

HARWICH CONSERVATION TRUST

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

For the Land's Sake

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2001

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Harwich Conservation Trust has continued to purchase additional parcels of land as part of the ongoing 2001:An Open Space Odyssey project.

We are pleased to announce the acquisition of 5.91 acres abutting Sand Pond. The purchase of the property came as a result of the negotiations of a charitable sale by Valerie Wester and David Rich to the Trust.

The property is located at the northwest shore of Sand Pond and will provide a scenic view of 775 feet of unbroken, intact shoreline from the Town-owned recreation area off of Great Western Road. The property falls high on our prioritization list due to its location abutting Sand Pond and its location within the Herring River Watershed as well as the fact that it abuts an additional 35 acres of Town-owned conservation land to its west. It was important to protect this property as it could have been divided and used for additional house lots on Sand Pond which had the potential to adversely affect Sand Pond and the Herring River Watershed. The purchase was made possible using funds from donations to the Harwich Conservation Trust in memory of individuals and from neighbors, supplemented by funds from the bequest to the Harwich Conservation Trust by the estate of William Hacker.

(Cont'd on page 5)

SAVE THE MONOMOY RIVER

The fundraising campaign begun in July to help acquire 42.5 acres of threatened land along a half-mile of the Monomoy River (Muddy Creek) tidal estuary in East Harwich has generated over \$100,000 in pledges and donations. Financial support has come from not only Trust members, but also from members of the Chatham Conservation Foundation and the Friends of Pleasant Bay.



In May, the Town of Harwich authorized \$3.5 million and the Trust committed \$500,000 toward the acquisition of the 42.5 acres listed at \$8 million. Negotiations are ongoing. Though we appreciate any contribution toward saving this singular landscape in the Pleasant Bay Watershed, the Trust is also looking for an Open Space Angel to provide a large sum of money as a challenge gift to help us reach our goal. Please contact D. Isabel Smith at 508-430-0517 or Michael Lach at 508-362-3422 for more information.

TRUST BUYS BANK STREET BOGS

When the Harwich Conservation Trust purchased the Bank Street Bogs across from Grassy Pond in Harwich Port from Carver Crowell & Sons Cranberry Co., Inc. on June 21st, the organization purchased more than cranberry bogs and important wetlands, it preserved a significant slice of Harwich history. It is believed that the bogs are the oldest continuous commercial working bogs on Cape Cod. They were constructed in the 1880's by the Weekes family.

The property will remain as working bogs. The 60 acres of both bog-land and upland were purchased by the Trust for \$475,000 and in addition a management and maintenance contract was entered into with the seller which spells out cranberry profit splits between Crowell and the Trust.

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Photo by Nancy Shoemaker

BANK STREET PURCHASE (Cont'd)

The major water supply for the bogs is Grassy Pond which is bordered by Forest Street on the west and Bank Street to the east. The Indians called Grassy Pond, Wooncepit, meaning the crooked pond. Before extensive filling for both bogs and construction, the pond was shaped like a crescent.

Cold Brook rises from Grassy Pond and after it flows through a culvert under Bank Street, it courses through the bogs in a dogleg loop before flowing into the waters of Saquattucket Harbor next to Brax Landing. The stream was originally part of a shrubby swamp. The plant life was cleared in order to build the cranberry bogs.

There are five distinct bogs. The one closest to Bank Street was first named Cedar Bog because the original growth was Atlantic White Cedar. Crowell calls this bog the Fire Station Bog because it is next to the former fire station. The building and land is now under the domain of the Harbormaster, Tom Leach.

Heading east from the Fire Station Bog, the bogs are: Pump House Bog, House Bog, Four Acre Bog and Exit Bog. The bog south of Cranberry Harvest Hollow Road is not owned by Crowell and was not bought by the Trust.

Historically, sometime in the 20's or 30's John Makepeace (then the largest cranberry bog owner in Massachusetts) bought the bogs and he farmed them until 1989 when they were bought by Carver Crowell.

Bruce Nightingale, a member of the Harwich Planning Board, remembers harvesting the Bank Street Bogs after graduating from college. "A friend of mine and I thought we'd extend the summer so we stayed on during the fall picking for Makepeace", recalled Nightingale. "It wasn't easy work, but I enjoyed it."



If you've lived in Harwich for more than 40 years you remember the skating parties. People of all ages skated on the Pump House Bog. Often someone would build a big bonfire for toasting marsh mallows. Others would sip hot cocoa while watching a couple in their seventies gracefully waltz across the ice. These are the hometown sweet memories that make Harwich unique.

In the future, the Trust hopes to open up the Fire Station Bog for cranberry hand picking the old fashioned way by local groups and residents. In addition, this land is the first step in a goal of tying together the history of the Town in cranberry farming and its seafaring culture. The Trust hopes to eventually provide a walking path from this property to the Town Harbors so that residents and visitors alike can obtain a better understanding of the heritage of the Town. In the meantime, the trails around the bogs are now open for walkers. Roads circle the bogs while trails follow the dikes.

"We purchased more than land", said Isabel Smith, HCT Vice President. We have preserved more than a significant, fragile environment. We have captured a memorable view, disappearing Harwich history and gorgeous open space and now it is open for everyone in town to enjoy".

R.F.S.

The Trust reminds folks to stay off the bogs and out of the ditches. Parking is available in a variety of spots. The two most accessible spots are reached by parking in the Harbormaster lot and walking down the street to the bogs, or taking a dirt road off Cranberry Harvest Hollow Road (between houses #7 and 9). Plans are in the works to cut a trail from the Harbormaster lot to one of the bog trails.

A. JANET DEFULVIO WILDLIFE SANCTUARY BOARDWALK

On June 1st, the Trust celebrated the completion of its wheelchair accessible boardwalk in the A. Janet DeFulvio Wildlife Sanctuary. In 1994, the DeFulvio family donated 11 acres of forested upland and salt marsh to the Trust. The family requested that the permanently preserved open space be named the A. Janet DeFulvio Wildlife Sanctuary.

Many boardwalk materials were donated by Mid-Cape Home Centers and the construction was mostly performed by AmeriCorps-Cape Cod volunteers. Other materials were contributed by Hinckleys Home

Center, Motts Tool Repair, Eldredge Welding and Orleans Paint & Wallpaper as well as labor from Robert Ford. The small parking lot was created by G. Rockwood Clark and John D. Martin Excavating. The area is accessed from a dirt drive on Route 28 between Small Gardens and G. Rockwood Clark - Gardens by the Sea. Thanks to outstanding community support, a boardwalk now winds 140 feet through woods to a platform and bench which offer everyone wide open views of swaying salt marsh stretched along the Herring River.



LEE W. H. BALDWIN'S EXUBERANT OPEN SPACE SPIRIT LIVES ON

Lee W. H. Baldwin absolutely adored the outdoors. She shared her knowledge of wild creatures and the habitats they call home with countless people who joined her on intriguing walks, read her Nature's Way column and listened to her naturalist insights. Lee passed away on Saturday, July 28. Her family, friends and the land conservation community in Harwich as well as across Cape Cod will sincerely miss her sparkling smile, her boundless energy and her enlightening environmental perspective.

However, her exuberant open space spirit lives on in those of us who were fortunate enough to cross paths with her. In fact, if you were out wandering in the woods of Harwich, you almost couldn't help but bump into her on some occasion since she was always outside leading one of her many field walks for budding naturalists.

If you wanted to know where to find Plymouth Gentian, when the wildflowers bloom in Thompson's Field, or figure out the name of that perplexing mystery plant growing along a wooded path, just ask Lee. And if she didn't know the answer, which was rare, she would guide you to the right reference books. Her observation skills were mostly self-taught and she encouraged others to seek out their own answers.



Photo by Stephanie Foster

Lee not only taught during her walks, but also walked her naturalist talk as a devoted trustee of the Harwich Conservation Trust, a nonprofit land conservation organization whose mission is to preserve the woodlands, wetlands and other wild areas throughout Harwich. The environment was her passion and she worked to protect it by helping the trust evaluate the natural resource values of undeveloped land, which, if acquired, could be protected as open space.



"Lee had extraordinary abilities and yet she was so humble. She became our dear friend and we will miss her always.", said Smith.

To honor her open space spirit, the Harwich Conservation Trust recently declared its intention to purchase a specific property for which Lee had developed a special fondness. Lee had scouted out the parcel for the Trust this past June with her daughter Sherill and D. Isabel Smith, vice-president of the Trust and chair of the Harwich Open Space Committee.

"We had gone on a lady slipper walk the day before and hadn't found any. My mom was quite concerned", recalled Sherill, one of five Baldwin children. So mother and daughter



Photo by Lee Baldwin

joined Isabel Smith on the following day to visit a property up for possible protection as open space. Sherill, Lee and Isabel encountered a pleasant surprise. They found not one, but two lady slippers in a small, weathered cemetery tucked away in the woods, and still close to the property they were investigating.

The trio was excited by their discovery and continued to examine the woods and wetland of the adjacent property for wildlife habitat values associated with protected open space. Sure enough, the lady slippers had rooted themselves in a neighborhood graced with biodiversity.

Lee quickly recognized the area's habitat importance. Atlantic white cedars mingled with red maples while oaks occupied other parts of the property. There were patches of spongy sphagnum moss and fresh green ferns beckoned with unfurled fronds. It was a sanctuary for flora and fauna set off to the side of a scenic street in Harwich.

The combination of wetland and upland habitats provided wildlife with ample opportunities for feeding, breeding and sheltering. "It hadn't occurred to me until then that their (the trustees') walks were work walks as opposed to fun walks to just be outside. It was both for my mom," said Sherill about the Trust's visits to undeveloped land for assessing open space significance. "My mom's impression was that it needed to be saved," remembered Sherill.

On Thursday, July 26, the Trust issued a proclamation to preserve that property in perpetuity as the Lee W. H.

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LEE W. H. BALDWIN'S EXUBERANCE LIVES ON

Baldwin Nature Park. A paraphrased portion of the proclamation reads:

Whereas, at an early age, Lee W.H. Baldwin emigrated from the tip of Cape Cod to Harwich. Whereas, the Town of Harwich, her new made friends, and a guy named George (her husband whom she met in fourth grade), became the better for it. Whereas, she has dedicated herself to the study of nature during her career and has introduced thousands of people to the pleasures, secrets, and enjoyment of nature. Whereas, she has been an integral part of the Harwich Conservation Trust as a trustee, naturalist, fund raiser and nature walker extraordinaire. Whereas, this land embodies many of the natural wonders that she has helped so many to discover. Now, therefore, be it known, that in honor and appreciation for all that she has done to improve the natural environment and the love and affection felt for her by so many, the Trust will name the property the Lee W.H. Baldwin Nature Park.

"She was a dedicated protector of the environment and an educational activist who awakened in many people a yearning to appreciate our natural world. She will be deeply missed by not only people involved in the Harwich Conservation Trust, but also by everyone with whom she interacted," said Trust President Robert F. Smith.

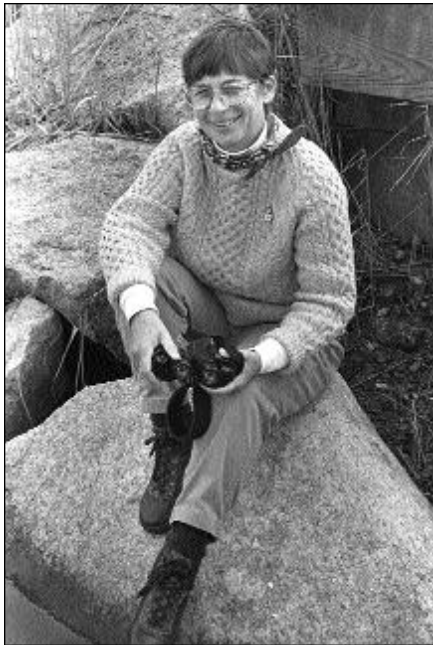


Photo by Stephanie Foster

Lee edited this newsletter through the spring issue. She truly enjoyed that labor - but not as much as I enjoyed working with this quiet, thoughtful, unassuming woman whose smile and twinkle of the eye spoke of a kindness to the world I will never forget.

Nancy Shoemaker, printer

After the property is secured and the Baldwin family is consulted, details about a dedication ceremony will follow. This sanctuary will forever remind us of her compassionate commitment to land conservation in Harwich and her lasting legacy of inspired nature enthusiasts from around the globe.

When we spy a dragonfly clinging to the purplish pink petal of Plymouth Gentian, we will think of her. When we find Thompson's Field full of wildflowers, we will think of her. When we pause to ponder "What kind of plant could this possibly be?" while wandering along a wooded path of the Lee W. H. Baldwin Nature Park, we will most surely think of her.

Article by Michael Lach - reprinted courtesy of Cape Cod Chronicle



MARGO FITSCH PHOTO

Lee W. H. Baldwin kayaking on Long Pond.

Botanists inform, and naturalists explore, but Lee could impart a reverence for the earth like nobody else. Her passion for the interconnectedness of all living things imbued every walk with an appreciation for the seemingly ordinary. Each plant had a place and a reason and special significance. She fed your mind with data, yet she enriched your heart each time you met.

Rob Foster

Celebrating the Life of

Lee W. H. Baldwin

Sunday, October 14, 2001 3:00 p.m.

Cape Cod Museum of Natural History
Brewster, Massachusetts

THE LIVING LEGACY

The Harwich Conservation Trust has been able to take many important actions during the last year due to the receipt of a bequest from Mr. and Mrs. William Hacker. Not only have we been able to purchase significant properties, but we have also been able to complete an inventory of remaining open space in Town and prioritize those parcels as to their importance in fulfilling our vision. We have also been able to partner with the Town to increase the impact of funds available for open space purchases from the Land Bank.

Our opportunities are the direct result of financial support from our members, not only during their lifetimes, but also within their wills and estate plans. As a tax exempt organization, any bequests to the HCT qualify for charitable, and therefore favorable, tax treatment.

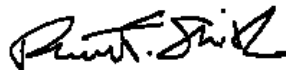
Bequests made to the Harwich Conservation Trust are primarily used for land acquisition, protection and stewardship. Please consider including the HCT in your estate plans.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *(Cont'd from p. 1)*

We also purchased the Bank Street Bogs across from Grassy Pond in Harwich Port from Carver Crowell & Sons Cranberry Co., Inc. (See accompanying article). The Trust believed it was important to maintain these bogs as working bogs since they represent an important part of the history and heritage of the Town of Harwich. A goal of the Trust is to establish a walking trail from the bogs to the harbors, thereby connecting the Town's cranberry history and maritime past.

These purchases, when added to prior acquisitions and gifts received by the Harwich Conservation Trust since the 2001:An Open Space Odyssey project was announced brings the total of land now received close to 90 acres.

We continue to look at additional properties abutting water resources in various areas of town. Please discuss with your friends the gift or sale of property or the grant of a Conservation Easement for parcels containing more than 5 acres. Anyone interested should contact any of the Trustees. There are significant income tax, estate tax and local real estate tax benefits in a gift of land or the placement of a conservation easement on the property.



2001 HCT WINETASTING

The Harwich Conservation Trust will hold its SEVENTH ANNUAL GALA WINETASTING DINNER, 5:30 to 8:30 PM on Saturday, December 1, 2001 at the 400 East Restaurant located in the Harwich East Plaza at the corner of Routes 39 & 137 in East Harwich.



The challenge this year will be to equal or even top the great quality food, wine and good times that were enjoyed by all in years past - and we are up to the task!! The menu will be developed in the coming weeks, and will once again be served in our newly popular two-plate, full-portion format, with each course accompanied by two appropriate wines for tasting, comparison and enjoyment. The excellent food prepared by the 400 East's chefs, the interesting and unusual wine selections, the presentation and commentary by Bruce Gibson of Harwich Spirits Shoppe, Inc., and the usual fun, cheer and prize drawings, all promise to make for yet another memorable evening.

We will soon be sampling the wines and they will be wonderful! Come enjoy them with a great group of people! Learn a little about wine and the lingo. Do you know about the "nose", the "legs", the "body", the "finish", the "apex of the curve"? Take home one of the many door prizes which will be randomly drawn. There's even a secret quiz question and prize! Oenologically speaking, the night will be an enjoyable experience!

The price this year will be \$60 per person, with all funds going to support the HCT's efforts to conserve open space in the Town of Harwich.

THERE ARE ONLY 75 SEATS AVAILABLE - seating will be reserved on a first-come-first-served basis. For reservations and information, call Isabel Smith at 508-430-0517.

HARWICH CONSERVATION TRUST needs volunteers for tending the gates of the **Harwich Cranberry Festival**

Saturday, Sept. 15 2:30 to 6:30 p.m.

AND

Sunday, Sept. 16 12:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Call Nancy Jennings at 508-432-4476

*Come and be a part of this great town event and help raise \$\$\$ for HCT.
Last year we received over \$1100 for our staffing help!*

MEMORIAL/GIFT DEDICATIONS

In memory of Lee W. H. Baldwin

Stephan & Elaine Aschettino
 Mary Avellar
 Mary-Jo Avellar
 Susan Avellar
 Carol Baldwin
 Albert & Jean Barker
 Daryle Blanden
 Lois Brooks
 Leslie Brown
 Barbara & James Chase
 Mary Jane Curran
 Jane Davenport
 Elizabeth & Henry Drewes
 Ellen & Andrew Dunbar
 Jean T. Eddy
 Patricia Essex
 William Falla
 Carlton & Dorothy Francis
 Karen & John Gilligan III
 Barbara Godard
 Frank & Ruth Handlen
 Marian Harcourt
 Harwich Police Association
 Rose Holmes
 Dan Hurley
 Hyora Publications (Cape Cod Chronicle)
 Marlich & Bill Jacques
 Claire Kenny
 Suzanne Kimball
 Eileen Kraus
 Raymond & Janet Lang
 Deborah Larden
 Jim & Allison Larden
 Marguerite Marion
 Elizabeth Matthys

Paul & Carol McBride
 Phyllis McCawley
 Patricia McDonald
 Eugene & Barbara Monay
 Priscilla Morrison
 Bill & Jane Myers
 Joan Y. Nickerson
 Bruce & Beverly Nightingale
 Bill & Margaret Otis
 Donna Peterson
 Julie Pina
 Victoria Reed
 Robert Our, Inc.
 Cathy Roth
 Herbert & Bernice Rowley
 Frederick & Joanne Rys
 Charles Samson
 Gerie & Bill Schumann
 Ellen Silva
 Colin & Jane Stevenson
 Martha Stone
 Harriet Sutherland
 Mrs. Margaret Swanson
 Frank & Donna Tavano
 Raymond & Beverly Thacher
 Sharon Townsend
 Wm. & Lois Vanden Huvel
 Martha S. Votalto
 Lewis & Cynthia Ward
 Anne & Jo Welch
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Welsh
 Ethel Whitney
 Joan Whitney
 Susan Whitney
 Robert & Marjorie Widegren
 Nancy Wigley

In memory of John White from Doris Chatterton

In memory of Lawrence Damon

Bill & Jane Myers

In memory of Mrs. Frank Riley (Beth), from husband Frank Riley

Gift of membership to HCT in name of

*Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Langley
 Ruth & Dick Connaughton*

Gift to further programs within the HCT from Harwich Evening Womens Club

Gift in honor of the Duquette - Maitland Marriage William Crowell

*All gifts or memorials listed were
 received by August 20, 2001.*

*Memorials/gifts received after this date
 will appear in the next newsletter.*

HARWICH CONSERVATION TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEES

William Baldwin
 Marilyn Barry
 Mary Jane Curran
 Shawn Fernandez
 Stephanie Foster
 Colin Leonard
 Deborah London
 Hugh "Tim" Millar
 Donna Peterson
 Edward Rubel
 D. Isabel Smith
 Robert F. Smith

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

HARWICH CONSERVATION TRUST NEWSLETTER STAFF

Marilyn Barry
 Michael Lach
 Deborah London
 Isabel Smith
 Robert Smith

*New contributors
 always welcome!*

(508) 432-3997



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P.O. Box 205
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**NON-PROFIT ORG.
 U.S. Postage Paid
 HARWICH, MA
 PERMIT #63**

Dec. 1st

Wine Tasting Dinner

Details on page 5