

HARWICH CONSERVATION TRUST

P.O. Box 205, Harwich Port, Massachusetts 02646
(508) 432-3997

For the Land's Sake

WINTER 2003 NEWSLETTER

www.HarwichConservationTrust.org

HCT RELEASES "CAPE COD AT THREE MILES AN HOUR!" A COLLECTION OF LEE BALDWIN'S NATURE WRITINGS

**Taste the blueberries.
Smell the sweet pepper bush.
See the brilliant crimson of an autumn bog.
Touch the shell of *Aequipecten irradians*.**

Hear the voice of the late Lee W. Baldwin, distinguished naturalist and historian, as she walks you through the pages of "Cape Cod at Three Miles an Hour: A Sense of Place that Can Only Be Learned on Foot."

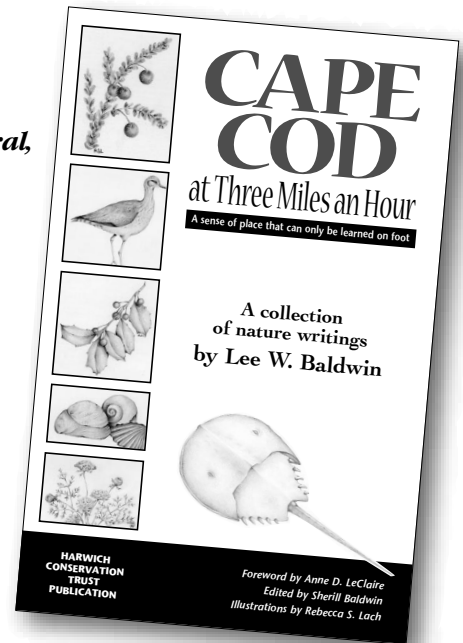
In May 2001, Baldwin asked her daughter, "Do you think people would be interested in reading a book of my essays?" Indeed we are.

Released by the Harwich Conservation Trust (HCT), "Cape Cod at Three Miles an Hour" is a fascinating mix of chemistry, biology, folklore, history, and ecology. Baldwin's writing style echoes the symbiotic yet unpredictable forces of the land on which she lived. Whether detailing horseshoe crab anatomy, a timberdoodle's courtship dance, wind speed measurement, Native American archeology, or the history of Queen Anne Road, Baldwin's voice is as natural as the rain, with a breadth so wide it reflects a lifetime of conscious observation.

Born and raised on Cape Cod, Baldwin lived here for over 60 years. By sharing her devotion to the natural world with an eager public, she enriched all walks of life: plant, human, animal and mineral.

(Cont'd on page 2)

"[Lee's] sense of place, including natural, physical and sociological, coupled with warmth and wit, opened the minds and hearts of many to the natural beauty of Cape Cod."



HCT President Robert Smith.

SAVE MONOMOY RIVER AND MYSTERY LADY CHALLENGE!



A Mystery Lady has agreed to donate \$20,000 toward the purchase of 42 acres on a half-mile of the Monomoy River, IF we can collectively raise an additional \$20,000 (or one person matches her gift with a \$20,000 donation). The Mystery Lady's offer expires January 31st.

The Mystery Lady's \$20,000 donation challenge could provide \$40,000 to help buy the scenic riverbank when a purchase price is reached. Join the challenge and help us Save Monomoy River!

Please make checks payable to: Harwich Conservation Trust

Mail to: Harwich Conservation Trust, P.O. Box 205, Harwich Port, MA 02646

HCT RELEASES "CAPE COD AT THREE MILES AN HOUR"! (cont'd)



Lee Baldwin died of cancer in July 2001. When it became clear that her illness outweighed her intentions, her daughter Sherill, a graduate student in resource development, asked permission to finish the project, and did so as editor. While sorting through her mother's papers she found

the book's title scribbled on a scrap of paper.

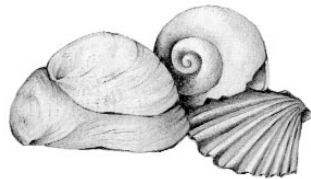
"Just in case I might not be able to preserve her style," Sherill notes in her introduction, "she also provided me with the title for her book. Typical of my mother!"

Sherill reflects, "As can be expected, I wish she were still here to teach me things, but then I realize, I'm still learning from what she has left behind in her writing."

Many of these essays were originally published as "Nature's Way" columns in *The Cape Cod Chronicle*. They are grouped into four sections representing the four seasons and range from "Samuel Berry's Woods" and "Fungus Among Us" to "Coy Brook Woodland Walk," to the final chapter, a winter's "Whale Watch."

I was surprised to find no index, and the abrupt transition from "Whale Watch" to the bibliography is out of sync with the cyclical nature of the book. A note from Lee or personal reflection from Sherill would have softened the shift.

In the chapter "Backroads and Roadside Flowers," Lee points out that "road changes are an excellent indicator of changes in land use." Her wise granddaughter observed, "Your roads are all filled with houses. What happened to all your trees and stuff?"



In keeping with her commitment to open space, Lee Baldwin insisted all proceeds from the sale of "Cape Cod at Three Miles an Hour" benefit the HCT, whose mission is "to preserve forever the woods, wetlands, and other natural areas in the town of Harwich."

As of October 2002, the Trust has secured over 240 acres of protected open space throughout Harwich via land donations and/or purchases, and voluntary conservation restrictions. According to the Trust's Web site, "Conservation restrictions have helped thousands of families protect millions of acres of open space across the United States.

With a conservation restriction, you permanently protect your land without giving up ownership. What's more, you can reduce future estate and income taxes that could otherwise rob your children of their legacy."

Michael Lach, Land Protection Specialist with The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts said, "Lee would be proud that the Trust's ongoing top priority is the Save Monomoy River campaign to raise \$3.5 million in order to help purchase and preserve forever those 42.5 acres stretched along a half-mile of estuary flowing into Pleasant Bay." The Trust even named a small spot of open space after Baldwin.



With a foreword by author and longtime friend Anne D. LeClaire, and 21 exquisite illustrations by Rebecca S. Lach, "Cape Cod at Three Miles an Hour: A Sense of Place that Can Only Be Learned on Foot" is a memorable tribute to the legacy of Lee W. Baldwin.

"[She] was the epitome of peace, kindness, tranquility, thoughtfulness, appreciation of all things simple, exactly how she wanted us to view this planet," said Trustee Bill Baldwin of West Harwich (no relation). "Never, in my 56 years, have I met a person whose vision and charge was, in fact, a mirror reflection of who they were. My perception and perspective has forever been altered through Lee."

"Through her observations Lee taught us that to inhabit a place is to do more than live there," LeClaire writes, "it is to engage with it in a way that restores us to our senses."

Taste the checkerberries.

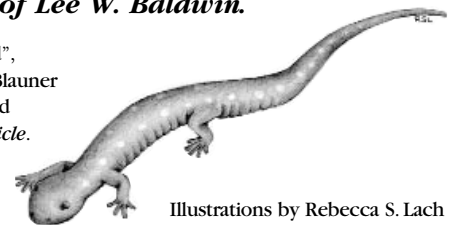
Smell the Rosa Rugosa.

See the branches of the beetlebung tree.

Touch the shell of Limulus polyphemus.

Hear the voice of Lee W. Baldwin.

Article, "Senses Restored", written by Susan Rose Blauner and previously published in the *Cape Cod Chronicle*.



Illustrations by Rebecca S. Lach

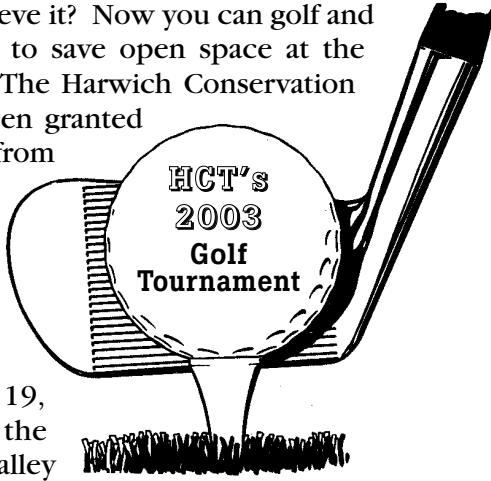
Buy "CAPE COD AT THREE MILES AN HOUR" and Save Open Space!

Books are available directly through the Harwich Conservation Trust. The cost is just \$14.95, plus \$3.50 for shipping. All proceeds from the sale of "Cape Cod at Three Miles an Hour" help HCT preserve open space!

To order a copy or for more information about the Trust, call 508-432-3997.

GRAB YOUR CLUBS FOR THE FIRST ANNUAL HCT GOLF TOURNEY!

Can you believe it? Now you can golf and raise money to save open space at the same time! The Harwich Conservation Trust has been granted permission from the Town of Harwich to hold its first annual golf tournament on Friday, September 19, 2003 at the Cranberry Valley Golf Course in Harwich. All proceeds will help HCT purchase land, preserve scenic vistas, and assist with the overall mission to protect open space in Harwich.



There will be a shotgun start at 8 AM with a scramble format. An awards luncheon will follow at the club house. Bill Baldwin, a HCT Trustee, is chairperson for this new event. He would very much appreciate your efforts in helping to organize and run this fun-filled fundraiser for 120 golfers to promote HCT's land-saving efforts. Bill predicts that a well-organized inauguration filled with competitive prizes, auctions and great food will ensure 120 people spreading the word that this is one you don't want to miss in 2003!. Bill Baldwin can be reached at 508-432-8153. No volunteer will be turned away. Shine those clubs, tee up, help us organize, and join the HCT golf tournament team for a great cause!

In order to receive this
stellar newsletter

as well as other important
HARWICH CONSERVATION TRUST information,
PLEASE notify us of any changes
to your **permanent mailing address**.

Drop us a note:

HARWICH CONSERVATION TRUST
P.O. BOX 205, HARWICH PORT, MA 02646

Call: (508) 432-3142

Or even email! Contact HCT@attbi.com
Don't forget to check us out on the web!
www.HarwichConservationTrust.org

GREAT FOOD, GREAT TIME AT HCT'S GALA WINETASTING DINNER

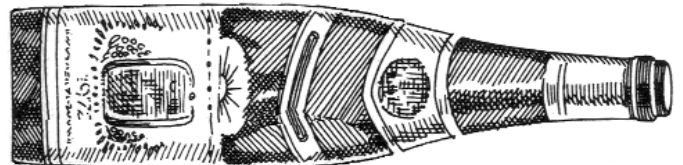
Raise your glass and toast to yet another successful ANNUAL GALA WINETASTING DINNER! This was the eighth tastebud-tingling event in a row for the Harwich Conservation Trust, held on Saturday, November 16, 2002 at the 400 East Restaurant, on the corner of Routes 39 & 137 in East Harwich.

Once again, the challenge was to equal or surpass the great quality of food, wine and good times that everyone has enjoyed in the past. No doubt, we did it! Everyone praised the wine, the food, the new dining course format, and the stream-lined check-in as well as the wine-pouring prowess!

The price this year was \$65 per person, with all proceeds going to the Trust except, of course, for all the great door prizes and floral centerpieces that many of the diners took home. The Trust would like to recognize and express its sincere appreciation to the following businesses whose kind donations made the event a success:

- Harwich Spirits Shoppe - wine, commentary, door prizes
- 400 East Restaurant - food, venue, wait-service
- Perennial Parties - balloon decorations
- Lady Brett Specialties - table centerpieces

If you couldn't make our Winetasting Dinner this year, you missed a great time but the good news is, there's always next year! Keep an eye out for announcements in upcoming newsletters, and remember the reason to support the Winetasting Dinner in the first place: the Harwich Conservation Trust's wonderful mission to preserve open space in Harwich!



Trustees welcome inquiries from anyone interested in making tax-deductible gifts of land, cash or securities.

**Contact: Harwich Conservation Trust,
P.O. Box 205, Harwich Port, MA 02646
508-432-3997**

**www.HarwichConservationTrust.org
All inquiries are treated in confidence.**

CALLING ALL ANGELS!

Winter is a time of holiday spirit and angels in the snow, if your back doesn't hurt from shoveling the driveway. Speaking of angels (subtle, eh?), HCT's Save Monomoy River campaign to raise \$3.5 million needs an open space angel to help preserve 42 acres on a half-mile of scenic shoreline.

We hope there is an angel out there who can donate a six-figure sum (\$100,000-\$500,000) which will inspire others to contribute. HCT has raised \$650,000 so far. Help HCT find an open space angel, so we can reach \$3.5 million, and save this singular landscape!



Photo of Bufflehead by Roger S. Everett

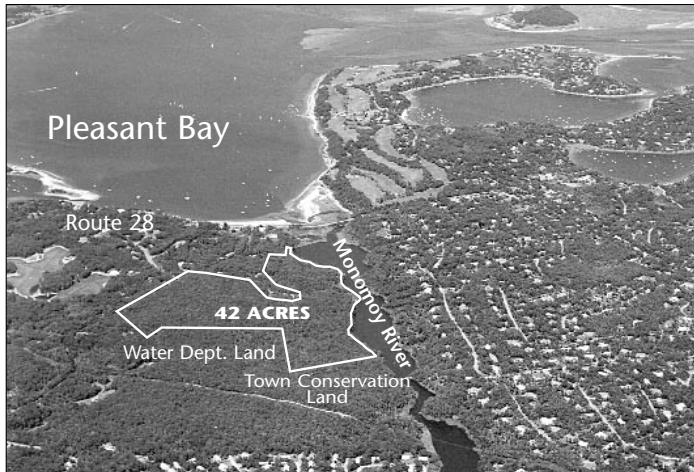


Photo by Kelsey-Kennard Photographers

HARWICH CONSERVATION TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEES

William Baldwin
Marilyn Barry
Mary Jane Curran
Shawn Fernandez
Virginia Iannini
Colin Leonard



Deborah London
Hugh Millar
Donna Peterson
Edward Rubel
D. Isabel Smith
Robert F. Smith

HARWICH CONSERVATION TRUST NEWSLETTER STAFF

(508) 432-3997

William Baldwin, Michael Lach, Hugh Millar,
Edward Rubel, Isabel Smith, Robert Smith

New contributors always welcome!

*Meets every third Thursday at
Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank in Harwich Port.*



For the Land's Sake

HARWICH CONSERVATION TRUST

P.O. Box 205
Harwich Port, Massachusetts 02646

**NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage Paid
HARWICH, MA
PERMIT #63**

**Lee Baldwin's Book
published by HCT!
(see page 1)**