



Soar with us to save land and water

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PLEASE VOTE “YES” on Harwich Town

Town Meeting will be held **Saturday, May 8th (10 a.m.)** outside in the stadium of Monomoy Regional High School at 75 Oak Street (rain date: May 15th)



Hooded Merganser photograph courtesy of Sarah E. Devlin

Hinckleys Pond is one of the Cape's most frequently visited winter destinations for waterfowl including Hooded Mergansers.

Map (right) illustrates the partnership land preservation project assisted by Town Meeting Article 33.

Vote “YES” on Article 33

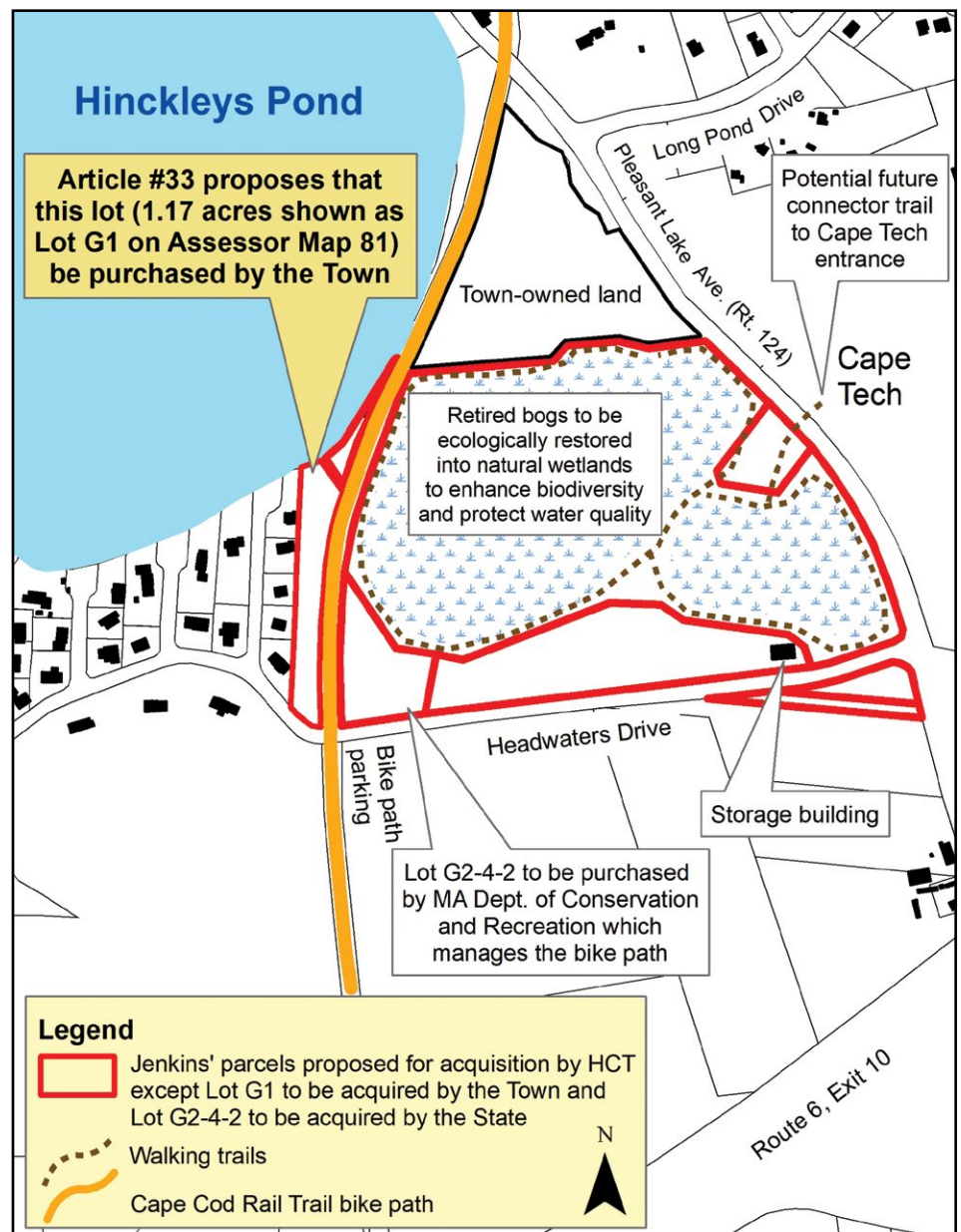
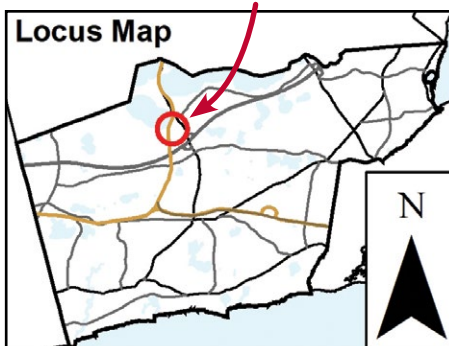
to authorize the Town to contribute \$360,000 in Community Preservation Act (CPA) open space funds for Lot G1 (shown below) as part of the \$800,000 acquisition of 31 acres to protect the water quality of Hinckleys Pond and Herring River as well as a walking trail and scenic views from the bike path.

CPA funds are a dedicated source of funds that don't compete with funding for town budget items like schools, road work, fire and safety, or other town services.

[Please see story on page 4 for project details.](#)

To learn more about Harwich Town Meeting Article 33, visit www.harwichconservationtrust.org.

PROJECT LOCATION



Meeting Articles 33 & 34

Vote “YES” on Article 34

to authorize the Town to contribute \$150,000 in Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds toward the design, permitting, and construction of Phase One of the Harwich Natural Heritage Trail, a half-mile wheelchair accessible trail in Harwich Port at the Robert F. Smith Cold Brook Preserve.

The goal is to create enhanced visitor access for people of all physical abilities to the Preserve’s scenic walking trails, continuing the HCT tradition of connecting the local community with the natural world.

Creation of a wheelchair accessible trail loop would offer residents and visitors the chance to learn about the history of the area, understand the restored habitats that will result from the Cold Brook Eco-Restoration Project, view wildlife, and offer educational opportunities for local students.

For example, over the past three years, HCT and Wellfleet Audubon have been partnering with teachers of Monomoy Regional Middle School fifth graders to provide learning experiences around the land, water, and wildlife of the Preserve. Creating a wheelchair accessible trail loop will further support and expand these learning opportunities for local students.

To learn more about Harwich Town Meeting Article 34, visit www.harwichconservationtrust.org.

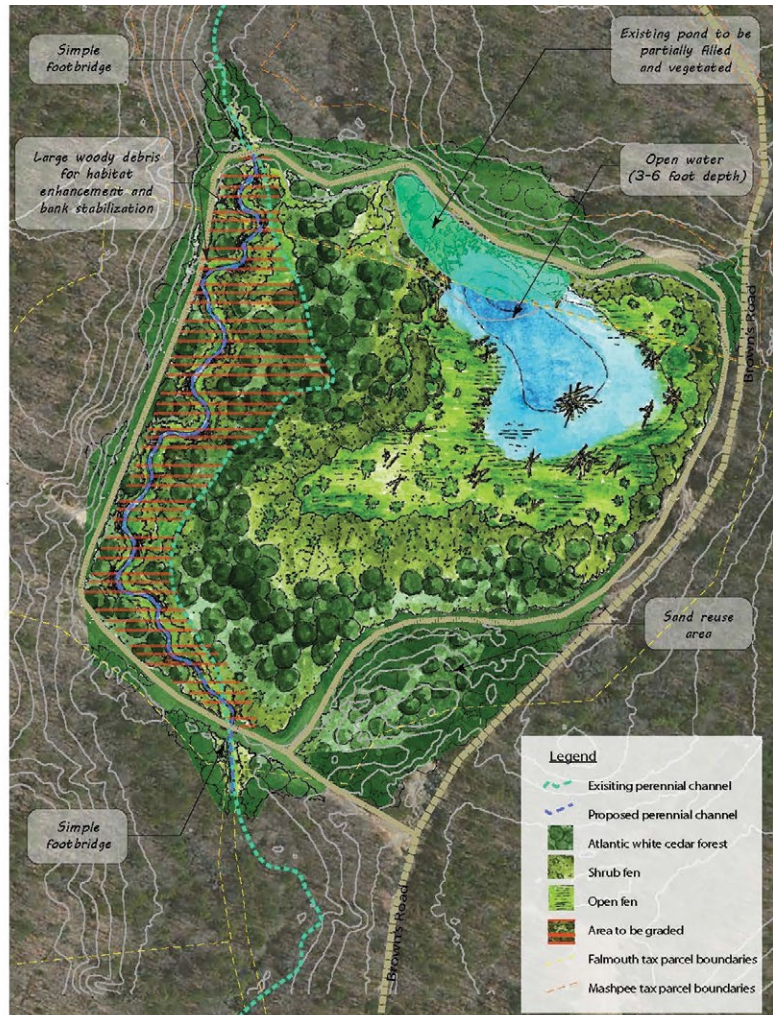
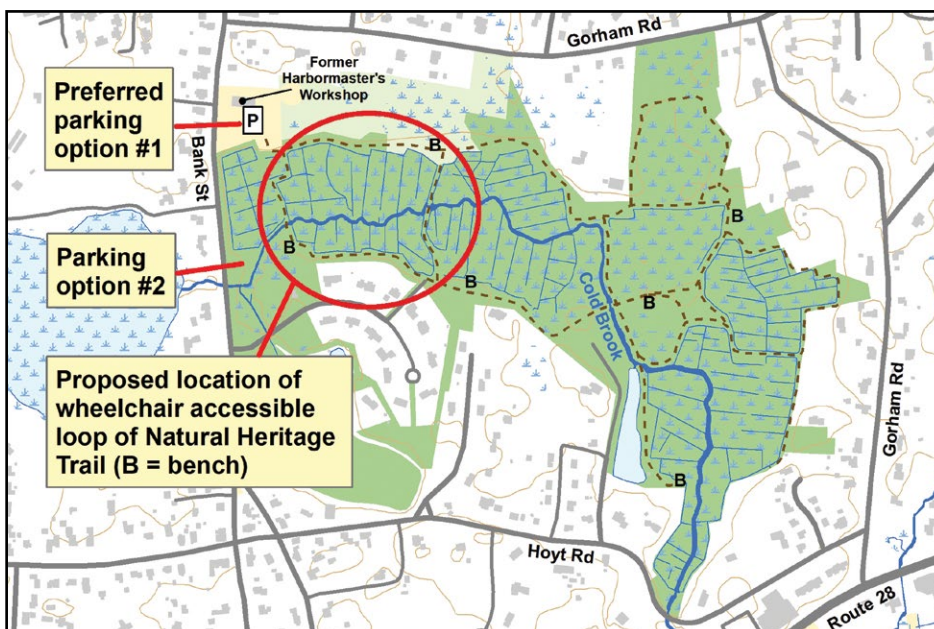
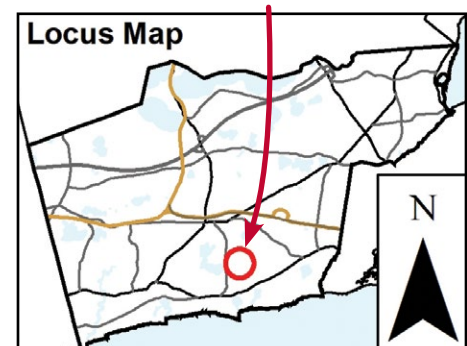


Image courtesy of Nick Nelson, Inter-Fluve



The artistic rendering above illustrates the ecological restoration of wetland, stream and open water habitats on a retired bog system along the Childs River in Falmouth. Similar eco-restoration would take place at the Robert F. Smith Cold Brook Preserve in Harwich Port.

PROJECT LOCATION



Hinckleys Pond/Herring River Headwaters Land-Saving Project

We invite you to join in supporting the **Hinckleys Pond/Herring River Headwaters Preservation Project** that will result in protecting scenic vistas from the bike trail, water quality, walking trails, and wildlife habitat.

It's rare to find a land-saving project that could create a ready to go walking trail destination and protect scenic views from the bike trail while also protecting the health of a pond and the Herring River. This approximately 31-acre combination of retired

cranberry bog and upland opposite the Cape Cod Regional Technical High School is very visible at the corner of Pleasant Lake Avenue (Rt. 124) and Headwaters Drive. Folks park at the Cape Cod Rail Trail parking area on Headwaters Drive to bicycle, walk,

jog, and enjoy the bike path bordering the 31-acre property.

As with many large acreage land preservation projects, success is only possible through partnerships. With your support of Harwich Conservation Trust (HCT), we'll continue to work with town committees, state agencies, and the community to find enough funding for a preservation outcome. Voters at the upcoming May 8th Town Meeting will play a critical role when



they have the opportunity to vote “YES” on Article 33 to contribute \$360,000 in Community Preservation Act open space funds toward the project.

Fred and Barbara Jenkins who own the 31-acre property have agreed to sell it for \$732,500. The total land acquisition project budget is \$800,000 when including expenses for due diligence, legal review, conveyancing, and land stewardship steps including an ecological restoration feasibility study to determine how best to naturalize the retired bog.

[See related story about college intern Kealahn Mullen on page 8.](#)

If Town Meeting voters approve Article 33, then \$440,000 will be left to raise and reach the total project goal of \$800,000. If Article 33 passes, then to help jumpstart raising the final \$440,000, an anonymous HCT donor has pledged \$220,000 in challenge funds to encourage HCT to raise the remaining \$220,000.

Public parking access is anticipated on Headwaters Drive from the existing bike trail parking and/or an additional parking area east of the bike trail.

Cranberry Farming Changes

Naturally, some folks are dismayed that farming ended with the last

harvest in 2020. Since the 1990s, bog owners in Massachusetts have increasingly experienced economic hardship because of a surplus of cranberries from other parts of the country and beyond the U.S. driving down market prices. Here’s a brief history of cranberry farming, the reasons why local growers are struggling against larger market forces, and why purchase for land/ water protection and ecological restoration are helpful.

The cranberry is a native berry that still grows wild in damp dune swales of the Outer Cape and Sandy Neck.

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Early settlers to the region cleared naturally occurring wooded red maple wetlands and Atlantic white cedar wetlands and converted those areas into commercial cranberry bogs from the late 1800s to early 1900s while diverting water from streams and ponds to support the agricultural operations. When growers could fetch a decent price for their harvest, farming could be a lucrative endeavor.

Over the past few decades, much larger cranberry bogs have been created in Canada and parts of the Midwest like Wisconsin. This surge of industrial scale cranberry farming has created a surplus of berries in the market. The backlog of berries and other economic factors have created an unpredictable and downward trending financial value for local growers who are at a competitive disadvantage compared to agribusiness domestically and internationally.

Local Growers Face Financial Challenges

Financial challenges include a lack of available labor to manage bogs as well as climate change resulting in drought and warmer average winter temperatures that hinder sufficient flood-freezing to sand bogs. Periodic

sanding is necessary to maintain cranberry vine health and productivity. The Jenkins bogs have not been able to be sanded for this climate change reason in several years and even if a long enough freeze occurred, the cost to sand at this point is estimated at \$50,000. The cost of adding sand is steep.

Expenses related to irrigation, fuel, fertilizer, and other agriculture needs coupled with decreasing cranberry prices mean that growers can no longer depend on a sustainable profit and are looking at other options for their land. These options include selling bog properties including developable upland capable of subdivision on the open real estate market or to towns and local nonprofit land trusts for conservation purposes. For example, the upland along Headwaters Drive could be a subdivision or, by working with HCT, saved to protect views and water quality.

The financial pressures on local growers are immense and many are forced by declining income to exit the market. With local growers often having been in the business for decades and for the Jenkins in particular being fifth generation cranberry farmers in Barnstable, it can be a very difficult

emotional decision to stop farming. In the end, the economic pressures give growers no choice but to consider alternatives.

Eco-Restoration Future

Fred Jenkins and his father Jim purchased the Harwich bogs in 1997 and farmed together until Jim's passing in 2018. The decision by Fred and his wife Barbara to gracefully complete their last harvest in 2020 and sell in 2021 provides an opportunity to create a conservation legacy. It's a new chapter for this highly visible and ecologically important 31-acre property in the watershed of Hinckleys Pond and Herring River.

Among the aspirations can be a chance to include the next generation of students in understanding the technical aspects and community benefits as well as the skills involved with ecological restoration projects.

While shepherding the land acquisition process, HCT is also researching the cost for ecological restoration to enhance habitat diversity, water quality, and the walking trail experience. An eco-restoration feasibility study is expected to be completed this spring.

Within one year, the plant diversity recovery is readily visible after the eco-restoration of a retired bog in Plymouth.
Photos: Alex Hackman, Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration



BEFORE



AFTER

How does this project benefit the community?

This 31-acre property stands out as an important conservation and passive recreation (walking trail) acquisition for the following reasons:

- ✓ The property is adjacent to a Wellhead Protection Area for public water supply. Recognizing the importance of protecting watershed lands, the Town of Harwich Board of Water/Wastewater Commissioners wrote a letter supporting the land-saving project. See letters of support at www.harwichconservationtrust.org.
- ✓ The property contains approx. 31 acres, which is substantial acreage that can provide a new walking trail destination with scenic views for residents and visitors.
- ✓ The land borders both sides of the 25-mile Cape Cod Rail Trail; each side buffering more than 1,000 feet of the scenic regional bike path that spans from Yarmouth to Wellfleet. This bike path section in Harwich offers panoramic scenic views of the property and Hinckleys Pond.
- ✓ The property is almost entirely within the watershed to Hinckleys Pond, the primary surface water source for the Herring River. River herring spawn in Hinckleys Pond and also transit Hinckleys Pond through herring runs to additional spawning ponds of Long Pond and Seymours Pond. If the upland is developed, then at least six houses could occupy the site and add six septic systems to the Hinckleys Pond/Herring River watershed.
- ✓ The Herring River watershed is part of Phase 8 for sewerage in the Town of Harwich Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan. Preserving the property reduces septic system nutrient loading, which reduces costly sewerage, thereby saving taxpayer money.
- ✓ The property includes extensive public road frontage including approx. 1,200 feet on Pleasant Lake Avenue (Route 124) and approx. 1,500 feet of frontage on Headwaters Drive with both roadways offering motorists and travelers scenic views of the property.
- ✓ The property is adjacent to approx. 6.5 acres of Town-owned land under jurisdiction of the Selectmen and shares a common border of approx. 844 feet.
- ✓ The property is directly opposite the new state-of-the-art \$120 million Cape Cod Regional Technical High School. With the simple addition of a crosswalk between the school and the land to allow students and faculty pedestrian access, this unique proximity to a regionally important educational center could offer “outdoor classroom” learning opportunities for students either from Cape Tech or nearby Monomoy Regional High School.
- ✓ Because of the property’s overall relatively flat topography with slight slopes and wide trails, a future aspiration could include creating a wheelchair accessible trail loop compatible with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.
- ✓ The land preservation project is consistent with the Town of Harwich Open Space and Recreation planning goals, including protecting Water Resources, Wetlands, Fisheries and Wildlife.

YOU CAN HELP!

Help make a lasting, local difference for land, water, wildlife and our shared quality of life.

We welcome your financial support by donating to Harwich Conservation Trust. Visit www.harwichconservationtrust.org to donate by credit card.

Or, with the enclosed envelope, write a check payable to Harwich Conservation Trust and mail to:
HCT, P.O. Box 101, South Harwich, MA 02661

In the check memo, write: Hinckleys Pond Project



Courtesy of Diane Lomba

College Intern Kealahn Mullen Makes a Difference with HCT

Mixed among the challenges of pandemic-time living, many have been able to find some silver linings. For Kealahn Mullen, graduating this spring from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, a shiny upside has been the chance to get some firsthand experience in his chosen area of study: natural resources conservation.



College Conservation Connection

“Harwich isn’t a bad place to have to do my last term remotely,” Mullen said with a smile.

Mullen moved with his family from Portland, Maine to Harwich when he was in sixth grade. He is a graduate of Monomoy High School.

Entering college, Mullen planned to study computer science, but things changed when he took Environmental Conservation 101.

“I enjoyed it so much, I switched my major,” he said, adding, “I care a lot about the earth and sustainability. I’m happiest in the woods. The more I thought about it, the more I realized I’d rather be outside working than always sitting at a computer.”

Michael Lach, Director of Harwich Conservation Trust (HCT), said it’s a win-win for everyone involved when students like Kealahn volunteer with the Trust.

“HCT can provide practical, hands on learning opportunities for students like Kealahn who represent environmental leadership of the future,” Lach said. “The long-term health of our land, water, and wildlife will depend on decisions made by the next generation.

Their decision-making can be informed and shaped by real world experience with land and water protection projects.”

Kealahn said he jumped at the chance when asked if he wanted to help with field work to support the wetland restoration feasibility study for the cranberry bog at the corner of Headwaters Drive and Pleasant Lake Ave. Fred and Barbara Jenkins own the 31-acre property that includes buildable upland and the 18.5-acre bog which they retired from agriculture after the 2020 harvest.

New Land-Saving Endeavor

The Town Real Estate & Open Space (REOS) Committee and HCT propose to partner on the new land-saving project in order to help protect the water quality of Hinckleys Pond and Herring River as well as the scenic views from the roads and bike path. The pond and river are important for herring migration and spawning.

HCT is studying how to fund implementing ecological restoration which could include naturalizing the bog surface, removing the old pumphouse to open up more views from the bike path, and enhancing the walking trail experience.

Kealahn Learns by Doing

To understand the scope of ecological restoration that needs to be done, Kealahn explained, it is necessary to determine where sand was added and how much by harvesters over the years as part of past agricultural practices. Working with engineers from Inter-Fluve, which HCT contracted to undertake the eco-restoration feasibility study, Kealahn took core samples of the soil at regular intervals.

Kealahn also helped with field work and sediment sampling at two other sites, one of which is in Harwich Port at HCT’s Robert F. Smith Cold Brook Preserve. Groundwater and Cold Brook itself flows through the Preserve to Saquatucket Harbor on Nantucket Sound. Over the decades due mainly to nitrogen emanating from septic systems in the watershed, the harbor’s health has deteriorated.

The Cold Brook Eco-Restoration Project offers the benefit of naturally removing nitrogen. By restoring habitats that can reduce nitrogen heading to the harbor, the HCT-Town eco-restoration partnership is estimated to save taxpayers up to \$6 million in reduced sewerage costs according to the Town of Harwich Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan.

Changes Afoot

Commercial cranberry farming has been an integral part of Cape Cod, and particularly Harwich, culture.

But the Cape's harvesters, many of whose bogs are in Harwich, have come under increasing economic pressure as larger-scale operations in other parts of North America increase the quantity of berries on the market, driving prices down. Irrigation, fuel, fertilizer, and labor costs continue to rise, as profits decline.

The challenging economic factors that force a bog owner to sell the land for development can be emotional. Acquiring these lands for conservation and eco-restoration purposes hopefully helps ease the emotional pain for property owners and the community. Otherwise the upland on Headwaters Drive could become a subdivision and public walking access could cease.

Eco-Restoration Educational Opportunities

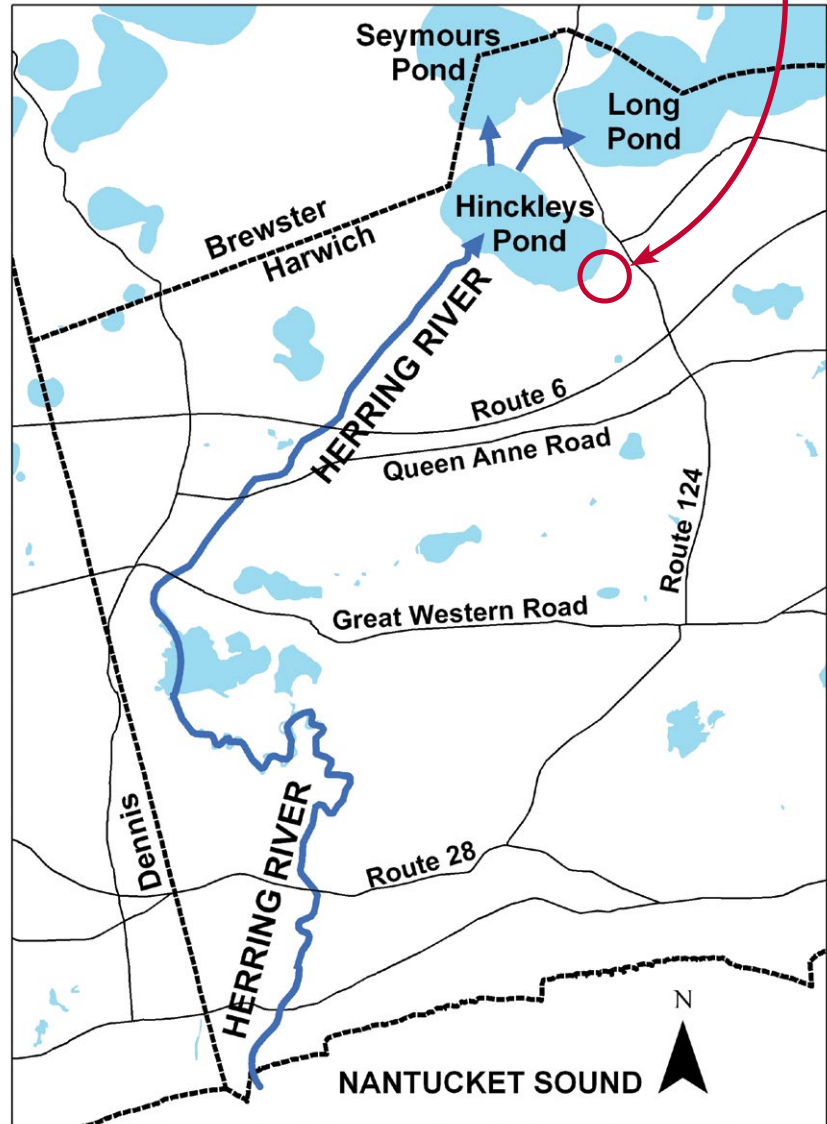
With the newly built Cape Cod Regional Technical High School across the street from the Jenkins property, Lach also sees potential for students to learn about the technical aspects and community benefits of ecological restoration.

"Other local students volunteer with land stewardship activities like trail trimming, invasive plant management, bench and trailhead kiosk construction," Lach said. "But this is the first time a student has been involved with eco-restoration field work and we've been grateful for Kealahn's enthusiasm."

Nick Nelson, a fluvial geomorphologist with Inter-Fluve who graduated with the Monomoy High School Class of 1999, is overseeing the field work.

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Location of 31 acres on Hinckleys Pond



Every spring, river herring (shown below) swim upstream from Nantucket Sound through their namesake Herring River to the spawning ponds of Hinckleys Pond, Seymour's Pond, and Long Pond.





“Land trusts allow for people who want to do something about our environmental future to come together and tackle the issues.”

– Kealahn Mullen

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“Kealahn’s work allows him the opportunity to see what we do on a day-to-day basis. This is the hands-on science that leads to the restoration design that leads to implementation,” Nelson explained. “Having these opportunities helps college students better understand what they may want to do with their degrees.”

At this point in his schooling, this is precisely what Kealahn is trying to do.

“I’m trying to figure out what I really want to do with my education, what career path I want to follow,” Kealahn said. “I’m trying to expose myself to different experiences to get a varied idea of things I could be doing.”

Land stewardship is a particular interest for Kealahn. Ecological restoration is, too, he said. To work for the National Park Service is his dream.

Kealahn is keenly aware he’s entering an important field of work. Changing the public’s understanding of how it interacts with our environment and the changes necessary to sustain existence here on the Cape are critical.

“We have to increase the public’s awareness of the goals and targets we need to hit so we can exist,”

Kealahn said, adding that making those changes “is our only option.”

Kealahn counts himself lucky to have the chance to see how many people are invested in the future health of the planet. And land trusts, he believes, “are massively important.”

“Of course it’s important that they can help preserve land,” Kealahn noted. “But it’s so much more than that. There are all these other benefits that come with their outreach and education. Land trusts allow for people who want to do something about our environmental future to come together and tackle the issues.”

HCT, he said, has brought together “so many, many people who are so lovely, and interesting, it really, really is special.”

“And not just because it’s home,” he added with a grin.

Story by Susanna Graham-Pye



Donation Dedications

Each and every donation represents a thoughtful and generous contribution that helps to save special places.

Gift Dedications from September 11, 2020 – March 26, 2021

In Memory of

Richard F. Anton
Kathleen Sinnamon

Lew Ashton
Pauline V. Ashton

Atacospa
Janine Corsano

James D. Avidon
Emily Avidon

Reba Reios/Avila
David Taylor & Robert
MacLasco

Richard G. Baldauf
Joanne M. Baldauf

Bill Baldwin
Emily Baldwin

Lee & George Baldwin
Sherill Baldwin &
Kim Ball Cartwright

Tom Barker
Jean E. Barker
Harold & Jill Gabriel

David A. Bassett
Dorothy (Dot) G. Hemmings

Travis Bassett
Kathleen Caouette
Patti A. Smith

Bill
David Boyer

Louise & Pete Blood
Judith Blood
Nancy Blood
Cathy Chandler

May Ann Bowden
Bruce C. Bowden

Francis & Regina Brophy
Patrick & Mary Brophy

Eddy Brown
Edward Brown

Daniel G. Burgess
James & Virginia Hudson

Joyce Bush
David Bush & Leslie Dossey

Clifford Butterworth
Jeffrey & Pamela Wade

Charles "Chuck" Cadwell
The Geller Family
(Sherri Geller)

Ronan Campion
Carolyn M. Campion

Robert & Patricia Capece
Nicholas G. Capece

Daniel Burke Carroll, Jr.
Mary C. & Daniel B. Carroll, Sr.

Kelly Street Children
Pamela Nunes

Caleb Freeman Childs
Jayne Thacher

Melantha Cleveland
Jan & Jean Kalicki

Ingrid Clouther
"Steve's Schatz"
Stephen F. Clouther

Ethan Coffey
Michael & Mary J. Metzger

Douglas Cole
Virginia M. Lucil

Kay & Chuck Corbett
Richard & Anne Simmons

Judd J. Corbett
Ursula K. Corbett

Jacqueline Croce
Russell J. Croce

Norman & Sally Cross
Jon & Sarah Idman

**Tom Curran, Sand Pond
lifeguard 1959-1960**
Mary Jane Curran

Megan M. Daley
Kevin & Beryl Daley

Albert Dalmolen
Frances (Eve) Dalmolen

Robert Damiano
Grace Damiano

**Lawrence &
Elisabeth Damon**
Lawrence (Renny) &
Dorothy (Dottie) Damon

Lin Damon
Robert & Virginia Doyle

Edward & Adeline Davis
Carl & Deborah Sturgis

Patricia A. Desler
David A. Desler

Mrs. Irene Diverio
Eileen F. Calabrese
Roland & Catherine O'Leary

Doris & Howard Doane
Seth Doane &
Andrea Pastorelli

Rose M. Donovan
Clare Donovan

Laura Dwyer
Henry & Donna Peterson

Kenneth & Dora Eaton
Lois E. Eaton

Robert S. Engel, Sr.
Carolyn R. Engel

Stephen A. Erwin
Bonnie J. Brewer
Joseph & Zabelle D'Amico
Paul & Bunny Fitzgerald
Suzanne C. Kelly
Olivia Miller &
Kenneth Kevorkian

Robert & Noel Rebello
Elizabeth A. Sullivan

Dave Everson
Ermelia (Amy) Natiello &
Charles Abate

The Bown Family
Richard & Mary Alexander

Mary Farragher
Katherine Farragher

Senna Fernandez
Peter E. Ervin

Mary Ruth Follas
John & Carroll Follas

Bess Foxman
Norman Foxman

Ruth Bader Ginsburg
Michael & Donna Foughty

Harriett H. Hackford
Sandra & Russell Shannon

Ronald Haley
Sandra Ryan

Warren Franklin Hall
Karen A. Hall

Frances Hamilton
John & Kathleen Welch

Robert R. Hampton
Cynthia A. Hampton

Dorothy P. Handren
David P. Handren
(Handren Bros.)

Ralph & Eleanor Hayward
Tom & Sue Banchich

**Dr. Elaine J. Hopkins,
V.M.D.**
Ms. Joan Hensler

Thomas Hull
Marilyn Hull

Aunt Jenny & Uncle Jim
Dr. Inez Giles &
Dr. Seth J. Hudak

Carroll Johnson
Susan Johnson

Daniel M. Joyce
Christina A. Joyce

Barbara Jung
Elizabeth McCarte

Walter J. Kane
Mary L. Kane

Barry A. Knowles
Shirley Knowles

Paul Kozar
Joan C. Kozar

Herbert Lach
The Lach Family
Connie L. Pina

Michael LaDouceur
Edward & Constance
LaDouceur

My brother Kenzie Laidlaw
Christine I. Laidlaw

Joseph Lauricella
Eileen F. Calabrese

Joe & Rita Leary
Joan V. Leary

Anne Leete
Kevin & Lindsay Leete

Kathy Leonard
Patricia & Leonard Eiserer

My Mother Perchia London
Ainat Koren

Luna
Otis Russell & Monica Lussier

Charles Macauley
David & Debrah Lear

Andy Madrigale
Stephen & Andrea Sidoruk

Marge Marion
Connie L. Pina

Charles & Helen Mason
Janet & Craig Post

Barbara McCarte
Elizabeth McCarte

Scot McClain
Henry & Donna Peterson

Timothy McCauliff
David & Jane Murray

James McCroskery
Rosemary V. Shields

Mary Lou McGrath
Charles & Elizabeth Murphy

Victoria McGrath
James McGrath

Greg Meier
Brian & Carol Lucas
Leslie S. Meier

**My beloved parents Celina
& Manuel Mendible**
Rebecca J. Mendible

Joan Scully Metz
Peter Metz III

– Continues on page 12



“To be whole. To be complete. Wildness reminds us what it means to be human, what we are connected to rather than what we are separate from.” – Terry Tempest Williams

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Amelina & Romeo Milio
Giovanna Poccia

George H. Mitchell
Kathleen Mitchell

Jo Molnar
Joan & Richard Innis

Marty Moran
Nancy C. Moran

Fred Murphy
The Lach Family

Margaret “Peg” Murphy
Michael Beynon
Bill Choate & Barbara Boras
Lawrence X. Clifford, PhD
Elizabeth M. Donovan
Douglas & Marguerite
(Peggy) Erickson
William Ganshirt
Bill & Betsy Georgitis
Emily Hill

Laura Lwanik
Dru Martin
Gerald V. Conway &
Lori C. Murphy
Philip & Karen Murray
Thomas & Marilyn Murray
Jillian Sherlock Pereira
Michael & Karen Reddish
Neil Schwartz
Doug & Andi Shaw
The McLeavey Sisters
Cindi & Scott Watson

Elizabeth (Liz) Sayre Naughton
Donald & Martha Crane
Wayne & Elizomar Shearer
Gertrude (Trudie) &
John Steel
Bruce & Melody Wood

Joan & Elliott Nickerson
Paula Nickerson & Ron Plock

John A. O’Callaghan
Mildred & Jeffrey O’Callaghan

Muriel Olson
Abigail Churney
Harbro Auto Sales &
Service, Inc.
Deirdre Siddall
Michael Vesprini on behalf
of the employees of
Circle Floors, Inc.

Robert B. Our
Eileen M. Our

Charles F. Palmer
Carole A. Palmer

Jeffrey Stuart Parker
Muriel E. Parker

Virginia Pena
Anne C. Hayes

My Father, Robert B. Percy II
of Northboro, MA
Robert (Bob) Percy III

Christine Peterson
Henry & Donna Peterson

Pat & Steve Petro
Pam Petro &
Marguerite Harrison

Peggy & Allen Phillips
Barry & Sylvia Fulcher

Jean Pickett
David E. Pickett

John S. Preston, Jr.
Faith & Diana Preston

Elizabeth L. Pring
Kenneth Pring

Florence Pultz
George S. Pultz

Wallace M. Raneo Sr.
Margo Bellamy

Ellwood Reeves
John & Susan Stinson

Jane & Chet Richards
Jeff & Kelly Richards

Stella & Louis Riedl
Ralph MacKenzie &
Georgene Riedl

Bette & Brooks Robbie
John & Jennifer Robbie

Evelyn & Wayne Robinson
Lee Robinson Chase

Louise Russell
Natalie R. Cocroft
Monica Lussier &
Otis T. Russell

David & Sally Russell
Fred & Kathy Budreski

Sheila Saperstein
Allan Saperstein

Bill Schumann
The Lach Family

H. Donald Scott
Michael & Martha Farmer

Joyce Scudder
Laurie J. Harrold

Margaret Sevier
Electra Sevier

Sid & Fran Sidoruk
Stephen & Andrea Sidoruk

Thomas Sledzik
Philip & Patricia Brothers

All Creatures Great and Small
Marla Menzies

“Boomer” Smith
Debra A. Bassett
Thomas & Janet Evans

Robert F. Smith
Pauline V. Ashton
The Lach Family
John & Molly Morin

Mort & June Snowwhite
Pam Petro &
Marguerite Harrison

Laurel Sorenson
Richard Cooper

Fred Roscoe Street
Barbara Brown-Street

Ken & Glenna Swanton
Bette B. Swanton

Theresa (Terri) Swider
Casey Fleisch
Janet Harvey

Bettina Tappero
Diane Carlson

Tom & Mary Taylor
Robert & Jane Sumner

Lee Thomas
East Harwich Community
Association
Richard (Dick) Thomas
Samuel & Suzanne Winsper

My Dad, Robert Thomas
Meredyth Thomas

My dog & Thompson Field
John & Ingrid Peak

Tom Towle – Brother
Rev. Joseph W. Towle

Esther & Walter Trainer
Sara Trainer

Lucy Tutunjian
Linda A. Flaherty
Joan C. Lafond

David Tyler
Marcia Tyler

Charles O. Verrill
Eleanor V. Hood

Ted & Brent Wojnarowski
Carole A. Wojnarowski

Concetta (Connie) Young
Maureen S. Davis
John F. Young

What used to be
Anonymous

Timothy Woollard
Ralph MacKenzie &
Georgene Riedl

Richard Young
Sandra P. Young

In Honor of

Anne-Sophie, Zoe, Max & Lila

Beth & Ted Nelson

Our 4th Anniversary Jeff & Kathleen Auer

Deborah Aylesworth Franklin & Sidney Coursen

Baxter Jonathan & Alison Rutley

All things bright & beautiful Marla Menzies

Valerie & Herb Bell's Birthdays Gloria Green

The Boundary Quest Team Mario (Al) Boragine

Roberta Bratti Terry Halloran

Alva Chaletzky Alan & Bette Johnson

Roz Coleman Robert & Natalie Coleman-Fuller

Jennifer Covenberg Robert & Joanne Derrah

Grace Damiano Barbara Tabak & David Damiano

Dr. Christopher Donner Jennifer D. Caruso

Steve Erwin Mary Jane Curran

Linda Fall David Crestin & Elizabeth Bierbower

Ben & Rita Stevens & Family Edith D. Stevens

Anne Flash Joan Flash Davis

Good Friends Florence Lofberg

Karleton D. B. Fyfe (2/10/1970 to 9/11/2001) James & Barbara Fyfe

Madeline Gould Susan M. Bartick

My Children & Granchildren Andrea Aldrovandi

HCT Roger & Janet Bailey Ursula E. Hornig

Nancy Hipp Shirley M. Knowles

Linda Hladek Kathryn M. Meyers

Tom Johnson Rosemary V. Shields

Chris Joyce Carol Joyce Joseph & Lynne Lavieri

Shirley Knowles Elizabeth W. Eldredge Donna J. Smoller

Michael Lach Jonathan & Judy Chiel Elizabeth (Pem) Schultz Nancy Wigley

Rob & Barbara Lattimer Carolee Fink

Thomas Leach – Harbormaster (retired) Robert K. Leach

Finn McCool Michael McMahon

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Jean Hartley Nobles William Hartley Rae

Dana Perkins William & Priscilla Perkins

My Aunt Donna Peterson who I miss very much Crystal Casaleggio

Tom & Doris Philips Charles & Rosemary Philips

Herbert S. Potter Jay & Briana Potter

Grady & Felix Rhodes Megan G. Rhodes

My Nephew Dr. Andrew Risso (Healthcare Doctor) Vita Marie Rizzo

Ed Rubel Linda Huntington

Justine & Gugi Ryan Rain C. Ryder

Justine Ryan Pauline Ryan

Tony Ryan for all the great work he has done with Boundary Quest Dorothy & Dave Callaghan

Rain Ryder Pauline Ryan

Sand Pond Sherill Baldwin & Kimball Cartwright Margaret Huskins

Don Schall Nancy Wigley

Pem Schultz Sally Wormer

The Schultz Family Joseph & Kristen Schultz

Gerie Schumann Betsey Bradford

Dana, Lincoln & Scott Jane Pedersen

Anne C. Simmons Julia C. Adams

Zoe Simmons 12th Birthday John & Jennifer Defoe

Isabel Smith David Crestin & Elizabeth Bierbower

Maria Sogiuthucus' 5th Birthday Maria E. Mahoney

Grandsons Tyler & Will Anne & Blair Wormer

Margaret Strand Paul & Eva Liner

Link Thacher Beverly R. Thacher

Tyler & HCT Volunteers for their hard work and dedication Helen & Paul Maikath

The Volunteers Bob & Dottie Coombes

Richard Waystack Robert & Dianne Payne

Alice H. Webster Susan Van Drie

Benjamin Wollman Kathryn Richard



Thank you and bon voyage Tyler

Tyler Maikath who has been HCT's go-to land stewardship specialist for the past three years is picking up stakes and heading west to Rhode Island for a position as Director of Land Stewardship with the South Kingstown Land Trust. He is excited to reconnect with the area having graduated from University of Rhode Island in 2005.

We thank Tyler for his dedication, land management expertise, and connecting folks to our local conservation lands through meaningful volunteer activities. We wish him the very best and look forward to hearing about his adventures out West when he returns to the Cape for visits.



Kids Find Adventures Outdoors!

Looking for new and different ways for your kids or grandkids to enjoy Nature?

The enthusiasm and natural curiosity of the Nelson Grandkids exploring the great outdoors offers inspiration and ideas for all ages. Anne-Sophie Laloe (11), Zoe Laloe (8), Max Nelson (7), and Lila Nelson (5) who are grandchildren to Beth and Ted Nelson of East Harwich embarked on quite the adventures exploring local conservation lands and scenic trails through their 2020-2021 “Winter and Summer Camp” experiences.

Here’s the story as told by Beth and Ted:

Dear Harwich Conservation Trust,

Well, those Nelson family grandchildren were at it again! This time, their trail hiking and nature appreciation in and around Harwich extended all year. Due to Covid-19 interrupting everyone’s lives, we were fortunate to be the beneficiary of more time with our grandchildren for several extended visits with us here in Harwich.

It seems that last year’s winter camp was not only a success for Harwich Conservation Trust (HCT), but it seemed to be a big hit for the kids. So, this year we had both a summer camp and a winter camp and they were ready to explore again and then again!

Summer Camp allowed us to have some adventures that were not possible in the winter including: Quahogging in Pleasant Bay with our toes; kayaking from the bay up Muddy Creek, and, of course, appreciating different active wildlife with kingfishers, osprey and great blue heron all along the way; and kayaking down Red River into the new HCT marshland.

This winter we made a point of studying the heavens with the expectation of seeing the conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter. While clouds prevented us from a good look, they braved the cold at Red River Beach looking through binoculars trying to get a glimpse. They really enjoyed their Sunrise—Sunset adventure, which included getting everyone up early one morning to see the sunrise over Pleasant Bay and then after a full day of adventures seeing the sunset over Cape Cod Bay at low tide.

On another day we saw the sunset and the Cold Moon rise within half an hour of each other. Of course, we had another Winter Plunge, this time at Red River beach, and it was no warmer than last year in Pleasant Bay!

Loads of indoor and outdoor games along with fun crafts such as making soap, clay coasters and clothespin trivets were great family activities when we weren’t wandering the trails.

They were pretty excited to see the story that appeared on HCT’s website in December sharing the events around last year’s winter camp. As with last year, this year most days included one of the many walking trails tended by HCT—Bell’s Neck, Pleasant Bay Woodlands, D. Isabel Smith Monomoy River Conservation Lands, Sand Pond Woodlands, Island Pond Conservation Lands and the Robert F. Smith Cold Brook Preserve.

This year, we invited them to participate in telling their story of these adventures and we are sending those along with this letter. Anne-Sophie and Zoe wrote Haikus of their favorite activities, while Max and Lila drew pictures. Anne-Sophie also wrote an acrostic describing S’mores around the firepit. Max shows a fawn that he watched run through the woods on one hike, and our hike at Sand Pond Woodlands around the bog. Lila’s picture is showing her doing the winter plunge at Red River beach.

Once again, we are very happy to contribute to the great purpose of the Harwich Conservation Trust with a donation in the name of each grandchild. Keep up the great work, and we will keep exploring!

Very best wishes for a great 2021,

Beth + Ted Nelson

East Harwich





Courtesy of Beth and Ted Nelson

Zoe, Lila, Anne-Sophie, and Max

EXPLORE THE OUTDOORS

Tips to Find Trails in Harwich

We've noticed more folks than ever before out on the trails looking for safe and socially distant outdoor opportunities to connect with nature and each other.

To explore your local walking trails, visit www.harwichconservationtrust.org and click the Trails tab. You'll see links for 13 different conservation destinations across Harwich. Happy Trails!



Courtesy of Beth and Ted Nelson

NEW WALKING TRAIL

Explore Pleasant Bay Woodlands

Discover the white pine groves and old cartpaths of Pleasant Bay Woodlands by walking the new trails on nearly 50 rolling acres in East Harwich.

Priority in Pleasant Bay Watershed

For many years, Harwich Conservation Trust (HCT) had been watching this top priority property, which at the time in 2013 was the largest, undeveloped tract in the entire 21,000-acre Pleasant Bay Watershed shared by Harwich, Chatham, Orleans, and Brewster.

HCT led the \$3.6 million effort to save the sensitive watershed landscape. The East Harwich Community Association was strongly supportive. Several hundred donors contributed to the land-saving campaign including anonymous challenge donors, the Wequassett Resort, family foundations, and other nonprofits like the Friends of Pleasant Bay and Chatham Conservation Foundation.

With groundwater flowing toward Pleasant Bay and nearby town water supply wells, it was vital to preserve this land that protects water quality as well as critical wildlife habitat and the scenic experience.

Stories of the Land

In addition to groundwater and habitat protection, the property has a unique and rich history. The Kendrick family purchased the property from the Monomoyick Quason family in the 1730s. Seven generations of Kendricks lived there. They included whalers, fishermen, salt makers, and cranberry growers. One member of the family, Captain John Kendrick (born c. 1740), was a Revolutionary War privateer and renowned explorer who led the first American voyage of enterprise and discovery into the Pacific.

Historian and author, Scott Ridley, who has written a book about Kendrick's voyage said, "The story of this property is more than one about a single individual or family. Generation by generation it tells us the story of the Cape region." [See story on page 18.](#)

Since the time of acquisition, HCT has been working with an archeology team to examine that history. The team is led by Elizabeth DeMarrais,

a Massachusetts native who is a professor at University of Cambridge in England. She shares this responsibility with John Steinberg, a senior archeologist with the Fiske Center for Archeological Research at UMass Boston. Tim Earle, a long-time Orleans summer resident and well-known archeologist, Scott Ridley, and HCT's Michael Lach round out the team.

DeMarrais has coordinated volunteers and a half-dozen undergraduates to dig more than 250 test pits and sift for artifacts. The first phase of work focused mainly on the areas proposed for the walking trails and trailhead parking area on Kendrick Road. After analysis confirmed that there were no sensitive archeological sites in those areas, the parking area and trails were created this past fall. Future research will target other priority areas.

DeMarrais said: "We have been able to discover, first, the ways Native peoples lived in these woodlands, and then about their changing interactions with European settlers. Archeology uncovers a fascinating local story in East Harwich over many centuries, revealing details of everyday life that are rarely recorded in written documents."

Earle added: "Walking through the woods of the former Kendrick Farm is to experience history. As a kid, my connections with the bays, woods and farms on the Cape encouraged my imaginings of the past that all can enjoy."

FIND YOUR WAY

For a trail map of Pleasant Bay Woodlands, visit harwichconservationtrust.org and click "Trails" where you will also find links to maps for trails at a dozen other conservation destinations. Enjoy discovering the great outdoors.



Many Made the New Trail Possible

While the research has been going on, many hands have pitched in to open the new walking trails. The Town of Harwich Highway Department was instrumental in preparing the parking area from grading to mulching to establishing clear sight lines for drivers entering and exiting. The Woodworkers of the Chatham-Harwich Newcomers Club built the traditional timberframe kiosk. HCT volunteers and AmeriCorps trimmed trails, installed trail signs, and split rail fence. Tyler Maikath, HCT Outreach Stewardship Coordinator, organized volunteers.

HCT Trustee and Vice-President Andrea Silbert noted that these land preservation endeavors and trail access projects result from strong partnerships among many like-minded individuals and groups. Silbert also expressed appreciation for founding HCT Trustees including Robert F. Smith and D. Isabel Smith (no relation) who along with fellow volunteer citizens had the vision to start the local land trust back in 1988.

HCT members Neil and Anna Rasmussen, who live in East Harwich and Concord, MA, contributed to the Pleasant Bay Woodlands Project as well as other HCT land-saving efforts in the watershed.

Neil remarked on the site's importance as well as HCT's leadership role in preserving high priority natural lands, saying "You only get one chance to save a place like this; in addition to being one of the only remaining tracts of undeveloped land in the area, it also has unique and important historical associations to the early origin of Harwich. The Harwich Conservation Trust not only preserves the land, but goes much further by improving access and water quality, as well as monitoring and improving conditions for wildlife. The Trust is unusually good at making places better, which is why we are so proud to support it."

Ospreys Return

The return of ospreys soaring overhead and diving talons first for fish in local waters is a sure sign of spring's arrival. After spending the winter as far south as Central and South America, our familiar fish hawk seeks springtime nesting opportunities along the Northeast Coast. Ospreys have an average wingspan of five feet and fly 3,000-5,000 miles during migration.

Osprey populations declined precipitously from the use of the pesticide DDT (1940s – early 1970s). After the U.S. banned DDT in 1972, the majestic raptor made a remarkable comeback assisted by nesting platforms being placed on poles near coastal waters.

Ospreys depend on healthy estuaries and ponds for fish which comprise up to 99 percent of the raptor's diet. Diving usually no deeper than three feet into shallow water talons first, they have a reversible outer toe (called a zygodactyl trait) that enables them to keep two talons pointing forward and two backward as they hold onto a fish and lift out of the water in search of a perch for a meal.

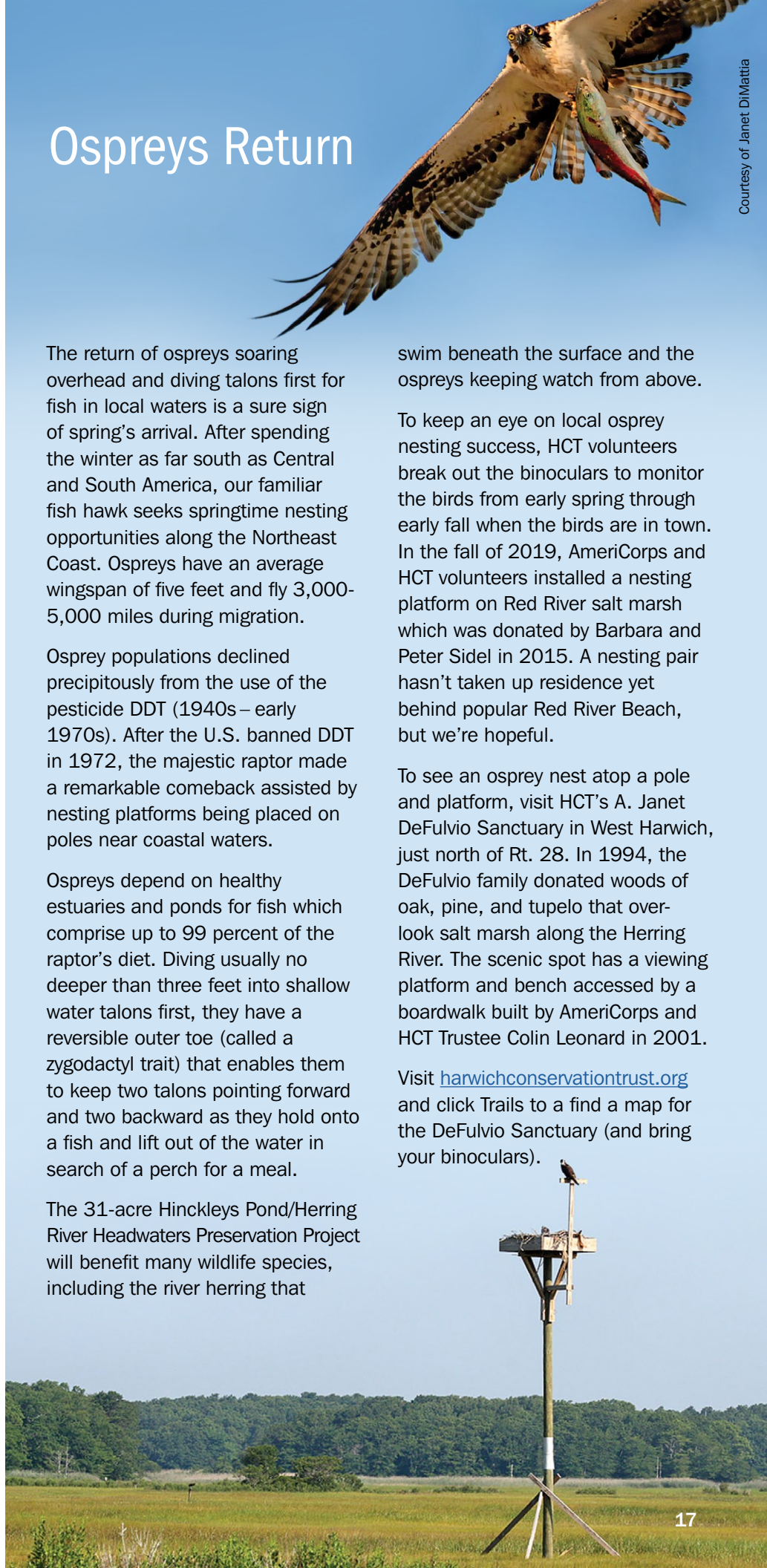
The 31-acre Hinckleys Pond/Herring River Headwaters Preservation Project will benefit many wildlife species, including the river herring that

swim beneath the surface and the ospreys keeping watch from above.

To keep an eye on local osprey nesting success, HCT volunteers break out the binoculars to monitor the birds from early spring through early fall when the birds are in town. In the fall of 2019, AmeriCorps and HCT volunteers installed a nesting platform on Red River salt marsh which was donated by Barbara and Peter Sidel in 2015. A nesting pair hasn't taken up residence yet behind popular Red River Beach, but we're hopeful.

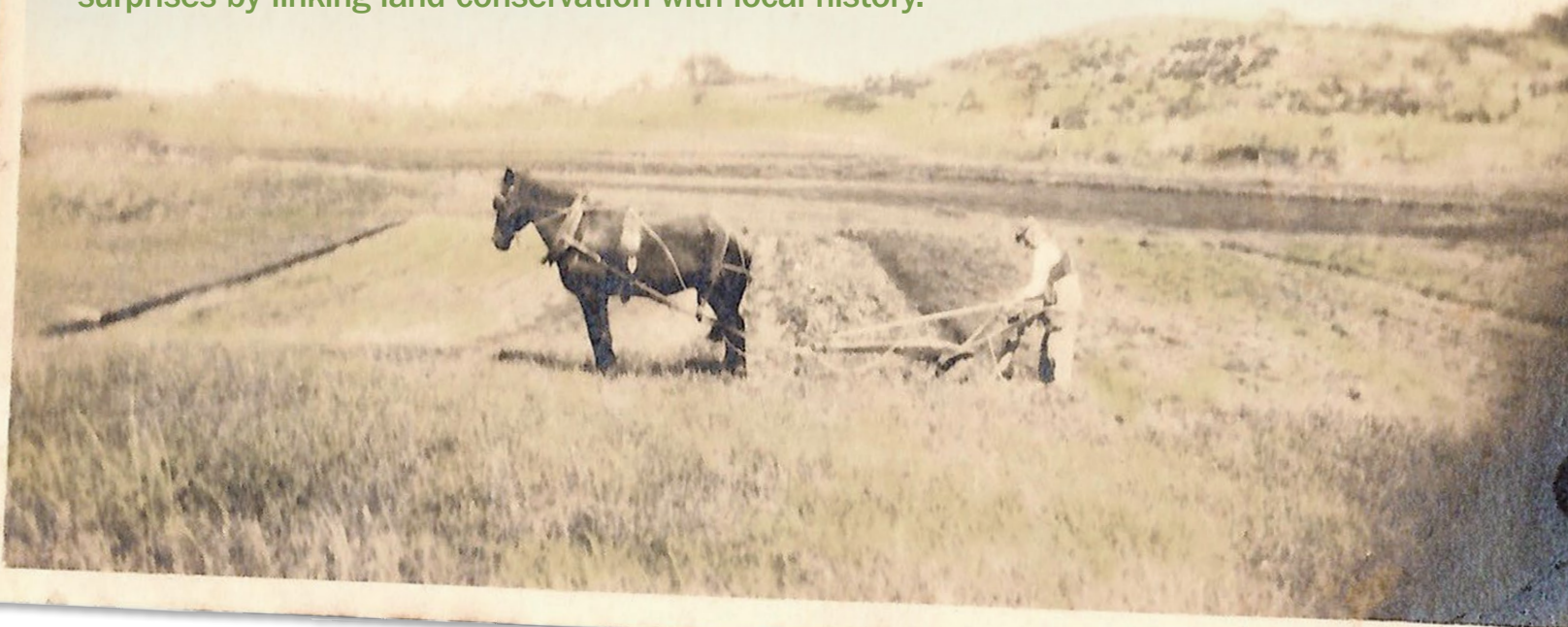
To see an osprey nest atop a pole and platform, visit HCT's A. Janet DeFulvio Sanctuary in West Harwich, just north of Rt. 28. In 1994, the DeFulvio family donated woods of oak, pine, and tupelo that overlook salt marsh along the Herring River. The scenic spot has a viewing platform and bench accessed by a boardwalk built by AmeriCorps and HCT Trustee Colin Leonard in 2001.

Visit harwichconservationtrust.org and click Trails to find a map for the DeFulvio Sanctuary (and bring your binoculars).



Kendrick Farm Journals Capture Beginning of Modern Life for Rural Cape Cod

Harwich Conservation Trust (HCT) has discovered some intriguing surprises by linking land conservation with local history.



What was known as Kendrick Farm in East Harwich (now the Pleasant Bay Woodlands) is a unique place. Owners of the property before HCT, including a Monomoyick family, have been documented generation-by-generation back to the mid-1600s, and each generation has a story to tell.

An archeological/history team examining Pleasant Bay Woodlands has dug more than 250 test pits and also burrowed into hundreds of pages of historical documents. Among the documents are daily journals from the 1920s kept by Andrew Kendrick (1859-1931). The journals reveal one local family's rural life at a time when the Cape was emerging into the modern era.

Andrew was the sixth generation of Kendricks living with his wife Victoria (1876-1944) and their son Edward

(1910-1953) in their traditional Cape farmhouse a quarter mile back from Pleasant Bay. The family made its primary living from the sale of chickens and eggs and cranberries. Archeologist Tim Earle says Andrew's journals offer an invaluable look at life on a farm during the rapid social and economic change that Cape Cod was going through. "From the brief penciled entries you really get a flavor of the constant round of seasonal labor and what Andrew walked out into each morning," Earle said.

Historian Scott Ridley noted that the journal for 1926 stands out when

coupled with other family documents and what was occurring in the region. In February of that year the family purchased a battery-powered radio. "It's hard for us to appreciate today how much of a change this was," Ridley said, "but it was more than the opening of the internet. They were getting connected to the world for the first time." That summer WNAC began live broadcasting of Red Sox games. A treat for locals was one of the players, Danny MacFayden, who was born in North Truro and had played for the Osterville town team in 1924 and Falmouth in 1925.

"From the brief penciled entries you really get a flavor of the constant round of seasonal labor and what Andrew walked out into each morning." –Tim Earle



Andrew Kendrick who kept the farm journals and his Allen family relatives in a visit to Kendrick Farm c. 1912 (left to right) Gertrude Allen Bassett (with unidentified child,) Bessie Allen Kendrick and Agnes (child), Vickie Allen Kendrick (and unidentified child), Andrew Kendrick (b. 1859), holding son Edward A. Kendrick (b. 1910) and Fredrick P. Allen.



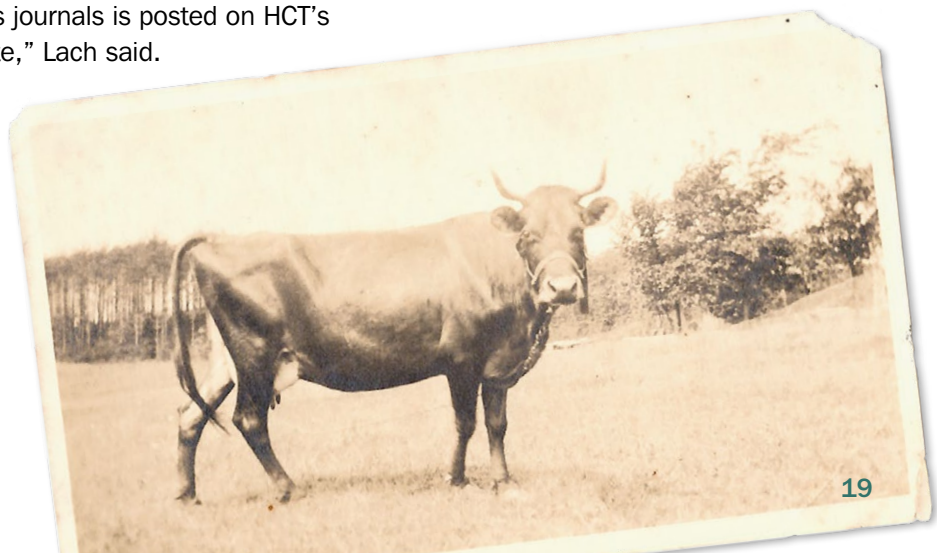
In October 1926, the Kendricks gave up their horse and carriage and purchased their first car, a large, boxy Dodge sedan with a visor above the windshield. Local main roads, that had long consisted of sand and crushed shells, were being covered in asphalt at that time. The car allowed Andrew to broaden his deliveries of eggs and to visit regularly with family and friends in neighboring towns.

Electricity was also spreading into the Lower Cape. Homes were getting wired and light bulbs were replacing oil and kerosene lamps. That fall Andrew sold an easement through the western border of the farm to Cape and Vineyard Electric Company for the power line that now runs from Chatham to Orleans. One condition of the easement was a requirement that the line would be moved if it interfered with contemplated house lots.

"You can see the world we live in today emerging in the details of a single family's life," said HCT Director Michael Lach. Other parts of the team's research extend through the generations of Kendricks back to the Monomoyick people who owned the land and lived in nearby settlements and farms through the early 1800s. "An fascinating summary by Professor Earle of Andrew Kendrick's 1920s journals is posted on HCT's website," Lach said.

"By looking closely at unique pieces of land, we grow to understand more about our heritage and how life has changed throughout time," said Lach. "What we've found is that this is a wonderful way for us to deepen that sense of place we all appreciate."

Historical photos courtesy of Susan Bartick





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

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