

# HARWICH CONSERVATION TRUST

**P.O. Box 205, Harwich Port, Massachusetts 02646  
(508) 432-3997**

*For the Land's Sake*

**NEWSLETTER**

**WINTER 2002**

## SAVE MONOMOY RIVER TO PROTECT PLEASANT BAY'S WATER QUALITY

Save the 42.5-acre Monomoy River property from development, and we can help protect the marine water quality of Pleasant Bay. A recently completed land analysis identified the 42.5 acres as the top priority undeveloped shorefront property in the Pleasant Bay watershed, which spans an estimated 21,300 acres across Harwich, Brewster, Chatham and Orleans. The regional land prioritization project was funded by the Land Trust Alliance and conducted by The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts to assess open space opportunities within the watershed.

Inspiring nearly \$150,000 in pledges and donations since June, the Save Monomoy River campaign keeps attracting much needed contributions to purchase and protect the 42.5 acres of rolling woodland stretched along a half-mile of the Monomoy River (Muddy Creek) tidal estuary which flows into Pleasant Bay.

Negotiations are ongoing. In May, the Town of Harwich authorized \$3.5 million and the Trust committed \$500,000 toward the acquisition of the threatened land listed at \$8 million. Though we appreciate any contribution toward saving this singular landscape, the Trust is also looking for an Open Space Angel to provide a large sum of money as a challenge gift to help us reach our fundraising goal. Please contact D. Isabel Smith at 508-430-0517 or Michael Lach at 508-362-3422 for more information.



Photo by Kelsey-Kennard Photographers

## HCT SURPASSES ITS OPEN SPACE ODYSSEY GOAL

In the winter of 2000, we launched our vessel to embark on the 2001:An Open Space Odyssey voyage. The goal of the voyage was to double the amount of land owned or under our stewardship by the end of the year 2001. The Trust is pleased to announce that the ship has returned to port and the voyage has been successful.

At the start of the voyage, the Trust's protected land totaled approximately 105 acres. Of that total, the Trust directly owned 65 acres and was the steward of nearly 40 additional acres that had been retained as open space under conservation restrictions.

At the recent Seventh Annual Gala Wine-Tasting Dinner fundraising event, the Trustees thanked all the folks who contributed to the success of the voyage. Since the Open Space Odyssey began, the Trust has been given or has purchased an additional 99 acres of land, and has received a conservation restriction on another 23 acres. The Trust more than doubled its protected land holdings! As of this newsletter, more than 228 acres of open space have been preserved forever by The Harwich Conservation Trust. We have only just begun.

An important part of the new land inventory is the conservation restriction which the Trust negotiated with the Town of Harwich as part of the purchase of twenty-three acres of land on Coy's Brook, across the street from our Coy's Brook Woodlands property. This conservation restriction will enable the creation of additional walking trails which will allow the public to enjoy the natural beauty of this property.

Remember: land is a unique asset that cannot be reproduced. As we navigate into the twenty-first century, the proper way to provide open space in Harwich is to work with property owners through gifts or purchase of their land, when available, and make use of more conservation restrictions. Each of these land preservation options can provide financial benefits to the owners, including both real estate and income tax-savings.

The Trust is always seeking to permanently preserve additional land, and is currently negotiating on parcels adjacent to other conservation land in an effort to expand habitat assemblages, enlarge wildlife corridors and connect walking trails. When you visit with friends

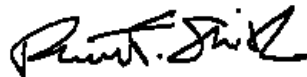
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## OPEN SPACE GOAL (Cont'd)

and neighbors, and discuss ways to maintain and increase open space in our hometown of Harwich, you play a vital role in the land protection movement.

The Town Planning Board predicts that at full build-out, the Town will have a year-round population of 20,000 (nearly twice the current population). In the opinion of many, the public drinking water supply, infrastructure and services cannot support such a large increase in the number of people. Your Trust is accelerating its land acquisition efforts by working even harder to protect open space, and making it accessible, so residents and visitors can enjoy this historic town's natural wonders. For instance, with our recently released trail guide which focuses on the walking paths of the Coy's Brook Woodlands and the A. Janet DeFulvio Wildlife Sanctuary Boardwalk, we hope people will be inspired to discover and protect the environment around us.

Charitable donations can be made to the Harwich Conservation Trust to further its open space efforts. Capital gains tax, that would have to be paid if appreciated stock is sold, can be avoided by making a gift of the stock to the Harwich Conservation Trust. Some members and friends have also inquired about making a gift to the Harwich Conservation Trust as a bequest in their Will. Gifts to the Trust under the terms of a Will can come in a variety of sizes and forms, are also tax deductible as a charitable donation and, of course, greatly appreciated. When invested, the gifts will continue to generate even more money to help fulfill the goal of protecting the natural beauty of Harwich.



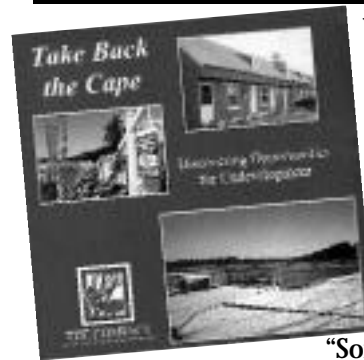
## 7TH ANNUAL WINE-TASTING DINNER

The Seventh Annual Gala Wine Tasting Dinner on Saturday, December 1st was a terrific success and sold out once again. The 400 East Restaurant created a delicious gourmet feast, the Harwich Spirits Shoppe served up a selection of wines which tantalized the taste buds and Luscious Louies lavished us with a delectable dessert. Bruce Gibson, from the Harwich Spirits Shoppe, provided entertaining commentary and donated many door prizes.

The tables at the festive event were graced with beautiful centerpieces arranged by Stephanie Foster and the balloons were donated by Jennifer Learned at Perennial Parties. Each year, the event usually raises over \$2,000. Thanks to all who helped and attended, the evening was filled with great food, great wine, and great friends supporting our open space efforts.



## UNDEVELOPMENT CREATES OPEN SPACE OPPORTUNITIES



We have all seen the eyesores. Maybe its a defunct gas station or a dilapidated motel that squats stubbornly on the road's edge. Perhaps it's an abandoned, decaying house that blocks an otherwise beautiful view. Driving by, we shake our heads and wishfully mutter, "Someone should do something about that place."

Many people are doing something about those unwanted structures scattered across the landscape. Undevelopment projects are breaking new ground, or rather reclaiming old ground, on Cape Cod and the Islands. Communities are undeveloping the land along our roadways and downtowns by removing or relocating deserted buildings in an effort to restore wildlife habitat, establish public parks and resurrect scenic views. An innovative idea often spearheaded by proactive land trusts, undevelopment can be used to acquire more open space.

The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts recently published a 30-page booklet titled Take Back the Cape which describes eight undevelopment case studies in Barnstable, Osterville, Falmouth, Yarmouth, Brewster, Truro and Martha's Vineyard. Photos of different undevelopment phases as well as information on undevelopment resources and planning are also provided to help interested land trusts and towns initiate their own projects.

Take Back the Cape helps citizens, land trusts and towns understand how undevelopment projects in their own communities can create open space. The Compact defines undevelopment as *removing manmade structures as well as other traces of human influence, and restoring the site to a more natural condition*. Each undevelopment example has four parts: the background of the undevelopment site, the vision which inspired the project, the actions taken by participants and the results accomplished.

Some regional planning experts suggest that the total development of all vacant residential land on Cape Cod will occur in less than thirty years. As a result, undevelopment will keep evolving as an imaginative alternative for advancing open space acquisitions in Harwich. The undevelopment idea inspires a unique vision of communities reclaiming their rural character and restoring the environment - "one lot at a time".

*To receive a booklet, send your mailing address and a check for \$5.00 to The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, P.O. Box 443, Barnstable, MA 02630.*

Article reprinted courtesy of the *Cape Cod Chronicle*

## HARWICH CONSERVATION TRUST RELEASES PIONEERING TRAIL GUIDE

On Saturday, December 8th, the Harwich Conservation Trust released its very first trail guide at Coy's Brook Woodlands, nestled along the west side of Lothrop Avenue in West Harwich. The Trust publicly announced the trail guide's dedication to Lee W.H. Baldwin, thanked the individuals and organizations which made the trail guide possible and led a walk along the paths of the Coy's Brook Woodlands. Over twenty people attended the event. In the past, many of the same folks had accompanied Lee on her intriguing nature walks throughout Harwich.

Winding through the Coy's Brook Woodlands, now nearly 30 acres preserved forever by the Trust, the group of nature enthusiasts learned about the land's cranberry farming history, habitats and the area's importance to the water quality of Coy's Brook. By purchasing and protecting the land as open space, the Trust prevented a 10-12 lot subdivision from threatening nearby wetlands and displacing sensitive wildlife, including eastern box turtle, considered a Species of Special Concern in Massachusetts.

If the land had been developed, a dozen new septic systems could have eventually added excess nutrients to surrounding wetlands, groundwater and Coy's Brook which is the major tributary to the Herring River, the second largest river system on Cape Cod. Thanks to fundraising support from the Harwich community, the woods, wetlands and walking paths of the Coy's Brook Woodlands are permanently protected.

The interpretive trail guide not only highlights the walking paths of the Coy's Brook Woodlands, but also describes the wheelchair accessible A. Janet DeFulvio Wildlife Sanctuary Boardwalk, located off Route 28. The 150-foot boardwalk provides a wide open view of salt marsh stretched along the Herring River. The trail guide also includes informative sections about the cranberry history of Harwich, the importance of wetlands and the significance of protected open space within the Herring River watershed which covers nearly 10,000 acres in three towns. The trail guides are freely available to the public at Brooks Free Library, the Harwich Chamber of Commerce, the Town Offices and the Harwich Community Center among other places.

Lee Baldwin, a devoted Trustee of the Harwich Conservation Trust and a highly respected conservationist across Cape Cod, edited the first two trail guide drafts. "She led so many nature walks which inspired people to explore, appreciate and protect the environment. The Harwich Conservation Trust's new trail guide honors her dynamic open space spirit", said Michael



Lach, Land Protection Specialist with The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts which produced the guide on HCT's behalf.

The benches, footbridge and trails in the Coy's Brook Woodlands were created by volunteers from AmeriCorps-CapeCod, part of a national service organization, in collaboration with the Harwich Conservation Trust. AmeriCorps volunteers also built the wheelchair accessible boardwalk in the A. Janet DeFulvio Wildlife Sanctuary after materials were generously donated by several local businesses. AmeriCorps member Brett Thelen was a contributing writer to the trail highlights section.

Businesses in Harwich, Brewster, Dennis and Orleans as well as many individuals donated

materials, equipment and time to construct the boardwalk, benches and footbridge. At the Coy's Brook Woodlands, Peter Luddy donated a bench, Robert Kuhn donated machinery, Robert Our donated the hardening material and Cliff Daluze prepared the roadway and parking area. At the A. Janet DeFulvio Wildlife Sanctuary Boardwalk, Mid-Cape Home Center (Dennis) donated boardwalk materials, Hinckley Home Center donated materials for a bench installed by Robert Ford, Eldredge Welding donated a steel ramp, Motts Tool Repair donated fasteners, Orleans Paint & Wallpaper donated use of a pressure washer, John D. Martin Excavating donated hardening material for the parking area and G. Rockwood Clark prepared the roadway and parking area.

"No request for a donation was denied. Everyone wanted to help preserve the natural essence and rural character of Harwich and Cape Cod. We're all in the same boat, but at a different oar", remarked Colin Leonard, Chair of the Trust's Land Management Committee, who coordinated both projects.

The project was funded by a \$4,000 Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management Greenways & Trails grant, a \$1,500 grant from the Fields Pond Foundation and a \$250 grant from the Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank in Harwich Port. The classy color guide was designed by Nancy Viall Shoemaker.

Two major goals of the Trust's Explore the Natural Heritage of Harwich trail guide series are to encourage folks to explore the outdoors and to increase public awareness about the many benefits of protected open space, which include the preservation of water resources, wildlife habitats and scenic views. With this first trail guide and subsequent trail guides, the Trust hopes to help residents and visitors discover the history, habitats and beautiful vistas that make Harwich so special.

**FOR LAND'S SAKE, DONATE  
YOUR CAR TO HELP HCT...**

The HCT has entered into an arrangement with Automobile Donations Corporation II of Millis, MA whereby people can dispose of unwanted automobiles by donating them to the HCT, and thereby obtain a charitable donation tax deduction for the value of the automobile.

Automobile Donations Corporation II works directly with the automobile owner to arrange for pick-up of the automobile and its sale, retains 65% of the sale price for its services and then distributes 35% of the sale proceeds to the HCT. The program works best with cars valued at \$500 or more. Anyone desiring to get rid of that "gas guzzling polluter" and turn it into trees, can contact Al Thibeault at 866-388-6200, designate the HCT as your charitable choice, and leave everything up to them.

Thanks for your  
open space support!



*For the Land's Sake*

**HARWICH CONSERVATION TRUST**  
P.O. Box 205  
Harwich Port, Massachusetts 02646

*Return Service Requested*

The Trust created a snazzy

**NEW PAMPHLET**

describing our history,  
mission, accomplishments,  
and ways to both save land  
and enjoy tax-savings, too!



HARWICH  
CONSERVATION  
TRUST

Join Us... For Land's Sake

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**(508) 432-3997**

Michael Lach, Deborah London, Isabel Smith, Robert Smith  
Dragonfly drawing by Rebecca Lach

*New contributors always welcome!*

*Meets every third Thursday at  
Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank in Harwich Port.*

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