Try your chance to win Two Kayaks (w/paddles)!
Prize: TWO Perception Prodigy 10 Kayaks and TWO Harmony Sea Passage Paddles
$5 per ticket to win BOTH kayaks & paddles
Purchase at HCT’s office (#947 Rt. 28, S. Harwich). Call 508-432-3997 or email hct@capec.com for more info.
Drawing: Nov. 18, 2010 at 2 pm, HCT’s office. You need not be present to win.
Kayaks furnished by the Goose Hummock Shop (www.goose.com) in Orleans

RESERVE at HCT's website or by check for HCT’s 16th Fall Wine Tasting Dinner hosted by the Port Sat., Nov. 6th (6-9 pm) $80 pp

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Thank you for giving

on November 7th.

Walk leaders to be honored with HCT’s Volunteer Evergreen Award on November 7th.

THE GENERATION’S CARETAKERS
Preserving Land & History on Long Pond - Story on page 4

Recognizing the importance of preserving land & history on Long Pond.

This month, HCT will honor Walk Leaders on Long Pond.

Photos Bill Galione

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FALL 2010 NEWSLETTER
HCT’s Mission

HCT preserves land to protect woods, water, wildlife and our shared quality of life in Harwich.

Conservationist of the Year Award

The Conservationist of the Year Award is given annually to an honored guest who has actively helped protect the woods, waters, and wildlife of Harwich. Nominations for individuals, groups, businesses, or other entities actively helping to protect the Harwich environment are accepted on a rolling basis.

PAST RECIPIENTS:
- 2005: Anne & Joe Welch
- 2006: Barbara & Charles Birdsey
- 2007: AmeriCorps
- 2008: Wequassett
- 2009: Town of Harwich Natural Resources Dept.

The Cape Cod Chronicle, Cape Codder, Harwich Oracle, and Cape Cod Times newspapers are HCT’s 2010 Conservationists of the Year Award recipients for their comprehensive, consistent coverage of environmental issues affecting Harwich and Cape Cod. Clear, concise, and compelling stories about the importance of widely supported land protection projects that preserve wildlife habitat, water quality, and Cape Cod character raise awareness for residents and countless visitors. Other stories range the environmental spectrum from water quality concerns to renewable energy to fascinating wildlife. The opinion pages offer a forum for debate on a range of topics and the environment surfaces in every edition. These newspapers focus on environmental stories that track our common challenges, chronicle controversy, and identify unanswered questions. Taken together, their coverage helps shape the future of our shared special place.

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508-945-1554
Ann Hart is a local artist supporting HCT. She kindly shared her images with us in this newsletter. Her watercolors can be seen at Gallery Antonia in Chatham, as well as at her website: www.annhartsart.org

8th Annual Golf Tournament Sponsors
Back Office Associates, Cape Cod Cooperative Bank, The Cape Cod Chronicle, Wequassett Resort

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HCT’s Annual Celebration & Meeting
Wequassett on Pleasant Bay
Sunday, November 7th, 5-7pm
Featured Speaker: Greg Skomal
“Tracking Great White Sharks”

Join us to honor local newspapers (Cape Cod Chronicle, Cape Codder, Harwich Oracle, and Cape Cod Times) with HCT’s Conservationist of the Year Award and outstanding HCT volunteers with our EverGreen Awards.

RSVP by October 29th for this free event.
Call HCT at 508-432-3997 or email: hct@cape.com

Mission Wolf - LIVE WOLF PROGRAM

Thursday
October 21st
Special 6:30 pm show
Limited to 125 people
EVERY SEAT IS A FRONT ROW SEAT!
$100/person
(under age five cannot attend)

Friday
October 22nd
5 pm or 7 pm show
$10 for ages 12 - adult
$5 for ages 5 - 11
(under age five cannot attend)

Reserve in advance at www.HarwichConservationTrust.org
or by check (payable to Harwich Conservation Trust)
Mail to P.O.Box 101, South Harwich, MA 02661
Shows will be held in the gym of the Harwich Community Center at 100 Oak St.

Sponsored by The Cape Cod Times, The Cape Cod Chronicle, The Cape Codder, Harwich Oracle, The Register, and White Marlie
Preserving Land & History

This Generation's Caretakers
Interview with an anonymous landowner
Written by Mary J Metzger

“We came only in the summers, as there was no heat or electricity in our camp. There was just a dirt cart path then (the late 1930s), wide enough for a horse and cart or an old beat-up car. The first thing we would do on arrival would be to prune the path back to the main road so the car wouldn’t get scratched up. From here, you couldn’t see another house on Long Pond, and only two other fishing camps. It was deep woods.”

That land is private, but what’s left of those deep woods is preserved with a conservation restriction held by the Harwich Conservation Trust. These memories belong to a family whose ties to their pond-shore land go back to 1790. In that year, their ancestor, Mrs. Brooks, “containing more shining milk pans than could be well filled.”

When Harwich was incorporated in 1694 it included what is now Brewster. The parish meeting house was in the northern reaches. The southern population had to traverse seven miles (one way) from Harwich to the North Parish each Sabbath through the soggy middle lands of ponds, swamps, and sloughs. A South Parish was officially sanctioned by the state legislature in 1746 and a meetinghouse and minister needed to be procured. Rev. Pell came in 1747 with the offer of grain, cord wood and a house. This deal was later sweetened with an offer of hay.

Rev. Pell never quite took to the less prosperous South Parish and expressed his doubts about its success even after his death at age 41, when his wishes to be buried in the North Parish church’s burying ground were carried out. Rev. Pell believed the South Parish’s graveyard would soon be abandoned to a pine/oak wasteland.

Pell’s successor, Nathan Underwood, came to Harwich with a realistic plan for his permanent place in the community. Drawing on his dairy heritage, he acquired land on Long Pond and at Red River with the idea of using the salt marsh hay to feed inland-raised cows. At his own expense, he built a large parsonage/farmhouse on twelve acres in Harwich Center. “Rather out of place on Cape Cod,” wrote Sidney Brooks, “containing more shining milk pans than could be well filled.”

The farmstead flourished with barns, sheds, gardens, and a “thifty cherry orchard,” thanks in part to Mrs. Underwood, “a model of a pastor’s as well as a farmer’s wife.” She also gave him seven sons.

Gifts to HCT - in honor of and in memory of

In Memory of Greg Fishbein
Sara Shields & Bruce Fishbein

In Memory of all Veterans:
RIP, Fighting & Retired
Peter & Bridget O’Rourke

In Honor of all who help
such a worthy cause
Marcia Andrews

In Memory of Eric Bennett
Donald Bennett & Linda Chicklas

In Memory of James Alcock
Elizabeth Naughton

In Memory of Judd J. Corbett
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In Memory of Doris & Howard Doane
Sarah Doane

In Memory of Recci & Elaine Kennedy
Robert Kennedy

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Sheila & Preston Smith

In Memory of Mark Keilty
The Hot Stove Saloon

In Memory of Martha & Frederick Davis
Bonnie & Ross Hall

In Memory of Thad Wicks
Martha Wicks

In Memory of Eric Garham
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Ralph Mackenzie & Georgene Riedl
Adeline Harrington

In Memory of Walter & Esther Trainer
Sara Trainer

In Memory of of Robert W. Udell
Joyce Udell

In Memory of Dana Morse
Paul & Sheila Sones

RAPTOR SHOW RECAP

On July 15th, over 800 people came to see the “Bird Man,” otherwise known as Tom Ricardi, a birds of prey rehabilitation expert credited with restoring the American bald eagle to the Northeast. He shared his expertise and inspirational experiences. Since retiring as a state game warden, Tom has devoted much of his time to rehabilitating injured hawks, owls, and eagles at his center in Conway, MA. Many of these injured birds can be reintroduced to the wild, but the more serious injuries require life-long care. Tom’s shows offer a unique opportunity for the public to learn about birds of prey and get a close-up look. Audiences were in awe at the Harwich Community Center as they watched the show’s stars, including red-tailed hawk, great-horned owl, peregrine falcon, American kestrel, turkey vulture and even a golden eagle.
It was good that Nathan Underwood had planned ahead for his family’s security. In 1803, the more prosperous North Parish was able to form its own town (Brewster). By 1809, the Congregational minority could no longer levy taxes for support of the South Parish from the growing Baptist and Methodist populations. Nathan Underwood served as pastor until 1828 with very little remuneration.

But what was the condition of that Long Pond property that Nathan Underwood acquired in 1790?

The first European settlers to the Cape described a “goodly land, wooded to the brink of the seas.” In less than a century, the land had been mostly cleared for crops and pastureland. Timber was used for fences, buildings, ships, windmills, and for heating and cooking fuel. The last 30 acres of Chatham’s original forest was felled in 1815, followed the year after with one of the Cape’s first pine reforestation efforts to try to stave off rapid topsoil erosion.

Yet it is possible the inland portions of Harwich remained more wooded. According to Harwich historian Josiah Paine, the Selectmen’s report of 1781 shows 58% of the land was wooded and unimproved with 34% given over to pastures, 4% to salt and fresh meadows and 4% to tilled land. When the State Legislature approved Brewster’s separation in 1803, it cited the South Parish of Harwich to have two-thirds of the woodland and all the “valuable Cedar Swamps.”

Nathan Underwood’s dairy cows were tended on what was part of the Quason purchase. These long and narrow parcels of land between the south shore of Long Pond and what is now Queen Anne’s Rd. had been purchased in 1713 from the native people for the
Plimoth Plantation’s Old Comer families. Settlement in this part of Harwich was sparse, not only because of its soggy nature. With the rapid loss of topsoil, Cape Codders were forced to turn to the seas for a living. And the increase of population and roads along the north and south shores reflected that reality.

While Brewster became the home of prosperous whaling captains, Harwich did well enough developing its own packet boat businesses. Like modern day truckers, these mariners transported goods all along the East Coast. There was probably not a lot of change in the severely impacted the freight schooner The Civil War and arrival of the railroad cranberry farming caught on.

Woods stretching unfettered from industry, and Harwich’s tenuous hold cut firewood and ice from the area. Prosperous whaling captains, Harwich’s population and roads along the north and south shores reflected that reality. While Brewster became the home of the family that owned the land had turned from theology and dairy farming to the mercantile trade. By the turn of the century, the Long Pond land was still remote, used by the family only as a summer hunting and fishing camp.

Interestingly, Nathan Underwood’s descendants did not develop cranberry bogs on the Long Pond property. Perhaps this is because the branch of the family that owned the land had turned from theology and dairy farming to the mercantile trade. By the turn of the century, the Long Pond land was still remote, used by the family only as a summer hunting and fishing camp.

Camping became all the rage in the 1920’s with upscale Adirondack styled resort cabins in the Catskills. The family designed a "camp" to mirror these summer places. The camp house had a large stone fireplace and screened porch facing the pond.

The Civil War and arrival of the railroad severely impacted the freight schooner The Civil War and arrival of the railroad cranberry farming caught on. The community would have continued to cut firewood and ice from the area. The Camp Street Bogs Nature Preserve is open to the public since it was acquired in 2001 by HCT. The 60-acre site includes more than two miles of level walking trails that offer views of wetland, upland, and stream habitats. There is a diversity of wildlife, especially birds, ranging from red-tailed hawks overhead to small songbirds to American woodcock that amaze with aerial displays in spring.

Transitioning in different stages from past cultivation, the plant communities thrive here. Robert Zaremba, Ph.D., completed a botanical study in 2007 discovering 278 species of plants (nearly 20% of the catalogued plant species in Barnstable County), adding to the area’s uniqueness.

Since 2008, HCT has been working with the USDA’s Barnstable County Natural Resources Conservation Service through a program called the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) to enhance the site’s natural qualities and encourage biodiversity. HCT’s eel migration ramp, which just finished its third field season, was funded through this partnership with assistance from the state’s Division of Marine Fisheries. Plans are now underway to improve water flow along Cold Brook (the stream that stretches from Grass Pond under Bank St. through the Preserve to Saquatucket Harbor) and enhance fish passage. HCT was awarded a $18,325 grant from the Massachusetts Department of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) to fund the planning stage of this stream restoration project.

Thanks to volunteer time, energy and dedication, wildlife continue to benefit in many different ways. For example the bluebird nestbox monitoring program, with help from the Cape Cod Bird Club, had another successful year. Eels had another banner year. Ten volunteers worked throughout the spring and summer monitoring the eel migration ramp. More than 5,000 eels were recorded this season!

In mid-August, 120 volunteer high school seniors from Providence Day School in Charlotte, NC spent two days at the Preserve trimming trails, installing benches, and removing highly invasive purple loosestrife. Special thanks to HCT volunteers Mike O’Neill, Larry Seberg, Matt O’Keefe, Ross Hall, and Marie and Dennis Corcoran for their support during this event. Over 8,000 pounds of debris were removed. We look forward to having the senior class of 2012 back next summer.

By the way, Fall is a great time to enjoy the Bank Street Bogs Nature Preserve. Wildflowers are still blooming and migratory birds are visiting during their flights south. Pack your HCT Trail Guide and take a walk on the wild side.
Chris Singer is the 2010 recipient of HCT’s individual EverGreen Volunteer Award. He has been volunteering with HCT for the past four years. In the spring of 2007-2008, Chris volunteered to certify vernal pools throughout Harwich. In 2009, Chris coordinated the vernal pool certification team.

This past spring, Chris coordinated 60 volunteers in our second annual herring count. Thank you Chris for all of your hard work!

HCT’s volunteer walk leaders are the recipients of the group EverGreen Volunteer Award. Our walk leaders take folks on guided walks through HCT and town-owned conservation lands to learn about the landscapes’ flora and fauna as well as its human history and conservation background. From birds to botany, Native American history to cranberry culture, the leaders share their time and naturalist insights with countless visitors. While walking and talking with others, they build a bridge of grassroots support for HCT’s mission of preserving land to protect woods, water, wildlife and our shared quality of life.

**Walk Leaders Honored with HCT’s Volunteer EverGreen Award**

*Mary Metzger, Coordinator (2006-10)*

Beth Bierbowski, Coordinator (2010)

- Connie Boyce
- Leo Cakounes
- Jan Cormier
- Ruth Connaughton
- Fred Dunford, PhD
- Donna Wood Eaton
- Rich Eldred
- Gail Hancock
- Kim Humphrey
- Todd Kelley
- Tom Leach
- Farley Lewis
- Blair Nikula
- Bob Prescott
- Heinz Proft
- Deborah Richmond
- Peggy Rose
- Pat Sarantis
- Irwin Schorr
- Cynthia & Matt Sutphin
- Rufin Van Bossuyt
- Robert Zaremba, PhD

“There was no electricity. They had an ice box, a wood stove, kerosene lamps, and indoor plumbing of sorts. They had to draw water from the pond to flush toilets. On summer evenings they could also sometimes hear music wafting from a speakeasy across the pond. C.D. Caboon painted from this part of the shore and Elmer Crowell carved working decoys for a duck blind here. The Provincetown writer John Dos Passos also visited the house.”

This simple place of spirited relaxation did not continue.

“The Mid-Cape Highway changed everything. Our land was broken in half by eminent domain. The same thing happened with the extension of Long Pond Drive in 1952 to what is now Route 137. The town presented a $1,200 check one day in exchange for the takeover, and our land was further divided. We continued to use what was left to us as a summer retreat. There was an explosion of houses on quarter acre lots that you see today around the rest of the pond.”

In 1972, the family brought in electricity, plumbing, central heating, and added rooms to the camp. They spent their winters in Florida, but continued summer gatherings. In 1990, the place was turned over to the current generation.

The four acres of Red River salt marsh were donated to the Chatham Conservation Foundation. A portion of the Long Pond property across the road was sold with the stipulation that only one house could be built. The six acres of remaining privately owned land (without public access) have been permanently protected with a conservation restriction donated to HCT.

“Some nights in the winter, looking out across a foggy pond from this protected place, it’s easy to imagine how it looked 12,000 years ago.”

This generation’s caretakers have continued the family’s heritage of stewardship. Nathan Underwood would be proud.
Thank You For Giving

Thank you for giving in so many different ways over the years to enhance HCT’s land conservation success. Businesses donate time, labor, and expertise. Volunteers donate their time and talents. Many people donate funds to save land and support HCT as contributing members.

Thanks to diverse donations, HCT supporters are creating lasting legacies by preserving land that protects our woods, water, wildlife and our shared quality of life in Harwich on Cape Cod. Donors can also benefit tax-wise since donations to HCT, a 501c3 nonprofit land trust organization, are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Below is a sampling of how folks are giving to HCT now, to save land for tomorrow.

**Giving to Save Land:**

1. **Membership donations, year-end gifts, appreciated securities (HCT can provide account and routing numbers), and other unrestricted gifts support HCT to advance land conservation, stewardship, and other important projects.**
2. **Restricted donations to HCT’s Save Land – Save Water Initiative help to preserve priority lands within watersheds that protect sensitive water resources including Pleasant Bay, our harbors, Nantucket Sound, freshwater ponds, and our sole source drinking water aquifer.**
3. **Donations of land and/or conservation restrictions.**
4. **For some supporters, a bequest is a forward-thinking way of making a significant gift to Harwich Conservation Trust (HCT). You may provide a bequest for HCT by creating a new will, adding a codicil to your present will, including Harwich Conservation Trust in your revocable trust, or designating Harwich Conservation Trust as the beneficiary of your retirement plan or insurance policy.**

To ensure that your exact intentions are carried out, wills, codicils, and trusts should be prepared by and with the advice of your attorney. HCT is available for additional information on the various methods of designating a bequest to Harwich Conservation Trust or for guidance in planning a gift.

**You make HCT possible. You make land conservation possible. Thanks again.**