Leave a Legacy to Save Special Places

Placing HCT in your will (also known as a bequest) is a forward-thinking way to support our land-saving work. If you are interested, please call Exec. Dir. Mike Lach at 508-432-3997 or email het@cape.com. Think ahead and help us save more special places. Find more information at: www.HarwichConservationTrust.org/Planned_giving.html. Thank you.

State Selects HCT's Cold Brook Project as a Top Priority
- Details on page 6 -

On April 20th: Don't Miss
cold Brook Project
reserves for Live Raptors
2nd Home & Land donated to HCT
Eyes on Owls
Thank You, Volunteers
Memorials/Gifts
Leave a Legacy

Cape Sea Grille Winetasting
Reserve for Live Raptors
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Herring Count
Free Seminar: Tax Credits for Land
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HARWICH CONSERVATION TRUST
P.O. Box 101
South Harwich, MA 02661
508-432-3997 • hct@cape.com
www.HarwichConservationTrust.org

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

Join HCT for our 10th Annual
Spring Winetasting Dinner.
Space is limited, so reserve now!
The Cape Sea Grille restaurant in Harwich Port will be offering a multicourse dinner, accompanied by fine wines.

SPRING WINETASTING DINNER
AT THE CAPE SEA GRILLE
IN HARWICH PORT
Friday, April 20th
6 - 9 p.m.
$100 per person
all inclusive with
multi-course dinner,
fine wines,
and gratuity

Enjoy your evening while helping
HCT preserve land.

Reserve on-line at
www.HarwichConservationTrust.org
or
mail a check payable to:
Harwich Conservation Trust
P.O. Box 101
South Harwich, MA 02661
For more information:
call (508) 432-3997
or email hct@cape.com

Gifts to HCT - in honor of and in memory of

In Memory of Mary Ruth Follas
John & Carroll Follas

In Memory of Bruce A. Hackford
Harriett H. Hackford

In Memory of Anne & Edward Hall
Karen & Warren Hall

In Memory of James Hamel
Florence Loboff

In Memory of Dorothy P. Handren
Handren Brothers Builders, Inc.

In Memory of Bob Healy
Jane P. Healy

In Memory of Robert C. Healy
Jane P. Healy

In Memory of Gwen Hobbs
Lynn Vardakas

In Memory of John Joseph Horton
Susan Horton

In Memory of Jason D. Kenney
Virginia & David Clarendon

In Memory of Marjorie K. LaCroix
Jean Barber

In Memory of Michael LaDouceur
Edward LaDouceur

In Memory of Nathan Lieberson
Morton Shames

In Memory of Lily
Bobbie McDonnell

In Memory of Dorothy Lowell
Allen & Nancy McCarter

In Memory of Scot Byron McClain
Dorita & Pete Peterson

In Memory of John McMahon
Susan & Steve Weyler

In Memory of Bea Naughton
Robert J. Naughton, Sr.

In Memory of Speaker & Mrs. Thomas O’Neill, Jr.
Rosemary D. O’Neill

In Memory of Robert Our
Eileen Our

In Memory of Charles F Palmer, Jr.
Carole Palmer

In Memory of Mrs. Will Price
Peggy Sevier

In Memory of Elizabeth L. Pring
Kenneth Pring

In Memory of Rattail
Denise & Robert Anthony

In Memory of my brother, Richard
Jane H. Ferris

In Memory of Glenda Rowley
Frederick W. Rowley

In Memory of D. Isabel Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Brennen
Mr. & Mrs. Richard I. Pickett

In Memory of Isabel, Dayton & Lisa Smith
William West

In Memory of Dr. Russell Smith
Don B. Schaub

In Memory of Ken & Glenna Swanton
Bette Swanton

In Memory of Robert W. Udell
Joyce H. Udell

In Memory of Charles O. Verrill
Henry & Eleanor Hood

In Memory of Muriel & David Wadsworth
Mary & Brian Hastings

In Memory of Milton & Barbara Welt
Gregory J. Angeline
Batti & Robert Smith
Nancy Vail Shoemaker

In Memory of Thad W. Wicks
Martha Wicks

In Memory of Blair & Anne Wormer
Jeanne Lapierre & Paul Keary

In Honor of Margerie Campanella
Barbara Garvey

In Honor of Rich Eldred
Bill & Karen Goggins

In Honor of the Tom Barker Family
Jane & Andrew Walker

In Honor of Tom Leach, Harbormaster
Robert K. Leach

In Honor of our Grandchildren:
Kiara, Aedin, Olivia, Oliver & Frankie
Mary Ann & Ronald Rosivack

In Honor of Michael Lach
Robert G. Hankey

In Honor of Ryan Mann
Peter W. Samson

In Honor of Melissa B. Mills
Susan & Taylor Mills

In Honor of Scott Ridley’s book “Morning of Fire”
Samuel F. & Suzanne M. Winsper

In Honor of Sarah & Owen Sherwood
Barbara A. Tomasian & Stephen Erwin

In Honor of Robert Smith
Thomas & Janet Evans
Barry Knowles

In Honor of Jeanne Dudley White
Sally Mahoney

We strive to save special places while being mindful of the many dedications to HCT. Thank you.
Gifts to HCT - in honor of and in memory of

In Memory of Kathryn Howes Alvord
E.W. Brown II
In Memory of Lena Anderson, beloved mother of Karin Cadwell
Karen Cadwell, Sherry & Steven Geller
In Memory of Dick Baldauf
Joanne Baldauf
In Memory of Lee W. Baldwin
Sheldon Baldwin & Kimball Cartwright, Jr.
Gail & Florence Hancock
Connie L. Pina
In Memory of Martha Barca & Kristin Barca
Rebecca Barca-Tinus & Michael J. Tinus
In Memory of William “Tom” Barker
Ruth Albertding
Andrea Aldrovandi
Jeanne Barker
Jacqueline & Charles Barrett
Jonathan & Karen Boossem
Pamela A. Bratsch
Frederick & Janice Butler
Pat & George Cavanaugh
Evan & Patricia Cook
Jane & Alice Dolzell
William Doherty, Jr.
Mary Duquette-Maitland
Jane & Colin Stevenson
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Joseph David Zabielski
John & Linda Ford
Melinda D. Forst
Harold & Jill Gabrielson
Kathleen Gallo
Tom & Elaine Gerry
John & Louise Greene
Jim Kelly
Mary & Paul Lothrop
Barbara A. Madson
Nancy L. Malcolm
John & Linda McPhee
Annie Peterson
Ronald Plock & Paula Nickerson-Plock
Nancy B. Poeser
Janice & Peter Ronalter
Margaret A. Rose
Melissa A. Sanderson
Elyse & Colin Stevenson
Joseph David Zahlebiak
John & Maxine Zurtarian
In Memory of Jean Beckert
Ann Beckert
In Memory of Ed & Loretta Bown
Barbara Bown & Bruce Brown
In Memory of Henry Bracchi
Jean Bracchi
In Memory of Eddy Brown
E.W. Brown
In Memory of Mary E. Brown & Eddy Brown
E.W. Brown
In Memory of Rella S. Bryer
Rella S. Bryer Trust
In Memory of Arthur H. Caboon
Sherrie Caboon
In Memory of Harry A. Cassel
Jane MacAlee
In Memory of Doug Cole
Richard & Carolyn Cole
Rosemary T. Cline
Virginia Conefrey
Bunny Bar Crowley
Louise Curtice
Alison & Bertrand Czuchra
Cate DeGraw
Carolyn Delahanty
Robert & Barbara Doughty
Thomas Dunn
Sharon Elsworth
Bud & Betsy Ferris
Christine Fitzsimmons
Gail Gates
Mary Ellen Glover
Meryl Heller
Pat & Rebecca Judge
Doris Kelley
Katherine Kelly
On behalf of LIM College
Barbara Lockhart
Meg Lord
Stephanie Lut
Staff of the L. C. MacArthur Elementary School
Louis & Susan Malikow
Phyllis & Patrick McGrath
Margaret Neff
The O’Dell Family
Kim O’Dell
Suzanne & Alan Peterson
Denise & Rod Pendleton
Susan Peterson
Arthur Podaras
R. Terence & Anne Marie Russell
Anne Seeley
Janice & Walter Tipton
Harvey & Sally Tracy
Katherine Udall
Mark Waskielewicz
Tracy Waskielewicz
Jennifer Weidken
Ken Wolford
Michael Wynsen
In Memory of Elisabeth & Lawrence Damon
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence B. Damon Jr.
In Memory of Margaret & Frederick Davis
Bonnie & Ross Hall
In Memory of Bernard Dickson
Linda Flaherty, Lucy & Roberta Tutunjian
Hurdle & Fred Parker
In Memory of Rev. Harlow Tuttle Doolber
Pauline M. Doolber
In Memory of Philip S. Eagan
Mary M. Eagan
In Memory of Carolyn M. Field
Fred-Munro Ferguson
In Memory of Janet Brett Griffin
Michael & Rebecca Lach
Nancy Viall Shoemaker
In Memory of Edward W. Brown
William & Anna Brown II
In Memory of Emily Eagan
Mary E. Eagan
In Memory of Rella S. Bryer
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Rella S. Bryer Trust
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Sherrie Caboon
In Memory of Harry A. Cassel
Jane MacAlee

Second Home and Land donated to HCT

Thanks to Bill and Judy Shinkwin of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, who gifted their second home in Harwich to HCT, we’ve protected upland habitat for wild turkeys and other wildlife species while diversifying support for our land-saving work. The property harbors a grove of holly trees next to a wooded half-acre that the Shinkwins donated a few years ago. HCT plans to lease the home in order to raise more funds.

Donating a property with an existing home is a creative way to generate significant funds for HCT. Donors can benefit from federal income tax deductions and no longer have to worry about liability, home insurance, or other costs. If you are looking for a home for your house, please let us know by calling Exec. Dir. Mike Lach at 508-432-3997 or emailing hct@cape.com.

Events/Programs

LIVE Birds of Prey

Thursday, July 12th
3:00, 5:00, or 7:00 pm show

Admission prices: $15/ages 12 to adult
$5/ages 5-11 (not recommended for under age five)

Reserve on-line at www.HarwichConservationTrust.org
or in advance by check payable to Harwich Conservation Trust
Mail to P.O.Box 101, So. Harwich, MA 02641

See raptors such as Peregrine Falcon, Golden Eagle, Great Horned Owl, Turkey Vulture & more

Shows will be held in the gym of the Harwich Community Center at 100 Oak Street
Herring Herring Count

Historically, the Herring River and its headwater ponds comprised one of the most significant herring spawning grounds in the state. However, owing to a precipitous decline statewide, a six-year moratorium on the taking, possession, and sale of herring is in place. Fishery experts need field observations by volunteer counters or “citizen scientists” to gauge herring health and plan a comeback for this keystone species.

Volunteer herring counters are about to begin their fourth season watching for herring that swim and sprint up the Herring River into Hinckley’s Pond and beyond to spawn. Here are the Herring River count estimates for the last three years: 19,336 fish in 2009; 41,254 fish in 2010; 10,466 fish in 2011.

HCT continues to partner with the Association to Preserve Cape Cod, Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen’s Association, and the Town of Harwich Department of Natural Resources to coordinate the project.

Where were the fish in 2011? The spring weather was persistently cool during the 2011 run season, which may have impacted the count, or the herring decline continues unabated in the ocean or both causes compound additional impacts. Unsustainable fishing has decimated herring and land development has damaged spawning areas. The fish are resilient if habitat is protected and their life cycle is sustainably safeguarded. There is still much to be learned about estimated herring populations derived from our annual volunteer herring counts.

How does it work? Volunteers visit a specific location at regular intervals for as little as 10 minutes per day to watch how many herring pass a certain point. With the information that is collected, the state documents the relative number of herring to better evaluate population health, and hopefully recover the fishery. If you are interested in joining the Herring Count, please contact Ryan Mann (email: hctryan@cape.com, ph: 508-432-3997). With your help, we can restore the Herring River’s namesake species.
You may have heard us talk about land-saving benefits, but this time is different. Join us for a free informational seminar at 10 am on Saturday, April 21st to learn about a new state income tax credit (up to $50,000!) that can result when preserving eligible land with your local land trust.

In summary, eligible landowners could have their state income tax wiped out for the year. The state will issue a check for the difference between this year’s tax and $50,000 or 50 percent of the appraised value, whichever is less. You do not need to reside in Massachusetts or even pay taxes here, as long as you own the land and the land qualifies, you qualify.

Seminar: April 21st

Land Protection

FREE INFORMATIONAL SEMINAR on the new state income tax credit

WHEN
Saturday, April 21 at 10 am

WHERE
Harwich Community Center
100 Oak Street, Harwich Center

RSVP
EMAIL: hct@cape.com
PHONE: 508-432-3997

Owls Amaze and Inspire

Once again, Marcia and Mark Wilson amazed all ages with their live owl program, “Eyes on Owls,” on March 3rd in the Harwich Community Center. From the local, pint-sized saw-whet owl to the majestic Eurasian eagle owl (largest owl species in the world) and all owl sizes in between, the raptors kept a close watch on the wide-eyed people snapping photos. Great-horned, snowy, screech, barred, and the South American spectacled owl were also introduced in close encounter fashion.

The owls have permanent disabilities and cannot be released into the wild. The Wilsons hold state and federal permits to offer these one-of-a-kind educational programs.


Land Project on Hold

In HCT’s last newsletter, we featured a story about the potential for the Town to purchase a key parcel connecting Bell’s Neck Conservation Lands with the Cape Cod Rail Trail bike path, if an agreement could be reached with the parcel’s owners. The land within the Herring River Watershed fronts an estimated 800 feet on the West Reservoir. Unfortunately, at this time despite a good faith effort by the Town and the owners, a purchase agreement could not be reached. HCT has been corresponding with the owners for more than 12 years and will continue to keep the door open for future discussion.
State Selects HCT’s Cold Brook Project as a Top Priority

In the heart of Harwich Port, Cold Brook runs through HCT’s 66-acre Bank St. Bogs Nature Preserve before reaching Saquatucket Harbor on Nantucket Sound. A series of old flumes affect the stream’s natural flow and the movement of aquatic animals. Ecological restoration of the stream and surrounding habitat has been a top stewardship priority for HCT.

Recently, HCT received good news from the Commonwealth’s Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) when the state agency designated Cold Brook as a top ecological restoration priority. Over the past few years, a grant to HCT from the federal Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program managed in Barnstable County by Don Liptack and another grant from the Commonwealth’s Coastal Zone Management agency provided funding to conduct preliminary planning for stream restoration as well as selectively improve wildlife habitat. HCT is now working with DER’s Jeremy Bell, Franz Ingelfinger, and their colleagues to take the next steps.

Old flumes like this one will be removed or replaced when restoration is completed.

The state’s priority designation for the Cold Brook Project underscores the importance of the growing public-private partnership to preserve the area’s biodiversity. The Division of Ecological Restoration will provide technical expertise to help plan, design, obtain permits for and implement ecological restoration that can enhance water flow and wildlife habitat as well as walking access around the Preserve. Stay tuned as we explore a range of restoration possibilities over the next year.

A great diversity of wildlife including unusual creatures such as this pink katydid, shown at right, live in the Bank Street Bogs Nature Preserve.

Thank You, Volunteers

Volunteers truly make our conservation world go round. In 2005, HCT formally launched a coordinated volunteer program and has been tracking results. Since then, more than 1,000 people have donated their time and energy to trim trails, find vernal pools, monitor protected lands, mark boundaries, lead walks, present talks, organize the office, assemble mailings, document wildlife (eels, herring, songbirds), run fundraising events, fix computers and so much more.

The countless hours that create tangible results also result in a tremendous cost-savings. In fact, we are on track to reach an amazing milestone in 2012. Thanks to continued volunteer investment in our land protection, stewardship, citizen science and office projects, the total estimated dollar value of their combined contributions by the end of 2012 will reach $1,000,000 (that’s right, $1 million!).

Without the hard work of our many volunteers, much of the successes we have achieved over the past six years would not have happened. Their work is, in fact, invaluable. We thank all who have given and continue to give their precious time.

Exercise and learn from walk leaders such as botanist Rich Eldred.

HCT volunteers are worth a million in 2012

Mark McGrath