



**HARWICH
CONSERVATION
TRUST**
www.harwichconservationtrust.org

**Spring
2018**

NEWSLETTER

PRESERVING SPECIAL
PLACES SINCE 1988

Island Pond Conservation Lands: Partnership in Preservation



**Protecting land
and water
around the
Cape Cod
Lavender Farm**

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HARWICH CONSERVATION TRUST

P.O. Box 101
South Harwich, MA 02661
508-432-3997

EMAIL
info@harwichconservationtrust.org

WEBSITE
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.



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Visit www.harwichconservationtrust.org
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from walks & talks to land stewardship
and land-saving success to innovative
volunteer citizen science projects.

Cover photos by Stephanie Foster
Inset (L-R): Cynthia Sutphin, Anna Clark Ramsay,
Liz Philbrick

Newsletter contributors: Beinecke Family, Alva Chaletzky, Janet DiMattia, Stephanie Foster, Jane Harvey, Michael Lach, Skyler Lach, Farley Lewis, Tyler Maikath, Gus Romano, Lee Roscoe,
Zygote Digital Films

Newsletter design: West Barnstable Press

Welcome Tyler Maikath, Outreach & Stewardship Coordinator

Tyler Maikath grew up on the Cape in Mashpee and developed an interest in conservation from a young age. As a child, he and his family visited state and national parks. Later on, with friends and as a Boy Scout, he went on camping, hiking and rafting trips, eventually discovering the White Mountains, a lifelong love.

At the University of Rhode Island, Tyler studied Wildlife and Conservation Biology, and developed an interest in birds, their natural histories and conservation. After graduation, Tyler worked a variety of seasonal positions focused primarily on seabird and shorebird conservation with Mass Audubon's Coastal Waterbird Program and Mass Wildlife's Buzzards Bay Tern Restoration Project. Tyler also took the time to travel the United States and then lived in Georgia for a while.

In 2009, Tyler moved to Keene, NH to study for his master's in Environmental Studies at Antioch University New England. During his graduate program, he participated in forest ecology research on Mt. Monadnock, interned at the Vermont Center for Eco-studies, and worked as a seasonal field assistant searching for Prairie Warbler nests in the Montague Sandplains. Afterwards, Tyler was selected by Greater Worcester Land Trust (GWLT) as their Mass-LIFT AmeriCorps Land Steward. Serving a year at GWLT, he stayed on for several years as GWLT's Conservation Stewardship Coordinator. He particularly enjoyed working with volunteers on conservation land monitoring and stewardship projects.

In 2014, he returned to Cape Cod and worked several different jobs before finding his way back to the land trust community, where his true passions are. He is very excited to be working for Harwich Conservation Trust and Dennis Conservation Trust in this shared position, to steward and advocate for our sensitive and diverse conservation lands.



Update: Cornelius Pond Woodlands Project

Project History:

In May 2015, this 15-acre landscape was listed for sale at \$1.15 million. The Harwich Conservation Trust negotiated a purchase and sale agreement for \$800,000. The Robert B. Our Company generously donated demolition services to remove a building. However, an additional \$50,000 is needed to cover legal and survey costs, create a trailhead off Queen Anne Road, establish a walking trail, install signs and a bench, and pay for other stewardship expenses. Therefore, the total project cost is \$850,000. To jumpstart the fundraising, an anonymous donor has issued a challenge gift of \$425,000. In response to the challenge, we need to raise matching funds of \$425,000 by December 31, 2018.

Plymouth Gentian photo: Farley Lewis



Looking Ahead

At the May 8th Harwich Town Meeting, voters approved Article #56 which authorizes the Town to contribute \$200,000 toward the project in exchange for a conservation restriction. The Town's contribution, plus donations received since autumn, leaves approximately \$175,000 (or 20%) left to raise.

We invite you to make a land-saving difference by donating today.

As always, thank you for your support!



Cornelius Pond is called a "coastal plain pond," and coastal plain ponds represent some of the most vulnerable natural areas of the Northeast. Created by the receding glacier that left massive melting blocks of ice in the coastal meltwater plain of Cape Cod about 18,000 years ago, these special ponds have since filled with groundwater and now support a variety of species, including rare plants (see upper left photo) and animals.

Aerial photo: Zygote Digital Films

Island Pond Conservation Lands

Island Pond Conservation Lands: Created Through Partnership, Patience and Persistence

by Lee Roscoe
photos by Stephanie Foster

Vision, luck, persistence, compassion, patience, flexibility, fate – just some of the elements that form the origin of the more than 80 rolling acres of forest and wetland that beckon within the Island Pond Conservation Lands. This conservation assemblage with walking trails traversing old carpaths bordered by bicycle trails near the Town Center has been assembled over 20 years by a partnership among Town Meeting voters, HCT, and landowners with the courage and will to make a difference for land, water, and wildlife.

It all started 30 years ago, when a truck went into a ditch in the snow forcing G. Rockwood Clark and landowner George Canham to get to know each other better while they walked for help. Rocky was looking for Harwich land to buy. Canham, a sheep farmer, then in his 80s, wanted to sell his acres to people he liked and who would appreciate the land, so he gave Rocky and his then wife Cynthia a deal. She paid him her small inheritance from a grandparent whom George, as it turned out had known. George liked the couple and sold the land at a fraction of the property's value. "He was a wonderful man," Rocky says. "He was so happy that we were happy."



The couple cleared a big field on what is now 12 private (non-Island Pond) acres which would house the Cape Cod Lavender Farm, built the house with a fireplace and a painting of George Washington over the mantel, and began to raise a family of four children. When development threatened the surrounding acreage, Cynthia panicked. Rocky made it his mission to find out who owned the property surrounding them, forming The Island Pond Trust of five partners to buy as much land as they could.

After 17 years of marriage, Cyn and Rocky divorced but remained friends and working partners for their children and the land. Cynthia married Matthew Sutphin, a Manhattan based builder featured in the *New York Times* and *Architectural Digest* who grew up in Harwich. All three had known each other since their late teens.

The reason much of the land now in conservation had luckily remained undeveloped was that the "railroad tracks created a vector; which stopped people from going across; out of site out of mind," Matt says. "Before that, parishioners had used the area as woodlots for the Congregational church," Rocky adds. Tracking down owners and making deals took him a lot of time and effort – "over 20 years working with a surveyor who helped backtrack all those titles."

"At first we were greedy developers," Rocky says with a wry smile, contemplating a development design with 2 acre zoning for about 23 houses. "We thought we could conserve and develop aesthetically." But then "we got to know the land" and some of the partners had a change of heart. "We began to see how exhausting a subdivision is to the land, including planning catch basins, utilities, and roads." The first phase included negotiating with neighbors to put a road in from Pleasant Lake Ave. (Rt. 124) to replace the cart way leading to the acreage. That phase one road became Weston Woods Road. "It terrified us to see what happened to the land when the road was put through. It mauls the beautiful landscape."

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Island Pond Conservation Lands

The more Rocky got to know this watershed which contributes to the headwaters of Coy's Brook, which in turn gathers to the Herring River – its kettle ponds, water views, woodlands, salamanders, owls, foxes, egg laying spots for snapping turtles, abandoned cranberry bogs and vernal pools, rolling dingles and dells – the less he wanted to harm it. One bid on development almost doubled the number of houses possible on the acreage, and that was the last straw for Rocky. He felt dismayed, betrayed. He and Cyn and Matt began to ruminate on a conservation alternative.

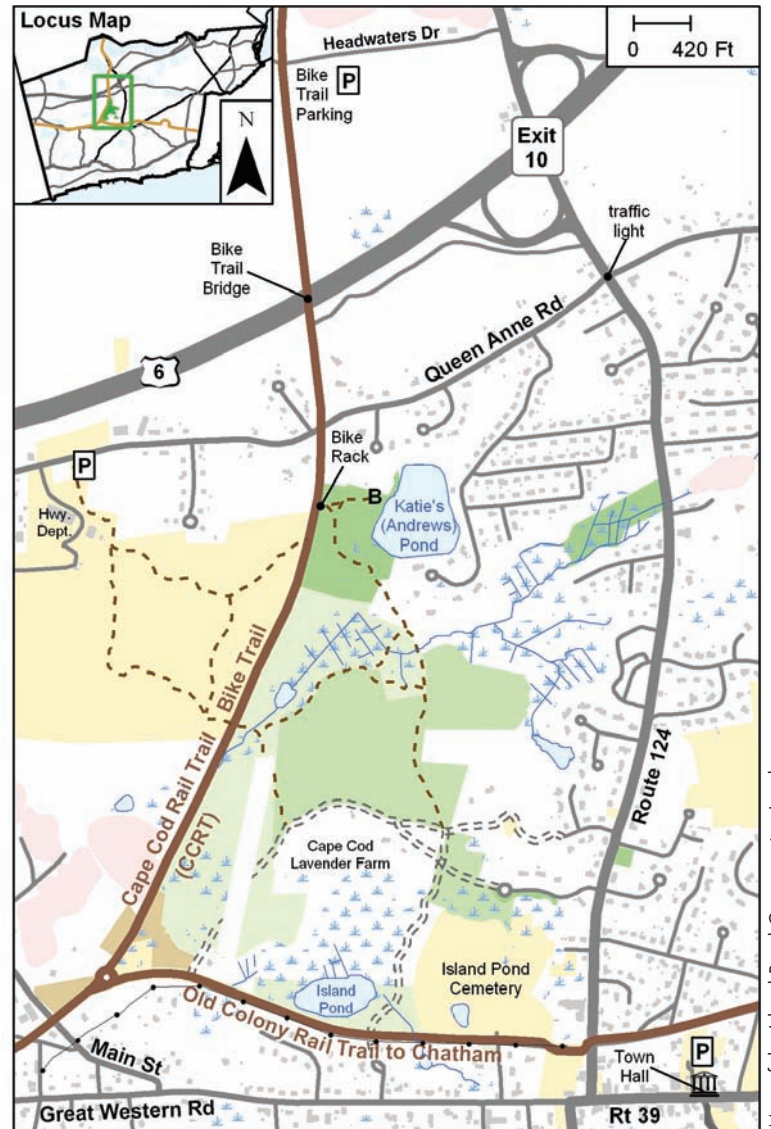
A burgeoning conservation ethic was in the air when Rocky talked to the partners about saving instead of developing the land. But some of the partners wanted their money back. Rocky, Cyn and Matt went to HCT to discuss options. Isabel Smith, an HCT Trustee and also Chair of the Town's Real Estate and Open Space Committee, and Robert Smith, HCT's President, put together a plan seeking Town Land Bank funds supplemented by HCT fundraising to purchase the property, allying with town opinion makers who drove the project forward with publicity and community organizing.

But it was touch and go. Then James Marceline, a generous landowner himself, got up at Harwich Town Meeting and after reminiscing about his own boyhood adventures in the sticks said, "It's beautiful land. Buy It." The town voted to do so. "That really took the pressure off," Cynthia says. They were able to work with HCT to establish Town ownership and stewardship of the Island Pond Conservation Lands subject to a conservation restriction held by HCT for passive use only, so the land and water could be permanently protected.



"This filled me with joy," Cynthia says. "We'd made long term decisions for our posterity; it was great," Matthew adds. Cynthia who grew up playing in the woods of Bridgewater wanted the same for her children: a life of privacy, simplicity in tune with the Earth and filled with imagination, and to be close to good schools and the center of town, as this oasis fortuitously is. Saving the land was good for the family, good for the community.

Cynthia & Rocky's grandkids: Ruby, Dylan & James



Trail Map Legend	
 HCT Land	~ Elevation Contour (Greater Interval)
 HCT Conservation Restriction (Town owned property)	 Building Footprint
 Town of Harwich - Conservation (Selectmen, Water Dept., etc.)	--- Utility Line
 Town of Harwich - Other	 Paved Road
 Other Conservation Lands	 Dirt Road
 Cranberry Bog (No public access)	--- Walking Trail
 Open Water	 Boardwalk or Foot Bridge
 Wetland Area	 Parking
--- Stream or Ditch	 Bench

Map of the Island Pond Conservation Lands

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Island Pond Conservation Lands

And even as Matthew and Cyn and Rocky have blended their families of children and grandchildren, so too within this oasis of conserved lands, is mixed another one: Cynthia's own Cape Cod Lavender Farm.

"I wanted to help out Rocky (a Rhode Island School of Design landscape architect graduate) in business," Cynthia says. She'd plant some of the flora he used for his business in her gardens. Then she decided that as someone was growing hydrangeas in Dennis successfully, she'd pick one plant, lavender, to concentrate on. "A botanist at U. Mass. Amherst told me I was crazy. It would never ever survive. So I did it." Starting with 400 plants, she expanded to 10,000 which Matt bought her for a wedding present. She loves lavender's versatility for the body and spirit. Lavender "pleases all the senses; it smells and looks beautiful; you can hear all the bees in it; it tastes wonderful."

Although there is separate walking access to the Island Pond lands off of Queen Anne Road and the bike path, anyone who enters the farm's surrounds can wander the trails, too. There's even an enchanted garden where children can play near fairy castles. Indeed granddaughter Ruby wanted to have her third birthday there this March.

"We lucked out. This was one of the first exposures to the town of how to save land in Harwich," Matt stresses. Rocky credits a confluence of the stars, and of kind people. Once walking the land with the late Mary Larkin, Rocky's significant other, she asked him, "Don't you feel the spirits here?" He did, and they were giving him headaches, saying, "Do this right or else."



And like the ongoing forest succession, the work with HCT is ongoing too. "Sometimes we've given Mike (Mike Lach, HCT's Executive Director) a hard time. But he's been really patient," Matt says. "Mike has worked very hard on our behalf." Cynthia says. "He's a gift to the Town."

The respect is clearly mutual. "Rocky, Cynthia and Matt could have chosen a different path, but instead they chose to fulfill their preservation vision. By partnering with HCT and the Town, they created a conservation mosaic of woodland and wetland, a legacy that benefits the community and generations to come," said Mike.

They'll leave the farm to their children and if they don't want it, HCT gets right of first refusal. "I pinch myself everyday" says Cynthia; so few people get to live like this anymore, especially on the Cape. "People don't know what rural is anymore," Matt adds.

The thing Matt and Rocky love about the Island Pond lands: the changes which happen within continuity. Matt says, "Box turtles are returning. Where the recent storms blew down white oaks, there are openings of light; where it was once dark, now it is dappled." "These trees will grow to be huge, the shrubs will fill in and grow," Rocky says. "We collectively painted a landscape like Cezanne," Matt adds.



FOOTNOTE: Though they were the leaders of the land preservation effort, Rocky, Cynthia and Matt are quick to point out that many folks played key roles in the assembly of the Island Pond conservation puzzle. We thought it important to mention them, including: Investors Ken and Peg Herring, Tucker and Lynda Clark, Paul Bergeron, Malcolm and Sandy MacPherson, Sarah and Bruce Verfaillies, and Bruce Steere; Bruce and Louisa MacPherson were also helpful as was Neil Herring; Surveyor David Schofield, whose knowledge was extensive. The Grindells were owners of the land which became Weston Woods Road; Attorney Joe D'Elia performed title work and structured agreements; Joan Cleveland was a helpful advisor; Louis Fernandes and Glen Rose were important owners and friends. Lee Baldwin (HCT Trustee) also played a pivotal role, raising the importance of conserving the land.

Buy-and-Hold Move Gives HCT Time to Raise Land Purchase Funds

by Bill Galvin
Cape Cod Chronicle

In a buy-and-hold move by The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts on behalf of the Harwich Conservation Trust (HCT), a 7.9-acre fallow cranberry bog along Bank Street formerly owned by John and Paula Sennott was purchased in order to give HCT time (until 2020) to raise land purchase funds.

The purchase is instrumental to the Harwich Conservation Trust's ecological restoration plan for the Robert F. Smith Cold Brook Preserve, which the bog property abuts, giving HCT control of the water flow from Grass Pond.

Harwich Conservation Trust Executive Director Michael Lach said that The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts has pre-acquired the 7.9-acre bog for the trust, giving HCT time to pursue state and federal grants and fundraising to purchase the property. The sale occurred on March 23; the price was \$210,000.

Lach said HCT has been talking with the Sennotts for several years about acquiring the bog when they were ready to transition out of the cranberry business. The bog has been fallow for a couple of years. John

Sennott has told *The Chronicle* in the past it is because he could not make a profit with the price of cranberries. "I think it's another positive example of how these long-term conversations with landowners can result in conservation benefits," Lach said.

The purchase, Lach said, helps to support the long-range plan for the Cold Brook ecological restoration project. A major benefit in the purchase is gaining control of the water rights the Sennotts had from an agricultural easement allowing the cranberry grower to redirect water from Cold Brook into their bogs.

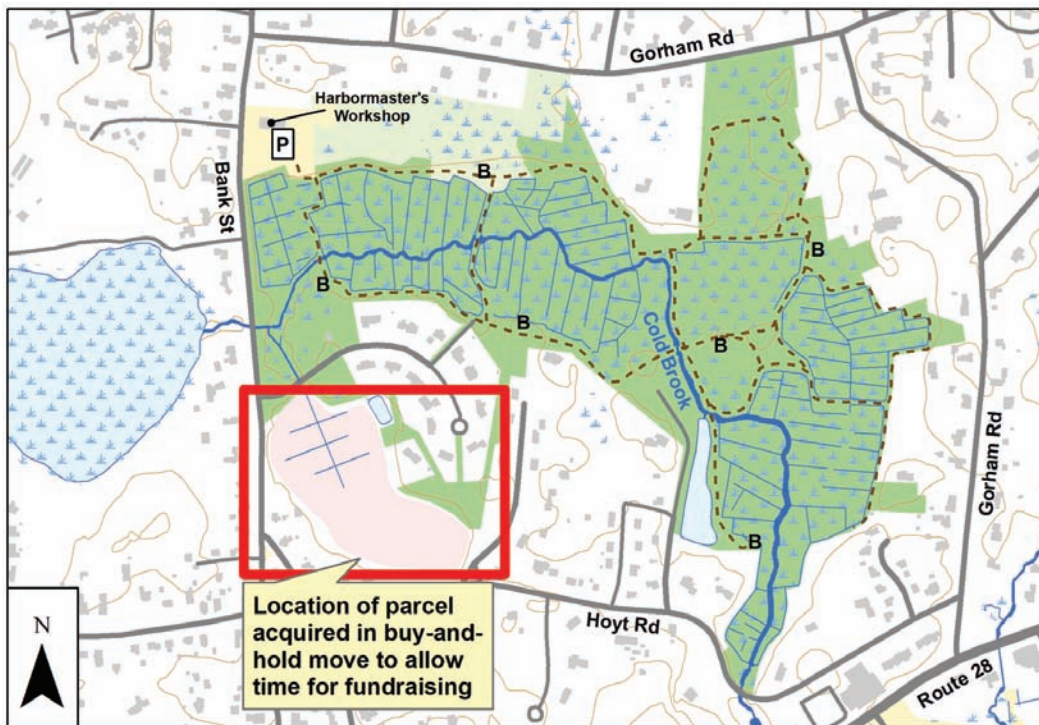
"The main element was to naturalize the Cold Brook water flow," Lach said of the importance of steady water flow through the brook. The brook is a passageway for the American eel as they swim to Grassy Pond. Even some herring venture upstream, but are blocked by an old flume. "Historically, the flow has been redirected to the bog. We want to restore the flow to Saquatucket Harbor and restore the eel and herring run to the pond."

Lach said the purchase of the bog comes with an easement to access the brook and flume on the west side of Bank Street. The State Division of Marine Fisheries is undertaking a two-year feasibility study

examining restoration of the Cold Brook herring run, he added.

As for the future of the bog, Lach said HCT examines property use on a case-by-case basis. This fallow bog will continue to naturalize. However, a different bog that HCT purchased in North Harwich is leased to a local cranberry grower. Each bog has a unique condition and future, he said, based on how it fits into the bigger picture.

Map of HCT's Robert F. Smith Cold Brook Preserve



Tribute to Philanthropist William S. Beinecke

by Lee Roscoe and Michael Lach

William Sperry Beinecke who passed away April 8th (he would have been 104 in May) was devoted alongside his late wife (Betty passed away in 2009) to philanthropic support for many important social issues including nuclear disarmament, health care, reproductive rights, youth justice, the arts, and environmental protection. And protecting local land and water on the Cape were keen interests, especially demonstrated when his family's foundation generously contributed to Harwich Conservation Trust's (HCT) 49-acre Pleasant Bay Woodlands Project, earning him HCT's Conservationist of the Year Award in 2014.



The grandson of an immigrant who founded the Plaza Hotel in New York City, Beinecke later attained his own success in business. He developed a sense of moral obligation to improve the lot of his fellow human beings and the land we live on. He passed that legacy on to his offspring.

After attending Yale and then Columbia Law School, he became a Naval officer in World War II who was decorated with eleven battle stars. Rising through the ranks of his family business, the Sperry and Hutchinson Company, he became its CEO. The company was famed for S&H green stamps, retail coupons redeemable for gifts such as house goods and sports wares.

He served on the boards of the New York Botanical Garden, American Museum of Natural History, Hudson River Foundation for Science and Environmental Research (founding chairman), and the Central Park Conservancy (chairman). Setting up the Sperry Fund and The Prospect Hill Foundation, Beinecke and his family have always had a major interest in protecting the environment. And Beinecke promoted that passion to preserve the outdoors with abundant generosity on Cape Cod.

In 2015, Beinecke received Cape Cod's Distinguished Service in Philanthropy Award at an annual event held by the Philanthropy Partners of the Cape & Islands and attended by more than 500 nonprofit leaders. A film made for the event speaks of his compassion and practicality, his personal touch, and interest in the people's lives whose organizations he and his family's foundations have supported.

The Prospect Hill Foundation has donated generously to the Cape Cod Fishermen's Alliance, Association to Preserve Cape Cod, Massachusetts Audubon's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, Friends of the Cape Cod National Seashore, and the "Latitude 41 Under Siege Symposium" which addressed ocean nitrification and acidification, bringing together scientists from Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New York.

As a youngster, Beinecke attended Camp Wampanoag during Cape summers. One wonders if this early experience helped set him on a path toward his bond with Cape Cod's unique sense of place. Visiting and loving the Cape for decades, at last the family built a house on Pleasant Bay in the 1960s. And in the 1970s, Beinecke was instrumental along with Chatham Conservation Foundation in preserving the 75 or so acres of Strong Island in Pleasant Bay.

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Tribute to Philanthropist William S. Beinecke

Jay Cashman, who with his wife Christy and their kids summer on Strong Island, reflected on his friendship with Bill Beinecke. “One of the most inspiring things about Bill was that even at 103 his spirit was never diminished. Even at 100 his communication skills were as sharp, but welcoming, as any Fortune 500 CEO half his age. Once you’ve known Bill Beinecke you really understand why people of this time were called ‘The Greatest Generation.’ He is an American icon and I feel blessed to have known him,” said Cashman.

Following the tradition of preserving land to protect Pleasant Bay water quality, The Prospect Hill Foundation contributed funds to HCT’s 42-acre Save Monomoy River Project in 2003. That’s when another HCT supporter James McClennen, owner of the Wequassett Resort, became friends with Beinecke. “I always knew Bill was very much involved with saving Strong Island. He was an inspiration. And so I knew we at Wequassett also needed to do as much as possible in raising funds to preserve land that protects Pleasant Bay. Every year after that we would get together and catch up,” said McClennen.

A decade later in 2013, The Prospect Hill Foundation contributed funds to the 49-acre Pleasant Bay Woodlands Project led by HCT. This landscape is located 1,000 feet from Round Cove on Pleasant Bay and was the largest unprotected parcel of its kind at the time. The combined resources of the Beinecke’s foundation, Wequassett, The John T. Ryan, Jr. Memorial Foundation, Green Family Foundation, Neil & Anna Rasmussen Foundation, anonymous challenge donors, multiple nonprofits, and many other supporters made the project possible.

The Beinecke family

The area has historical significance as the former site of the colonial Kendrick family homestead. John Kendrick was the 18th century navigator who opened up the Pacific Northwest to American trading. With cedar swamp, vernal pools and wooded upland, this land’s water recharge quality helps protect the water in the ground flowing to Pleasant Bay, fitting into HCT’s “Save Land, Save Water Initiative,” a long-range plan to preserve priority properties that can protect water resources.

In addition to supporting Cape Cod environmental protection, The Prospect Hill Foundation also funds the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Rainforest Alliance, Union of Concerned Scientists, the Wilderness Society and many others. Notably, giving is in the family. William’s cousin Walter Beinecke Jr., was a major force in historic preservation on Nantucket and daughter Frances Gillespie Beinecke is the President of NRDC. The family continues to support causes on Cape Cod, creating positive change in the spirit of William & Betty Beinecke.



The Resilient & Resourceful Osprey



Osprey photo by Janet DiMatia

by Lee Roscoe

In late March and early April, I look forward to their exciting return, hearing unmistakable scream-whistling chirps, seeing the dark chocolate brown “M” on the underside of outspread vanilla colored fringed wings, as they soar over or near water, legs dangling, whirling, wheeling and diving. Marcus Hendricks who co-leads native lands walks for HCT says that for the Wampanoag, the beginning of spring is when the osprey returns. Same for me.

Ospreys are the hawk of the waters – of our estuaries, tidal rivers, and ponds. *Pandion haliaetus* is a category of raptor all its own.

Throughout the Cape and at HCT’s A. Janet Defulvio Wildlife Sanctuary Boardwalk, from early spring through summer into fall, you can watch them court, mate, fish, brood eggs, feed young, and even see the young flex their wings to fly.

While much of osprey behavior is unchanging, the interrelated pattern of osprey nesting and its population size have changed radically over time.

Found around the globe except for Antarctica, three American populations breed from Alaska to Mexico, Labrador to Florida and the Gulf.

Males (who return first) are faithful to their nest sites, and appear to be faithful to their returning female mates, too, so much so that anecdotes tell of birds who do not mate again after the death of a spouse.

The female, who begins to breed at three years old, usually lays two eggs, but it can be one to four. After a month to a month and a half of incubation, the young hatch downy and helpless, growing as nestlings for about 50 to 60 days. The male may not only help incubate, but also feeds the female who in turn gently proffers bits of prey to her young. Like other birds, the female will protect her babies from weather and heat. There’s little

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The Resilient & Resourceful Osprey

competition between siblings as with some other raptors. Fledglings feed themselves from food dad brings, practice flexing wings, eventually hunting instinctively on their own, getting ready to fly off in migration.

An osprey's food is 99 percent fish throughout the bird's lifetime, hence its other name "fish hawk." It's a vicarious thrill to see an osprey plunder its nourishment. As Frank Chapman wrote so vividly in 1923, when the bird observes a fish it "pauses, hovers a moment and then closing its wings, descends with a speed and directness of aim that generally insure success. It strikes the water with great force, making a loud splash, and frequently disappears for a moment with its prey grasped in its powerful talons." Shallow divers, they usually strike feet first, and can submerge below water completely.

Unlike other hawks, osprey turn the outer toe backwards to enable a better grasp, and will carry a fish aerodynamically head first to a perch for devouring, shaking water off its feathers like a dog as it flies. Said to be successful in one out of four tries at catching fish, prowess depends on age, health, and experience.

Nowadays nesting couples are solitary, needing plenty of acreage (mostly on salt marshes in our area), and a clear field of view for predators. But fascinatingly, older sources talk about colonial nesting sites where birds crowded together. One can only imagine what it was like in Native American and early colonial times when the "buzzards" (for which Buzzards Bay was named) returned en masse.

In the 19th century, hundreds of nests were on Gardiner's Island off New York, some as close to each other as 10 yards. Recounting as many as 2,000 ospreys on Plum Island with 500 nests, Arthur Bent observed changes in population and habitats. For instance in the 1800s, he saw 80 nests in a relatively small area in inland Southern New England where they nested on large white pines away from houses and near fresh water. He later witnessed them moving nearer residences towards Narragansett Bay where over 100 pairs nested using all kinds of trees – diminishing to half that amount over 50 years.



Osprey photo by Janet DiMattia

Nests in the past were reported on trees of every type, telegraph poles, windmill towers, buildings, chimneys, even on rocks – from the ground (rarely) to 10 to 60 feet up. The same nest often was used sometimes for as many as 40 years, one from 1780 to 1905!

Nests range from two and a half to six feet in diameter and from inches to about three yards deep. Some nests in Bent's time used the whole of a cedar tree!

Ospreys build nests mostly with sticks, but oddities often appear including observations of dung, seaweed, lathes, fish net and twine (which can entangle them), even life preservers, rubber boots, feather dusters, seabird wings and sheep skulls.

This two-foot long bird, with an almost six-foot wing span, is occasionally harassed by the larger bald eagle who sometimes steals their fish. Conflicts also arise

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The Resilient & Resourceful Osprey

with crows, herons, and owls. Bent and Chapman's fellow ornithologist Edward Forbush wrote that as ospreys may shoo off fishing competitors and drive off other hawks while on eggs, farmers would raise a wagon wheel on a pole in the barnyard to attract nesting, and thus keep chickens foraging below safe – while the fish hawk's whistling made a good watch dog. In the past, report was made of osprey even sheltering other nest tenants such as wrens and mice.

The osprey population is showing many signs of restoration. Setting the stage, in the early 1960s, was Rachel Carson's book "Silent Spring" chronicling the effects of DDT. DDT bio-accumulated in prey and ended up in the fatty tissues of the birds, inhibiting reproduction and thinning eggshells so that they broke. In 1972, DDT was banned in the U.S. Another factor was the efforts of ornithologists such as Alan Poole and Dr. Paul Spitzer as well as of many other biologists and volunteers. They not only set up nesting sites, but relocated viable eggs to areas where the population had been diminished. The global osprey count is now estimated to be as high as 500,000. On the Cape, Mass Audubon has recorded over 300 nest sites in recent years. Active nests (and not all are) fledge an average of over 1.5 chicks. Overall populations have grown by approximately 2.5 percent per year.

Today nests are often found on man-made platforms, about three or four feet square, attached to poles fifteen feet or higher. These have helped the birds to recover from the devastation in the 1950s-70s heaped on them by the pesticide DDT. Putting up an osprey nest can be life-changing not just for the birds, but also for humans as HCT's Michael Lach remembers. He raised one with his father when he was twelve years old, which encouraged him on his life path into conservation.



Osprey nest construction photo by Stephanie Foster

After summer ripens, most adult Cape osprey leave in August, with young departing a month later. Migrants are on record passing through by October, but I've seen them in later fall and even once around Christmas. They are solitary travelers and move diurnally, wintering from the Gulf of Mexico and Florida to South America. They may fly thousands of miles round trip. Some southern ospreys are non-migratory.

As with mates and nest sites, they're faithful to both wintering and summering grounds. Juveniles in their virgin migrations tend to fly over open water for longer periods, with fewer stops on the way, and may stay on their wintering grounds for a few years before returning to their place of birth – to start the round again in the first burst of spring.

Protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and mostly a conservation success story, some states (not ours) still list them as threatened or endangered. They're shot on wintering grounds, are still susceptible to pollutants, and may suffer electrocution when they nest dangerously on a utility pole. It's up to us to remain vigilant for the sake of these fisher kings of our waterways, and to protect land around those very waterways they rely on.



Osprey photo by Janet DiMattia

Gifts to HCT

in memory of and in honor of

GIFT DEDICATIONS September 21, 2017 to April 12, 2018

Osprey nest photo by Janet DiMattia

IN MEMORY OF:

In Memory of Frederick N. Adams

Julia C. Adams

In Memory of Kathryn Howes Alvord

Clark & Harriet Alvord

In Memory of Bill Baldwin

Emily H. Baldwin

In Memory of Lee W. H. Baldwin

On behalf of Baldwin, Hancock & Small families
Connie L. Pina

In Memory of Charles A. Barrett "Babe"

Priscilla Teleky & Paul W. Davis

Paul and Kristine Dery

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Margaret (Peggy) Rose

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Brian A. Bauer

In Memory of the Bown Family

Richard and Mary Alexander

In Memory of Andy Briggs

Marcia Andrews

In Memory of Joyce Bush

David Bush and Leslie Dossey

In Memory of the Callaghan Family

Robert and Laurie Callaghan

In Memory of Sheila Carbone

James J. Carbone

In Memory of Burke Carroll

Daniel & Mary Carroll

In Memory of Caleb F. Childs

Raymond & Beverly Thacher

In Memory of Douglas Cole

Virginia Lucil

In Memory of Richard Connaughton

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Adrian & Gabriel Bresler

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Joanne Storey

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Christopher & Nancy Sweeney

Christine & Joe Tierney & Family

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Nino & Shannon Corbett

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Daniel P. Croteau

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In Memory of Megan Daley

Kevin & Beryl Daley

In Memory of Albert Dalmolen

Eve Dalmolen

In Memory of Robert Damiano

Grace Damiano

In Memory of Elisabeth & Lawrence Damon

Renny & Dottie Damon

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In Memory of Jack & Nancy Donovan

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In Memory of Anna & Peter Dounelis

Robert Bradley & Maria Dounelis

In Memory of Tim & Mary Duggan

Dennis & Sherill Duggan

In Memory of Philip S. Eagan

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In Memory of Linda Fall

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In Memory of Mary Farragher

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In Memory of Mary Ruth Follas

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In Memory of John Heald

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In Memory of Husband, Milton & Sons, Mark & Peter Hirshberg

Carolyn Hirshberg

In Memory of Mabel Johnson

Vanessa Johnson-Hall

Gus Romano



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In Memory of Elizabeth L. Pring

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Robert V. Condon III

Vita Marie Rizzo

In Memory of Nancy Roberts

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In Memory of Francis J. Roth, my Dad

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Georgene Riedl & Ralph MacKenzie

In Memory of Rose Wojciechowski

Frank H. Wojciechowski

In Memory of Richard Young

Sandra P. Young



Photo by Stephanie Foster

Gifts to HCT - in honor of

Stephanie Foster

IN HONOR OF:

In Honor of Boundary Quest Team
Mario (Al) Boragine

In Honor of Allan & Martha Campbell
William (Bill) & Christina (Tina) Maloney

**In Honor of 17 wonderful years
of living on Cape Cod**
Anne W. Gallagher

In Honor of Alva Chaletzky
Alan & Bette Johnson

In Honor of Annie Cool
Stephen & Elizabeth May

In Honor of Patricia Desler
David A. Desler

**In Honor of Pat Dooley
(who made it possible)**
Emily H. Baldwin

In Honor of Leonard Goddard
Jacquelyn Goddard

**In Honor of the Good Work
you all do at HCT!**
James & Barbara Fyfe

**In Honor of HCT's staff,
Michael, Tyler, Jane, Alva**
Shirley Knowles

In Honor of Christina Joyce
John & Carol Joyce

In Honor of Mike Lach
Deborah Nelson Aylesworth
Elizabeth (Pem) Schultz

In Honor of Don Landing
Ben Clark
Deb & Tom Saudade

**In Honor of Tom Leach,
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Kathleen & Robert K. Leach

In Honor of Colin Leonard
Emily H. Baldwin

In Honor of Marge Marion
Connie L. Pina

**In Honor of my Mother,
who loves Harwich**
Emma Driskill

In Honor of Nature
Connie Edger-Davis

In Honor of Tom & Doris Philips
Charles & Rosemary Philips

In Honor of Heinz Proft
Deborah Nelson Aylesworth

**In Honor of Domenic JF
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Mark & Elizabeth Russo

In Honor of Ruth Saltzman
Beth & Michael Aaronson

In Honor of Mary Saudade
Ben Clark
Deb & Tom Saudade

In Honor of Fred & Dorothy Seufert
William & Katherine Green

In Honor of Isabel Smith
David Crestin & Elizabeth Bierbower

In Honor of Patti Smith
Trudie & John Steel

In Honor of Lucy Tutunjian
Joan C. Lafond

In Honor of the Weinbaum Family
Burton & Joyce Weinbaum



Photo of Pleasant Bay sunset by Stephanie Foster

RSVP TODAY!

HCT's ANNUAL CELEBRATION & MEETING

WEQUASSETT ON PLEASANT BAY

Monday, August 6th, 4:30 - 7:00 p.m.

**Featured Speaker: CBS Correspondent
and Harwich native, Seth Doane**



Space is limited, RSVP by July 20th

Please email:

events@harwichconservationtrust.org



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. 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: www.harwichconservationtrust.org/planned-giving.



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ANNUAL MEETING
August 6th!

— see page 15 for details —