



PHOTOS courtesy of Paul Smith

HCT supporters enjoy the 6th Annual Spring Winetasting Dinner hosted by The Cape Sea Grille Restaurant to benefit land preservation. Left to right: chef/co-owner, Doug Ramler at the grill; Lee & Dick Thomas, Joan Anderson & Robin Wilkins, Paul & Christina Kemprecos, Dick & Barbara Koeppen. See page 10 for business donor thank you's.

Printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink

Volunteers make the conservation world go round!

From 2006 to date, 1,091 volunteers have worked 9,144 hours valued at \$205,475 on 61 projects.

Thank you!

Interested in volunteering?
Call Mike or Ben
at 508-432-3997
or e-mail: hct@cape.com
today!



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CONSERVATION
TRUST**

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CONSERVATION
TRUST**
www.HarwichConservationTrust.org

PRESERVE LAND FOREVER

SUMMER 2008 NEWSLETTER

2008 IS HCT'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY!

Thank you for renewing your membership today.
—— Handy donation envelope enclosed. ——



PHOTO: Courtesy of Eyes on Owls

You help us keep an eye on saving land for wildlife and people.

IN THIS ISSUE

Summer Walk Schedule is the center pull-out to place on your fridge!

Land Protection pages 2-3 • **Events/Programs** pages 4-5

Land Stewardship page 6 • **Vernal Pools** page 7

Land Restoration pages 8-9

Thank You's page 10 • **Memorials/Gifts** page 11



HARWICH CONSERVATION TRUST

P.O. Box 101
South Harwich, MA 02661
508-432-3997 • hct@cape.com

www.HarwichConservationTrust.org

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HCT's Mission

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

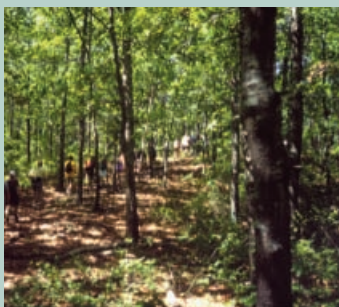


PHOTO: Michael Lach

Several conservation-minded land-owners have protected their lands with the Harwich Conservation Trust. Here's a conservation snapshot of each special place:

Two Ponds, Two Herring Runs and a Vernal Pool

By donating a permanent conservation restriction to HCT, the Trustees of Spion Kop Realty Trust protected approximately 22 acres with shoreline on two ponds and two herring runs. The conservation restriction enables the family and HCT to help protect 754 feet on Hinckleys Pond, 1,254 feet on Seymours Pond as well as 470 feet on Cahoon Canal and 489 feet on Princess Brook that connects Hinckleys Pond to Long Pond, the Cape's largest pond.

This very successful project is a highlight of HCT's Save Land – Save Water Initiative, a long-range plan to preserve lands that protect ponds, harbors, estuaries, streams and other water resources. Sensitive herring spawning grounds and migratory routes were also protected, since both ponds feed the Herring River. In context of a three-year, statewide ban on the taking of herring because of dangerously low populations, these migratory fish certainly benefit from the family's forward-thinking action.



In Honor of Molly Ivins
Mr. Robert S. Wessells

In Honor of Leona Goodspeed
Bill & Karen Goggins

In Honor of William & Judith Shinkwin
John Bosko

In Memory of Mrs. Mildred Budnick
Mrs. Barbara McEachern

In Memory of D. Isabel Smith & Dayton Smith
Carol J. & Donald A. Kelly

In Memory of D. Isabel Smith
Mrs. Mary Pickett

In Memory of Bud Angier
Eva & Vincent DeWitt

In Memory of Jane Myers
Bill & Debbie Riley

In Memory of Evangeline & Clarence Lovell
Maria Dounelis & Robert Bradley

In Memory of Elliott & Joan Nickerson
Paula Nickerson & Ron Plock

In Memory of Maurice I. Yoffee
Agnes Hall

In Memory of Bud Angier
Beth & Hank Holden

In Memory of Lee Baldwin
Sherill Baldwin and Kimball Cartwright, Jr.

In Memory of Edward and Loretta Bown
Richard and Mary Alexander

In Memory of Elizabeth L. Pring
Kenneth F. Pring

In Memory of Gordon K. Wallace
Ann, Scott and Karen Wallace

As a gift to Don & Sally Gould
Colin and Jane Stevenson

In Memory of Michael LaDouceur
Edward J. & Constance A. LaDouceur

In Memory of Walter G. Perry, Jr.
John F. & Priscilla P. Woyke

In Memory of my sister, Cecelia Ann Rizzo
Vita Marie Rizzo

In Memory of Mary & Frank Rao
Pauline R. Hamel

In Memory of Isabel Smith, my aunt
William West

In Memory of Alan McClennen
Eliza McClennen

In Memory of Thomas R. Keyes
Susan J. Keyes

In Memory of Marie Morgan on her birthday
Betty Ann Hosmer

In Memory of Edward T. Barrett
George I. Rockwood, Jr.

In Memory of D. Isabel Smith
David S. Crestin & Elizabeth A. Bierbower

In Memory of George Whitehead
Rick Whitehead

In Memory of Francis Bigda
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Forbes

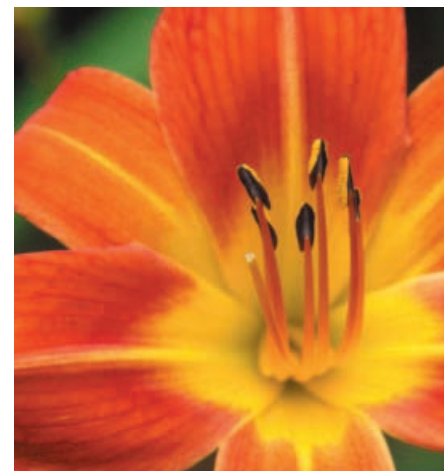
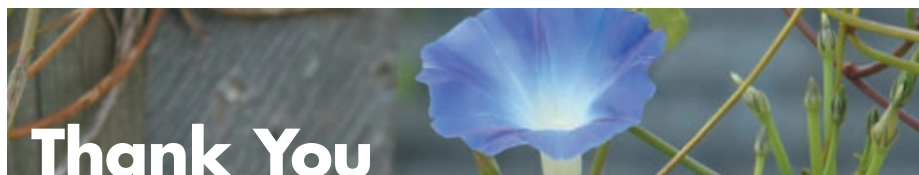


PHOTO: Nancy Vial Shoemaker



NYS

Thank You

HCT Presentations

Judith Bruce (Cape Cod Bird Club):
Bluebirds and Nestbox Monitoring
Todd Kelley (www.KelleyTrailblazer.com):
Changes in People, Culture & Landscape
Heinz Proft: *Harwich Shellfish Lab
and Water Quality Monitoring*
Dr. Jonathan Way, Ph.D.:
Ecology & Behavior of the Eastern Coyote
Marcia & Mark Wilson: *Eyes on Owls*
Benjamin Wright (HCT Assistant Director):
Vernal Pools

6th Cape Sea Grille Spring WineTasting Dinner Benefit for HCT

Thank you to Jen and Doug Ramler,
owners of the Cape Sea Grille
(www.cape-seagrille.com),
and these businesses
for providing fine food and wines:
Ring Brothers (Ed & Susan Ring)
Chatham Fish & Lobster (Dave Karnes)
William & Company (Matt O'Brien)
Classic Wines
Horizon Wine & Spirits
Ideal Wine
M.S. Walker & Ruby Wines

Thank you Sea Grille organizers

Colin and Jane Leonard, Nancy Poor,
Jen Ramler, Gerie Schumann, Patti Smith

Land Restoration at 185 Main Street

William Gould Architectural Preservation
(www.historic-architecture.com)
Cape Organics (Lindsay Strode)
Robert Childs, Inc. (Chuck Childs)
Colin Leonard Enterprises (Colin & Jeff Leonard)
All Cape Fence
M & L Landscaping (Mark Lenzi)
McNamara Brothers (Chris McNamara)
Pro Fence (Joe McLaughlin)

Cape Cod Academy Seniors

Lyssandra Ju, Kevin McKay

HCT Volunteer Training to Locate Bounds

Dan Croteau of Moran Engineering, Inc.

Nestbox Monitoring Volunteers

Judith Bruce and Terry Gavin, co-leaders,
Cape Cod Bird Club,
Joanna & Herb Schurmann, Karen Goggins,
Don Scott, Charles & Jane Martin,
Lou Parker, Nancy Hipp,
Shirley Knowles, Kelly Sattman Lynch,
Kathy Fogle, Janet DiMattia,
James & Janet McCroskery

Vernal Pool Volunteers

AmeriCorps (Christin Marshall)
Rain Ryder, Peggy Rose, Kathleen Welch,
Chris Singer, Tony Pane, Beth Bierbower,
Kathy Fogle, Betsy Sanders,
Beth & Terry Fletcher,
Evelyn Tobey, Jan Cormier, Susan (Sue) Lin,
Danielle McKenna,
Eva (7 years old) & Vince DeWitt,
Richard Cooper, Kelly Sattman Lynch,
Anya Sweetland

Thompson's Field

AmeriCorps Cape Cod
Cape Cod Reg. Tech. H.S.
Harwich Elementary 5th Grade
Brownie Troop 799
S.E. Alternative High School
Harwich High School NHS
HCT Volunteers (Jan Cormier, Tony Pane)
Town of Harwich Conservation Commission
Town of Harwich Highway Department
Town of Harwich Fire Department

HCT Bike Path Trailhead at the William & Barbara Lang Hacker Wildlife Sanctuary on Katie's Pond

Fields Pond Foundation
Paul Jahnige, Director of Greenways & Trails
Program, Massachusetts Department of
Conservation & Recreation
Abenaki Landscaping (Susan Jordan)
AmeriCorps (Christin Marshall)
Beth Bierbower
Richard Cooper
Cape Sign (Terry Haynes)
On-Call Landscaping (Michael Call)
Small Landscaping

With a conservation restriction, the family retains ownership, other rights, and in this case, in order to maintain privacy, does not permit public access. The family reserved the right to potentially place up to four homes in specifically designated sites that would least impact the landscape integrity. Spion Kop Realty Trust also donated two one-half acre parcels outright to HCT, including one that harbors a vernal pool discovered by HCT volunteers.

Last year, a record number of conservation restrictions were completed across the Cape and across the country in response to time-sensitive federal income tax benefits. Congress renewed the benefits until December 31, 2009, which enable a conservation restriction donor to earn federal income tax deductions spread over 16 years against 50% of adjusted gross income. HCT thanks the visionaries of Spion Kop Realty Trust for preserving land to protect the ponds, the herring, woods and wildlife.



PHOTO of land protected by HCT conservation restriction: Michael Lach

Long Road Land Donation

Woods for wildlife and roadside greenery were both protected with a single donation by Bill and Judy Shinkwin of their one-half acre building lot on Long Road. HCT and the Shinkwins had been exploring conservation options for a few years before deciding a donation was best for the Shinkwins and their land. HCT will place a sign on the land and watch over the Shinkwins' wildlife habitat legacy.

Donating land to a nonprofit land trust can earn a landowner federal income tax deductions spread over six years against 30% of adjusted gross income. An appraisal is needed when the claimed value of the deduction is more than \$5,000. HCT simply certifies that it received the land gift; it does not determine the value of the deduction. Land donors also no longer have to pay property tax or worry about liability. Often referred to as "fee simple donation," several dozen properties are donated outright in this manner every year on Cape Cod.

Lovers Lane Land Donation

John Adams donated about an acre of land off Lovers Lane to HCT. The classic Cape Cod woodland is located near Paddocks Pond and, as the crow flies, about a football field away from the Shinkwin donation.

Over the years, other lands fronting Lovers Lane have been donated to HCT. In 1992, David and Betsy Coleman donated woodland and wetland while in 1994, Charles and Antoinette "Dolly" Coleman (David's parents) donated more acreage to HCT. Altogether, over five acres with more than 500 feet of roadside greenery have been protected along Lovers Lane, a lasting gift for all.



Events/Programs

HCT's Free Guided Walks (see center insert for Summer Schedule)

Enjoy a variety of conservation destinations with HCT's volunteer walk leaders: Mary Metzger (Walk Leader Coordinator), Ruth Connaughton, Jan Cormier, Donna Wood Eaton, Rich Eldred, Gail Hancock, Todd Kelley, Farley Lewis of Orenda Wildlife Land Trust, Blair Nikula, Peggy Rose, Irwin Schorr, and Dr. Robert Zaremba, Ph.D. Thank you, walk leaders, for your energy and expertise!

Eyes on Owls

Raising funds to protect wildlife habitat, three sold out live owl shows intrigued and amazed audiences this spring. From the small, soda can-sized Saw-whet Owl to the bone-white Snowy Owl to the largest owl in the world, the Eurasian Eagle Owl, these unique raptors were handled with grace and respect by naturalists Marcia and Mark Wilson.

Each owl has a permanent disability and so cannot be released into the wild. The Wilsons are permitted by state and federal agencies to care for the owls and lead these one-of-a-kind educational programs.

HCT will host the Wilsons and their owls again on March 7, 2009!



PHOTO of Marcia Wilson with Spectacled Owls from South America: Courtesy of Eyes on Owls



Land Restoration

In the fall of 2006, the Town of Harwich Historical Commission reviewed the project under the 90-day demolition delay bylaw. Starting September 28, 2006, HCT voluntarily offered to more than double the demolition delay period as it sought proposals for removing the house as an alternative to demolition. The Harwich Historical Commission voted its support of HCT's offer. Four different parties expressed initial interest in the house, and then withdrew interest as potential permitting and renovation costs became cost-prohibitive.

Not to be deterred, HCT decided not to exercise its demolition rights immediately and continued to review all options. One of the interested individuals also contacted William Gould Architectural Preservation of Connecticut (www.historic-architecture.com). With family in Truro, Mr. Gould was familiar with the Cape. He visited 185 Main Street, liked the house, and worked with HCT to find a solution for the bowed-roof Cape. He has more than 44 years experience in hand-dismantling, removing, rebuilding and restoring historic houses and buildings around New England. The house is still available for purchase and Gould encourages those interested to contact him.

In the early winter, William Gould and his associates began the six-week process of dismantling the house, organizing and storing materials for eventual re-assembly offsite. William Gould will continue to seek people interested in providing a new location for the house. "After the house was carefully dismantled and removed, we restored the site's natural qualities," said HCT President, Robert Smith.



"William Gould offered his architectural services at the right time. Land restoration, coupled with historic preservation, created a partnership to save the house as well as protect the land and the Herring River," said Michael Lach, HCT Executive Director.

To explore estate planning opportunities with HCT, including bequests, call 508-432-3997 or email us at hct@cape.com



NYS

Restoring Land by Undevelopment:

HCT Helps to Preserve circa 1820 House

Working with neighbors, the town and a historic preservation architect, HCT creatively conserved a circa-1820 house and restored 2.6 acres at 185 Main Street in North Harwich. Land donations, including the generous bequest of land and house by Lamont E. Smith II, account for a majority of lands protected by HCT. Through a codicil to his will, Lamont donated his property in memory of the Eldridge, Kelley and Smith families. HCT will honor his legacy with a memorial sign reflecting that the land is preserved forever.

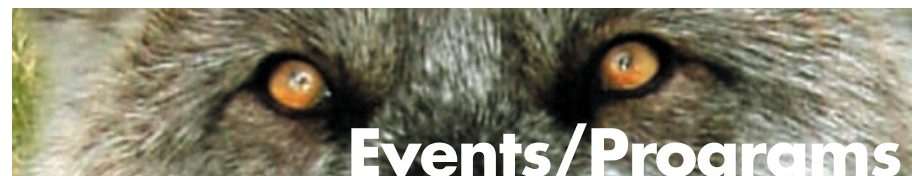
The bequest was subject to a reserved life estate for Stevan Little,

who passed away in 2003. With this generous gift, Lamont and Stevan made a difference for the environment, for wildlife and for their neighbors.

The yellow clapboard Cape-style house had looked sound from the outside, but a professional home inspection report supplied by the Town of Harwich Housing Committee estimated that at least \$187,000 in renovation costs would be required to meet town building code. HCT had been carrying the costs of annual home insurance and a liability risk while it researched all options, including office space, rental, intern lodging, and undevelopment.



PHOTO of 185 Main Street by Nancy Viall Shoemaker



Events/Programs

Mission Wolf

Have you ever wanted to see a real wolf up close? On October 21st, HCT will host Mission Wolf, a non-profit sanctuary caring for 40 wolves in Colorado's Rocky Mountains that also tours the nation to share the ecology, behavior and need to protect wild wolves. Magpie (nicknamed Maggie) and Abraham (a wolf-dog mix) will be rolling into Harwich aboard the "Wolf Bus" to visit the Harwich Community Center at 5 pm and 7 pm. Tickets are \$10/adult and \$5/ages five and up. Mission Wolf recommends that only ages five and over attend. Join the pack on October 21st to learn about wolves and raise funds for HCT.



PHOTOS: Courtesy of Mission Wolf

Reserve in Advance for Mission Wolf

Tuesday, October 21st

Shows at 5 pm and 7 pm
Harwich Community Center
\$10 Adults \$5 Ages 5 and Up
Mail check payable to
Harwich Conservation Trust





Land Stewardship

NYS

Thompson's Field

In April, the open grasslands of Thompson's Field were visited by more than 400 student volunteers, AmeriCorps, and HCT volunteers working to control invasive plants from taking over the popular town-owned conservation area. HCT helped AmeriCorps coordinate the 7th edition of this annual event.

The entire freshman class of the Cape Cod Regional Technical High School fanned out across the area over five days of trimming and pruning. Other volunteer groups included Harwich Elementary 5th-graders, National Honor Society students from Harwich High School, Girl Scout Troop 799, and students from the Southeast Alternative School. Volunteers also helped the town trim back vegetation and deadfall to reduce the risk of wildfires near Route 39.



Throughout the event, AmeriCorps members led educational walks. Students also visited a nearby vernal pool to see spotted salamander eggs. This spring's habitat enhancement week was a success thanks to record-breaking student volunteer turnout.

Hacker Sanctuary Trailhead

You can now park your bicycle alongside the Cape Cod Rail Trail to walk from HCT's 8.7-acre William D. and Barbara Lang Hacker Wildlife Sanctuary into the town-owned Island Pond Conservation Lands. This public-private partnership was made possible by grants, support from local businesses and HCT volunteers (see page 10).



PHOTOS of Trailhead and sign: Ben Wright

Mr. and Mrs. Hacker gave a generous bequest to the HCT, which enabled the purchase of quiet woods along 600 feet of Katie's Pond and 791 feet of the Cape Cod Rail Trail, a regional bicycle path ranging 22 miles from Dennis to Wellfleet. The Sanctuary's trail is accessible to walkers from the Cape Cod Rail Trail at mile marker four. A trailhead kiosk, trail signs and trail guide are in the works.



Vernal Pools

PHOTO: Spotted salamander



Vernal Pools

Thanks to HCT volunteers and AmeriCorps, a second wave of 18 vernal pools were discovered across Harwich this spring. Last spring, volunteers found 18 pools, which were certified by the state's Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program. Before then, only 5 vernal pools were certified in town. When the state approves the latest discoveries, the total number of certified pools will be 41, an eight-fold increase in less than two years!

Vernal pools are unique wildlife habitats best known for the amphibians and invertebrate animals that depend on them to breed. Vernal pools typically fill with water in the autumn or winter due to rising ground water as well as rainfall. Water remains through the spring into early summer but often dries completely by the middle or end of summer each year, or at least every few years. Occasional drying prevents fish from establishing permanent populations, which is critical for several amphibian and invertebrate species whose eggs would otherwise be eaten by fish.

Other than breeding on a rainy spring night and occasional nocturnal feeding, spotted salamanders typically spend the rest of the year burrowed in the surrounding upland, sometimes as far as a half-mile from a vernal pool. Though the timing of spotted salamander migration is challenging to predict, the first rainy spring night above 40 degrees typically encourages egg-laying in vernal pools.

When certified, these fragile habitats are better protected because of HCT volunteers.



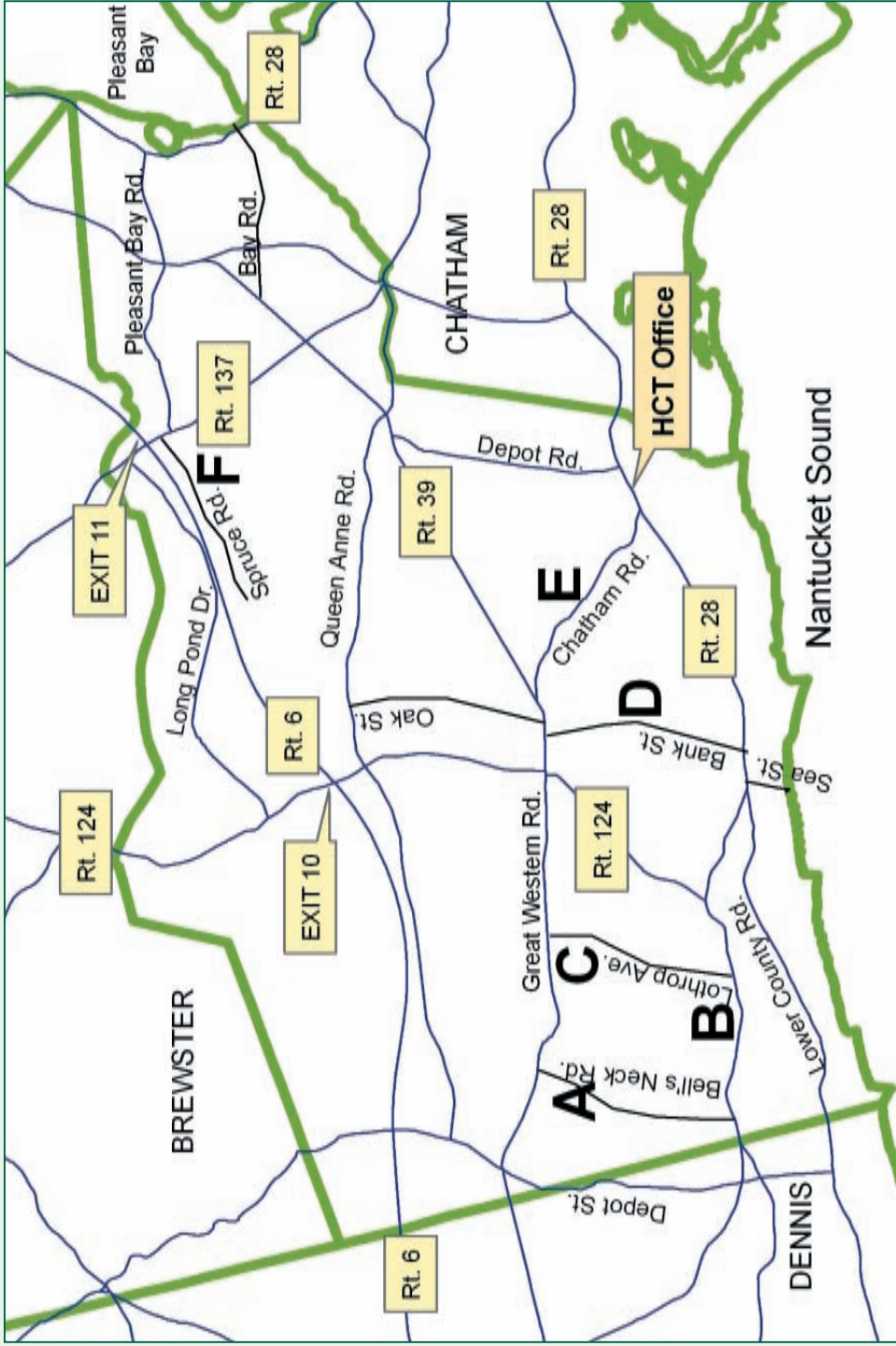
PHOTO: Spotted salamander egg masses



PHOTO of Steve DeLeonardis certifying a vernal pool on his land. Courtesy of Ben Wright

Summer 2008 Walk Schedule (see reverse side)

See below for Road Map and Directions to Walk Sites



A. Town of Harwich Bell's Neck Conservation Lands, Directions: From Harwich Center, go west on Great Western Rd. Turn left on Bell's Neck Rd. Park on side of road between the East and West Reservoirs.

B. HCT's A. Janet DeFulvio Wildlife Sanctuary Boardwalk, Directions: Off Route 28 in West Harwich. Enter lane between Small Gardens and G. Rockwood Clark. Continue driving to the parking area by following the arrows located on two signposts. Park in the lot at the boardwalk entrance.

C. HCT's Coy's Brook Woodlands, Directions: From Harwich Center, drive west on Great Western Rd. to Lothrop Ave. Turn left on Lothrop Ave. Parking lot is on the right just south of the water tower.

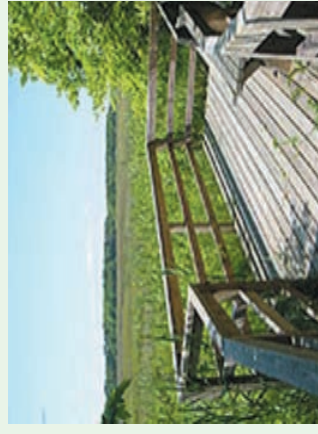
D. HCT's 60-acre Bank Street Bogs Conservation Area, Directions: Harwich Center, south on Bank Street. Park at the Harbormaster's Workshop, located on the left at #203 Bank Street.

E. Thompson's Field, Directions: From Harwich Center, drive east on Rt. 39, then turn right onto Chatham Road. Thompson's Field parking lot will appear on the left after approx. one mile.

F. Hawksnest Conservation Area, Directions: Near the Route 6, Exit 11 intersection, follow Spruce Rd west. Park on shoulder of Spruce Rd. near intersection with Hawksnest Rd. (not marked).

HCT Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 101
South Harwich, MA 02661



Visit HCT's 12 acre A. Janet DeFulvio Wildlife Sanctuary and Boardwalk to see salt marsh and nesting ospreys.

SAVE THE DATES!

Harwich Conservation Trust's 2008 Summer Walk Schedule

WALKS

April - September (self-guided): HCT's 12-acre A. Janet DeFulvio Wildlife Sanctuary & Boardwalk Visit this wheelchair accessible boardwalk with views of the Herring River salt marsh. View HCT's osprey platform.

Saturday, June 7th, 9:30 am: Botanical Walk at HCT's Coy's Brook Woodlands
Botanist and journalist Rich Eldred will point out flora in a variety of wetland and upland habitats.

Saturday, June 14th, 9:30 am: A Walk in the Hawksnest Woods with Commentary
Join walk leader, Irwin Schorr, as he interprets the history, folklore, geology and botany of the six ponds area.

Saturday, June 21st, 9:30 am: Family Walk: Aquatic Creatures at HCT's 60-acre Bank Street Bogs
Families with school age children will search the bogs with walk leader Jan Cormier.

Saturday, June 28th, 9:00 am: Botanical Walk: Grasses at HCT's 60-acre Bank Street Bogs
Join botanist Robert Zaremba for a look at the many wild grasses in and around this conservation area.

Wednesday, July 2nd, 9:30 am: Nature Walk at the Bell's Neck Conservation Lands
Walk leader Mary J. Metzger will look for signs of midsummer in this upland and wetland area.

Saturday, July 12th, 9:00 am: Botanical Walk at HCT's 60-acre Bank Street Bogs
Rich Eldred will look for lilies, iris and other summer wildflowers.

Saturday July 26th, 10:00 am: Dragonfly Walk at HCT's 60-acre Bank Street Bogs
Odonate (dragonflies, damselflies) specialist Blair Nikula will look for dragonflies and other flying creatures.

Saturday, August 16th, 7:00 pm: Sunset/Full Moon Walk at Thompson's Field
Join Peggy Rose at the Chatham Rd. entrance. Bring binoculars or telescope to watch the Thunder Moon rise.

Saturday, August 23rd, 9:00 am: Botanical Walk at Thompson's Field
Rich Eldred will look for asters, goldenrods, and other late summer wildflowers. Meet at Chatham Road entrance.

Interested in leading a volunteer walk for the Harwich Conservation Trust?

Contact us today!

And...if you like golf,

SAVE this DATE and RESERVE TODAY:

Monday, September 22nd (8 am start)

HCT's 6th Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser at Cranberry Valley Golf Course – Reserve your foursome or business sponsorship now by calling Bill Baldwin at 508-432-8153.

PULL OUT AND POST ON YOUR FRIDGE!