(w/paddles)! win Two Kayaks

TWO Perception Prodigy 10 Kayaks and TWO Harmony Sea Passage Paddles

e-mail hct@cape.com for more in 2010 at 2 pm, HCT's office. Purchase at HCT's office (#947 Drawing: Nov. 18,

Kayaks furnished by the Goose Hummock Shop (www.goose.com) in Orleans You need not be present to win.

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PRESERVE LAND FOREVER

FALL 2010 NEWSLETTER

THIS GENERATION'S CARETAKERS

Preserving Land & History on Long Pond - Story on page 4 -



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Business Support pages 14 & 15



Walk leaders to be honored with HCT's Volunteer EverGreen Award on November 7th.





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, wildlife and our shared quality of life in Harwich.



Conservationist of the Year **Award**

The Conservationist of the Year Award is given annually to an honored guest who has actively helped protect the woods, waters, and wildlife of Harwich. Nominations for individuals, groups, businesses, or other entities actively helping to protect the Harwich environment are accepted on a rolling basis.

PAST RECIPIENTS:

2005: Anne & Joe Welch

2006: Barbara & Charles Birdsev

2007: AmeriCorps 2008: Weguassett

2009: Town of Harwich Natural Resources Dept.

The Cape Cod Chronicle, Cape Codder, Harwich Oracle, and Cape Cod Times newspapers are HCT's 2010 Conservationists of the Year Award recipients for their comprehensive, consistent coverage of environmental issues affecting Harwich and Cape Cod. Clear, concise, and compelling stories about the importance of widely supported land protection projects that preserve wildlife habitat, water quality, and Cape Cod character raise awareness for residents and countless visitors. Other stories range the environmental spectrum from water quality concerns to renewable energy to fascinating wildlife. The opinion pages offer a forum for debate on a range of topics and the environment surfaces in every edition. These newspapers focus on environmental stories that track our common challenges, chronicle controversy, and identify unanswered questions. Taken together, their coverage helps shape the future of our shared special place.



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Ann Hart is a local artist supporting HCT. She kindly shared her images with us in this newsletter. Her watercolors can be seen at Gallery Antonia in Chatham, as well as at her website:

www.annhartsart.org

8th Annual Golf Tournament Sponsors Back Office Associates, Cape Cod Cooperative Bank, The Cape Cod Chronicle, Weguassett Resort

Andale Café Bates Hardware BB's Automotive Benson, Young & Downes Ins. Bothfield Financial Box Office Cafe Cape Aquatics Pools & Hot Tubs Cape Cod Associates Cape Cod Claddagh Inn & Irish Pub Cape Cod Computer Cape Cod Five The Chatham Corner Store Wm. Coffin & Sons Rubbish Removal Coldwell Banker Murray RE Colin Leonard Enterprises Cranberry Jewelers Cranberry Liquors Crocker Nurseries CVS Pharmacy Dairy Queen Dino's Breakfast Driscoll Plumbing & Heating EAS Painting Ember Fettig Tile Company Forest Beach Design Four Hundred East Gardens By The Sea

George's Fish Market Handkerchief Shoals Inn Handren Bros. Building Hannon Electric Harwich Paint and Decorating Harwich Pet Supply Harwich Remodeling Center Harwichport Heating & Cooling Harwich Spirits Shoppe Heather's Hairport Hemeon's Garage Henry T. Crosby & Son Hess Route 137 Hot Stove Saloon Dennis Hove, Head Pro John Martin Excavating Kennedy Gallery & Studios La Barge Real Estate Lower Cape Irrigation Luddy's Paint & Wallpaper William Maloney Matt's Automotive Mayflower Glass M. Smith & Company Mobile PC Doctor Monahan & Company Moran Engineering, Inc. Nor'east Comfort

Northern Paving

Dan O'Leary, Landscape Personalized Fitness Solutions Peterson Realty Inc. Potted Geranium Heinz Proft R&K Landscape Realty Executives The Boston Red Sox Rockland Trust (Chatham) Rick Roy Construction LLC Ruggies Sanders, Walsh & Eaton SDM Electric, Inc. Shaws Market Robert F. Smith, Esq. Stinson & Ford Stop & Shop Stove Place II Subway Summit Insulation Sundae School Ice Cream The Port Today Real Estate Tree Wizard Waystack Realty Weatherdeck Restaurant Windsong Antiques Winstead Inn & Beach Resort WB Mason Office Supplies

Events/Programs

Free! But RSVP for **HCT's Annual Celebration & Meeting**

Wequassett on Pleasant Bay Sunday, November 7th, 5-7pm Featured Speaker: Greg Skomal "Tracking Great White Sharks"



Join us to honor local newspapers (Cape Cod Chronicle, Cape Codder Harwich Oracle, and Cape Cod Times) with HCT's Conservationist of the Year Award and outstanding HCT volunteers with our EverGreen Awards.

> RSVP by October 29th for this free event. Call HCT at 508-432-3997 or email: hct@cape.com

Mission Wolf - LIVE WOLF PROGRAM



Thursday October 21st

Special 6:30 pm show

<u>Limited to 125 people</u> **EVERY SEAT IS A FRONT ROW SEAT!** \$100/person

(under age five cannot attend)



FULL MOON! Friday October 22nd

5 pm or 7 pm show \$10 for ages 12 - adult

\$5 for ages 5 - 11

(under age five cannot attend)

Reserve in advance at www.HarwichConservationTrust.org or by check (payable to Harwich Conservation Trust)

Mail to P.O.Box 101, South Harwich, MA 02661

Shows will be held in the gym of the Harwich Community Center at 100 Oak St.

Sponsored by The Cape Cod Times, The Cape Cod Chronicle, The Cape Codder Harwich Oracle, The Register, and White Marlie

Land & History

This Generation's Caretakers

Interview with an anonymous landowner Written by Mary J Metzger

"We came only in the summers, as there was no heat or electricity in our Rev. Pell never quite took to the less camp. There was just a dirt cart path then (the late 1930's), wide enough for a horse and cart or an old beat-up car. The first thing we would do on arrival to be buried in the North Parish would be to prune the path back to the church's burying ground were carried main road so the car wouldn't get out. Rev. Pell believed the South scratched up. From here, you couldn't Parish's graveyard would soon be see another house on Long Pond, and only two other fishing camps. It was deep woods."

That land is private, but what's left of those deep woods is preserved with a conservation restriction held by the Harwich Conservation Trust. These memories belong to a family whose ties to their pond-shore land go back to 1790. In that year, their ancestor, Nathan Underwood, accepted an offer to take the minister's job at what is now the Harwich First Congregational Church. Nathan had grown up on a dairy farm in Lexington, fought in the Revolution, and then studied at Harvard Divinity School, graduating in 1788. He was stepping into a contentious local squabble.

When Harwich was incorporated in 1694 it included what is now Brewster. The parish meeting house was in the northern reaches. The southern population had to traverse seven miles (one way) from Harwich to the North Parish each Sabbath through the soggy middle lands of ponds, swamps, and sloughs. A South Parish was officially sanctioned by the state legislature in 1746 and a meetinghouse and minister

needed to be procured. Rev. Pell came in 1747 with the offer of grain, cord wood and a house. This deal was later sweetened with an offer of hay.

prosperous South Parish and expressed his doubts about its success even after his death at age 41, when his wishes abandoned to a pine/oak wasteland.

Pell's successor, Nathan Underwood, came to Harwich with a realistic plan for his permanent place in the community. Drawing on his dairy heritage, he acquired land on Long Pond and at Red River with the idea of using the salt marsh hay to feed inland-raised cows. At his own expense, he built a large parsonage/farmhouse on twelve acres in Harwich Center. "Rather out of place on Cape Cod," wrote Sidney Brooks, "containing more shining milk pans than could be well filled."

The farmstead flourished with barns, sheds, gardens, and a "thrifty cherry orchard," thanks in part to Mrs. Underwood, "a model of a pastor's as well as a farmer's wife." She also gave him seven sons.



is to FCT - in honor of and in memory of

In Memory of Greg Fishbein Sara Shields & Bruce Fishbein

In Memory of all Veterans: RIP, Fighting & Retired Peter & Bridget O'Rourke

In Honor of all who help such a worthy cause Marcia Andrews

In Memory of Eric Bennett Donald Bennett & Linda Chicklas

In Memory of James Alcock Elizabeth Naughton

In Memory of Judd J. Corbett Ursula K. Corbett

In Memory & Honor of Lee Baldwin Florence & Gail Hancock Connie Pina

In Memory of Oliver Pelton Carol Pelton

In Memory of Doris & Howard Doane Sarah Doane

In Memory of Recci & Elaine Kennedy Robert Kennedy

In Memory of Eve Toolin Michael & May Ann Brockelman In Honor of Mary Jane & Donald Curran Wedding Remembrance Cornelia Doherty

> In Memory of Martha Smith Sheila & Preston Smith

In Memory of Mark Keilty The Hot Stove Saloon

In Memory of Martha & Frederick Davis Bonnie & Ross Hall

> In Memory of Thad Wicks Martha Wicks

> In Memory of Eric Garham Patricia Eastman

In Memory of Trudy Duquette Betts Swanton & Diane Ropec Debra Leach Marcia Andrews Cindy Briggs & Anne Briggs Bradford & Betsy Babb Ralph Mackenzie & Géorgene Riedl Adeline Harrington

In Memory of Walter & Esther Trainer Sara Trainer

In Memory of Robert W. Udell Joyce Udell

In Memory of Dana Morse Paul & Sheila Sones



RAPTOR SHOW RECAP

On July 15th, over 800 people came to see the "Bird Man," otherwise known as Tom Ricardi, a birds of prev rehabilitation expert credited with restoring the American bald eagle to the Northeast. He shared his expertise and inspirational experiences.

Since retiring as a state game warden, Tom has devoted much of his time to rehabilitating

injured hawks, owls, and eagles at his center in Conway, MA. Many of these injured birds can be reintroduced to the wild, but the more serious injuries require life-long care. Tom's shows offer a unique opportunity for the public to learn about birds of prey and get a close-up look. Audiences were in awe at the Harwich Community Center as they watched the show's stars, including red-tailed hawk, great-horned owl, peregrine falcon, American kestrel, turkey vulture and even a golden eagle.

Gifts to HCT in honor of and in memory of

In Memory of Irene Gay Bette & Francis Gouveia Robert W. Collins Janice & Robert Spongberg Pleasant Bay Homeowner's Association Colchester Middle School Special Education

Marianne Nealy Katie Keidel Jen Gamache Ien Geroux

Julie Tanguay David and Stacey Lee

Erika Boerger & Richard Caraher Mary E. Cunningham Jeffrey & Laura Marin

Alburt Rosenberg & Greta Tyson Jean E. Brown & Family William & Jeanne Brown Mary H. Brown Elizabeth & Lincoln Thurber

In Memory of Bertha Weld David A. Haller, Jr.

In Memory of Marcia Iddles Andréa Aldrovandi

In Memory of Harold McKenna Anne McKenna

In Memory of Elizabeth L. Pring Kenneth F. Pring

In Memory of Louis A Chaduk Harriet F Chaduk

In Memory of Rev Harlow T Doliber Pauline M Doliber

In Memory of Frederick N Adams Julia C Adams

In Memory of Philip S Eagan Mary M Eagan

In Memory of Catherine A O'Brien Patrick I O'Brien

> In Memory of Isabel Smith David S. Crestin Mr. & Mrs. Richard Pickett Anne Hayes

In Memory of Isabel & Dayton Smith William A West

> In Memory of Henry Bracchi Jean Bracchi

In Memory of Richard & Rita Trifiro Jim & Lana Argir

In Memory of Richard G. Baldauf Joanne M. Baldauf

In Memory of Ralph "Bud" Angier on what would have been his 100th year Susan T. Shoch

> In Memory of Ruth C. Keith Louisa J. MacPherson

In Memory of Edmee & Charles Bradley Maria & Robert Bradley

> In Memory of Mary E. Langway Chester C. Langway Jr.

In Memory of Isabel Smith Paul J. Cuddy, Jr.

In Memory of Dr. Russell Smith Doris B. Schaub

In Memory of John Joseph Horton Susan Horton

In Memory of Evie Armbruster Ronald Armbruster

In Memory of Peg Slicer I. Samuel Slicer

In Memory of Carnig Thomason Philip Thomason

In Memory of Waldo A. Stevens Elizabeth Stevens

In Memory of Irene Bielakowski Irving David Weiner

In Memory of the US Armed Forces Robert Naughton

In Memory of Sherman Alexander Robinson Rosyln R. Mann

In Memory of Marion M. Phair Donald Phair

Preserving Land & History

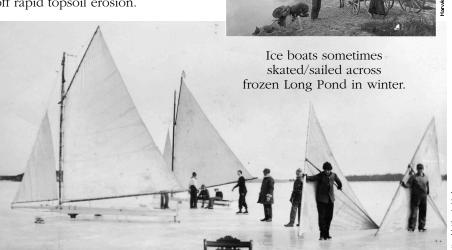
It was good that Nathan Underwood Yet it is possible the inland portions of had planned ahead for his family's security. In 1803, the more prosperous North Parish was able to form its own town (Brewster). By 1809, the Congregational minority could no longer levy taxes for support of the South Parish from the growing Baptist and Methodist populations. Nathan Underwood served as pastor until 1828 with very little remuneration.

But what was the condition of that Long Pond property that Nathan Underwood acquired in 1790?

The first European settlers to the Cape described a "goodly land, wooded to the brink of the seas." In less than a century, the land had been mostly cleared for crops and pastureland. Timber was used for fences, buildings, ships, wind mills, and for heating and cooking fuel. The last 30 acres of Chatham's original forest was felled in 1815, followed the year after with one of the Cape's first pine reforestation efforts to try to stave off rapid topsoil erosion.

Harwich remained more wooded. According to Harwich historian Josiah Paine, the Selectmen's report of 1781 shows 58% of the land was wooded and unimproved with 34% given over to pastures, 4% to salt and fresh meadows and 4% to tilled land. When the State Legislature approved Brewster's separation in 1803, it cited the South Parish of Harwich to have two-thirds of the woodland and all the "valuable Cedar Swamps."

Nathan Underwood's dairy cows were tended on what was part of the Ouason purchase. These long and narrow parcels of land between the south shore of Long Pond and what is now Queen Anne's Rd. had been purchased in 1713 from the native people for the



Preserving Land & History

Settlement in this part of Harwich was sparse, not only because of its soggy nature. With the rapid loss of topsoil, Cape Codders were forced to turn to the seas for a living. And the increase of population and roads along the north and south shores reflected that reality.

While Brewster became the home of prosperous whaling captains, Harwich did well enough developing its own packet boat businesses. Like modern day truckers, these mariners transported goods all along the East Coast. There was probably not a lot of change in the Harwich woods during this time. Sidney Brooks (1813-1886) describes long walks in his youth in the North Woods stretching unfettered from Harwich Center to Long Pond. The community would have continued to cut firewood and ice from the area.

The Civil War and arrival of the railroad severely impacted the freight schooner industry, and Harwich's tenuous hold on prosperity crumbled. The Town's economy improved after Alvin Cahoon's 1846 experiment with commercial cranberry farming caught on.

Any soggy plot in town could now yield a little money, and families cleared swamps everywhere.

Plimoth Plantation's Old Comer families. Interestingly, Nathan Underwood's descendants did not develop cranberry bogs on the Long Pond property. Perhaps this is because the branch of the family that owned the land had turned from theology and dairy farming to the mercantile trade. By the turn of the century, the Long Pond land was still remote, used by the family only as a summer hunting and fishing camp.



Camping became all the rage in the 1920's with upscale Adirondack styled resort cabins in the Catskills. The family designed a "camp" to mirror these summer places. The camp house had a large stone fireplace and screened porch facing the pond.



ABOVE: Pleasant Lake with the General Store in the foreground (familiar to Harwich residents today), courtesy of Harwich Historical Society, www.harwichhistoricalsociety.org

LEFT: Pleasant Lake Railroad Crossing, courtesy Maps of Antiquity, Chatham, MA



Spotlight on Bank Street Bogs Nature Preserve

The Bank Street Bogs Nature Preserve has been a conservation destination open to the public since it was acquired in 2001 by HCT. The 60-acre site includes more than two miles of level walking trails that offer views of wetland, upland, and stream habitats. There is a diversity of wildlife, especially birds, ranging from red-tailed hawks overhead to small songbirds to American woodcock that amaze with aerial displays in spring.

Transitioning in different stages from past cultivation, the plant communities thrive here. Robert Zaremba. Ph.D., completed a botanical study in 2007 discovering 278 species of plants (nearly 20% of the catalogued plant species in Barnstable County), adding to the area's uniqueness.

Since 2008, HCT has been working with the USDA's Barnstable County Natural Resources Conservation Service through a program called the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) to enhance the site's natural qualities and encourage biodiversity. HCT's eel migration ramp, which just finished its third field season, was funded through this partnership with assistance from the state's Division of Marine Fisheries. Plans are now underway to improve water flow along Cold Brook (the stream that stretches from Grass Pond under Bank St. through the Preserve to Saguatucket Harbor) and enhance fish passage. HCT was awarded a \$18,325 grant from the Massachusetts Department of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) to fund the planning stage of this stream restoration project.



Thanks to volunteer time, energy and dedication, wildlife continue to benefit in many different ways. For example the bluebird nestbox monitoring program, with help from the Cape Cod Bird Club, had another successful year.

Eels had another banner year. Ten volunteers worked throughout the spring and summer monitoring the eel migration ramp. More than 5,000 eels were recorded this season!

In mid-August, 120 volunteer high school seniors from Providence Day School in Charlotte, NC spent two days at the Preserve trimming trails, installing benches, and removing highly invasive purple loosestrife. Special thanks to HCT volunteers Mike O'Neill, Larry Seberg, Matt O'keefe, Ross Hall, and Marie and Dennis Corcoran for their support during this event. Over 8,000 pounds of debris were removed. We look forward to having the senior class of 2012 back next summer.

By the way, Fall is a great time to enjoy the Bank Street Bogs Nature Preserve. Wildflowers are still blooming and migratory birds are visiting during their flights south. Pack your HCT Trail Guide and take a walk on the wild side.



Chris Singer is the 2010 recipient of HCT's individual EverGreen Volunteer Award. He has been volunteering with HCT for the past four years. In the spring of 2007-2008, Chris volunteered to certify vernal pools throughout Harwich. In 2009, Chris coordinated the vernal pool certification team.

This past spring, Chris coordinated 60 volunteers in our second annual herring count. Thank you Chris for all of your hard work!

HCT's volunteer walk leaders are the recipients of the group EverGreen Volunteer Award. Our walk leaders take folks on guided walks through HCT and town-owned conservation lands to learn about the landscapes' flora and fauna as well as its human history and conservation background. From birds to botany, Native American history to cranberry culture, the leaders share their time and naturalist insights with countless visitors. While walking and talking with others, they build a bridge of grassroots support for HCT's mission of preserving land to protect woods, water, wildlife and our shared quality of life.





Walk Leaders Honored with HCT's Volunteer **EverGreen Award**

Mary Metzger, Coordinator (2006-10) Beth Bierbower, Coordinator (2010)

> Connie Boyce Leo Cakounes Jan Cormier Ruth Connaughton Fred Dunford, PhD Donna Wood Eaton Rich Eldred Gail Hancock Kim Humphrey Todd Kelley Tom Leach Farley Lewis Blair Nikula Bob Prescott Heinz Proft Deborah Richmond Peggy Rose Pat Sarantis Irwin Schorr Cynthia & Matt Sutphin Rufin Van Bossuyt Robert Zaremba, PhD

Preserving Land & History



LEFT: Visitors to Long Pond in 1890.

BELOW: The camp before 1970.

"There was no electricity. They had an ice box, a wood stove, kerosene lamps, and indoor plumbing of sorts. They had to draw water from the pond to flush toilets. On summer evenings they could also sometimes hear music wafting from a speakeasy across the pond. C.D. Caboon painted from this part of the show and Elmer Crowell carved working decoys for aduck-blind here. The Provincetown writer John Dos Passos also visited the house."

This simple place of spirited relaxation did not continue.

'The Mid-Cape Highway changed every thing. Our land was broken in half by eminent domain. The same thing hap pened with the extension of Long Pond Drive in 1952 to what is now Route 137. *The town presented a \$1,200 check one* day in exchange for the takeover, and our land was further divided. We continued to use what was left to us as a summer retreat. There was an explosion of houses on quarteracre lots that you see today around the rest of the pond."

In 1972, the family brought in electricity, plumbing, central heating, and added rooms to the camp. They spent their winters in Florida, but continued summer gatherings. In 1990, the place was turned over to the current generation.

The four acres of Red River salt marsh were donated to the Chatham Conservation Foundation. A portion of the Long Pond property across the road was sold with the stipulation that only one house could be built. The six acres of remaining privately owned land (without public access) have been permanently protected with a conservation restriction donated to HCT.

"Some nights in the winter, looking out across a foggy pond from this protected place, it's easy to imagine how it looked 12,000 years ago."

This generation's caretakers have continued the family's heritage of stewardship. Nathan Underwood would be proud.



Skyler Lach, age 7



Thank You For Giving

Thank you for giving in so many different ways over the years to enhance HCT's land conservation success. Businesses donate time, labor, and expertise. Volunteers donate their time and talents. Many people donate funds to save land and support HCT as contributing members.

Thanks to diverse donations, HCT supporters are creating lasting legacies by preserving land that protects our woods, water, wildlife and our shared quality of life in Harwich on Cape Cod. Donors can also benefit tax-wise since donations to HCT, a 501c3 nonprofit land trust organization, are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Below is a sampling of how folks are giving to HCT now, to save land for tomorrow.

Giving to Save Land:

- Membership donations, year-end gifts, appreciated securities (HCT can provide account and routing numbers), and other unrestricted gifts support HCT to advance land conservation, stewardship, and other important projects.
- Restricted donations to HCT's Save Land - Save Water Initiative help to preserve priority lands within watersheds that protect sensitive water resources including Pleasant Bay, our harbors, Nantucket Sound, freshwater ponds, and our sole source drinking water aquifer.
- · Donations of land and/or conservation restrictions.

• For some supporters, a bequest is a forward-thinking way of making a significant gift to Harwich Conservation Trust (HCT). You may provide a bequest for HCT by creating a new will, adding a codicil to your present will, including Harwich Conservation Trust in your revocable trust, or designating Harwich Conservation Trust as the beneficiary of your retirement plan or insurance policy.

To ensure that your exact intentions are carried out, wills, codicils, and trusts should be prepared by and with the advice of your attorney. HCT is available for additional information on the various methods of designating a bequest to Harwich Conservation Trust or for guidance in planning a gift.

You make HCT possible. You make land conservation possible. Thanks again.





WINTER TALKS - Discover Your Nature with HCT! All talks held at the Harwich Community Center. Visit www.HarwichConservationTrust.org for dates and times

Orchids of Cape Cod

While most everyone is familiar with the pink lady slipper, there are over 25 other orchids found on Cape Cod and the Islands. Rich Eldred, botanist, will talk about the beauty and mysterious nature of these unusual flowers. Rich is a reporter for the Cape Codder and Harwich Oracle newspapers. He holds a degree in Botany from the University of New Hampshire and a Masters in Plant Science (Ecology) from the University of Western Ontario.



Grass pink orchid (Calopogon tuberosus)

Spadefoot Toads on Cape Cod

The Eastern Spadefoot Toad (Scaphiopus holbrookii) is the rarest frog species in Massachusetts; its status in the state is listed as "threatened". Ian Ives will explore the secret life history of this elusive and little known species as well as discuss his project aimed at protecting the Eastern Spadefoot Toad population on Cape Cod. Ian is the Director at Mass Audubon's Long Pasture, Ashumet and Skunknett River Wildlife Sanctuaries on Cape Cod.

Cape Cod Bay and Beyond -**Current and Future Ocean Challenges**

We look forward to this informative talk which will focus on challenges facing Cape Cod Bay and the seas beyond. Richard F. Delaney is the Executive Director of the Center for Coastal Studies in Provincetown. Previously, Mr. Delaney was the Assistant Secretary of Environmental Affairs in Massachusetts and the Director of the Coastal Zone Management Program. He also was founding Director of the Urban Harbors Institute at the University of Massachusetts Boston where he continues as a Senior Fellow.

A Half Century of Changes in Cape Cod Land Cover and Implications for the Future

With almost 400 years since the Pilgrims landed, land use on the Cape has changed dramatically. Tom Stone will share his striking images regarding land use on the Cape. Stone is an environmental geologist who specializes in remote sensing and GIS applications studying land cover changes on Cape Cod, as well as in the northeastern US and the tropics. He is a Senior Research Associate at the Woods Hole Research Center in Falmouth, MA.