

Bourne Conservation Trust

NEWSLETTER Number 17

Winter 1992

Back then it was called the 'Mill Pond'



fairy

In many ways the childhood of Joan Mayhew was enchanted, much of it passed on the fringes of Red Brook Pond or in the adjacent woodlands where the edges of fact and fancy often blurred as she and her playmates roamed and imagined, discovered and learned. Here she shares some magic memories with us.

Once upon a time Red Brook Pond was known as the Mill Pond. It was surrounded by dark, magical woods that were filled with tiny elves and dainty fairies who danced on moonlit nights. They left their footprints in the dew and on the toadstools where they sat. I can show you one of their dancing rings. We passed it often on our way through the cemetery and down the hill to the Pond, and once, very early . . . well, perhaps it was only a puff of mist. But we were Almost Six Years Old, and nothing important missed our observation.

We knew about elves and fairies and toadstools. We also discovered an even more amazing world at the Pond's edge: a mass of forget-me-nots and a stone path where we could kneel down and look into the Pond. There was some white sand bottom just there. We could see everything as long as we didn't disturb the clear water and frighten the myriad creatures above and beneath.

Above the water were dragon flies and "darning needles" (those electric blue, inch-long rods whose wings move too fast to be seen). We were afraid of the "darning needles" because they were said to dart up and quickly sew up your mouth if you had told a lie. We were never too certain of our recent records.

On the water were the astonishing, long-legged spiders so light that their feet made only the slightest indentations as they scampered across the surface as though it were firm jelly. We envied them.

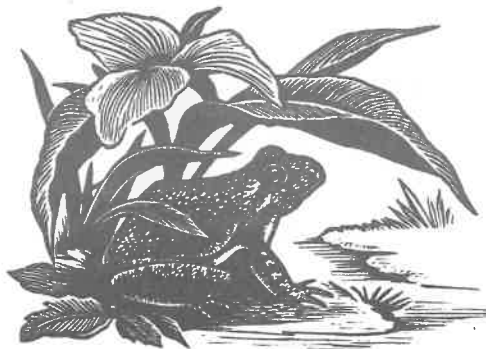
Under the water, clear against the white quartz sand, we saw such a busy community of wigglers, darters, drifters that we couldn't count them. Most wonderful were the fat, brown tadpoles who grew legs and turned into fat, brown toads. Our Auntie Mary had told us how useful toads

are. They went up the hill to gobble up mosquitoes and take care of the toadstools. We loved the toads.

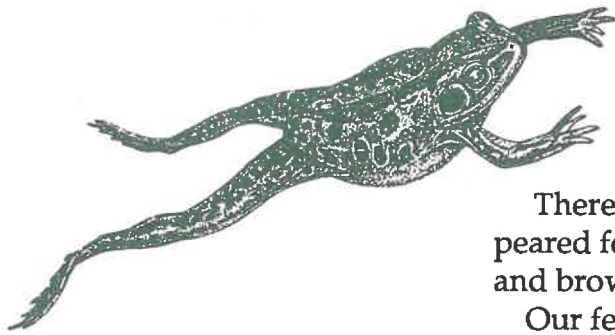
There were also slim, black pollywogs who grew legs too and who became slim, green frogs with golden eyes. The grown-up frogs swam close, then popped their heads out of the water to stare at us. The toads seemed friendlier, but the frogs taught us how to swim!



Forget-me-not



Just listen. Every summer day when the tide was right we "went to Red Brook", i.e. the concrete boat ramp next to (then) Robinson's Boat Shop. We were supposedly learning to swim, but there wasn't much instruction. "Get your feet off the bottom," the grown-ups said from the shore, but we didn't dare.



Suddenly, though, there were many more frogs whisking through our special viewing area by the Pond. Some were green, some were brown, and they all used their marvelous back legs to send them racing through the water. We watched them. Something clicked, and we tried it.

There was some consternation on the shore when we disappeared for seconds at a time because, of course, like our green and brown instructors, we swam first underwater.

Our feet were off the bottom! We quickly learned to bring our heads up just as the frogs did when they surfaced, and we took advantage of the gentle waves of the incoming tide to give distance to our efforts.

Attending grown-ups marched us proudly home and announced to assembled family that we had mastered the Dog Paddle.

They were wrong. We had mastered the Frog Paddle!

BCT Aquisition: A Learning Experience

The Honors Biology Class of Bourne High School can now pursue their studies under sun and stars, due to the generosity of Mr. Carleton Handy. Mr. Handy conveyed a parcel of wetland to the BCT for use as a living laboratory by Bourne High students. The Honors Class, along with the BCT, will develop a management plan and school curriculum for the parcel. In recognition of its purpose, the aquisition will be known as the " Broad Swamp Center for Wetland Studies".



A Challenge

One of our readers has promised to make a \$100 donation to the BCT if we can get the answers to the following questions:

1. Who was J. Hugh Bolton?
2. What was the Whitins Ball Club?
3. In 1950 where was the Blackstone Valley League?

If you know the answer to any or all of these questions, let us know. Every \$100 helps!

People respond. . .

. . .to people who respond. In this instance, we have had people respond to the 1991 \$75,000 matching grant by matching it, dollar for dollar. And then some. Good Show!

Since we have started the Red Brook Pond Project, of the \$1.3 million needed, we have raised:

The End
is
Near

1989	\$337,892.05
1990	359,750.07
1991	<u>171,170.33</u>
	\$868,812.45
+ 1/92	<u>585.00</u>
Total	\$869,397.45

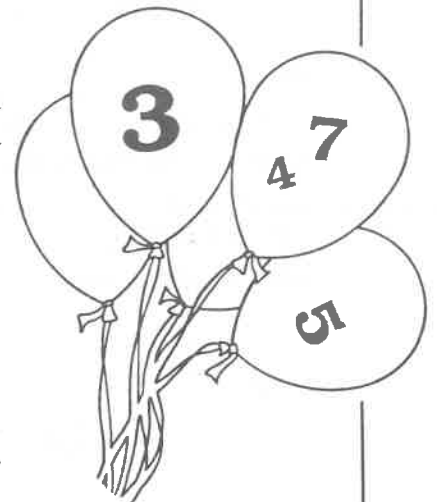
For the remainder of 1992, we are aiming for \$275,000 for payments and \$143,000 for loan repayments.

This will complete the Red Brook Pond Project!

Our number is up!

Although our project cost is expressed with a seven figure number, we are also interested in one or two figure donations. As a community project, we need an expression of the breadth of community support. Broad support is necessary for us to retain our tax-exempt status.

Our donor base has been: 1990: 490 contributors
1991: 559 contributors



Remember, anyone can accumulate those seven figures (a million dollars) readily: it merely takes the discipline of putting away \$1000 a week for 20 years.

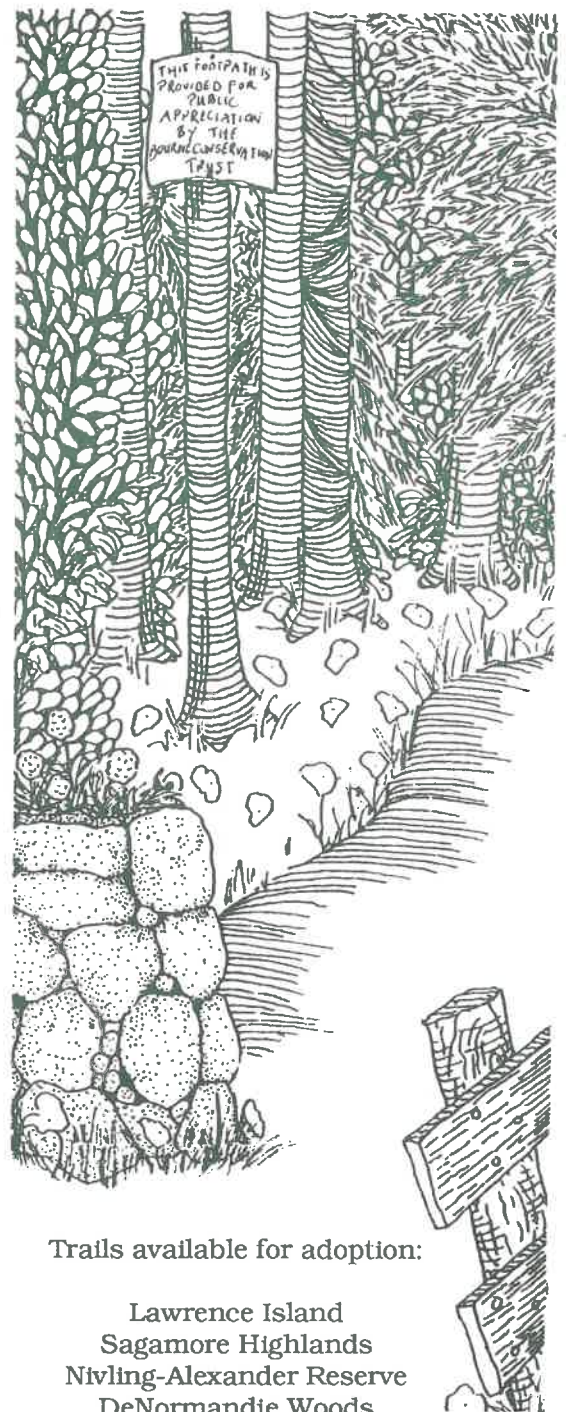
Help Wanted: Needed outdoorsy types who love to take walks. Knowledge and possession of pruning clippers needed, also a good eye for litter. Adopt a BCT trail. Volunteers only need to call Grace (563-7846) or use the enclosed envelope.

Help us maintain the trails and land. Adopt a trail. This would entail taking walks maybe with friends and/or pets and doing a little "cleanup" along the way. If you walk one of the BCT trails once or twice a month, this job is for you.

The trails need to be kept clear of low hanging branches and anything that a two year old might trip over. Random bits of papers too. Should you find that your pruning shears are insufficient, we can call in the reserves to help out.

The reserves possess heavy artillery like chain saws, gravellys, etc.,-- power stuff. We also need a few more reserves, who might assist once or twice a year, depending upon how many "Bobs" are in our future.

There are already volunteers-- even a group of children patiently awaiting instructions. After a few more sign up, a letter about trail maintenance techniques listing the names of fellow trail adoptors and offering our heartfelt thanks will be forthcoming.



Trails available for adoption:

Lawrence Island
Sagamore Highlands
Nivling-Alexander Reserve
DeNormandie Woods
DeNormandie Woods Triangle
Robinson Conservation Area
Broyer Conservation Area
John E. Handy Conservation Area
Cataumet Depot

THANK YOU Brian, Dennis, Faith, Jamie, Jody, Kim, & Tommy!

The BCT is most grateful to the members of Marty Tulloch's Falmouth High School class for all their willing help-- labeling and stuffing all those BCT Newsletter envelopes. They make our job a lot easier!



**From Readers: a memory, two questions,
& some moony suggestions.**

For a couple of readers the fall Newsletter conjured up a flurry of memories. One reported that in 1905, her ". . . father stopped to water his horse in Red Brook Pond and a wheel fell off his wagon," and another asked, "Does anyone else remember when there was an ice house just where the road meets the edge of the pond?" and "who decided to change its name from the Mill Pond to Red Brook Pond?"

There was a deluge of suggestions for additional "moon" songs with which to end BCT moonlight walks. These are taken from a Harwich reader's list of more than 200 Tin Pan Alley creations: Songs with 'moon' as the last word in the title (Fly Me to the, Racing with the, How High the); songs about the impact of Moonlight on the (Ganges, Colorado, Danube); songs in which 'Moonlight' is the initial modifier (Bay, Cocktail, Serenade); Moon Of and Moon Over songs (Manakoora and Miami); Moonlight In or On songs (Vermont, My Pillow), and from the same list, these forgotten gems: "Moon Germs", "Moon Belly" and "Banging My Head Against the Moon."

The authenticity of the following title from off-Cape is being looked into: "Moons Fell on Alabama."

On the International Scene. . .

We now have contributions from areas that reach from pole (Antarctic) to. . . well, Norway. In between, we have added England, Mexico, Argentina, Chile, and the Falkland Islands (once described as "a damp sort or place where many birds fly about uncooked").

For those folks who like to feel that they are getting somewhere--by traveling--we still have unrecorded countries, even continents, available.

**Red Brook Pond
Conservation Project
Tours**

Sunday
March 15, 1992
2:00 pm

Saturday
April 11, 1992
10:00 am

MOONLIGHT
Saturday
May 16, 1992
7:00 pm

For tour info call
563-7492



Tempus Fugit

Perhaps you can't recall when you made your last donation to the BCT? Check the mailing label on the envelope of this newsletter. The number in the upper right corner represents the date of your last donation--first the year, then the month. For Example, "8906" means June 1989. A "g" following the number (8906g) means that a donation was made in your honor in June of 1989. No number? We hope you will send us a donation soon.

The BCT is tax exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Within IRS guidelines contributions may be deductible from your taxable income. (ID Number: 04 2767827).

\$\$ Help Us Save Postage Charges \$\$



If you receive more than one Newsletter or have a new mailing address, please let us know.

Bedeck Blushing Bare Bumpers

For Information about BCT bumper (window) stickers, BCT trail guides or BCT's projects, call us at (508) 563-5196 (before 8:00 pm) or write us (anytime).



Board of Directors

- Stephen Ballentine, President
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- John Corcoran, Trustee
- David Dimmick, Trustee

Frequently we are asked. . .

JUST WHAT IS THE RED BROOK POND PROJECT?
And frequently we answer (after taking a deep breath). . .

It is the current phase of a program aimed at preserving undeveloped land in Bourne's various villages through private donations to the Bourne Conservation Trust, a non-profit, tax-exempt, broad-based, volunteer-staffed, fund-raising organization.



Red Brook Pond and the forty adjacent acres in Cataumet are the latest addition to the eighty acres of sequestered land already acquired through purchase and donation. The Pond is west of the Shore Road a bit south of the railroad underpass at Kingman Marine. In summer it offers fishing and canoeing, in winter skating and ice fishing and, in any season, hiking on the marked trails that lace the adjacent woodlands.

WHERE THERE'S A WILL. . .

We are all going to reach a time when life plays its last practical joke and we must accept Patrick Henry's second choice. There are few ways that one can better memorialize one's passage than in a bequest to the BCT. This is an inheritance whose impact is perpetual: it cannot be misspent or mislaid. It will do honor to yourself and to your family, linking past to future.

Examples of an appropriate format for such gift-giving are:

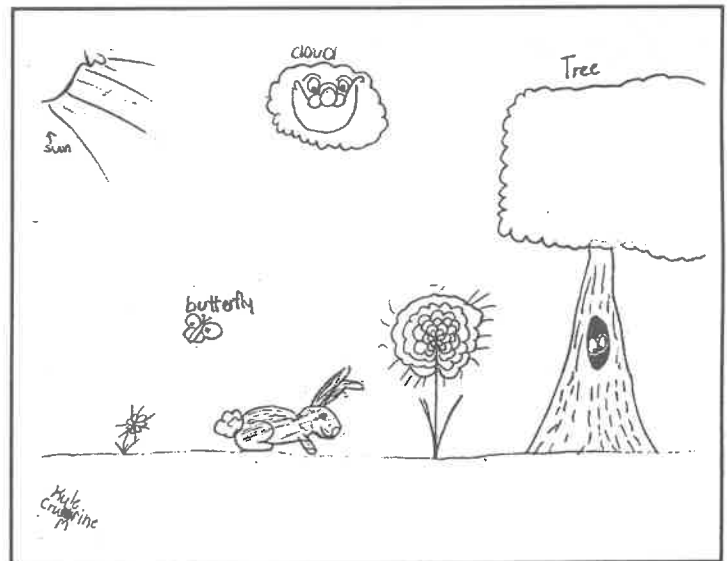
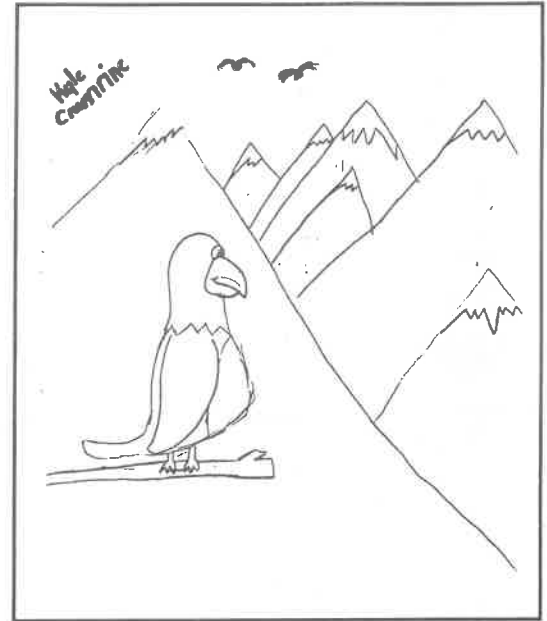
"I give and bequeath to the Trustees of Bourne Conservation Trust _____% of my total estate (or \$_____, or other property)."

Such a provision in your will creates an unrestricted bequest, which assures that your gift will be used where it is most needed. However, you may want to designate your gift for some special purpose within the scope of the BCT's mission. You can restrict the use of principal, income, or both in this fashion:

"I give and bequeath to the Trustees of Bourne Conservation Trust _____% of my total estate (or \$_____, or other property) to be used for the following: (Your purpose here)."

Kahlin's Korner

is dedicated to the memory of Kahlin Jespersen, a child full of sunshine and a love of nature, and also to all children for whom we preserve a part of the natural world.



Drawings by
Kelly (age 14) & Kyle (age 8) Crumrine

Kahlin's Korner is a regular feature of the Newsletter, featuring children's articles or drawings about nature. Included will be activities that are fun and will also help children to understand their natural environment. We hope you will submit ideas for future issues. (BCT, Box 203, Cataumet MA 02534)

Memorial Donations



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The Thomas Murphy Family
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