



PRAGONS. DAMSELS & THE QUEST TOSave Sand Pond Woodlands

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THE QUEST TO SAVE SAND POND WOODLANDS

Back in 1970, singer songwriter Joni Mitchell sang about not realizing "what we've lost 'til it's gone" when she warned about losing wild places to development. Fifty years later, the words couldn't be truer.

As our paradise-to-pavement consumption of forests, meadows, and other natural lands accelerates, many of us risk never even knowing what we've lost, never mind waiting until it's gone.

In the frenetic comings and goings of our days, the intricate abundance of our surroundings blurs into a single image of timeless, voiceless, yet incredibly important environmental elements-woods, wetlands, water, and wildlife. Protecting this mosaic of natural resources sustains and enhances the quality of life for Cape Cod residents and visitors, especially as more turn to the outdoors during this time of social isolation.

Thankfully, the emerald quilt of conservation lands stitched between residential developments, commercial complexes and our web of roadways,

As development pressure mounts on the last wild places, there's still more we can do to save our beloved Cape Cod sense of place.

The quest to save Sand Pond Woodlands offers an opportunity to pitch in and preserve a 6.65-acre forested gem that will help protect the water quality of Sand Pond (and Town swim beach), West Reservoir, and the Herring River.

Otherwise the land could be occupied by a 7-lot subdivision that would displace critical wildlife habitat and forever alter the walking trail experience as well as send septic system nutrients into the watershed.

Discovering the Magic of Sand Pond Woodlands

On a late summer day when the lazy sun-dried grasses mingle to create a bittersweet air of beginnings and endings, Cape naturalist Don Schall

conducted a survey of the biodiversity on this newest 6.65 acres that the Harwich Conservation Trust (HCT) is working to protect.

With exuberant dives onto the ground to get a closer look at plants, or standing on his tiptoes to waggle his fingers through the leaves of a shrub, Schall celebrated the number of native species he found.

The white spiked blossoms of sweet pepper bush poked out from between shrubby bayberry and high bush blueberries. Starflowers nestled into moss beds close to the ground as goldenrod flowers nodded above them in the breeze. The canopy of tall pines and oaks offered patchwork shade from the sun's heat.

Suddenly something very small moved with a short leap amidst the grasses going to seed. A tiny, thumbnail-sized juvenile toad had appeared, a perfect miniature of its future adult self, leaving behind its watery birthplace in the edge of the nearby cranberry bog to head toward the edge of a forest land full of oak, maple, beech, pitch pine, and sassafras trees.

Schall got down on all fours to inspect the toad, to try and discern which kind it was—American or Fowlers? Squirrels chattered and dragonflies hovered as Schall knelt closer to



count the warts on the tiny toad's head, a characteristic that helps determine to which clan the toad belongs. Ultimately, the confident little creature was identified as most akin to the Fowlers species. It hopped hurriedly away to settle back into its daily rhythm of finding food, shelter, and safety.

Striving to Complete the Conservation Puzzle

Coming up with a plant and animal species list is one thing. The property's real ecological significance, Schall stressed, lies in its intact, pristine condition as a mature woodland. One hundred percent of this six plus acres is defined by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as "prime forestland," a designation that highlights the land's value as critical habitat for all kinds of living things.

This sizable piece of land borders a larger 75-acre assemblage of town and HCT-protected parcels that stretch along Sand Pond and both banks of the Herring River. Preserving the 6.65 acres from being broken into seven lots protects forested corridors between wetland, pond, and river habitats for many, many species—for nesting, foraging, hunting, breeding, and access to drinking water. The age of the forest provides new growth and old, deadwood for nesting, dense undergrowth for protection.

Harwich Conservation Trust Director Michael Lach called the land "the last piece in a critical land preservation puzzle." "I've been watching this land for 20 years," Lach said, with a nod to the past and a visionary eye on the bigger conservation picture.

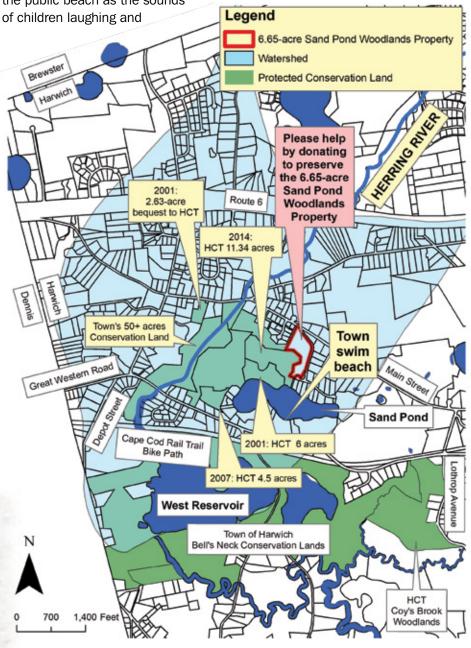
Diversity of Dragons and Damsels

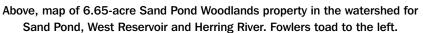
Sand Pond is a beautiful expanse of freshwater, a classic Cape Cod kettle pond that is popular with beachgoers and fishermen accessing the shore from the Town beach on Great Western Road. For relief from the summer heat, families frequent the public beach as the sounds

splashing provide background music to the birdsong filling the air.

Schall said many dragonfly and damselfly species use the pond during their nymph stage, emerging to move to the edges of the nearby woodlands including the at-risk 6.65 acres where their wings stiffen and then they are able to hunt for prey in flight from the shrub cover.

Pointing out the species he noticed, Schall said the "total number of





dragonflies likely to be recorded in an intensive survey is most impressive."

Race Against Time to Raise Funds

Raising the funds to preserve the 6.65-acre Sand Pond Woodlands landscape is nearly as intricate as the piecing together of parcels for conservation over the years, said Lach.

In 2019, the property was marketed for sale at \$1.5 million as a 7-lot subdivision. As the landowners (Martin and Janice Rich) considered selling off the land lot by lot or the entire subdivision, they kept in regular contact with HCT.

Eventually, \$1.2 million became the agreed upon price. When factoring in costs for legal, survey, land stewardship steps, and other transaction expenses, the total project fundraising goal became \$1,225,000.

To raise that amount, HCT needed until December 31, 2020, but Martin and Janice needed to close in December 2019. To meet the landowners' earlier closing date while also allowing HCT time to raise the funds, HCT asked The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts to temporarily buy the land from the landowners in 2019 and hold it until the end of 2020.

"This is giving us time to raise the funds," Lach said.

Two anonymous donor families have pledged a total of \$1 million. Of the remaining \$225,000 needed, HCT has already recently received \$5,000 in donations of \$25 to \$1,000.

To raise the final \$220,000, there's a Sand Pond Woodlands Challenge in effect thanks to a handful of donors pledging a combined \$110,000.

In other words, if HCT supporters can answer the \$110,000 challenge by raising another \$110,000 in matching funds by Dec. 31st, then HCT will reach its land-saving goal. HCT has also applied for grants, but won't hear the results until December.

Lach pointed out that the purchase of this land meets the goals and priorities for the town's conservation and recreation plan—it protects native species, the town's natural and cultural history, and provides passive recreational opportunities by extending walking trails and helping to protect Sand Pond.

The ecologically strategic location of the 6.65-acre property and the diversity of life it supports make it an important acquisition for the entire Cape, Lach noted, not just for the Town of Harwich. It contributes



to the protection of the Herring River, which is an active herring run and the second longest river system on Cape Cod. It abuts 75 acres of existing Town-HCT conservation land, and will add to an extensive wildlife corridor of more than 325 acres that encompasses Bell's Neck to the south.

From dragons to damsels along with a diversity of other species, preserving the forested habitat is critical. For folks enjoying the Town swim beach and an ever growing number of hikers exploring the scenic trails, preservation of Sand Pond Woodlands can create a lasting, local legacy of protected land, water, and wildlife.

Story by Susanna Graham-Pye Photographs by Gerry Beetham

YOU CAN HELP MATCH THE SAND POND CHALLENGE...

We invite your help with any donation amount toward raising the \$110,000 in matching funds by Dec. 31st. Then combined with the \$110,000 Sand Pond Challenge, together we'll reach the final \$220,000 needed to succeed with this significant land-saving endeavor.

We invite your donation by check or credit card using the enclosed reply envelope or donate by credit card online at www.harwichconservationtrust.org.

Thank you for your enduring generosity.



Elegant Spreadwing, Azure Bluet, Lilypad Forktail, Golden-winged Skimmer, Halloween Pennant...

Our local dragonflies and damselflies have such creative, inspiring names that capture the imagination. In some Native American cultures, they symbolize transformation, adaptability, joy, and a lightness of being. As they dart by, their colors catching the sun, dragons and damsels make us curious to know more about their habits and life history. Let's take a closer look at these winged wonders.

Ancient Ancestors

Dragonflies and damselflies have been around for a very long time. These energetic creatures are members of the Odonata order (taxonomic group) of flying insects that evolved in the early Mesozoic era somewhere between 66 to 252 million years ago, a time also referred to as the Age of Reptiles and Age of Conifers (evergreens). The ancestors of our present-day dragonflies and damselflies could grow longer than your backyard crow. Some fossilized dragonflies have wingspans approaching three feet across.

Today's dragons and damsels vary in size from 1-4 inches in length with a similar wingspan. They have a three-stage life cycle: egg, nymph, adult. It's the adult dragons and damsels that we see zipping around, maybe pausing to rest in a patch of sun where we can get a better look at their colorful markings and silvery transparent wings.

One of the more visible differences between dragonflies and damselflies is their wing structure. While each has two sets of wings, the wings of a dragonfly are more wide than the slender wings of a damselfly.

Common Green Darner

At rest, their wing position is different, too. A dragonfly's wings will remain perpendicular to the body like the wings of an airplane whereas a damselfly will fold its wings parallel along its body. Dragonflies typically have a bulkier build and larger eyes than damselflies.





Life Cycle Linked to Water & Land

After mating, the female will deposit her eggs by one of two methods, depending upon the species: either inserting them into an aquatic plant or decaying matter; or by just dropping them into the water while in flight.

Once in the water, the **eggs** generally take a few weeks to develop. However, eggs inserted into plants above water will remain dormant until the plant dies and falls into the water, or autumn and winter rains raise the water level.

Upon the egg hatching, the next stage is called a **nymph**. The nymph, which looks like a small elongated crab but without claws and only six legs, spends most of its time underwater.

The nymph stage for most odonates lasts for about a year, but in some species can be as short as a few weeks, or for some of the larger dragonflies as long as 3-4 years.

After the nymph is fully grown it will crawl up out of the water onto an emergent plant stem, log, rock, or other surface. The nymph will then shed its exoskeleton to emerge as a winged dragon or damsel ready for its first flight, in the process leaving behind its shed exoskeleton (known as an "exuviae"). The presence of these exuviae at a wetland provide good evidence of successful breeding at that site.







Protected Woodlands are Critical

Nearby woodlands are especially important for adult dragonflies and damselflies. The freshly emerged adults (known as "tenerals") spend anywhere from a day or two to several days in upland areas near their natal sites feeding and maturing.

Mature adults also spend most of their time in woodlands and uplands, typically visiting the wetland breeding sites only for a few hours a day, and only when it is sunny and warm. Females visit the wetlands only very briefly when ready to breed. Thus, the shrubs and trees of forested upland provide important shelter from which the dragons and damsels can pursue other insects for food, and

seek shelter from inclement weather and predators such as birds.

Most adult dragons and damsels live for only a month or two. However, a few species that are migratory may have longer life spans.

In the case of the green darner dragonfly, a common species in these parts, some of the population migrates north in the spring, breeds in the Northeast, then the next generation migrates south in late August and September, not unlike the phased migrations of the Monarch butterfly.

Other local odonates that migrate include Wandering and Spot-winged Gliders, and Carolina Saddlebags. Large gatherings of these migrants

are occasionally seen along the immediate coast and over fields and clearings, especially after the passage of a cold front.

Whether you're interested in identifying different damsel and dragon species or simply marveling at their vibrant colors and aerial agility, enjoy discovering their beauty and diversity while walking your local conservation lands.

Story by Michael Lach

Dragon and Damsel photographs by Blair Nikula

Sand Pond Woodlands photograph by Gerry Beetham



Are you intrigued by the prehistoric beginnings and present-day species diversity of dragons and damsels? We are, too!

That's why we're offering an opportunity for you to buy your own field guides to dragonflies and damselflies, each co-authored and signed by Blair Nikula, odonate expert and Harwich resident.

A new field guide to identify the winged dragons and damsels as you explore local walking trails could be just the right gift for yourself or someone special.

Select your desired field guide(s), how many, include the total amount for field guide(s), tax, and shipping, cut out this section, and send it back to us in the attached reply envelope. You'll receive your guide(s) in about two weeks.

FIELD GUIDE TITLE	соѕт	QUANTITY	SUBTOTAL
Beginner's Guide to Dragonflies This 160-page, 4-1/2 in. by 7 in. color photo guide provides identification, behaviors, and habitats for 100 of the most common dragonfly species.	\$10.00		\$
A Field Guide to the Dragonflies and Damselflies of Massachusetts This 197-page, 6 in. by 8 in. color photo guide takes you on a deeper dive into the diversity of 166 species occurring across the state including their range, identification, habitats, and behaviors.	\$20.00		\$
		Subtotal	\$
6.25% MA sales tax (multiply subtotal by .0625)			\$
Flat-rate shipping		\$ 5.00	
		TOTAL	\$

Abundance at Sand Pond Woodlands

Your support of the Save Sand Pond Woodlands Project (see story on page 3 "The Quest to Save Sand Pond Woodlands") directly helps protect an incredible local diversity of dragons and damsels.

On a late summer site visit of just 30 minutes, odonate expert Blair Nikula observed seven species including: Swamp Spreadwing, Variable Dancer, Eastern Forktail, Eastern Pondhawk, Slaty Skimmer, Blue Dasher, and Eastern Amberwing.

He concluded that odonate surveys conducted earlier in the season would reveal many more species.

For example, 2-3 surveys in June and July could result in discovering an additional 25-30+ species such as:

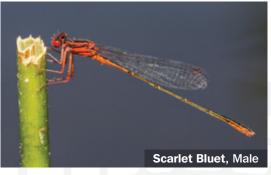
Elegant Spreadwing Prince Baskettail Slender Spreadwing Calico Pennant Halloween Pennant Swamp Spreadwing Azure Bluet **Banded Pennant** Atlantic Bluet Martha's Pennant Skimming Bluet Blue Corporal New England Bluet White Corporal Orange Bluet Dot-tailed Whiteface Slender Bluet Golden-winged Skimmer Vesper Bluet Spangled Skimmer Lilypad Forktail Twelve-spotted Fragile Forktail Skimmer Mottled Darner Painted Skimmer Common Green Common Whitetail Darner Ruby Meadowhawk Comet Darner Autumn Lancet Clubtail Meadowhawk Common Carolina Saddlebags Sanddragon Black Saddlebags

Three state-designated rare species might occur here, too, including: Pine Barrens Bluet, Attenuated Bluet, and Scarlet Bluet.

Common Baskettail

























"Listen." Musnick stops. "You can just hear the signal." Tracking turtles isn't as easy as one might think, but Michael Musnick, a passionate amateur herpetologist, is doing his best.

Holding an antenna and receiver, Musnick sets off down one of the grassy trails leading from the parking lot of Harwich Conservation Trust's (HCT) Robert F. Smith Cold Brook Preserve.

On the Preserve's 66 acres, somewhere, hides a female Eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina*). Warm wind rustles the dense bayberry bushes alongside the path. A dainty American copper butterfly adds a splash of delicate color to some queen anne's lace as honeysuckle and wild rose blossoms perfume the air. A redwinged blackbird cries out a warning as Musnick and those with him pass. If Musnick is aware of any of this, he gives no sign, as he completely tunes in, listening and watching for the turtle he's tracking.

A faint beep pushes through the crackle coming from the receiver. He pivots right and the beeping fades, left, just ever so slightly the sound is louder, and off he goes, following it.

The box turtle, roughly six inches in length with a shell that looks as though

the yellow sun has spattered a shade dappled pattern across it, is the longest living North American turtle. It is so named for its ability to tuck in head and legs and close up its shell like a box. Some individuals have been estimated to live as long as 100 years.

Cold Brook Eco-Restoration Planning

Musnick, who has a state license to study box turtles, attached a transmitter to her shell in late June. The turtle is the first of five discovered in a newly launched tracking study being conducted by the Harwich Conservation Trust. But Musnick, and HCT Executive Director Michael Lach hope to change that. With the help of those walking the trails at the Preserve, Musnick hopes he can find more turtles to tag.

Musnick's work at the Preserve will help inform the planning for the Cold Brook Ecological Restoration Project, explained Lach. The restoration project goals are to enhance wildlife habitat, water resources, and the visitor experience by restoring wetland, stream, and other habitats to the long since retired bog complex in Harwich Port.

By understanding box turtle movements, hibernation spots, and estivation areas of the Preserve, the eco-restoration team comprised of HCT, Town, State Division of Ecological Restoration, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and Inter-Fluve can better protect the shy yet charismatic box turtles that call the Preserve home.

Beyond the Cold Brook Preserve, Lach said HCT and Musnick hope their tracking project over time will help HCT better understand the box turtle populations at local conservation sites that provide suitable habitat.

"With the box turtle tracking project HCT can continue to support and protect this state-designated rare species," Lach said.

The Eastern Box turtle has been named a Species of Special Concern by the state. Box turtles are not aquatic, but instead live in a diverse set of habitats, including woodlands, fields, and thickets. Many threats

face the small turtle, but perhaps the greatest is the destruction of habitat due to development, and all the attending problems—pesticides, roadways that crisscross turtle travel routes, and pets turned predators.

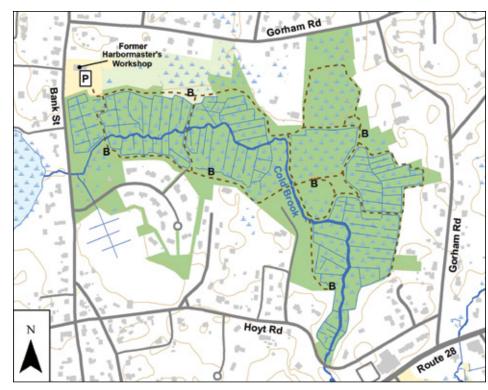
Finally, Musnick hones in on the turtle's location in a brushy area. He explains that the female box turtle has been in the same place for several days, in all likelihood estivating, a kind of warm-weather hibernation in which the turtle regulates her temperature against the summer heat.

Inspired as a Kid

Musnick, a retired cabinet maker who moved from Mahopac, New York, to Cummaquid, has a long history of tracking turtles to help with their protection.

"I started without the aid of transmitters in 2003 at a box turtle site and two wood turtle sites," Musnick explained. "In 2006 the Friends of the Great Swamp of Patterson, New York...funded the purchase of some transmitters, a receiver and antenna. I switched all my efforts to tracking wood turtles and it wasn't until about 2010 that I began to find and identify a productive box turtle site."

Asked how he first became interested in turtles, Musnick pauses for a moment before answering.



Walking trail map for HCT's Robert F. Smith Cold Brook Preserve

 $\mathbf{B} = Bench$

"I guess it was when I was a kid. Finding a baby turtle. That tiny face, those little legs," he said, holding his fingers in a circle to indicate the size of a baby turtle. "Who could resist that?"

Musnick's work in New York included collaboration with the Metro North Railroad to develop gravel escape ramps to help turtles stuck between the railway's tracks. The work, which was quite successful, was featured on National Public Radio. Musnick has also developed different exclosures that keep predators from turtle nests.

Musnick got involved with HCT's project after hearing about their campaign in 2019 to preserve the final parcel of land tucked next to the Coy's Brook Woodlands Preserve in West Harwich. He donated funds and offered HCT his turtle tracking expertise.

"We chatted, Michael talked about his turtle tracking adventures in New York, and offered to volunteer. It was a great fit with HCT to help us learn more about our local box turtles and their favorite conservation areas," said Lach.

- Continues on page 12

HOW YOU CAN HELP WITH THE TURTLE TRACKING PROJECT.

If you find an Eastern box turtle at the Robert F. Smith Cold Brook Preserve, Sand Pond Woodlands, or Cornelius Pond Woodlands, please take a photo and text it to HCT's Box Turtle Hotline 508-469-9174.

Please remain with the turtle and a volunteer with HCT will call you back shortly. The volunteer will then meet you on site and tracker Michael Musnick will also join. HCT is tracking turtles using small radio transmitters, permitted by the state, that are attached to their carapaces (top shell) without harming the turtles. The information in this study will inform future management of local conservation lands to help protect box turtle habitats.

To find driving directions and trail maps for the three focus areas, visit www.harwichconservationtrust.org and click "Trails."





WHY DID THE TURTLE CROSS THE ROAD?

Typically, our local turtles are in search of nesting or mating opportunities when crossing roads. If you see a box turtle in the road, please first ensure your own safety.

If safe to do so, cross the turtle to the other side in the direction that it's heading by firmly grasping the turtle on the back of its carapace (top of the shell) with your thumb and fingers underneath supporting its plastron (bottom of the shell).

Please note that unless in imminent danger, turtles should never be moved away from where they are found to "better" far away locations since they will attempt to return to their home range and can perish in trying to do so.

Walk the Trails & Watch for Box Turtles

A box turtle's home range movements in a chosen habitat can span up to a square mile. The turtles tend to nest at dawn and dusk, but also might wander about if the day isn't too hot. Space and time make finding the turtles challenging. And for that reason, help is being sought from the public by those who visit HCT's conservation lands.

Besides helping the search for turtles at the Robert F. Smith Cold Brook Preserve, HCT also hopes people enjoying the walking trails at the Cornelius Pond Woodlands and Sand Pond Woodlands will report their box turtle sightings to HCT. The long-term goals are to identify habitat areas that need protection—open, unshaded nesting areas, and the paths the

turtles use to reach nesting areas as well as hibernation and estivation sites.

"Box turtles tend to avoid mid-day sun on hot days since they are poikilothermic," said Musnick. Poikilothermic, also known as ectothermic, means that animals like most reptiles (including box turtles), amphibians, and fish have an internal body temperature that varies according to the temperature of their surroundings. In other words, if it's a hot day, then a box turtle will seek shade to cool off. If it's too cool, then it will seek sun to warm up. In contrast, birds and mammals are endothermic, meaning they can maintain a fairly consistent body temperature relative to their surroundings.

Because Musnick lives on the upper Cape, Lach urged people to call HCT's box turtle hotline when they find turtles (see "How You Can Help" on page 11). Since most folks carry a phone, HCT asks people who discover a box turtle to stay with it and call the box turtle hotline. A volunteer with HCT will respond and quickly meet the person who is standing watch over the turtle. The HCT volunteer will then take over until Musnick arrives.

Musnick is one of many volunteers who donate hours upon hours of time, and years of expertise, to HCT's efforts.

"I'm always inspired by the diversity of life experiences and expertise that our volunteers bring to this special corner of the Cape," Lach noted. "They make a local difference every day through HCT's land-saving and land stewardship endeavors."

Story by Susanna Graham-Pye Photographs by Gerry Beetham

SAVING BOX TURTLE HABITAT...

When you donate to HCT, you are proactively preserving prime box turtle habitat that give these shy creatures a chance to safely find food, nest, and shelter.

A review of East Coast box turtle tracking studies reveals that home ranges, on average, can vary from less than two acres to more than a dozen acres. Several of the woodland properties that you have preserved through HCT are in this acreage range.

Right now, we're actually striving to raise the remaining \$110,000 of the \$1,225,000 needed for the last 6.65 acres of the Sand Pond Woodlands conservation assemblage (see story on page 3 "The Quest to Save Sand Pond Woodlands"). Otherwise, those 6.65 acres could be occupied by a 7-lot subdivision, which would negatively impact box turtles, other wildlife, and the water quality of Sand Pond as well as the Herring River.





TAKING CARE OF THE LAND

Stewardship Reflections

Numerous people have told me over the past six months that I have the perfect job for right now. It is true that I have been unusually lucky to both hang onto my job and to be able to work at a safe social distance from others while enjoying the outdoors. I have very much appreciated being employed at Harwich Conservation Trust during these trying months of 2020. Nature has been my refuge.

Muddy Creek Headwaters Trail Opens

Even in remarkably trying and tense conditions for our country and world, land stewardship has continued all along. Despite delays due to the sewer construction on Church Street, Muddy Creek Headwaters Preserve opened to the public on June 27th.

The 1/3 mile loop trail is especially not to be missed during late spring and summer when wildflowers light the meadow aglow. Though I worked primarily alone on land stewardship on the property during the months of April, May and June, the trail's public unveiling would have never been possible without the efforts of many dedicated HCT volunteers over the last 3 years.

From mapping and marking property boundaries, creating the trail, building a trailhead kiosk to improving the driveway, HCT volunteers did the lion's share of work to establish public access and ensure a positive visitor experience. This trail is for you, cheers!

Trail Trimming

As the summer came on strong (and hot), I again reached out to our socially distancing, but dedicated volunteers to restart volunteer workdays, which had been on hold for several months. Starting in July, with new safety protocols, volunteers have been gathering every Tuesday morning to work on new land stewardship projects. As you might imagine, we were eager to get started.

HCT's Muddy Creek Headwaters Preserve protects 1,400 feet of shoreline along the tidal river that flows into Pleasant Bay.





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

Gift Dedications from May 6 - September 9, 2020

In Memory of

Ruby Lee Allison Mr. & Mrs. Martin G. Morgado

The Babaian Family Cynthia Babaian

My Dear Friend, Barbara Armstrong Anne C. Hayes

Richard G. (Dick) Baldauf Joanne M. Baldauf

Lee & George Baldwin Connie L. Pina

Tom Barker Kathleen Gallo

Ronald & Kathleen Barne Lois Anne Pelletier

Eric M. Barnes Jon O. McAlear

Charles Bascom

Pichard (Panger) & Lica Spaner

Richard (Ranger) & Lisa Spencer **David Bassett**

Robert W. Doane

Mary Ann Bowden

Bruce C. Bowden

Jane Armstrong Bradlee M. Loring Bradlee

My Parents – Ifred & Mary Brown Jane Pedersen

David Brownville Arthur & Barbara De Simone

Charles Buckley Jane L. Buckley

Joyce F. Bush Alan R. Bush

William F. Cahalane, Jr. Bill & Mary Lou Cahalane

Marion Brauneis Carey Madeleine Carey

Daniel B. Carroll, Jr. Daniel & Mary Carroll

Douglas Cole Virginia M. Lucil

Lorraine A. CollinsWilliam & Brenda Collins

Judd J. Corbett Ursula K. Corbett

Dave Coupal Margaret A. Coupal

William K. Craig Bruce & Beverly Nightingale

Bonnie Czech Charles & Linda Czech

Robert Damiano Grace R. Damiano

Elisabeth & Lawrence Damon Renny & Dottie Damon

George Deblois Frank & Mary Wojciechowski

Anthony R. DiGiovanni

Nancy DiGiovanni **Dr. Robert G. Dolan**Elizabeth N. Dolan

Philip S. Eagan Mary M. Eagan

Kenneth & Dora Eaton Lois E. Eaton

Janie (Vincent) Emanuel David & Patricia Vincent

Steve ErwinBruce & Cindy Witte

Georgia Ferguson May Ann Watts

Paul Friedman Cathryn D. Friedman

Jane & Jim Fryatt Julie A. Gibson

Margaret Gallucci Michele Gallucci

Our daughter, Amelia Geggel Robert & Karen Geggel

Marilyn R. Geller Joel S. Geller

Leona Howes GoodspeedWilliam & Karen Goggins, Jr.

Joseph Green Gloria C. Green

Normand C. & Therese C. Hebert Gilbert & Michele Becker My Mom, Margaret Hensler Joan G. Hensler

Mark & Peter Hirshberg Carolyn E. Hirshberg

Elizabeth E. Holbrook John W. Holbrook

Dr. Henry H. Hood Eleanor V. Hood

Marilyn Hull

Marcia K. Iddles

Thomas Hull

Andrea Aldrovandi
Mia, Max, & Jenny

Seth J. Hudak & Inez Giles

Diane Karel Patricia A. Kokoszka

The Kelly's & Smith Families The Kelley's & the Teague's

Herbert F. Lach Thomas & Janet Evans The Lach Family Robert Prescott, Jr. David & Pamela Purdy Edward & Earline Rubel

Mary & James Lamont George & Cathy Lamont

Mary Elizabeth Langway Chester C. Langway, Jr.

Joseph N. Lauricella, MD Mary L. Lauricella

Joe & Rita Leary Joan V. Leary

Barbara Loftus Gerard (Gerry) T. Loftus

Andy Madrigale Stephen & Andrea Sidoruk

Marge Marion Robert Prescott, Jr.

Timothy McCauliff Jane & David Murray

Georgia & Henry McCusker

Anne M. Peirce

Joan McGuire Robin Bauer

My Parents, Celina & Manuel Mendible Rebecca J. Mendible Ian Mickle Rich Mickle

Dr. MiltonCarolyn E. Hirshberg

Jo Molnar Richard & Joan Innis

Fred Murphy
The Lach Family

John A. O'Callaghan

Jeffrey & Mildred O'Callaghan

Mike & Marti Sekerak

Joseph L. Pasakarnis Jean P. Buchanan

Anna G. Pierce Donald Pierce

James Rice John Joseph Garvey

Carol Ann Robinson Russell C. Robinson

Elizabeth Harrington Rubel Earl & Elizabeth Harrington

Louise Russell Otis Russell & Monica Lussier

Pasquale F. Russo Paul F. Russo

Honorable Domenic JF Russo & Rosemarie Russo Mark X. & Elizabeth F. Russo

Abraham Saltzman, M. D. Beth & Michael Aaronson

William R. Schumann Barry Johnson The Lach Family

H. Donald Scott Richard Hall & Kathleen Edwards

Joyce Scudder Laurie J. Harrold

Kathleen Shaw

Maureen K. Campbell

Caroline Shearer

George W. Anderson

Marie E. Sherin Brian & Jane Sherin

Sid & Fran Sidoruk Stephen & Andrea Sidoruk Robert F. Smith Thomas & Janet Evans The Lach Family

Stephen E. Grizey, CPA

Sherm & Ginny Stacy Stanley & Charlene Davis

Fred Roscoe Street Barbara Brown-Street

Ken Supko Joyce J. Supko

Carnig & Armine Thomason

Philip & Susan Thomason

My Dog & Thompson Field

John & Ingrid Peak

Lucy Ann Tutunjian Linda A. Flaherty

Co Hong Vo Michael Cunningham & Phuong Dao

Burton J. Weinbaum Joyce Weinbaum

Ted & Brent Wojnarowski Carole Wojnarowski

Ted Wojnarowski Carole Wojnarowski

In Honor of

Alva Chaletzky's Birthday Shirley M. Knowles

William, Courtney, & Brianna Dianne & John Somers

Good Times Spent on Conservation Lands Julia F. Quinn

Ursula Corbett
- Amazing Mom
Shannon & Nino Corbett

Nancy Cotter James J. Cotter III

Tom & Wendy Daigle Thomas A. Daigle

My Amazing Aunt Donna Crystal Casaleggio

Ms. Linda FallDavid Crestin & Elizabeth
Bierbower

The Brophy Family
Patrick & Mary Brophy

First Responders Everywhere Lynn M. Schweinshaut

Gabrielle Griffis

Joshua Griffis **Harwich**Kelly Barber

Our Children & Their Love for Harwich Robert & Elizabeth Gibson

Our Happy Place Scott & Stephanie Degnan

All of the HCT Volunteers Clayton (Tony) & Mary Jane Ryan

Christina JoyceCarol Joyce
Joseph & Lynne Lavieri

Michael Lach Michael & Susan Karchmer Pauline M. Ryan Nancy Wigley Courtesy of AmeriCorps Cape Cod

AmeriCorps member

Caroline Stephen joins HCT and the Town this fall.

The Good Work by HCT Nancy Wigley

Rosemary Langway Chester C. Langway, Jr.

My Mother, Margaret Lermond Katherine (Kay) Benaroch

Greg Meier Leslie Meier

Nature Bret & Joan Bero

My Mother, Liz Naughton & Her Love of Nature Elizabeth Naughton

Dr. Charles D. Parker's 100th **Birthday** Loraine W. Parker

Steve Szafran Mark, Karen & Joe Cook

Link Thacher Beverly Thacher

Blair & Anne Wormer Paul Keary & Jeanne LaPierre

Courtesy of Gerry Beetham

Continued from page 13 -

We began our weekly stewardship workdays with trail trimming at various conservation destinations across Harwich such as Cornelius Pond Woodlands and the Robert F. Smith Cold Brook Preserve. We have also continued to focus our efforts on Muddy Creek Headwaters, hand-pulling invasive mugwort, and opening up scenic views towards the water. Our morning activities are a lot of fun, so please send me an email at tyler@harwichconservationtrust.org if you'd like to join and help.

Eagle Scout Andrew Davock

As they have done over the years on behalf of HCT with trailhead kiosks, benches, and a storage shed, local aspiring Eagle Scouts continue to make a community difference.

For example, over at HCT's 15-acre Cornelius Pond Woodlands, Eagle Scout candidate Andrew Davock organized an ambitious project to build two new benches that he installed at scenic overlooks along the trail with his Boy Scout troop and volunteers. Thanks Andrew!



urtesy of Andrew Davo

Good News about AmeriCorps In other news, HCT and the Tow

In other news, HCT and the Town of Harwich Conservation Department are again excited to announce that we will be hosting an AmeriCorps Cape Cod member for three days a week of service from September 2020 to July 2021.

Unfortunately last spring, AmeriCorps time on the Cape was cut short by the pandemic which resulted in members heading home early in May. New safety measures are in place at the AmeriCorps residences, so the program is up and running again.

The members of AmeriCorps Cape Cod spend their term of service focusing on disaster preparedness and response, natural resource

management, environmental education, and volunteer engagement. They have made a huge difference in improving Cape Cod's conservation destinations for over 20 years. We greatly look forward to working with Caroline Stephen who hails from Marlborough, Massachusetts and graduated from Roger Williams University in 2016.

As we turn the corner into 2021, HCT hopes to have a new trail destination ready to open for you in the near future. Please stay tuned to our website and sign up for HCT's eNews for updates. For now, enjoy the changing sensory experiences of autumn. I hope to see you out on the trails!

By Tyler Maikath, HCT Outreach and Stewardship Coordinator Photographs by Gerry Beetham

You're Invited...

HCT's 32nd Annual Meeting Goes Virtual
Thursday, November 12, 2020 • 4:30-5:30 p.m.

To receive the meeting link, please email events@harwichconservationtrust.org and include in the email subject line "HCT Annual Meeting."

We look forward to highlighting 2020 successes and our shared endeavors ahead.



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P.O. Box 101 South Harwich, MA 02661

Address Service Requested

We're here for you...

Web: <u>harwichconservationtrust.org</u>

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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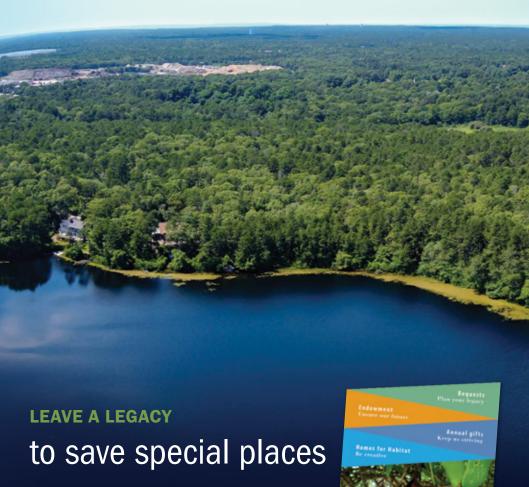
NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

Susanna Graham-Pye Michael W. Lach Tyler A. Maikath Blair Nikula

On the cover: Sand Pond Woodlands on a summer day by Gerry Beetham.

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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: <u>harwichconservationtrust.org/planned-giving</u>.