook Pond	Ron Boucher
Cataumet Greenway	Bill Dibella, Jay Fisher, George Gillis, John Holden

As always the maintenance of walking trails depends in part on walkers, some of whom help with picking up trash and twigs, side trimming and providing feedback about trail conditions. The small green signs affixed to the posts of trail signs encourage walkers to report fallen branches or tree blow downs via email or telephone to the BCT headquarters. The information is then passed on to Dick Boyden, trail maintenance coordinator, who informs the appropriate Trail Meister for follow-up. Thanks to walker reporters, Trail Meisters and the BCT staff for their work in maintaining the walking trails for the many who enjoy them.



*Trail work done in warmer months allows year-round use of the trails—even after a freshly-fallen snow.*

**Welcome!** The BCT welcomes its newest Trail Meister, John Holden

**Want to Join the BCT Rapid Response Team?** Please email the BCT ([bct.trails@gmail.com](mailto:bct.trails@gmail.com)) or call 508-563-2884.

**A Fond Farewell to Old Friends**  
This October saw the departure of

Don Mears, the original Trail Meister and a BCT Trustee, and his wife Allen, to the sunny climes of southern California. At a farewell dinner gathering of the Trail Meisters, BCT Trustees, and their spouses, Steve Ballentine spoke of Don's 25 years of service to the Trust. Don was responsible for marking and clearing

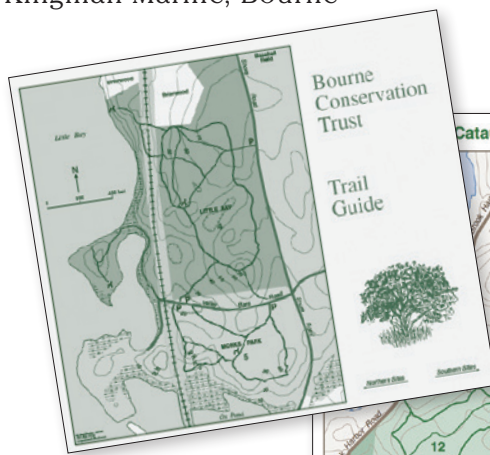


many of the Cataumet Greenway trails; for building and helping to install most of the benches and bridges on BCT properties; and for generous support of the BCT in general, including a major grant from the Mears Family Trust in 2014. The trails and the BCT will miss Don and Allen. Please join the BCT is wishing them all the best in their new home.

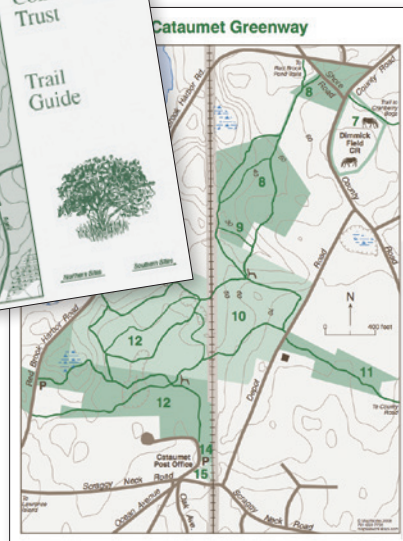
**Note:** Don's niece and her husband, Leah and Dana Griffin, will be moving into the Mears home on Red Brook Harbor Road and look forward to becoming year-round members of the BCT community.

## Walk the Trails

Before you set off, why not review (and print) the new and updated trail maps, available online at [www.bourneconservationtrust.org](http://www.bourneconservationtrust.org). Copies are available at Ballentine's Boat Shop, Parker's Boat Yard, Kingman Marine, Bourne



Pick up a Trail Guide (above). They are also downloadable for printing (right).



## CANINE CORNER (Wagler's Words of Wisdom)

There is an old adage that "there is safety in numbers." We've noticed that adage might not apply out on the trails. If you are walking with a group of playful, energetic and perhaps wet dogs, it is more important than ever to keep them under control when you are near other walkers who could be easily intimidated by the group of your furry friends.



Also, don't forget:

- ▶ Keep your dog(s) under control (on leash) on the walk to Lawrence Island and when near other people!
- ▶ Respect private property!
- ▶ Scoop the poop and take it with you—so vital to keeping our pathways and water clean.

Public Library and Bourne Town Hall.

It's a well-known fact that walking is good for you. Whether you are alone, with family, friends or a favorite dog, when you set out on the BCT trails, you'll find and enjoy a peaceful haven away from our busy world and get a little exercise to boot. There are so many trails

to choose from and each is special in its own way. Some go through woods, others around ponds or along the shore. Oftentimes, it will be just you and the birds and breezes. On occasion, you might see a fox,

deer, coyote or an army of fiddler crabs. In the spring and summer months there are wildflowers to enjoy. In the fall, the rustle of falling leaves. In the winter you may track your footsteps over falling snow. Why not start with the Cataumet Greenway, made up of these trails: Broyer

Conservation Area; Cataumet Depot; DeNormandie Woods; Dimmick Waterfront; John E. Handy Conservation Area; Joyce Path; Lawrence Island; and Robinson Conservation Area.



## Answers to Kahlin's Korner puzzle, page 11

**Across:** 1. Red & walks our trails (fox) 4. Angler's quest (striper) 6. Blue; scoots in water on many legs (crab) 8. Watch out for its rising tail (skunk) 9. Quite a hunter (coyote) 10. Catches fish with its "feet" (osprey) **Down:** 1. No violin for this shore resident (fiddler) 2. Tunnels in lawns & gardens (chipmunk) 3. On the farm and on a diet (goats) 4. Eats flowers (rabbit) 7. Bring your net (minnow) 11. Ticks hop on for a ride (deer)





## Mailbox Musings

*It is always a treat for us, along with your contributions, to receive some comments on the work we are doing to conserve and protect open space in the town of Bourne. Take a look at some recent examples...and keep those cards and letters (and donations too) coming:*

**From Marion Mass:** The Cape is a very special place. We celebrate every possible occasion we can at the Cape. Birthdays young and old, anniversaries, Father's Days, Mother's Days, Easters, Thanksgivings, weddings, you name it, were celebrated there. We know it (*contributions to the BCT*) will be put to good use. Close monitoring and great stewardship are most important these days and we applaud your efforts.

**From Cataumet:** In friendship and support of Cataumet.

**From Pocasset:** This may help a bit. Keep up the good work. Happy New Year to all.  
*(Every donation counts...large or small, they add up, and also reflect the level of local support which is vital to our maintaining our tax-exempt status.)*

**From Sagamore Beach:** Thank you for all your work in the BCT!  
*(You are most welcome!)*

**From Pocasset:** You can run with the bulls at San Fermin Pamplona but we can run with the bear in Pocasset!  
*(The bear? That's the nickname for a member of a local year-round running group; in the winter, this runner hibernates.)*

**From Cataumet:** Many thanks for your continuing efforts.

**From North Falmouth:** Thank you so much for all your work. Generations to come will be inspired!

**From Cambridge, MA:** Thanks for all your work on behalf of the Bourne Community. We do appreciate it.

**From Boston, MA:** We wish it could be more—thanks so much for all your efforts on behalf of our precious community.

**From Monument Beach:** Please accept this donation in memory of my mini-schnauzer who died Monday. He was 12. He loved the BCT trails—we had many happy memories taking jaunts and playing with other dogs.  
*(We'll pass this on to Wagler.)*

**From Cataumet:** Thank you for helping to preserve the beauty of our area, which is truly a lasting gift to be enjoyed by generations to come.

**From Buzzards Bay:** We appreciate the work you do to ensure open areas and the maintenance of land in Bourne.

**From Aurora, NY:** Dad appreciated everything you stood for in Cataumet, saving the land there. It is sad at times to remember I don't have a "place to go" in Cataumet anymore, but then I remember that many acres of the area will remain the same—untouched. And that makes it OK.  
*(Note: The BCT has now preserved 250 acres of open land for the enjoyment of us humans and animals alike.)*

**From Exeter, NH:** Keep up your great work! We enjoy your trails so much.

**From Harwich, MA:** Please accept this donation in memory of my Mom. She loved Lawrence Island and the many walking trails around town.

**From Pocasset:** We enjoy visiting and feeding the goats at Spring Hill Farm.  
*(And our new goats, Mrs. M, Buttercup and Ollie, love your visits.)*

**From Sandwich, MA:** We enjoy walking the BCT trails and appreciate all the work the Trail Meisters do. Keep it up!!  
*(You too can become a Trail Meister: [bct.trails@gmail.com](mailto:bct.trails@gmail.com) or 508-563-2884.)*

## Thanks, Susan Quirk

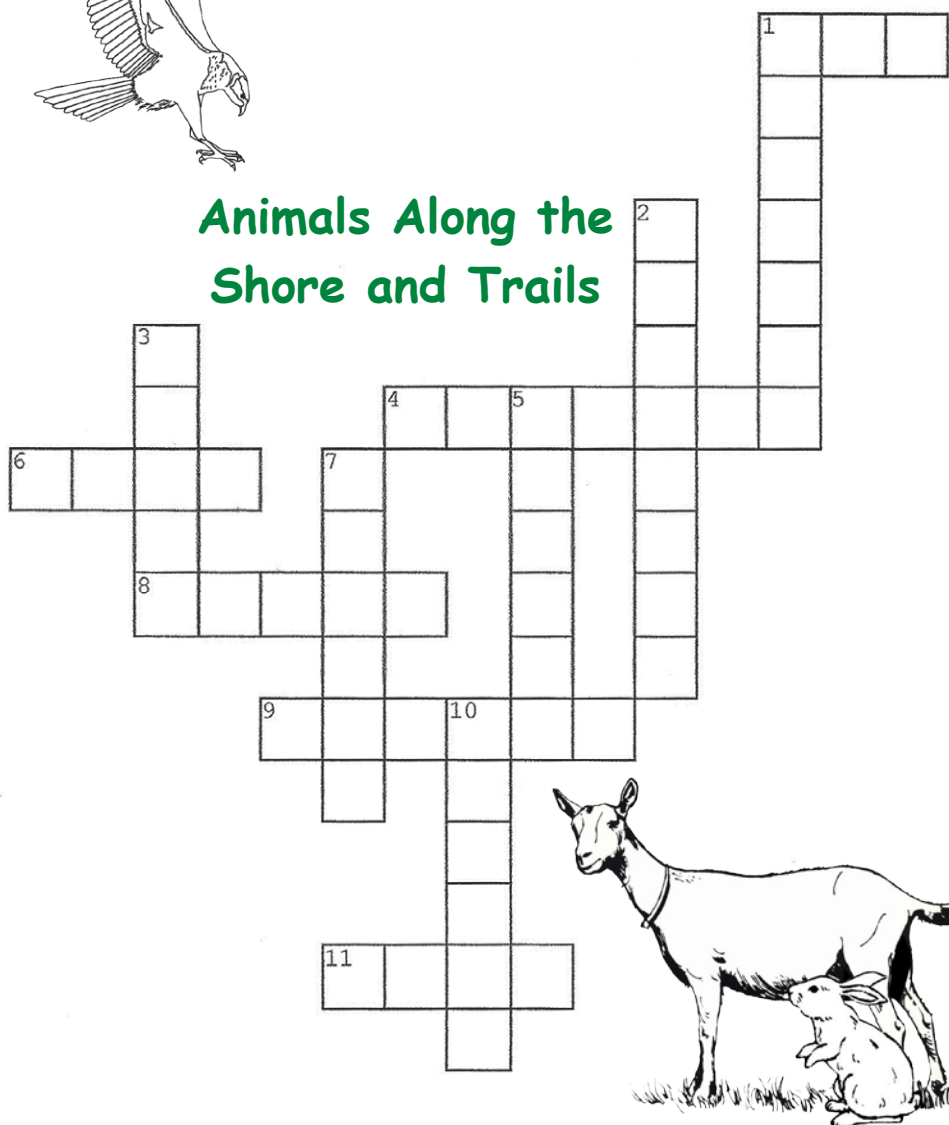
Since 2001, Sue has designed every BCT newsletter, formatting all the articles, notes, lists, pictures and puzzles into an easy-to-read and aesthetically pleasing publication. It involves endless hours and tight deadlines, and the BCT is immensely grateful.



# Kahlin's Korner



## Animals Along the Shore and Trails



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.

Young and old and everyone in between, try your luck in solving this crossword puzzle. Just think of words that remind us of some of the animals that share living in this beautiful place with us. Have fun!

### Across:

1. Red & walks our trails
4. Angler's quest
6. Blue; scoots in water on many legs
8. Watch out for its rising tail
9. Quite a hunter
10. Catches fish with its "feet"

### Down:

1. No violin for this shore resident
2. Tunnels in lawns & gardens
3. On the farm and on a diet
4. Eats flowers
7. Bring your net
11. Ticks hop on for a ride



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**Contact Information:**

**Bourne Conservation Trust**

Post Office Box 203  
Cataumet, MA 02534

508-563-2884

bct.trails@gmail.com

info@bourneconservationtrust.org

waglercdawg@gmail.com

www.bourneconservationtrust.org

During the first quarter of 2016  
look for the complete list of those  
who made donations to the BCT in  
2015, including memorial donations,  
special donations and celebrations  
of people and pets.

*Note: For several years, Dick Shaw  
wrote for the BCT newsletter. His articles  
about life on and around Red Brook Pond,  
delighted and enlightened our readers.  
His whimsical poem at right is a reprint  
from Newsletter 24, 1995.*

**Sly is the Word**

*Some people are busy—  
As busy as bees—  
And others are quiet as mice;  
Or eager as beavers,  
Or crazy as loons.  
Or happy as larks—  
As stubborn as mules—  
And others dumb as an ox;  
But never was anyone,  
Anywhere, anytime  
Nearly as sly as a fox.*

—Richard Shaw

