

Making Connections

85-Acre Six Ponds Great Woods Project

Join Us to Save the Largest Landscape left on the Lower Cape



**Plus: New Trail Opens at Hinckleys Pond –
Herring River Headwaters Preserve, page 7**

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PLEASE VOTE “YES” on Harwich Town Meeting Articles 34 & 37

WHEN: Town Meeting is on **Monday, May 2nd (7 p.m.)**

WHERE: Harwich Community Center at #100 Oak Street

Vote “YES” on Article 34

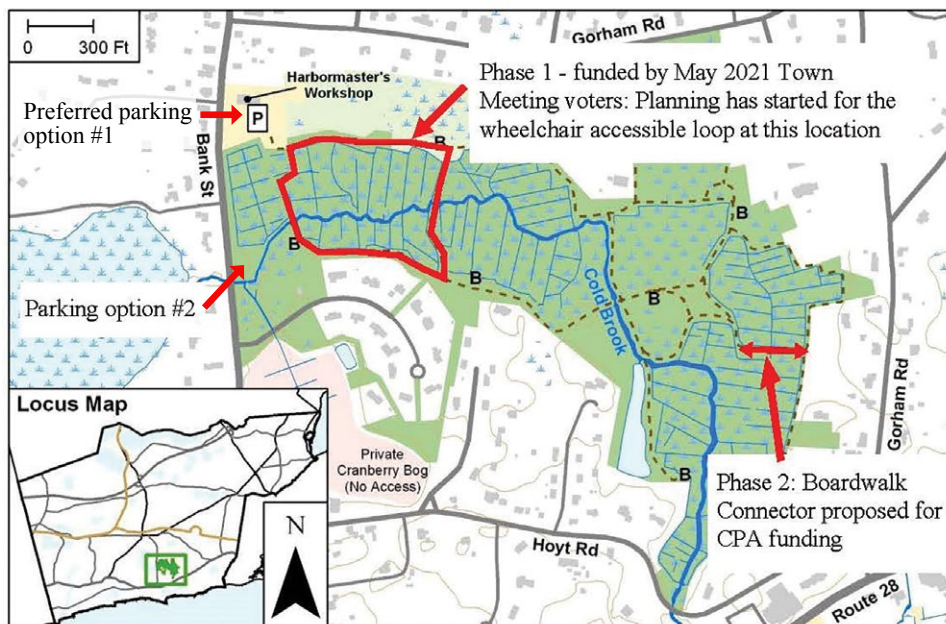
to authorize the Town to contribute \$75,000 in Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds toward the construction of an approximately 100 ft. Boardwalk Connector in the easterly portion of the popular Robert F. Smith Cold Brook Preserve in Harwich Port.

This second phase of the Harwich Natural Heritage Trail Project (Town Meeting voters contributed funds to Phase 1 last spring) will create a boardwalk for visitors to cross wetlands that will be restored as part of the Cold Brook Eco-Restoration Project.

Wildlife will be able to pass back and forth beneath the boardwalk.

Boardwalk visitors will be able to experience nature and scenic vistas in a 360 degree manner, while safely crossing Cold Brook.

This kind of immersive experience is unique and fosters wildlife viewing and educational opportunities about the



Map: Phase 1 & 2 of the Harwich Natural Heritage Trail Project.

restored habitats, plants and animals of the Preserve.

The Town Youth & Recreation Commission, Select Board, and Community Preservation Committee unanimously support this Town Meeting Article 34.



Inter-Fluve

Boardwalk that was created as part of an eco-restoration project in Falmouth.

Vote “YES” on Article 37

to authorize the Town to contribute \$950,000 in Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds toward the HCT acquisition of approximately 85 acres in the Six Ponds Special District to protect the health of ponds and wildlife habitat as well as provide walking trail connections to neighboring conservation lands.

Community Preservation Act funds are a dedicated source of funds that don't compete with funding for other important town budget items like schools, road work, fire and safety, or other town services. *Please see opposite page for more about the Six Ponds Great Woods Project.*

The Town Real Estate & Open Space Committee, Select Board, and Community Preservation Committee unanimously support this Town Meeting Article 37.



Gerry Beetham



SIX PONDS GREAT WOODS PROJECT

Quest for 85 Acres in the Six Ponds Special District

Join Us to Save the Largest Landscape on the Lower Cape

Where can you wander woodsy paths through rolling pine-oak forest, past wetland hollows and ponds all the way to Hawksnest State Park? A long distance hike coupled with such scenic diversity is rare on the Cape, but it can come true if we all band together to raise \$3 million for 85 acres by December 31st.

85 Acres and the Big Picture

Preserving a property of this size on its own would be worthwhile. The land-saving vision becomes even more clear and compelling when looking at the bigger conservation picture given the property's location next to more than 300 acres of protected lands.

This 85-acre mini-wilderness in the Six Ponds Special District of Harwich is the largest remaining undeveloped landscape left on the Lower Cape.

The land is located 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 adjoining Town Conservation Land that ultimately links to more than 240 acres of Hawksnest State Park.

Development Pressure Intensifies

"The pandemic has produced intense interest in grabbing a piece of Cape Cod, causing real estate prices to soar and development pressures to

accelerate. We are losing our large natural lands needed for drinking water protection, habitat for wildlife, and places for people to walk in the woods. I hope people will rally behind Harwich Conservation Trust's ambitious goal to save the Great Woods in the Six Ponds Special District," said Mark Robinson, Executive Director of The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Inc. (known as The Compact).

The Compact is a regional land trust service center that provides technical assistance to 30 land trusts across the Cape and southeastern Massachusetts. For over a year, HCT and The Compact have been in discussions with the landowner, the Copelas family.

"As seasonal Cape Cod residents for over three generations, our family shares the concerns of many regarding overdevelopment and the importance of ongoing conservation efforts. We are happy that the Harwich Conservation Trust is leading the effort to preserve in perpetuity this important tract of undeveloped land," said Peter A. Copelas.

Town Meeting Could Vote Yes for \$950,000

To give Harwich voters a chance at contributing to the land-saving effort, 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 unanimously in favor, so the \$950,000 CPA funding request will go before Town Meeting voters 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 services.

If May Town Meeting voters approve the \$950,000 contribution, then that leaves \$2,050,000 for HCT to raise and reach the total \$3 million goal by the end of the year.

– Continues on page 4



Janet Dimattia

Continued from page 3 –

“I’m 100% for this project. It’s so important to preserve this open space and network of trails forever,” said Mike MacAskill, Chair of the Town Select Board.

Power of Partnership

The power of partnership has always been essential to preserving priority lands. With rising real estate prices the funding puzzle is made of several key pieces including the dedicated donors of Harwich Conservation Trust (HCT), Town Meeting voters making their voices heard as one, State funding, businesses chipping in, and foundations lending a hand.

Together, we can reach the \$3 million goal. If not preserved, the land could be converted into a 19-lot subdivision.

“Saving the land will help protect ponds, wildlife habitats, and a new walking trail experience. We hope

voters at the May Town Meeting will turn out strongly in favor of a Town contribution. Let’s be bold, let’s raise the funds to buy this land, and let’s make a local, lasting difference,” said Michael Lach, HCT Executive Director.

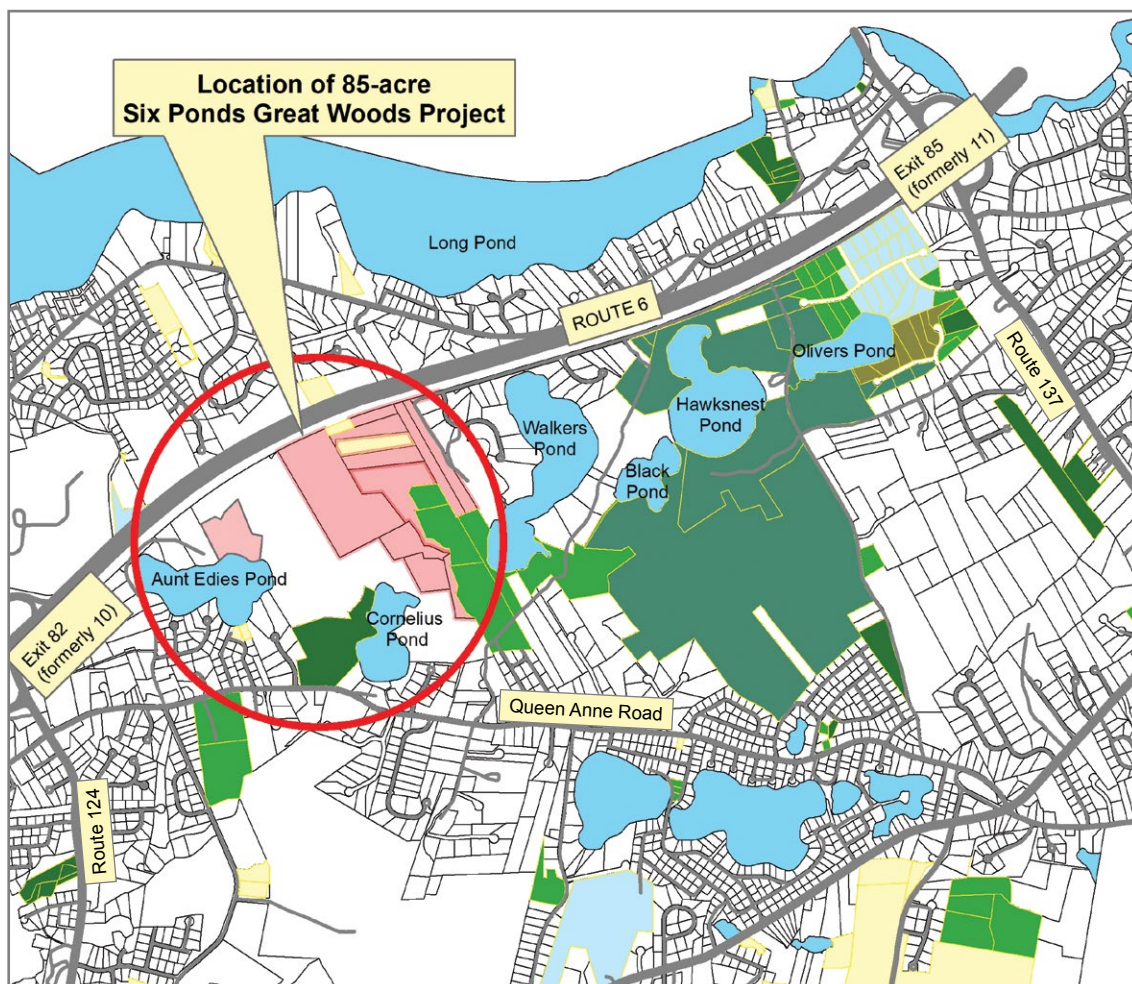
“Projects like these are made possible through collaboration, which includes the landowner. The Copelas family could have developed the land or sold to the highest bidder. They recognized that this is a chance for the community to keep the Great Woods forever wild,” said Lach.

“This is a big challenge, but one we cannot pass up. It’s the largest acreage that HCT has ever tried to save. There is so much at stake here from woodlands and water quality to habitat and footpaths. We can reach the \$3 million goal with everyone pitching in,” said Tom Evans, President of Harwich Conservation Trust.

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
- Town of Harwich-SELECTMEN



How Does this Project Benefit the Community?

The 85-acre Six Ponds Great Woods Project is environmentally significant because:

- ✓ The land is situated within the Six Ponds Special District, which was designated as an environmentally sensitive region two decades ago by both the Town and Barnstable County including goals:

“to protect the water quality of Aunt Edies, Cornelius, Walkers, Black, Olivers, and Hawksnest Ponds; to protect the District’s key natural resources including rare plant and wildlife habitat, wetlands and coastal plain pondshores, unfragmented forested areas, fisheries, and wildlife corridors; to maintain the scenic character of area roads and views of pondshores and woodlands.”

- ✓ The land is located within the watershed recharge area to Cornelius (aka Eldridge) Pond, Aunt Edies Pond, and Walkers Pond, three of the six ponds within the Six Ponds Special District. According to the Town of Harwich Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan, these ponds are suffering from impaired water quality. Therefore, preserving the 85 acres will help protect the ponds.

- ✓ The land is located within the watershed of the Herring River. According to the Town of Harwich Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan, the Herring River is suffering from impaired water quality.

- ✓ The land is contiguous with 56 acres of town-owned conservation land, which in turn, connects to approx. 240 acres of state-owned land including Hawksnest State Park. Next to this area are additional town and HCT-owned lands. If the 85 acres is preserved, then an approximately 400-acre assemblage would result that connects the half dozen ponds for which the Six Ponds Special District is named.

- ✓ The land offers ample walking trails beneath a canopy of pine-oak forest.

- ✓ The southerly portion of the land is within a Zone 2 Well-head Recharge Area for the Public Drinking Water Supply.

- ✓ The land includes state-designated BioMap 2 Core Habitat defined as:

“critical for the long-term persistence of rare species and other Species of Conservation Concern, as well as a wide diversity of natural communities and intact ecosystems across the Commonwealth.”



Bill Giokas

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 invite your donation to the 85-acre Six Ponds Great Woods Project.

Together, we can save this land for all to enjoy, for all time. If you know anyone who loves the outdoors and would be excited to support this land-saving endeavor, please spread the word about this opportunity.

Visit www.harwichconservationtrust.org to donate by credit card.

Or 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.



Steve Furlong

3.3-ACRE ROBBINS POND PROJECT

Help Preserve A Priority Pondfront Property

Local ponds hold a special place in our hearts across the Cape. They dapple the landscape like a necklace of blue sapphires. However, due to over development of watershed lands, ponds are suffering.

If we can raise \$350,000 with your help, we have an opportunity to preserve 3.3 acres with 660 feet of shoreline on Robbins Pond to protect water quality, wildlife habitat, and scenic views.

In 2004, a Cape-wide study called the *Priority Ponds Project* was completed by The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts. The analysis focused on finding the most important pondfront parcels in need of protection across the 15 towns of Barnstable County.

Among the discoveries was that Harwich had 10% of the total Cape-wide priority pond parcel acreage still remaining for either development or hopefully, conservation.

In the *Priority Ponds Project* study, the 3.3-acre property perched above Robbins Pond ranked as a high priority to preserve in order to protect water quality and wildlife habitat.

In 2021 Scott Trask, long-time owner of the high forested bluff overlooking the pond, reached out to Harwich Conservation Trust (HCT) and offered to sell his land.

Thanks to your land-saving support, HCT has been diligent and successful in saving more than 150 acres of critical pond watershed lands on a dozen different ponds. There are still priority parcels at risk including this 3.3-acre gem on Robbins Pond.

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 chorusing songbirds, keen raptors, curious red fox, wandering turkeys, quiet deer, shy turtles, and a host of other animals dependent on the land as well as pond shore for food, nest sites, and shelter.

MAKE A SPLASH TO HELP PROTECT ROBBINS POND

We hope you can help create a groundswell of support for the 3.3-acre Robbins Pond Project.

As of this spring, donors had contributed amounts ranging from \$25 to \$25,000 that now totals \$75,000. This leaves \$275,000 left to raise by December 31st.

Join us and make a fundraising splash by donating to this important land-saving project. Please visit www.harwichconservationtrust.org to donate by credit card. Or 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: Robbins Pond Project.



Red Fox by Sarah E. Devlin

New Trail Opens

Hinckleys Pond—Herring River Headwaters Preserve

Last fall, together we reached the \$800,000 land-saving goal for purchasing the 31-acre Hinckleys Pond—Herring River Headwaters property to protect the pond, river, and walking trails.

Scenic views are now forever protected for folks driving along Pleasant Lake Avenue and Headwaters Drive as well as traveling the bike path.

This winter, the Town of Harwich Highway Department established a parking area on Headwaters Drive. Robert B. Our Company donated the curb stops to define parking spaces.

HCT volunteers and staff built a timber framed trailhead kiosk that includes a trail map. Enjoy this new walking trail destination that you made possible with your HCT support!

Stay tuned for future updates about ecological restoration planning. We're working on scientific studies and mapping which will help determine how to re-wild the retired bog into thriving wetlands and enhance the visitor experience. **Find a trail map at www.harwichconservationtrust.org.**



Town Administrator Joe Powers, Hinckleys Pond Association President Deb Selkow, and HCT President Tom Evans officially open the new trail.

FROM GAS TO BATTERY POWERED OUTDOOR TOOLS Reducing Our Carbon Footprint on Local Lands and Trails

With priorities of land preservation, land stewardship, environmental education, and meaningful volunteer opportunities, it makes sense that Harwich Conservation Trust (HCT) would strive for sustainable ways to reduce fossil fuel use and follow more ecologically sensitive practices.

As a step on the path toward sustainability, we are excited to share that HCT has transitioned from gas fueled to battery powered outdoor equipment for managing the lands and trails under our care.

Gas fueled outdoor tools like chain-saws, brush cutters, trimmers, and mowers are sources of air pollution that along with car emissions cause global warming.

Because these two stroke engines release greater amounts of fine particulates and volatile organic compounds than four stroke engines used in vehicles, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has found that running a typical gas fueled outdoor power equipment engine for one hour can produce similar levels of pollution as driving 11 new cars for that same hour. These toxic emissions pose a risk to the health of our community and environment.

Another benefit will be a reduction in noise pollution since battery powered tools are much quieter than their gas-fueled equivalents. On HCT's wish list is to install solar panels that will then charge the batteries.

The protection of our woods, water, wildlife, and shared quality of life takes many forms including the adoption of "green" outdoor power equipment.

This shift to battery powered land management tools was made possible by Paul and Lynn Fox, owners of Harwich Paint & Decorating/Ace Hardware, EGO power tools, and HCT Trustee Colin Leonard. **We thank them for their shared vision and collaboration in partnership with HCT to promote a cleaner, greener, brighter future.**



Paul & Lynn Fox and Colin Leonard, Chair of the HCT Land Stewardship Committee.

WALKS FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNGSTERS AGED 2-5

Preschool Explorer Adventures

A perfect fit for families with youngsters aged 2-5 years, this is a wonderful way for parents, grandparents and caregivers of preschoolers to spend time outdoors discovering nature together!

Join naturalist Andrea Higgins to explore our beautiful conservation areas and celebrate the wonders of nature. The days are staying lighter longer, birds are singing, frogs are serenading, and flowers are pushing their way up through the warming Earth.

Discover and wonder, learn and ponder, create and question all while exploring the scenic conservation lands around us.



Discover a new conservation destination each week!

Each walk is \$10 per caregiver and \$5 per child.

Please reserve at www.harwichconservationtrust.org.

You will receive driving directions with your confirmation email.

May Preschool Explorers

Tuesday: May 3 (9-10:30 a.m.) Sand Pond Woodlands

Tuesday: May 10 (9-10:30 a.m.) Bell's Neck Herring Run

Tuesday: May 17 (9-10:30 a.m.) Coy's Brook Woodlands

Tuesday: May 24 (9-10:30 a.m.) Robert F. Smith Cold Brook Preserve

Tuesday: May 31 (9-10:30 a.m.) Cornelius Pond Woodlands

June Preschool Explorers

Tuesday: June 7 (9-10:30 a.m.) Muddy Creek Headwaters Preserve

Tuesday: June 14 (9-10:30 a.m.) Pleasant Bay Woodlands

Tuesday: June 21 (9-10:30 a.m.) Red River Beach

Tuesday: June 28 (9-10:30 a.m.) Cape Cod Lavender Farm

TUNE IN TO YOUR SENSES, TUNE IN TO YOURSELF

Guided Mindful Nature Walks

Join Kripalu Mindful Outdoor Guide Andrea Higgins for this unique opportunity to connect with self and nature while practicing mindfulness. Release stress, settle your awareness on nature's soothing atmosphere, and gain inspiration from the living Earth.

Spark your sense of wonder, slow down and admire all the beauty that surrounds us. Stroll scenic trails, feel the calming benefits of slowing down and being completely present among the bounty and the beauty of your local conservation lands.

The Kripalu Center in Stockbridge, Massachusetts focuses on enhancing health and personal well-being through teaching yoga, nutrition, mindfulness, and other supportive practices. Kripalu-trained Mindful Outdoor Guides like Andrea offer *"powerful nature-based experiences—combining forest bathing, Ayurveda, meditation, and practical outdoor skills—for people of all ages and backgrounds."*

Join Andrea for a mindful exploration of your senses surrounded by nature.

Each walk is \$20 per person.

Please reserve at www.harwichconservationtrust.org.

You will receive driving directions with your confirmation email.

Monday: May 2 (8-10 a.m.) Sand Pond Woodlands

Monday: May 9 (8-10 a.m.) Bell's Neck Herring Run

Monday: May 16 (8-10 a.m.) Coy's Brook Woodlands

Monday: May 23 (8-10 a.m.) Robert F. Smith Cold Brook Preserve

Monday: June 6 (8-10 a.m.) Muddy Creek Headwaters Preserve

Monday: June 13 (8-10 a.m.) Pleasant Bay Woodlands

Monday: June 27 (8-10 a.m.) Red River Beach

Saturday: July 2 (8-10 a.m.) Cape Cod Lavender Farm

ALL EXPERIENCE LEVELS WELCOME

Birding Walks

Join naturalist and author Peter Trull on birding walks to celebrate the vibrancy of spring bird sightings as well as the surprises of seeing summer shorebirds!

Spring Birding Walks in the Beech Forest of the National Seashore

Tuesdays: May 3, 10 & 17
(8-10 a.m.)

The spectacle and excitement of warbler migration, along with scarlet tanagers, vireos, grosbeaks, and flycatchers pouring through the newly budding trees of the Beech Forest in Provincetown is an experience all birders, from novice to expert anticipate each spring. You can be there to see it all!

Join Peter to find warblers and other colorful spring migrants, whirling, swirling and singing in the trees and thickets. Participants will observe and learn about all of the birds we find. See Spring migration in all of its avian beauty.

Spring Birding Walks in the Heart of Harwich Port

Thursdays: May 5, 12 & 19
(8-10 a.m.)

HCT's Robert F. Smith Cold Brook Preserve has wide walking trails with lots of opportunities to see our seasonal, avian visitors from the south as the breeding season begins.

Bird species of all kinds awaken with the longer days and warmer weather. Bluebirds, swallows, flycatchers, waterbirds and more depend on the mix of wetland, woodland, and stream habitats.

Listen to the many melodies of songbirds as they search for their mates and watch as they flutter through tree branches in search of nesting materials.

Summer Birding Walks on the Sound

Tuesday: July 19 (8-9:30 a.m.)
Thursday: July 28 (8-9:30 a.m.)

Tuesdays: August 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30
(8-9:30 a.m.)

Discover migratory and resident bird species of the shore, salt marsh, and Nantucket Sound with Peter Trull on summer mornings at Red River Beach in South Harwich.

Cape Cod is a migratory stopover for shorebirds like sandpipers, terns, plovers, and other species flying from the Arctic tundra to their southern wintering grounds. Year-round species also depend on our seaside habitats to find food and shelter. Learn field identification, adaptations, feeding habits, and natural history. Each excursion will likely feature different species as the summer progresses.

RESERVE YOUR EXPERIENCE + PROTECT MORE HABITAT



Gerry Beetham

About your walk leader Peter Trull

Peter has been involved in research and education for over 45 years. He holds a Master's Degree in Education and has written nine books about Cape Cod natural history. His most recent book *Birds of Paradox-The Life of Terns*, was released in spring 2019. His upcoming book, *Cape Cod—Once Around the Sun*, is a tribute to John Hay and his 1961 classic, *Nature's Year*.

Peter has devoted his life to studying and teaching others about birds and bird life. He welcomes folks of all birding experience levels to learn about the unique adaptations, life history and habits of each species you encounter.

Reserve your spring and summer birding experiences at harwichconservationtrust.org.

Each birding walk is \$20 per person. (Directions will be included with your confirmation email.)

Proceeds help HCT protect more wildlife habitat, including for all kinds of birds! We can't wait for you to join Peter and the exciting immersion into the world of birds. *Get excited, get sharp!*



Gerry Beetham



Gerry Beetham

Wayne Coulson Gives Land for the Benefit of All

“Buy land. They’re not making it anymore.” — Mark Twain

Mark Twain had a gift for getting to the heart of a matter. If he were here today, he’d heartily approve of Harwich resident Wayne Coulson, who followed Twain’s advice back in 1980 and purchased a tract of land along Gilbert Lane and Six Penny Lane in Harwich.

On Dec. 29, 2021, Coulson donated approximately 10 acres of the land to the Harwich Conservation Trust to be preserved forever in its natural state. He made the generous gift in honor of his parents, the late Arthur and Barbara Coulson.

Coulson, a Harwich cranberry farmer, originally intended to build a home for himself on top of a hill overlooking the property, a former bog which has matured over the quiet decades into a beautiful red maple wetland habitat.

As time went on, however, he chose instead to make his home on another hill, one overlooking his cranberry bog closer to Harwich Center.

Sanctuary for Wildlife

The land on Gilbert Lane that he donated will remain an undisturbed haven for deer, otters, wood ducks, frogs, turtles, birds, and the many other kinds of wildlife which call the place home.

Watching a bright male cardinal, a flash of red against the muted colors of the winter woodland, Coulson explained his reason for making such a thoughtful gift not only to HCT, but to the wildlife who rely on open spaces to survive, and to future generations of people who will be able to enjoy the sights and sounds of nature here.

“There’s got to be a balance of houses and open space. The pandemic tilted the scale. People came in and drove the prices up. I hope it will balance out. This

land is great deer habitat. It’s a wildlife corridor that runs between two subdivisions, and the wetland flows all the way to Coy’s Brook through the marsh,” said Coulson.

Otters and the Herring River Watershed

Coulson has seen telltale signs of otters in the main ditch going into Coy’s Brook in the form of otter slides in the snow. “You can see the footprints where they run to pick up speed and then they slide. They’re playful creatures,” Coulson said. “One day I saw nine deer, three big does with a pair of twins each.”

HCT Executive Director Michael Lach said the parcel is an important area within the Herring River watershed.

“This is a significant space to protect for wildlife to nest, shelter, and find food as well as to provide scenic roadside greenery for the public,” Lach said. “It’s important to save these watershed properties to help

protect estuaries like the Herring River. Wayne and I have been in talks for many years. He’s been a steward of this land for four decades, and he saw fit at the end of 2021 to make this generous gift in memory of his parents. Our hope is that he provides inspiration for others who might consider creating their own land conservation legacy.”

Coulson explained that the parcel of land once belonged to the Nickerson family, and it is part of the region between Gilbert Lane and Lothrop Avenue known locally as Nickerson Neck. The family split the original expanse into various parcels. The previous owners of the land had purchased it sometime in the 1940s. He first saw the land in 1950, at which time it was a cranberry bog which was no longer in production.

“It’s a wildlife corridor that runs between two subdivisions, and the wetland flows all the way to Coy’s Brook through the marsh.”

— Wayne Coulson



River otter by Gerald Corsi



Gerry Beetham

Wayne dedicated the land to his parents.

Inspired by his Parents

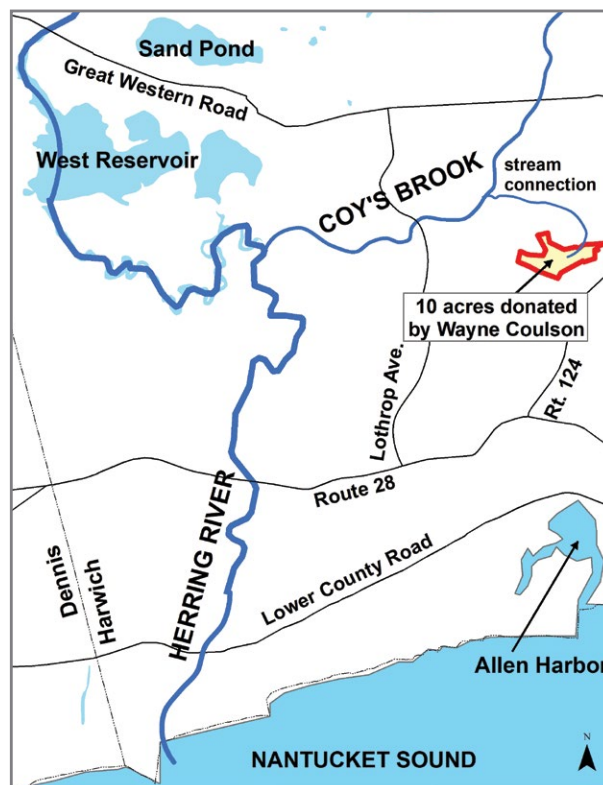
On the subject of what inspired him to donate the land in honor of his parents, Coulson simply said that they both grew up in the Harwich area, his mother Barbara in West Harwich and his father in a neighborhood known locally as Chicken Village. He is part of the extended Eldredge family, stretching back far enough that “Whether it’s with an ‘E’ or an ‘I’ doesn’t really matter.”

“My father was a hard worker,” Coulson said. “He was a working man. He mostly instilled that, and that the best thing to own on Cape Cod is land. Here on the Cape, people who had land had opportunities. He gave me the general encouragement that if you own property you have options. My parents were both children of the Depression— frugal and thrifty. They didn’t want their kids to struggle as much as they did. Mom taught us to save money. I put my five cents per week into the Cape Cod Five.”

Lach said there are no plans at this time to add walking trails, because the area is a wetland. A sign has been placed on the Gilbert Lane side of the parcel to honor Coulson’s parents.

“It’s important to recognize these kinds of dedications,” Lach added.

By Jennifer Sexton-Riley



Map: Wayne Coulson's land gift and the stream connection to Coy's Brook.

IF YOU OWN LAND, CONSIDER PRESERVING IT WITH HCT

Many acres of woods and wetland protected by HCT resulted from forward thinking folks making a conscious decision to donate property for permanent preservation.

If you own land and would like to see it preserved to protect its natural beauty forever, you can donate your property to HCT and enjoy tax benefits, too. The appraised value of the land at the time of the gift is deductible against up to 30% of adjusted gross income each year for up to six years.

To have a confidential conversation about the benefits of donating land, please call HCT’s Executive Director Michael Lach at 508-432-3997 or email mike@harwichconservationtrust.org.

And thank you for making a land-saving difference for all, for all time.



Red-winged blackbird by Gerry Beetham

Donation Dedications...each and every donation represents a thoughtful and generous contribution that helps to save special places.

Gift Dedications from October 6, 2021–April 4, 2022

In Memory of

Chris Anderson

Paul & Helen Maikath

The Babaian Family

Cynthia Babaian

Bill Baldwin

Emily Baldwin

Lee & George Baldwin

Sherill Baldwin &
Kimball Cartwright

Tom Barker

Harold & Jill Gabriel

Eric Barnes (USMC)

Jon McAlear

Margaret Barnes

Charles & Cheryl Barnes

Charlie Bascom

Ranger & Lisa Spencer

Forrest Bassett

Ann Washburn

Ray "Mr. B" Belanger

Peter & Janice Ronalter

Al Boragine

Clayton (Tony) Ryan, Jr.

Mary Ann Bowden

Bruce Bowden

The Bown Family

Richard & Mary Alexander

David Brownville

Art & Bonnie DeSimone

Joyce Bush

David Bush & Leslie Dossey

Richard T. Carroll

Susan M. Carroll

Harry A. Cassel

Mary Jane MacAfee

Patricia (Patty) Cavanaugh

Debra Bassett
Susan Peterson

The Charles Family

Eileen Bourke

Caleb Childs

Robert &
Virginia (Ginny) Doyle

Dr. Tina Clark

David Spring

Janet Clinch

Wayne & Barbara Eaton

Ingrid Clouther (Steve's Schaltz)

Steve Clouther

Doug Cole

Virginia M. Lucil

David Coleman

Jane & Colin Stevenson

Ruth & Richard Connaughton

Margaret & Robert Klehm

Jean P. Cooney

T.W. Cooney & Christy Laidlaw

Katharine & Charles Corbett

Anne & Dick Simmons

Judd J. Corbett

Ursula K. Corbett

Judy Corkum

Charles E. Corkum

Jack Craig

Anonymous

Sherry Dolan

Carole Porter

Rev. David & Pamela Purdy

Mark Wiezorkowski

Jacqueline Croce

Russell J. Croce

Megan M. Daley

Kevin & Beryl Daley

Robert Damiano

Grace Damiano

Edward & Adeline Davis

Carl & Deborah Sturgis

Mr. & Mrs. Frederick E. Davis

Ross & Bonnie Hall

Theo & Rica de Bakker

Peter & Ethel de Bakker

Claude Daigle

Cynthia Dimauro

Phil DeNegri

Patricia A. DeNegri

Irene & Donald Diverio

Joan Rider

Maria K. Dounelis-Bradley

Colin J. Kegler
Arthur Mahoney

Edward Walsh

John Doyle

David & Anne Simmons

Sherill A. Duggan

Dennis F. Duggan

Laura Dwyer

Henry & Donna Peterson

Philip S. Eagan

Mary M. Eagan

Peggy & Bub Eastman

Barbara Eastman

Dot Eddy

Andrea Silbert

Members of the

"Wine Between the Lines"

Book Club:

Marylou & Thomas Deehan

Ginnie & Robert Doyle

Donna & Steve Sutton

Mary Sliney

Robert S. Engel

Carolyn R. Engel

Stephen H. Erwin

Barbara A. Tomasian

Mary Farragher

Katherine Farragher

Mary Ruth Follas

John & Carroll Follas

Chester Foughty

Michael & Donna Foughty

Norman Foxman

Linda & Marc Lieberman

Steve & Trudy Sirkis

Dear Cape Cod Friends

Ursula E. Hornig

Richard Gassan

Sabine & Phillip Prather

Linda M. Gillen

James Gillen

Michael M. Glancy

Anonymous

Benjamin K. Goodspeed

Samuel & Suzanne Winsper

Eric Graebener

Philip & Elizabeth
Wittenstein

Our Grandparents

Jon & Sarah Idman

Christopher Green

Andrea Aldrovandi

Larry Arrington

Friends of Brooks Free Library

Barbara McMillan

Jeffery Polovina

Marian Rewcastle

Beverly Thatcher & family

Jane Guthrie

Ridgeport Owners Association

Warren F. Hall

Karen A. Hall

Eileen Harkin

(my newsdesk bestie)

Christy Laidlaw

David C. Henry

Bev. Mack & Bob Henry

Morgan Hudson

Jonathan & Karen Staab

Carroll Johnson

Susan Johnson &

Dave Andrews

Jack Joyce

Christina Joyce

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Ruth Laemmel, she loved

curling and canoeing

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The Boundry Quest Team**Dave Callaghan &
Clayton (Tony) Ryan**

Nancy Hipp

Sheila Brennan

Winfield Goodwin

Andy Briggs

Marcia Andrews

**Andy Briggs, the man who
helped me find my path
in the outdoors**

Thomas & Rebecca Richardson

**Barbara & Jake Brown
for their land donations
to HCT**

Rebecca J. Mendible

The Bourke Family

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Karen Curtis

Grace Damiano

David Damiano &

Barbara Tabak

Linda Fall

David Crestin &

Elizabeth Bierbower

Ruth Foxman

Norman Foxman

– Continues on page 14

In Honor of

Continued from page 13 –

Steve Gallik
Maggie Davis

Eleanor Gerson
Megan Rhodes

Our Children:
Bobby, Katie & Erin Gibson
Robert & Elizabeth Gibson

God and our Environment
John & Laurie Moore

Good Friends
Florence B. Lofberg

Joseph Gorecki
Cynthia Dimauro

My gratitude for HCT
Deborah Nelson Aylesworth

My Grandchildren
Patricia Donohoe

All HCT Staff efforts!
Rachel J. Kirchgessner

**HCT Family,
Staff and Supporters**
Jane Pedersen

HCT Volunteers
Robert & Dorothy Coombes
Michelle Freeman

Bryan Hawkom
Richard Santos

**The hardworking people
at HCT**
Ronald & Maureen Boisvert

Andrea Higgins
Kimberly Longey

**Hinckleys Pond
Homeowners Association**
Donald T. Crane

Hinckleys Pond Project
Melissa & Harry Powers, Jr.

Nancy Hipp
Shirley Knowles

**Nancy Hipp &
Gerie Schumann**
Judith Sitkin

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Carol Joyce
Joseph & Lynne Lavieri

Shirley Knowles
Nancy Hipp

Dana Smith Knowlton
Stephen & Donna Knowlton

Michael Lach
Robert & Sally Bullard, Jr.
Susanne Hallstein
Amy Henderson
Elizabeth Lewis
Elizabeth (Pem) Schultz

**Mike's Outstanding
Leadership**
The Chiel Family

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Harwich Harbor Master**
Robert K. Leach

Jerry H. Little
Bonnie Beth Pierce

Chuck Lockwood
George & Caroline Wailgum

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Justine Ryan

Marie Murray
Maureen E. Ryan

Our Loved Ones
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Arthur Perkins
William Perkins

**Aunt Donna Peterson,
my rock, my beacon of light!**
Garin & Crystal Casaleggio

Tom & Doris Philips
Charles & Rosemary Philips

Bonnie Beth Pierce
Jerry H. Little

Ed & Peg Powers
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Peter Robbins
With love from his seven
Granddaughters

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**Catharine Ryan's
75th Birthday**
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Justin Ryan & Rain Ryder
Pauline Ryan

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Brian Wailgum

**Wequassett's
Conservation Efforts**
Michael & Cheryl Young

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Alice Webster
Laura Van Drie

Blair & Anne Wormer
Paul Keary & Jeanne Lapierre

JOIN US FOR...

Walk 'n Wag

Dog walkers and nature
enthusiasts, bring your canine
companion (leashed please)
to Walk 'n Wag on Saturday,
May 14th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.!

This fun new event is hosted by
Harwich Conservation Trust (HCT) and
The Sampson Fund for Veterinary Care.

Park at the Cape Cod Regional Technical
High School (#351 Pleasant Lake Ave.)
and walk down to HCT's newest trail
destination at the Hinckleys Pond—
Herring River Headwaters Preserve.

Explore the trails and enjoy live music,
food, and friends!

This event is made possible by support
from: Agway of Cape Cod, Cape Cod
Veterinary Specialists, Brewster Veterinary
Hospital, Veterinary Associates of Cape
Cod, Chatham Dog Club, Derbyfield
Kennel, Nauset Disposal, VCA Pleasant
Bay Animal Hospital, West Barnstable
Press, WKZ Pet Portraits, and generous
dog-loving donors.

Visit www.harwichconservationtrust.org
to learn more.

Welcome Halley!

Harwich Conservation Trust (HCT) welcomes Halley Steinmetz as our new Outreach and Administrative Coordinator. Halley is passionate about environmental conservation and is eager to help protect Harwich's natural lands.

Having grown up in Brewster, she has a close connection to Cape Cod's unique habitats. Throughout her youth, Halley went on many outdoor excursions with her family from exploring trails on conservation lands to summer days spent boating on both Pleasant Bay and Cape Cod Bay.

Path to HCT

Halley's appreciation for nature guided her decision to study Natural Resources Conservation at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She graduated in 2019 with a Bachelor of Science and the Five College Coastal and Marine Sciences Certificate.

While attending UMass, she jumped at opportunities to gain experience in conservation. An internship with The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts introduced her to the great work of local conservation organizations, including HCT.

During her junior year, she participated in SEA Semester's Caribbean Reef Expedition study abroad program,

where she sailed up the Lesser Antilles Caribbean Island Chain on a tall ship.

Halley worked with shipmates to conduct oceanographic and coral reef research and met with four different island nations' conservation leaders to learn about local reef conservation practices.

She continued to pursue research experiences through independent studies, a Research Experience for Undergraduates internship at Bigelow Labs in Boothbay, Maine, and an honors thesis.

Her internship and thesis work were based on ocean optics concepts, which she enjoyed teaching to broad audiences while presenting her research.

After graduating, Halley worked for the Town of Mashpee's Department of Natural Resources, focusing on shellfish propagation and water quality monitoring projects.

In her free time, she enjoys artistic hobbies including crafting and creating digital art.

Halley's goal is to combine her creative interests with her love of nature and background in the sciences.

She will be able to do just that with HCT, where she supports educational events and creates outreach materials, as well as provides administrative support.

She is excited to be a part of Harwich Conservation Trust, working to protect the environment and save special places for all of us to enjoy today as well as benefit future generations.

If you see her out on the trails, please say hello (and thank her, too!).

SIGN UP TO LEARN ABOUT GUIDED WALKS

Would you like to get outside, breathe some fresh air, and explore new places? Well, thanks to experienced walk leaders willing to share their knowledge and enthusiasm for Cape Cod's nature, we have many guided walks for you to enjoy.

To receive email announcements about upcoming walks and talks, please visit www.harwichconservationtrust.org and in the upper right corner click "Join our eNews" — it's that easy. See you on the trails!



Halley and her dog Bucky.



**P.O. Box 101
South Harwich, MA 02661**

Address Service Requested

We're here for you...

Web: harwichconservationtrust.org

Email: info@harwichconservationtrust.org

Phone: 508-432-3997

MISSION

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

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On the cover:
Six Ponds Great Woods
aerial by Steve Furlong

Trail opening photo by Stan Selkow

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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.

HCT's "Help Build the Nest" brochure offers creative ways (including bequests) to make a difference with your philanthropy.

If you are curious and would like a brochure, please call Executive Director Michael Lach at 508-432-3997 or email mike@harwichconservationtrust.org. Thank you for considering a legacy that will save special places.

Find more information at: harwichconservationtrust.org/planned-giving.

