

Protecting Pond Health

Help Preserve Watershed Lands



Town staff works to conserve natural resources, page 10

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Thanks to you, we're making great progress...

Together in the spring with your generous help, we started on the journey to save the 85-acre Six Ponds Great Woods. The goal is to raise \$3 million by December 31st to preserve the largest remaining undeveloped landscape left on the Lower Cape.

Adjoining land could connect 400 acres

The forested land with wetland hollows is in the Six Ponds Special District of Harwich at the end of Spruce Road which parallels Route 6 between exits 82 and 85 (formerly exits 10 and 11).

The property's old carpaths and walking trails connect to neighboring Town Conservation Land that ultimately links to more than 236 acres of Hawksnest State Park. Saving the Great Woods could result in an overall 400-acre conservation assemblage because of adjoining Town, State, and other HCT protected lands.

Projects like these are made possible through partnerships, including with the landowner. The Copelas family could have developed the land or sold to the highest bidder. They recognized that this is a chance for the community to keep the Great Woods forever wild. If not preserved, the land could become a 19-lot subdivision.

Town Boards & Voters Rally for the Great Woods

Last fall the Town of Harwich Real Estate & Open Space Committee submitted a \$950,000 Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding request to the Select Board and Community Preservation Committee. Both boards voted in favor, so the \$950,000 CPA funding request went before Town Meeting voters back in May.

CPA funds are derived from a 3% surcharge on property tax. Voter directed use of CPA funds for open space, recreation, housing, and historic preservation doesn't compete with other town budget needs like schools, roadway maintenance, emergency response or other Town services.

May Town Meeting voters unanimously approved the \$950,000 CPA funding contribution.

Fundraising Gains Momentum

Town Meeting support energized the land-saving campaign. HCT members began donating in a range of amounts from \$25 to \$2,500. The growing momentum sparked interest by an anonymous foundation that pledged \$500,000. The Peter & Ann Lambertus Family Foundation generously donated \$500,000 as well.

At a summer fundraising event on Strong Island hosted by Christy and Jay Cashman, the Green family of Harwich pledged a \$250,000 challenge that guests enthusiastically matched with another \$250,000, bringing the night's total to \$500,000.

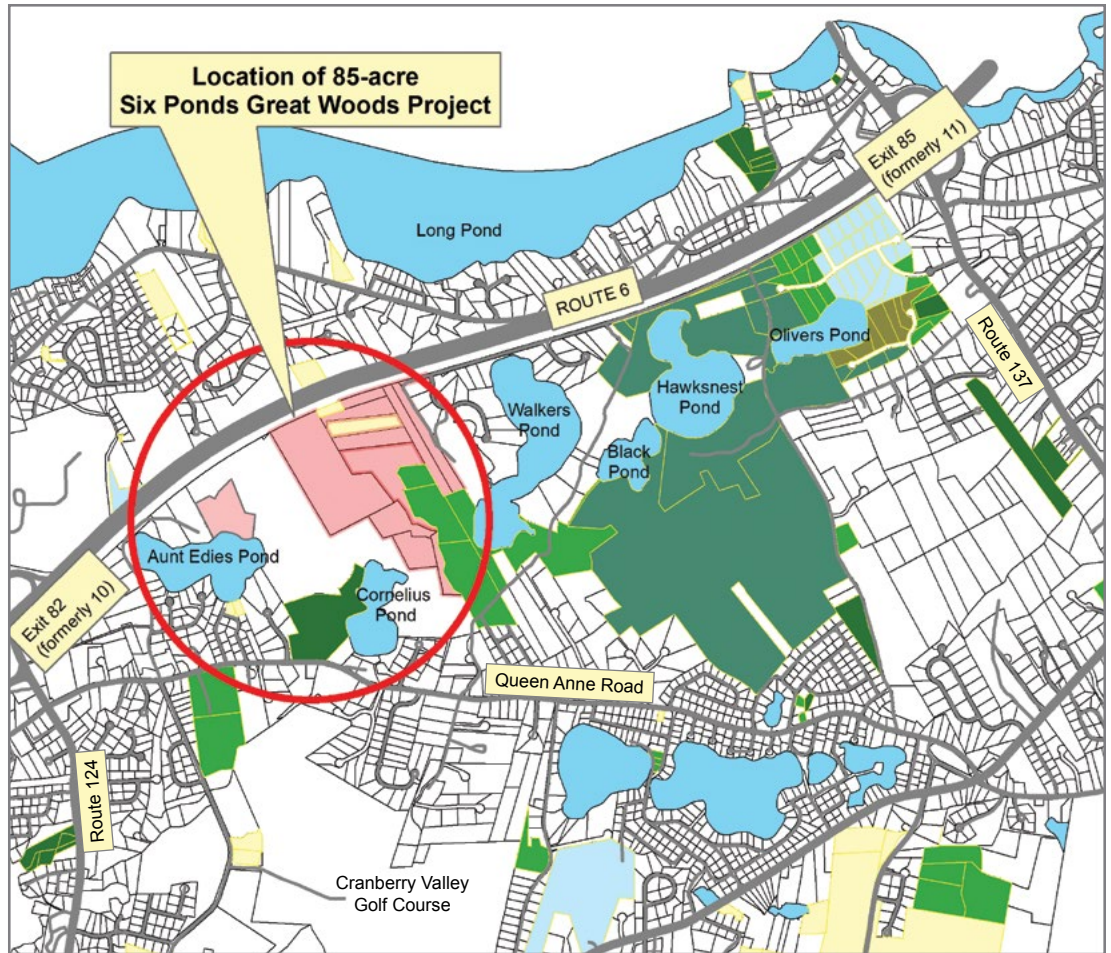
We have \$500,000 left to raise. Preserving the land will protect ponds, wildlife, and a new walking trail experience. Let's be bold, let's raise the funds to buy this land, and let's make a local, lasting difference.



LEGEND

Land Ownership

- MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
- MA Dept of Environmental Management
- Harwich Conservation Trust
- Town of Harwich-CONSERVATION
- Town of Harwich-SELECTMEN
- Town of Harwich-WATER DEPT
- Shaded circled parcels = 85 acres



Red Fox by Sarah E. Devlin

HELP US SAVE THIS LAND

Donations of any amount will add up to make a big difference by preserving the largest remaining landscape left on the Lower Cape.

We welcome your donation to the 85-acre Six Ponds Great Woods Project. Together, we can save this land for all to enjoy, for all time. Please spread the word if you know anyone who loves the outdoors and would be excited to support this land-saving endeavor.

Visit www.harwichconservationtrust.org to donate by credit card. Or, with the enclosed envelope, write a check payable to **Harwich Conservation Trust** and mail to: HCT, P.O. Box 101, South Harwich, MA 02661. In the check memo, write: Great Woods Project.



Bird's eye view of the Great Woods. Aunt Edies Pond is to the left. For perspective, please see map above.

HISTORY OF HAWKSNEST STATE PARK

A Wilderness in East Harwich

The 236-acre Hawksnest State Park serves a critical role in protecting sensitive resources including rare habitats. It's a little-known jewel tucked in a corner of East Harwich.

More than 50 years ago, however, there were different plans for Hawksnest State Park. The state Department of Natural Resources' initial design called for a two-phase approach for acquisition of land and the addition of a campground.

Campground was in the works

The first phase included the acquisition of 218 acres and proposed the creation of 163 campsites, a recreation hall, parking lots and two beaches on Hawksnest Pond. The second phase would have added 482 acres with construction of 406 campsites, a 120-vehicle parking lot, picnic sites, and a beach that could accommodate 500 people.

Even though a 1970 state report tied Hawksnest to a "critical need for additional public camping facilities on the Cape," the development plans and second phase of land acquisition never came to fruition. Instead, the park is "the core of a broad, multi-partner conservation landscape that protects globally rare

coastal plain pond shores and other natural resources," the state's description of the park reads. "Hawksnest's most prominent features are its ponds, all of which

are located in the northern half of the park. Its wetlands are associated with Black and Olivers Ponds." The nearly 30-acre Hawksnest Pond sits in the middle of the property. There are also numerous walking trails throughout the park.

Hawksnest State Park is considered a satellite of Nickerson State Park in Brewster, which consists of 1,967 acres and was the Commonwealth's first state park, named for

Roland Nickerson, Jr., whose wife Addie donated a portion of the family estate in 1934 for the creation of a state forest park. The park became an ideal campground and freshwater fishing location with more than 400 campsites, cabins, and yurts.

The state parks have certainly served to help manage growth in sensitive resource areas where kettle ponds abound, such as the three in Hawksnest.

Today, there is an ongoing effort to protect the natural resources of the area. Efforts are underway to expand conservation holdings to benefit wildlife habitat and the ponds while providing trails to access the wilderness.

Looking further back

A historical assessment of the area indicates its sandy soil drew no substantial agricultural interest. Through the 18th and 19th centuries the area was used to grow trees for

firewood, hunting, and for growing cranberries. The ponds were a popular duck hunting location and there are a few remnants of old camps, such as an old chimney, still visible today.



There is one confirmed historic landscape, Hawksnest Cemetery, also known as End of the Pond Cemetery, containing seven grave markers dating between 1825 and 1870. The markers are for members of the Eldredge, Dunham and Cahoon families. According to the state profile of the park, additional graves lacking markers are likely to be present.

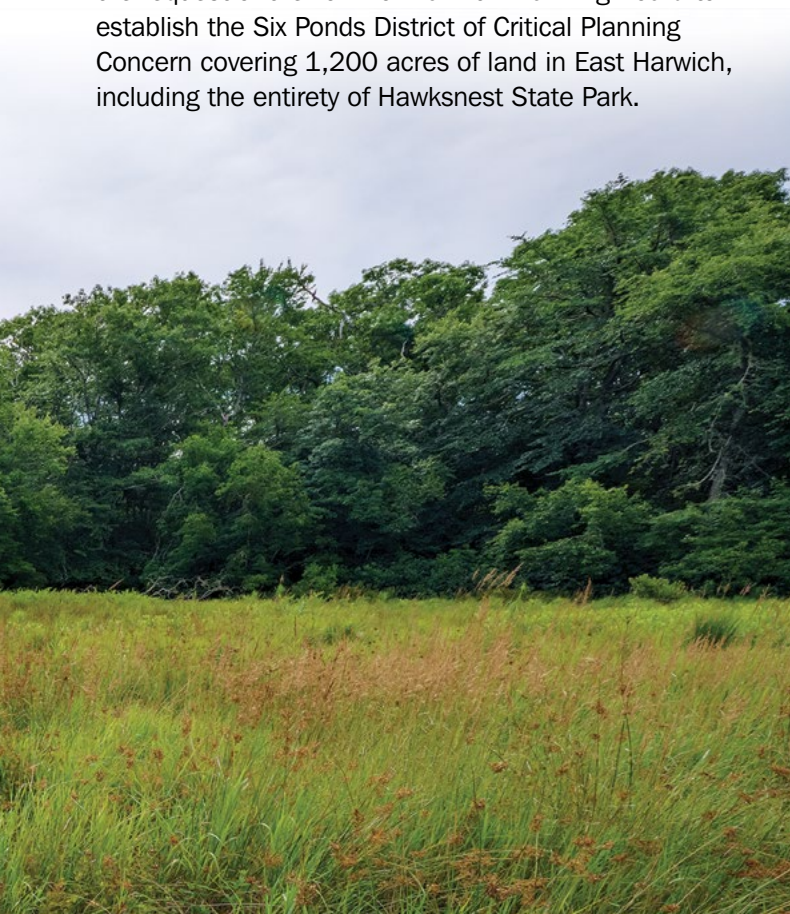
In the mid-20th century, the Thompson and Bell families, who had purchased a number of undeveloped parcels and old duck hunting camps around the ponds, approached the state with an interest in establishing a state park to protect the natural integrity of the ponds.

“My family owned over 200 acres bordering the pond, and sold it to the state, along with the Bell family,” David H. Thompson said.

It took several decades for the park to reach its current configuration. Planning began in 1968, with the major land acquisitions occurring in 1971. Several smaller parcels were acquired between 1981 and 1991, with a final 4.3-acre parcel adjacent to the Olivers Pond Natural Heritage Area added in 2003.

Recognizing the Area’s Sensitivity

In May 2000, the Cape Cod Commission approved the request of the Town of Harwich Planning Board to establish the Six Ponds District of Critical Planning Concern covering 1,200 acres of land in East Harwich, including the entirety of Hawksnest State Park.



With decoy “eye spots” on the back of its wings to confuse potential predators, a common buckeye butterfly (*Junonia coenia*) rests on goldenrod.

The Town established zoning requiring lot sizes for development to be 100,000 square feet (2.5 acres) and 60,000 square feet (1.5 acres) in two zones established within the Six Ponds Special District.

Today, there is an ongoing effort to protect the natural resources of the area. Efforts are underway to expand conservation holdings to benefit wildlife habitat and the ponds while providing trails to access the wilderness.

– Continues on page 6



[Above] Indian Pipe or ghost plant (*Monotropa uniflora*) is not a fungus, but indeed a perennial plant that doesn’t depend on photosynthesis for survival like the green leafy plants of woods and yards. It actually grows off nutrients from decaying leaves and stumps in dark, shady, cool settings.

[Left] Wetland hollows are ringed by forested upland on the Great Woods property.



“If folks support the Six Ponds Great Woods project, then together we can create a conservation assemblage of more than 400 acres that includes an east-west trail connection to Hawksnest, wandering through sun-dappled forest, past wetland hollows and scenic pond views.”

– Michael Lach

Continued from page 5 –

The Harwich Conservation Trust (HCT) is in the midst of a major fundraising campaign to purchase 75 acres in the Six Ponds Special District that would link to Hawksnest and Town open space. The Town of Harwich is participating in the acquisition, with May Town Meeting voters having approved \$950,000 to purchase a conservation restriction on those lands.

HCT is looking to raise \$3 million to complete the purchase from the Copelas family, who will donate an additional 10 acres to HCT.

“Protected places like Hawksnest State Park and its cousin Nickerson State Park are conservation gems, given the development over the decades that has encroached on all sides of Hawksnest,” HCT Executive Director Michael Lach said. “It’s been vitally important to protect adjacent watershed lands and create wildlife corridors as well as maintain walking trail connections wherever possible.”

“If folks support the Six Ponds Great Woods project, then together we can create a conservation assemblage of more than 400 acres that includes an east-west trail connection to Hawksnest, wandering through sun-dappled forest, past wetland hollows and scenic pond views,” said Lach.

Striving to Protect Ponds

Thompson also sees the need to protect these sensitive resources.

“Because the soil of the Cape is so sandy and porous, an undisturbed pond has no stormwater runoff flowing into the pond. The only way water gets in is rain on the pond’s surface and groundwater flow,” Thompson wrote in an email. “But when erosion starts from heavy foot traffic or vehicles, then a gully can form allowing stormwater to get into the lake. It’s like an intermittent stream, carrying muddy, nutrient-laden water to the lake. Once the gully forms, it’s very difficult to stop and would take a lot of labor and dollars to fill.”

According to a report presented in 2010 by New England Environmental, Inc., improvements have been proposed for canoe and kayak launches that would eliminate runoff from the road to Hawksnest Pond and create a small gravel lot with five spaces. The improvements have not yet been funded by the State.

The dirt roads and pathways leading into the state park, and to the several ponds in the Six Ponds Special District, are rugged, challenging vehicular access, and helping to retain a sense of wilderness in East Harwich.

Story by Bill Galvin, *The Cape Cod Chronicle*

Photographs by Hardie Truesdale





Ivory white water lillies bloom on a lily pad patch of Black Pond.

[Below left] Black Pond hosts dragonflies and damselflies.

[Left] Iridescent blue-green feathers adorn a tree swallow perched by a pond.



Steve Furlong

UPDATE

3.3-Acre Robbins Pond Project

In August 2021, Scott Trask, long-time owner of a high 3.3-acre forested bluff overlooking Robbins Pond, chose a conservation future by reaching out to Harwich Conservation Trust (HCT) to inquire about selling his land.

Mr. Trask preferred to close soon, but HCT needed time to prepare grant applications and share the land-saving opportunity with donors.

HCT asked its nonprofit partner The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts to temporarily buy and hold the property. By acting as a buy-and-hold agent, The Compact met Mr. Trask's timeframe while giving HCT room to breathe in search of funds.

Conservation grants have been received from the Cape Cod Five Foundation, Fields Pond Foundation, and the State of Massachusetts as well as generous donations from many HCT supporters.

Please join us to raise the remaining \$175,000 needed to reach the \$350,000 goal by December 31st.

Your support of the Robbins Pond Project will:

- ✓ Protect the water quality of Robbins Pond since the land includes 660 feet of shoreline;
- ✓ Protect the public drinking water supply because the land is 100% within a wellfield recharge area;
- ✓ Protect the water quality of Herring River since the land is within the river's watershed;
- ✓ Protect wildlife habitat for a variety of wildlife relying on the land as well as pond shore for food, nest sites, and shelter;
- ✓ Protect a diversity (23 species!) of dragonflies and damselflies that depend on the fragile pond shore habitat and adjoining woodland, including the Variable Dancer damselfly (pictured above) and the especially rare Pine Barrens Blueth damselfly.



Blair Nikula



NEW LAND-SAVING OPPORTUNITY

Rallying to Protect Woods and Wildflowers of White Pond

Local fresh water ponds are like a necklace of vibrant sapphire jewels strung across our Cape Cod landscape. Woods rambling down to water punctuated by sweet pepper bush and other shrubs offer a palette of greens that paint the shoreline from early spring through autumn.

Even in winter, tall pitch pines offer clusters of canopy the color of jade amidst the dormant deciduous oaks. For a few weeks in the summer, but only along certain ponds where the habitat is just right, a splash of pink-purple blossoms sway in the breeze when rare Plymouth gentian wildflowers bloom.

Ponds at Risk from Too Much Development

White Pond in northwest Harwich right on the border with Dennis is a place where woods and wetland run along the water's edge offering a variety of wildlife and plants their preferred alchemy of moisture, sun, and soil.

Harwich Conservation Trust (HCT) has been focused intently on protecting the health of our local ponds and their adjoining habitats by preserving land within pond watersheds. Time is of the essence to save pond shore properties, since the water quality of these blue jewels is increasingly tarnished by nutrient loading from septic systems, lawns, and road run off.

In 2002, HCT launched its Priority Ponds Project to focus on preserving key parcels on ponds and within watersheds that could help protect pond health and wildlife habitat.

HCT has made great strides by protecting 149 acres with about 9,700 feet of shoreline across a dozen different ponds.

Recognizing the water quality issues of many Harwich ponds caused in part by phosphate laden septic system effluent, the Town has also been focusing on ways to protect these sensitive surface water resources.



"The Town of Harwich has been working diligently to develop a program to address wastewater management needs, protect drinking water sources, protect freshwater ponds, and restore valuable saltwater estuaries. Protection and restoration of these valuable water resources is extremely important to maintain the quality of life and economic well-being of the Town," states the Town's executive summary of the voter approved Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan.

New 'Gold Coast' of the Cape

"Our freshwater ponds have become the 21st Century 'gold coast' of Cape Cod, with the value of building lots approaching those that used to be reserved for saltwater-front homesites," said Mark Robinson, long-time Executive Director of The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Inc., a regional land trust service center that provides technical assistance to more than 30 land trusts in southeastern Massachusetts.



Plymouth gentian (*Sabatia kennedyana*) grows along the shore of White Pond.



Insectivorous thread-leaved sundews (*Drosera filiformis*) wait for insect prey to get stuck. The sundew is capable of photosynthesis, but derives most nutrients from digesting insects with a plant enzyme.

“Last year, we saw Brewster voters agree unanimously to pay \$6 million for 55 acres on Long Pond. It’s a credit to Harwich to still have several pond shores available for preservation, not all built out yet. I hope the community will rally around Harwich Conservation Trust to make it happen,” said Robinson.

One of the roles that Mark Robinson plays in the land preservation equation is to be a “pre-acquisition” agent for land trusts that need extra time to raise land purchase funds.

With its revolving land protection fund, The Compact can buy and hold a property for a period of time, thereby meeting a seller’s closing timeframe while allowing a land trust the breathing room to apply for grants and complete a capital campaign to pay for the purchase.

In the case of the White Pond property, the 1.37-acre parcel with 300 feet of

shoreline had been acquired at foreclosure by a bank and the land went up for auction this past summer.

On a hot, humid mid-July morning, ten curious bidders gathered on the land by an abandoned house. Soon the bidding surpassed \$400,000 and there were only two competitors left, Mark and a fellow on his cell phone relaying auction details to a business partner.

In the end, after some adrenaline inducing back and forth prompts (going once...going twice...sold!) from the auctioneer, Mark secured the winning bid of \$404,000.

The Compact agreed to hold the land until December 31st so HCT could raise funds to offset the purchase as well as to remove the deteriorating structure that’s within the pond buffer and restore the site’s natural qualities.

To Protect Ponds, Save Land

Combining land purchase with ecological restoration, HCT’s White Pond Project fundraising goal is \$500,000 of which half has been contributed by a generous donor. To give the campaign a boost, HCT with help from The Compact applied in July for a \$175,000 Conservation Partnership grant from the State. In mid-September, the State approved the grant, so that leaves \$75,000 left to raise.

“If folks can donate to help HCT succeed with the White Pond Project, then together we’ll save a critical 1.37-acre property with 300 feet

of shoreline. When we finish the fundraising effort, the town-wide Priority Ponds Project will surpass 150 protected acres with more than 10,000 feet of shoreline across 13 ponds, and that’s something everyone can be proud of,” said Michael Lach, HCT Executive Director.

White Pond is on the small side at 12 acres, but is a deep (20 feet at max. depth) cold water pond that has generally good water quality, owing to the lack of dense development upgradient primarily because of 450 acres protected to the north in Dennis and Brewster. Preserving the southerly 1.37-acre property in Harwich would help reinforce pond health, especially by protecting 300 feet of shoreline. Plymouth gentian (*Sabatia kennedyana*) is documented by the State as a rare wildflower that grows along White Pond, so this vulnerable species would also benefit.

HCT is juggling multiple pond-focused projects. The Robbins Pond Project seeks to raise \$350,000 by year-end to save 3.3 acres with 660 feet of shoreline (see update on page 7).

Meanwhile, HCT is leading the 85-acre Great Woods Project in the Six Ponds Special District with a goal to raise \$3 million, which if successful, would preserve the largest remaining forested tract left on the Lower Cape and help protect the health of Cornelius Pond, Aunt Edies Pond, and Walkers Pond.

Photos by Gerry Beetham and pond aerial by Steve Furlong

MAKE A SPLASH TO HELP PROTECT WHITE POND

We hope you can join the groundswell of support for the 1.37-acre White Pond Project. In August, to catapult us halfway to the \$500,000 goal, a generous anonymous donor contributed \$250,000. In September, the State of Massachusetts approved a grant for \$175,000.

As of this fall, there is \$75,000 left to raise by the end of the year.

Please visit www.harwichconservationtrust.org to donate by credit card. Or, with the enclosed envelope, write a check payable to Harwich Conservation Trust and mail to: HCT, P.O. Box 101, South Harwich, MA 02661

In the check memo, write: White Pond Project



**Fowler's toad
(*Anaxyrus fowleri*)**

Different Ways to Reach Common Goals:

Your Local Land Trust, Town Conservation Commission, Conservation Department, and Natural Resources Department

Discovering the Difference

How do I preserve my land? If there are wetlands nearby and I want to do landscaping, how should I proceed? Where does the Town recommend digging for clams and how do I get my shell fishing permit?

Each of these questions focuses on natural resources and you can find the answers from multiple entities in town. As your local land trust, HCT specializes in preserving land, taking care of it, and creating inspiring ways to explore the outdoors.

Nonprofit land trusts aren't affiliated with town government, but often work with town departments to preserve and manage conservation lands. When it comes to landowner work near wetlands we refer folks to the Town of Harwich Conservation Department and for fishery questions, we send people to the Town of Harwich Natural Resources Department.

How do you know which group to contact to have questions answered? To help guide you in understanding the common ground between your nonprofit land trust and town departments as well as their different roles in protecting land, water, and wildlife around us, read on.

What is a Town Conservation Commission?

Town Conservation Commissions have been around since the late 1950s when legislators recognized the growing need to protect natural resources at the town-wide level and passed the Massachusetts Conservation Commission Act. At the time Town Conservation Commissions were the official municipal agency charged



Heinz Proft, Amy Usowski, and Melyssa Millett

with protection of a community's natural resources.

The Conservation Commission is comprised of seven volunteers from within the town, with expertise and/or a keen interest in conservation related fields. In Harwich, they are appointed by the Select Board for a three-year term.

In the early days of Town Conservation Commissions, their role was focused on "promotion and development of natural resources...and protection of watershed resources." This included keeping an inventory of the municipality's natural resources and preparing relevant maps and plans, as well as acquiring, and managing open space.

These responsibilities expanded significantly in 1972 when Commissions were given the responsibility to administer the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. Under this state legislation, Town Conservation Commissions review applications and issue permits for work in and near wetlands, flood plains, banks, riverfronts, beaches, and surface waters. The Town Conservation Commissions hold public meetings for the review

of these applications and establish whether the proposed activities meet the criteria of the State Wetlands Protection Act and/or any Town Wetlands Protection Bylaw or Regulation.

Is there also a Town Conservation Department?

In Harwich, there is also a Town Conservation Department which is different than the Town Conservation Commission. The Town of Harwich Conservation Department is comprised of two staff: Conservation Administrator Amy Usowski and Assistant Town Conservation Agent Melyssa Millett. They support the project review work of the volunteer Town Conservation Commission.

The Town of Harwich Conservation Department is also responsible for managing roughly 1,000 acres of Town conservation land, including but not limited to the Bell's Neck Conservation Lands, Thompson's Field, Island Pond Conservation Lands, and the D. Isabel Smith Monomoy River Conservation Lands.

How about the Town Natural Resources Department?

The Town Natural Resources Department is staffed with a Natural Resource Officer who provides expertise and hands on help with the protection and enhancement of a town's natural resources including herring runs, eel migration, shellfish aquaculture and regulation enforcement, and wildlife habitat improvements on town-owned property.

Responsibilities of the Town Natural Resources Dept. often overlap with the Town Conservation Commission

related to enforcement of wetlands protection regulations under the guidance of the Town Conservation Department.

In Harwich, Heinz Proft is the Director of the Town Natural Resources Department and he is also the Town Natural Resource Officer. In addition to the Natural Resources Dept. activities mentioned above, Heinz oversees the water quality sampling of Harwich harbors, Herring River, and many freshwater ponds. When a pond experiences an algae bloom, Heinz will respond in conjunction with the Town Conservation Department and Town Health Department.

Land Trusts

Land trusts by contrast are nonprofit organizations, rather than town entities. The land trust movement was born out of the need to supplement town and state government natural resource protection in the face of escalating land loss due to over development that impacts water quality, wildlife habitat, and community character. Typically, a land trust's mission is to permanently preserve land for the protection of natural

resources such as woods, water, wildlife and open space for low-impact, recreation, sometimes referred to as passive recreation. A good example is a walking trail.

Land trusts achieve these goals by receiving land donations, holding conservation restrictions on properties, and purchasing land. Many land trusts are also able to offer outdoor educational opportunities to land trust members and to the general public through guided walks and events.

Land trusts are often all volunteer while some are run by a combination of volunteer and staff. Land trusts can be funded through member donations, bequest through a person's will, grants, and educational programs.

Many land trusts, like the Harwich Conservation Trust, operate within a town boundary to bring tangible, visible community benefits through preservation of land that saves scenic views, creates hiking trails, protects wildlife habitat, and enhances the health of water resources.

Your enduring land trust support makes a lasting, local difference.

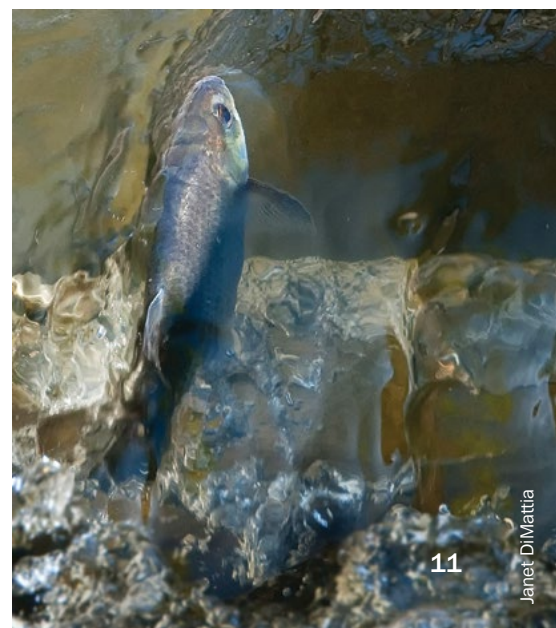
In March, the Town, HCT, AmeriCorps, and volunteers work together to make sure herring have a clear path to swim upstream.



Janet DiMattia



Halley Steinmetz



Janet DiMattia

HCT Honors Conservationists and Volunteer of the Year

The Harwich Conservation Trust honored Ann and Peter Lambertus as the 2022 Conservationists of the Year at the Trust's Annual Meeting hosted by the Wequassett Resort on Aug. 22nd. Featured speaker Rich Delaney, Executive Director of the Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative, discussed local and global efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

The Woods by the Pond

"It seems that for many of us there was a patch of undeveloped land where we'd play and romp when we were young," Ann Lambertus said during the HCT Conservationists of the Year presentation. "Maybe it was a riverbank, or hillside, or forest. For me it was a wooded area behind our neighborhood that was simply referred to as 'The Woods by the Pond.' We thought it was our woods, and one day they sold the woods, and soon after it was no longer there."

Most people have memories of special places that have been lost, she said. Lambertus praised the vibrancy of HCT and its ability to protect land and manage properties with responsible stewardship, restoring wetlands and waterways and restoring land to native vegetation and habitat.

Lambertus said her family has been coming to the Cape for 30 years, initially to Brewster and now Harwich, and they have enjoyed the local conservation areas in town. She spoke of walking with her daughter through the natural trails and the dirt cart path leading to ponds and watching the herring run in spring through the Bell's Neck conservation area.

"Peter and I feel that it's so important to preserve and protect these special places," she said. "And now undertaking some charitable work at this stage in life, we find that these land-saving projects have the most enduring value of anything we can support. Not just for those of us here and now, but for wildlife habitat, for air and water quality, for the environment on Cape Cod, and for tomorrow's kids, their



Gerry Beetham

kids and grandchildren, so that they will always have 'The Woods by the Pond,' or the riverbank, or the hillside that they remember."

"We are grateful for Ann and Peter's philanthropy in helping so significantly with important land-saving projects, including the current effort to save the Great Woods in the Six Ponds Special District," said Michael Lach.



Karen Beetham

Photographer Connects People to Land, Water & Wildlife

Gerry Beetham was honored as the 2022 HCT Volunteer of the Year for his outstanding photography that captures the natural beauty of conservation land, wildlife sightings, and the joy of discovery experienced by HCT event attendees.

In addition, he and his wife Karen lead butterfly walks and volunteer at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History. The Association to Preserve Cape Cod works with Gerry to document cyanobacteria algae blooms in ponds. Gerry also spends time helping MassAudubon's Long Pasture Sanctuary.

Gerry joins over 100 HCT walks each year to photograph the experiences. He captures key moments including wildlife sightings, trail trimming, bench building, scenic views, and a variety of HCT events.

Gerry is among many dedicated volunteers who contribute countless hours of time and talent to the Harwich Conservation Trust's land stewardship, land preservation, and educational endeavors.

Thank you HCT volunteers for all you do!

NEW LAND-SAVING OPPORTUNITY

Herring River Marsh View Project

Help us preserve wildlife habitat & the scenic experience

The Harwich Conservation Trust (HCT) is looking to the community for help in raising \$425,000 toward the purchase of approximately 2.3 acres comprised of two lots that have a combined 448 feet of salt marsh shoreline within the Herring River estuary. This land-saving project can protect both important wildlife habitat and a scenic view enjoyed by visitors to HCT's existing wheelchair accessible boardwalk located on the opposite shore of the A. Janet DeFulvio Wildlife Sanctuary.

Acquisition of this land is a high priority given the following community benefits:

✓ **Protected Open Space**

Connectivity: The property abuts the Herring River salt marsh and 12+ acres of protected open space donated to HCT by the DeFulvio family in 1994 and named in honor of A. Janet DeFulvio.

✓ **Scenic View:** The land is located directly opposite HCT's wheelchair accessible boardwalk that was established in the year 2000 through a partnership with AmeriCorps. In 2006, AmeriCorps and HCT partnered to install an osprey nesting platform visible

from the boardwalk viewing deck and a nesting pair has occupied the site ever since.

✓ **Wildlife Habitat:** The property is mapped by the State of Massachusetts as BioMap2 Critical Natural Landscape that defines land supportive of long-term ecological processes and wide-ranging species.

✓ **River Herring & Water Quality:** The Herring River is the most significant alewife migration/spawning area on Cape Cod and perhaps even in New England with

seven miles of river flowing from four upstream spawning ponds to Nantucket Sound. Preserving the land will help extinguish septic system nutrient loading into the Herring River and therefore help protect the health of its namesake fish.

✓ **Coastal Resilience:** The property has been identified by the State as having high potential to support inland migration of salt marsh and other coastal habitats over the coming century.

JOIN YOUR FELLOW FANS OF THE HERRING RIVER

Help protect the water quality of the Herring River and save the panoramic marsh view with its woodland backdrop by supporting the 2.3-acre Herring River Marsh View Project.

Please visit www.harwichconservationtrust.org to donate by credit card. Or, with the enclosed envelope, write a check payable to Harwich Conservation Trust and mail to: HCT, P.O. Box 101, South Harwich, MA 02661. In the check memo, write: Herring River Marsh View Project.



Snowy egret by Sarah E. Devlin

Help us save this view so people of all physical abilities can continue to enjoy the scenic experience from a wheelchair accessible boardwalk at HCT's A. Janet DeFulvio Wildlife Sanctuary.

Donation Dedications...each and every donation represents a thoughtful

Gift Dedications from March 15, 2022 – September 22, 2022

Janet DiMattia



In Memory of

George & Lee Baldwin
Bruce & Beverly Nightingale

Tom Barker
Andrea Aldrovandi
Jean Barker
Kathleen Gallo

Eric Barnes
Jon McAlear

Captain Eric M. Barnes, USMC
Charles & Cheryl Barnes

Nancy Berlin
Allison & Rich Armstrong

Richard Boulanger
Anonymous

Mary Ellen Bowley
Kathleen McDowell

Jack Bradley
Nancy E. Bradley

Andy Briggs
Marcia Andrews

Eddy Brown
Edward Brown

David Brownville
Arthur & Barbara De Simone

Charles Buckley
Jane Buckley

Stephanie Burton
James & Diane Callahan

Daniel B. Carroll, Jr.
Dan & Mary Carroll

Marshall F. Chapman
Peter & Linda Cure

Caleb Childs
Jayne Thacher

Clover the Cat
K. Bret & Lisa Davis-Roberts

Ethan Coffey
Mary J & Michael Metzger

Ruth & Richard Connaughton
Margaret & Robert Klehm

Judd Corbett
Antonio & Shannon Corbett
Ursula K. Corbett

Katharine & Charles Corbett
Anne & Dick Simmons

Cousin Judy Small Corkum
Christopher & Nancy Sweeney

Robert Cotter
Sylvia Cotter

Dave Coupal
Margaret Coupal

John Craig
Carol Craig

Jacqueline Croce
Russell J Croce

Megan Meridith Daley
Beryl & Kevin Daley

Robert Damiano
Grace Damiano

**Mr. & Mrs.
Frederick E. Davis**
Ross D. & Bonnie M. Hall

Dr. Robert G. Dolan
Elizabeth Dolan

Carol Dolleris
Laurie & Neil Fleischman

Sherill A. Duggan
Dennis Duggan

Philip S. Eagan
Mary Eagan

Barbara J. Eldredge
Barry Eldredge

Linda Fall
Dave Crestin &
Beth Bierbower

Patricia Falla
Joanne Falla

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Gerry Beetham



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Web: harwichconservationtrust.org

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Phone: 508-432-3997

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

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