



Bourne Conservation Trust

Newsletter Number 35

Spring 2002

Weird, Wild and Woolly Winter

*"There is a sumptuous variety
about New England weather..."*

—MARK TWAIN

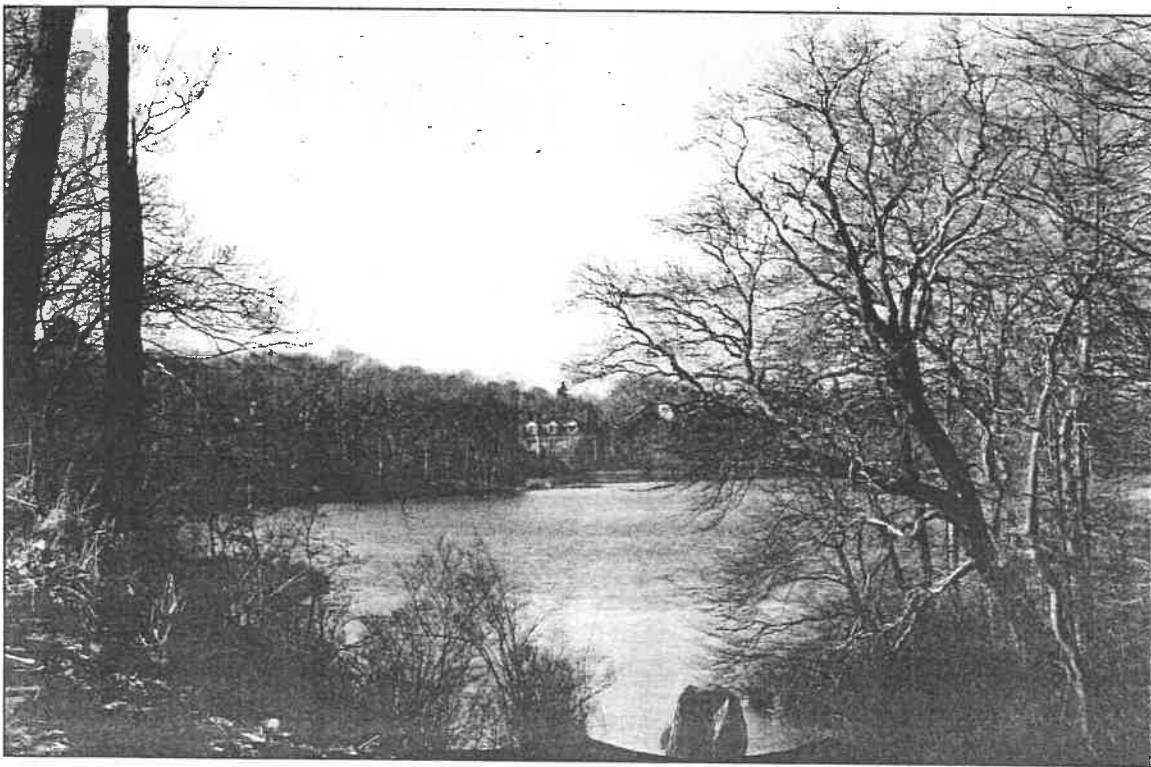
For example: in response to an overnight change in the already strange 2001-02 winter weather, the water of Red Brook Pond became so uncannily clear that buffleheads could be seen flashing white as they hunted below

its limpid surface. Then, not long after dawn, the resident great blue heron that normally occupies his time wading tall and straight in the shallows spent the better part of an hour hunkered down atop a gnarled oak, motionless. Even more odd was the off-and-on behavior of the male swan who is ever intent on letting

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New Trustee.	Back Cover.



The out-of-season weather of winter 01-02, like all New England weather, kept canceling itself out, yo-yoing the temperature to seemingly incompatible highs and lows while wisps of mist drifted across, droplets of rain drizzled into and flakes of snow swirled above the

the Pond's other residents know just exactly who is in charge. But he took to puffing himself up and going in hot pursuit of non-existent invaders while at other times, for reasons known only to himself, he chose not to notice flights of yawping Canada geese flying criss-cross over the Pond before settling down for a rare unbadgered visit.

One cold mid-morning a pair of invading swans (for years Red Brook Pond has been a one-swan-family pond)—invaders whom the male in residence would once have driven off the Pond forthwith—were permitted to spend the day unchallenged in the Pond's southwest corner so long as they stayed out of sight.

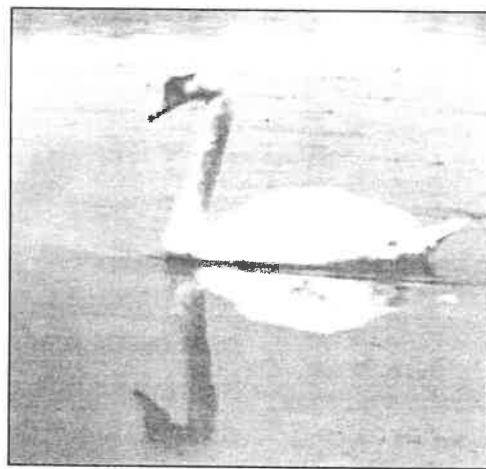
The winter weather seems to have addled his mate too. Off and on for much of February she snuggled down into a non-

existent nest to warm non-existent eggs while he did guard duty patrolling the water around the small peninsula to protect a 'nest' quite accessible by land, easy pickings for a hungry, prowling raccoon, fox or coyote.

And was it the odd weather that prompted a pair of young squirrels into a fit of most unsquirrel-like behavior? What else might have put them to chasing one another around and around the base of a huge beech tree at the Pond's edge—to bounce, feint, wrestle and bat at each other playfully with their forepaws like a couple of month-old kittens? What else?

whistling moan of fracturing ice and, unbelievably, one ambivalent evening, rattled down a pitance of mid-winter hail. Everyone knows that hailstones form only in hot summer weather! Really!

But there still remain time-tested signs and sayings and folk wisdom (seagulls' ability to pre-



dict storms, "Red sky at night, sailors' delight"), so, as the uncertain days of this bizarre winter wane, daily sunsets will surely become less sudden, more

baroque and more eye-grabbing unless, of course, the whimsical weather concocts yet another new twist to proclaim the day's end.

The ABCs of the BCT

OUR MISSION

The Bourne Conservation Trust of Cape Cod, has been active for over two decades in preserving the unique character of the Cape and a sense of our nation's past. We approach the preservation problem directly: by buying or sequestering select parcels of land, keeping them in their natural state available to all for appropriate recreational purposes.



We are a volunteer group: the few implementing the desires of the many. Since we have no formal office space, paid writers, or fund-raisers, contributions are funneled directly into our mission.



Our success in meeting that mission is measurable. In our area of the Cape, over 200 acres have been brought under the umbrella of the Bourne Conservation Trust, securing a legacy of land—the miracle of space—for all.

OUR GOALS

In response to inquires about the precise meaning of the BCT Mission Statement, here are criteria for BCT land purchases:

One BCT aim is to preserve community character of locales within the Town of Bourne through the protection of fragile natural resources, aquifers and habitats, be they uplands, shore front, marshes, streams, ponds, unfragmented wooded areas, open areas (fields, etc.), scenic vistas or scenic village road frontages (County Road, Shore Road, etc.).

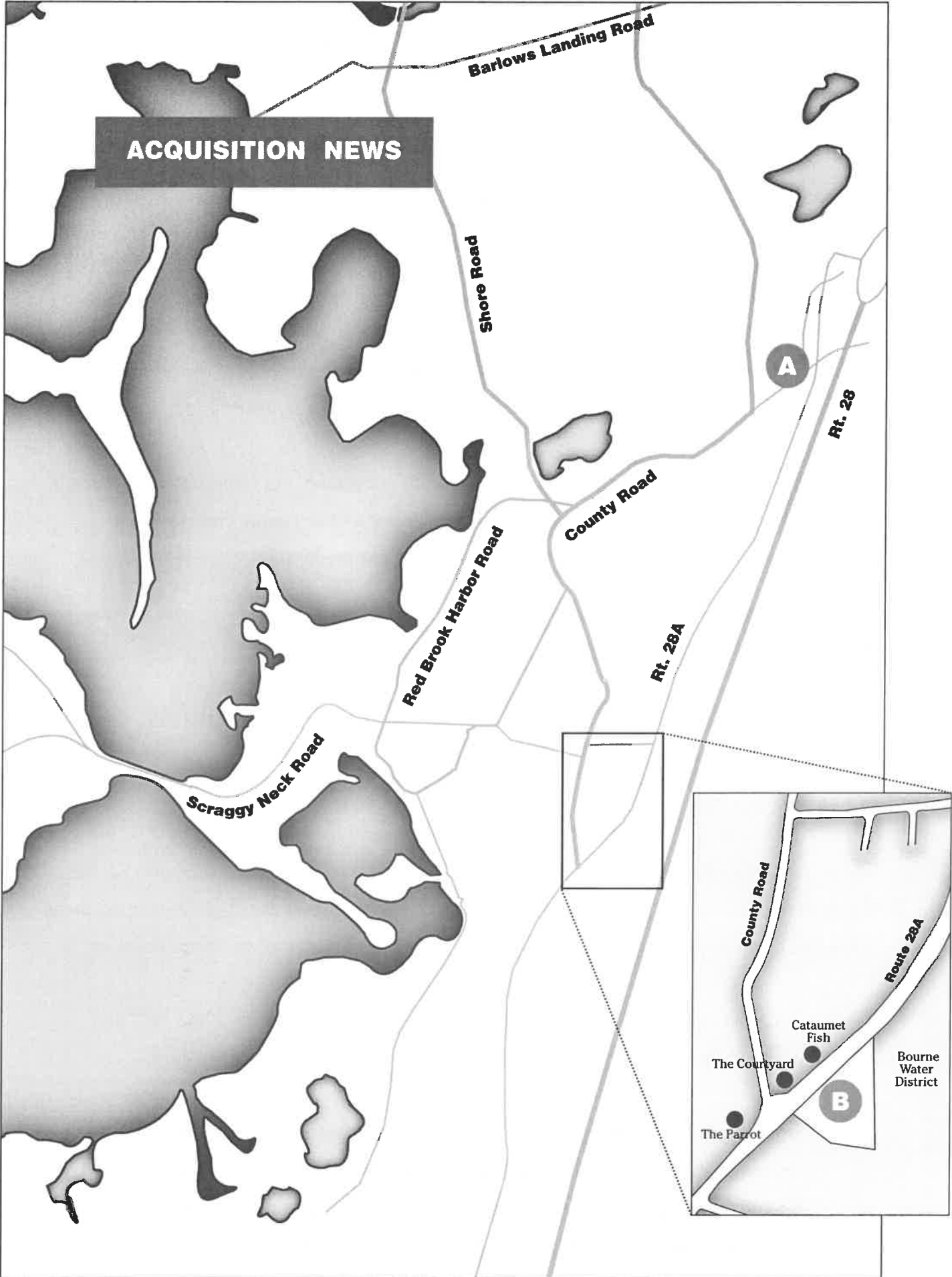


A second aim is to preserve or expand the linkage among properties of the BCT and the Town of Bourne and to provide access for recreation and education.



A third objective is fostering sensitive and/or limited development where loss of community character and quality of life are at risk or, where possible, buying and preserving the threatened property or becoming involved in decisions in regard to acceptable levels of development.

ACQUISITION NEWS

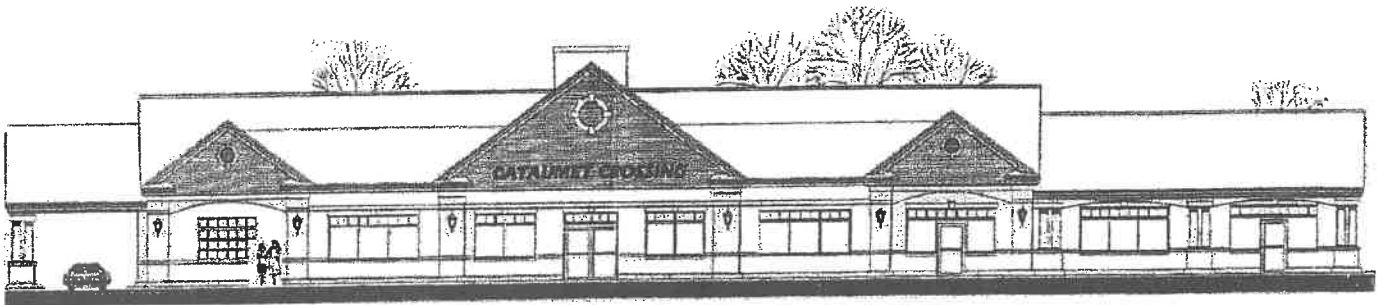


Gateway to Cataumet

The BCT has recently purchased 2 lots on Long Hill Road just off of Route 28A between Long Hill and Foster Howard roads as you enter Cataumet. (See **A** on map at left.) While not a large tract, this commercially zoned wooded 1-acre property is significant in terms of maintaining the rural village atmosphere of Bourne.

OUR NEEDS

- \$300,000.00** Route 28A purchase (see article "Outstripping the Developers" below) \$150,000 is needed for the closing in April.
- \$ 40,000.00** Long Hill Road purchase (total purchase price was \$180,000) See "Gateway to Cataumet" at left.
- \$ 10,350.00** Final payment on the Joyce purchase, due November, 2002.
- \$350,350.00 Total**



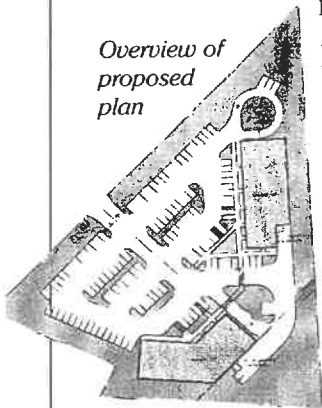
Front elevation of one of two proposed "Cataumet Crossing" buildings that will not be developed, thanks to the purchase of the land by the BCT.

Outstripping the Developers

Since safeguarding the character of Bourne's many neighborhoods is one prime BCT objective, the BCT has agreed to buy a 3-acre land parcel on the east side of

be designated "Cataumet Crossing." The BCT purchase will greatly reduce the possibility of the whole area's commercial development, so once again it is in need of considerable community financial support.

Overview of proposed plan



Route 28A a tenth of a mile north of its junction with the County Road. **B**

The two buildings on the property—an added-to Cape and garage—will be sold to help offset the \$700,000 price of the parcel for which developers had planned a 20,000 square foot strip mall to



Thanks For Letting Us Know

There were about as many off-Cape (summer resident) responses to the BCT Newsletter survey as from Cape 'year-rounders.' All, thank goodness, enjoy—even praise—the Newsletter, especially descriptions of wildlife and seasonal change, while about half would be willing to participate in trail maintenance. Favorite BCT-owned areas were topped by Lawrence Island and the wooded acreage around Red Brook Pond. Reports of unusual wildlife varied according to whether you were on Cape only in summer and included sightings of loons, ospreys, buffleheads, a snowy egret and a pair of king birds blown off-course by Hurricane Bob. They return every spring to raise young who, in turn, return to raise their young. Suggestions for ideas for inclusion in future Newsletters came, for the most part, from summer residents: updates on the CanalSide Commons situation and histories of the land acquired by the BCT.

Board of Directors

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Philip DeNormandie, *Trustee*
John Corcoran, *Trustee*
Robert Birch, *Trustee*
Don Mears, *Trustee*
Dick Boyden, *Trustee*

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 tax deductible from your taxable income. (ID Number: 04 2737827).



22nd Annual Winter Fun Run, January 6, 2002

On the Road Again

The Cape Cod Roadrunners is a group of local runners (and ex-runners) who have been pounding the pavement (local and foreign) for 25 years. They don't pay dues or have annual meetings, but they do enjoy fresh air, exercise, and camaraderie. When asked about other benefits of membership, one member offered, "Club affiliations look good in obituaries."

For the past 23 years the Cape Cod Roadrunners have sponsored a 5-mile winter fun-run road race.

Bob Burt, a veteran Roadrunner from Monument Beach, and his family organize this popular event. It is always held during the first week of January at the

Weary Travelers Club in Monument Beach and in recent years the proceeds have been



donated to the BCT to encourage its preservation efforts. This year there were 146 runners and a total of \$660.00 was donated to the Trust.

Something to Crow About

"Whose woods these are..."

—ROBERT FROST

The Bourne Conservation Trust woods are astir with the complicated chatter of crows. Long speeches about politics, work and family life and raucous arguments and complaints are exchanged by the adults in the crow community. In a clearing the youngest of the crows seem almost to be in class to learn the language from their elder tutors. About a dozen of these smaller crows are in intermittent and irregular flight making sounds that are different from the more sophisticated voices of their seniors. Their speech is strident and unfamiliar.

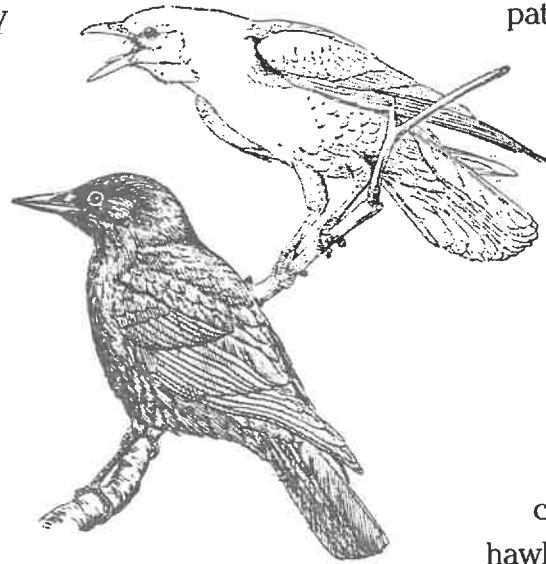
Indeed there is no escaping the comparison of baby-talk to adult conversation. These are sessions in phonemic awareness with the adults coaching and encouraging the new speakers to discriminate and imitate the meaningful sounds and abandon the more primitive grunts and squeaks of their first months.

The crow community does a lot of purposeful talking and even the young ones will be

relied on to take turns as sentinels guarding the perimeter of their nesting area. The language isn't easy but it must be learned if the community is to survive.

And almost as a well-planned example of this importance, a new clatter of crow voices takes over the lesson. There is a disturbance in the nests. A red-tailed hawk has attacked an unguarded nest and must be driven away.

Half a dozen of the larger crows fly in a spherical zone around the hawk. The hawk is easily three times larger than the largest of the crows and is equipped with razor sharp talons and a beak that can tear open flesh and bone. The hawk's defense is a studied indifference to the menacing sorties by the crows. The crows don't actually touch the hawk but take turns in a harassing action that makes continued aggressive



action too tiring for the hawk.

But the hawk does not acknowledge that it is intimidated by the crows. It selects a branch on a tree inside the crows' territory and sits

patiently while they first continue to dive at and near the barrel-chested hawk and then simply take up vigil on branches around the same tree. When sufficient time has passed for the hawk to have registered its message of dominance and for the crows to have saved face among the rest of their colony, the hawk withdraws...for now.

Later, on the same day, another explosion of crow talk when a red fox passes through their territory. The fox, with several kits in tow, is escorted noisily from above all the way through the woods until the crows feel it has no current intention of doing harm.

"The woods are lovely..." but there is a lot going on in them for those who have the privilege and opportunity for patient observation and for those who live in a community that cherishes its conservation land.

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.

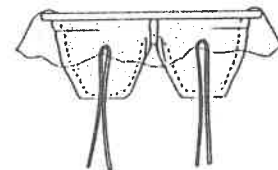
A Treat for the Birds

Ingredients:

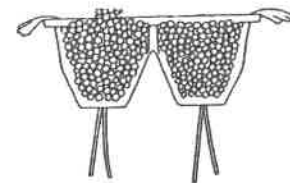
- Birdseed
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 egg carton
- Plastic food wrap
- 6 pieces of yarn
(8 inches long)



Step 1. With a fork, mix the egg and honey together. Stir in $\frac{1}{2}$ cup birdseed. Slowly add more seed until the mixture becomes stiff.



Step 2. Lay plastic wrap over the bottom part of the egg carton and push it into 6 of the cups. Use scissors to poke a hole through the plastic and the bottom of each cup. Make a loop with a piece of yarn and push about an inch of the loop through a hole. Repeat for each cup.



Step 3. Spoon seed mixture into each cup. Be sure to hold each yarn loop to keep it from slipping out.

Step 4. Let mixture dry for a least 4 days.

Step 5. Cut away the egg carton and remove the plastic wrap. Hang the seed bell outside for the wild birds.



Kahlin's Korner is a regular feature of the Newsletter, featuring children's articles or drawings. 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)

In honor of
Leigh Stokey
Edith M. Stokey

In honor of
Ellen Smith
Hans & Catherine Engelmann

In honor of
Brenda & Lois Kerr
Ben & Tracey Crago & family

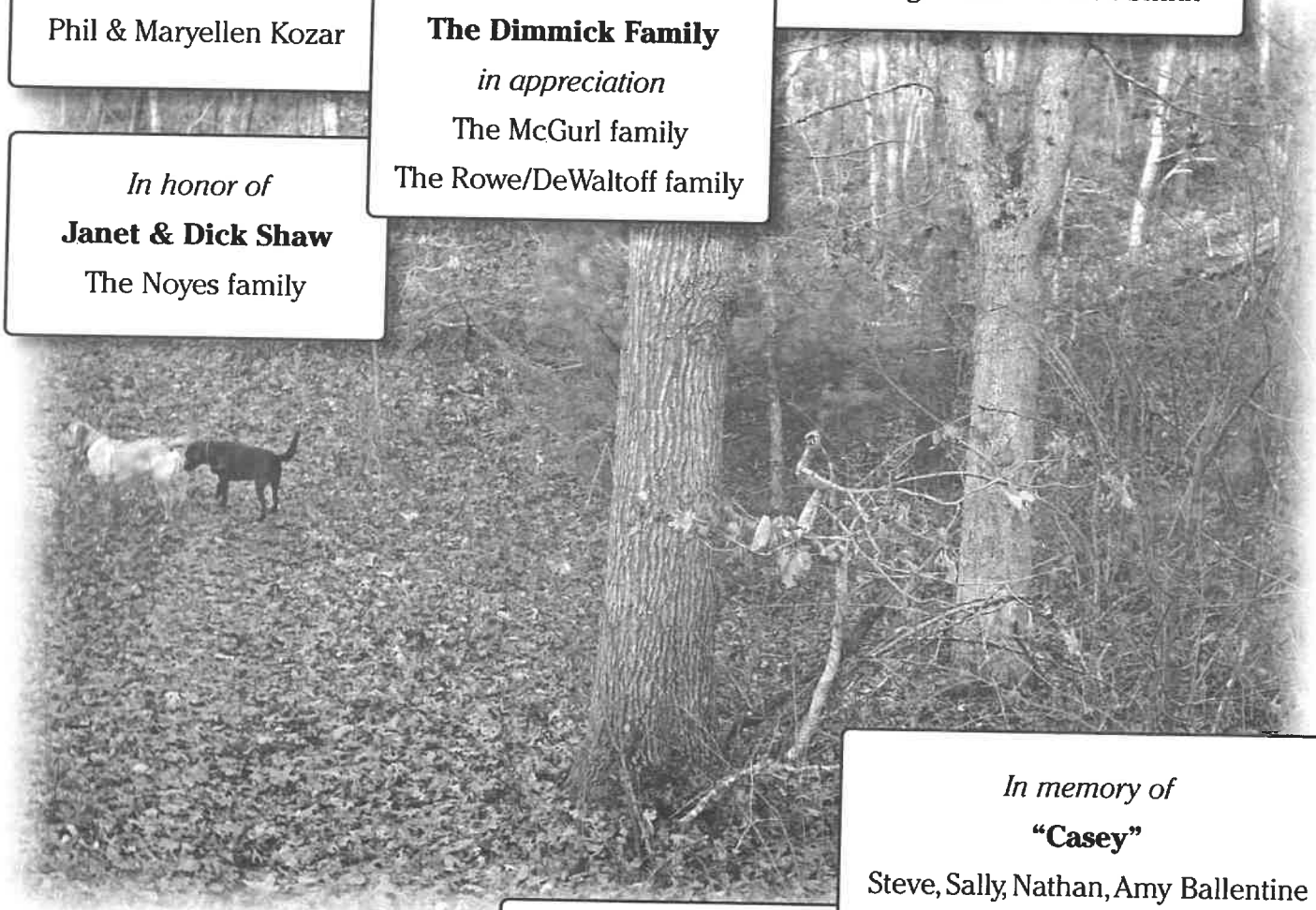
CELEBRATIONS

In honor of
Mildred Nickerson
Phil & Maryellen Kozar

To
The Dimmick Family
in appreciation
The McGurl family
The Rowe/DeWaltoff family

In honor of
Hans & Catherine Engleman
Mark Engelmann & Ellen Smith

In honor of
Janet & Dick Shaw
The Noyes family



In memory of
"Casey"
Steve, Sally, Nathan, Amy Ballentine
Maggie, Mojo, Heidi, & Sula

In memory of
"Beav"
Maureen & Dick Jason

In memory of
"Gizmo"
The Ballentine family

SPECIAL DONATIONS

In memory of
"Stevie"
Sally Ballentine

In memory of
"Heidi"
The Ballentine family
Maryellen Kozar

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

*Memorial donations received after February 15, 2002
will appear in the next newsletter.*

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| In memory of Eric Adema
Anne D. Gegg | In memory of Elsie DeNormandie
Rachael Blain/Andrew Chase | In memory of Walter Kammler
Ruth Walters |
| In memory of Joan Benson Baker
Nicholas J. Baker | In memory of Martha Douglass
Douglas Peebles MD | In memory of
Margaret Louise Keane
Robert Keane |
| In memory of Jeff Barnes
Susan M. Barnes
Amanda Barnes Muckle | In memory of Carol Jean Downey
Duane R. Downey | In memory of Stanley L. King
Col. & Mrs. Stanley L. King, Jr. |
| In memory of Jane Hart Berk
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Dr. & Mrs. Harold Berk | In memory of Gerald P. Dubuque
Elizabeth Dubuque | In memory of
Andrew & Katherine Laurie
David, Bradley, John Laurie &
Kit Anglaud |
| In memory of Bill & Jack Bolton
Joan Bolton
Peter & Kris Fisher | In memory of Mary Eustis
Caroline Wright | In memory of Bob Lemieux
Bob & Lisa Moon |
| In memory of Charles T. Brooks
Alvina Brooks | In memory of William Fitzpatrick
The children of Bob &
Helene Manson | In memory of Leo Luckraft
Phil & Maryellen Kozar |
| In memory of Richard Burgess
Ruth & Joseph Walters | In memory of Anna Fletcher
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John & Janet Black
Jane Dalton
Nancy Concannon |
| In memory of Martha Bryant
Norman Seaver | In memory of John & Trudy Fulton
Jack & Marcia Lanting | In memory of Charlene Major
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| In memory of Beulah Carter
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Dr. & Mrs. William Ribich | In memory of Patrick Gillen
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Maureen & Dick Jason |
| In memory of Donnie Champagne
Maureen & Dick Jason | In memory of Elizabeth Hall
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Col. & Mrs. Stanley King |
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Pauline Coughlin
Sylvia Fuller
Theresa Gratis
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Tobey Taylor
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Maureen & Dick Jason | In memory of Noye Mosher
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Ruth Walters | In memory of Dave Niefield
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Green |
| | In memory of Chester Kammler
Ruth Walters | In memory of Enok & Etta Olofson
Catherine Weaver |

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Annie Stubbs

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In memory of **Marvin Weaver**
Catherine Weaver

In memory of **Harriett Weeks**
Miriam Dubuque

In memory of **William Wheaton**
Rita Clark Volpini

In memory of **Ruth & Bob Willman**
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Green

In memory of **Dorothy Winsor**
John Winsor

In memory of **Andrew C. Wood**
Mrs. H. M. Clark

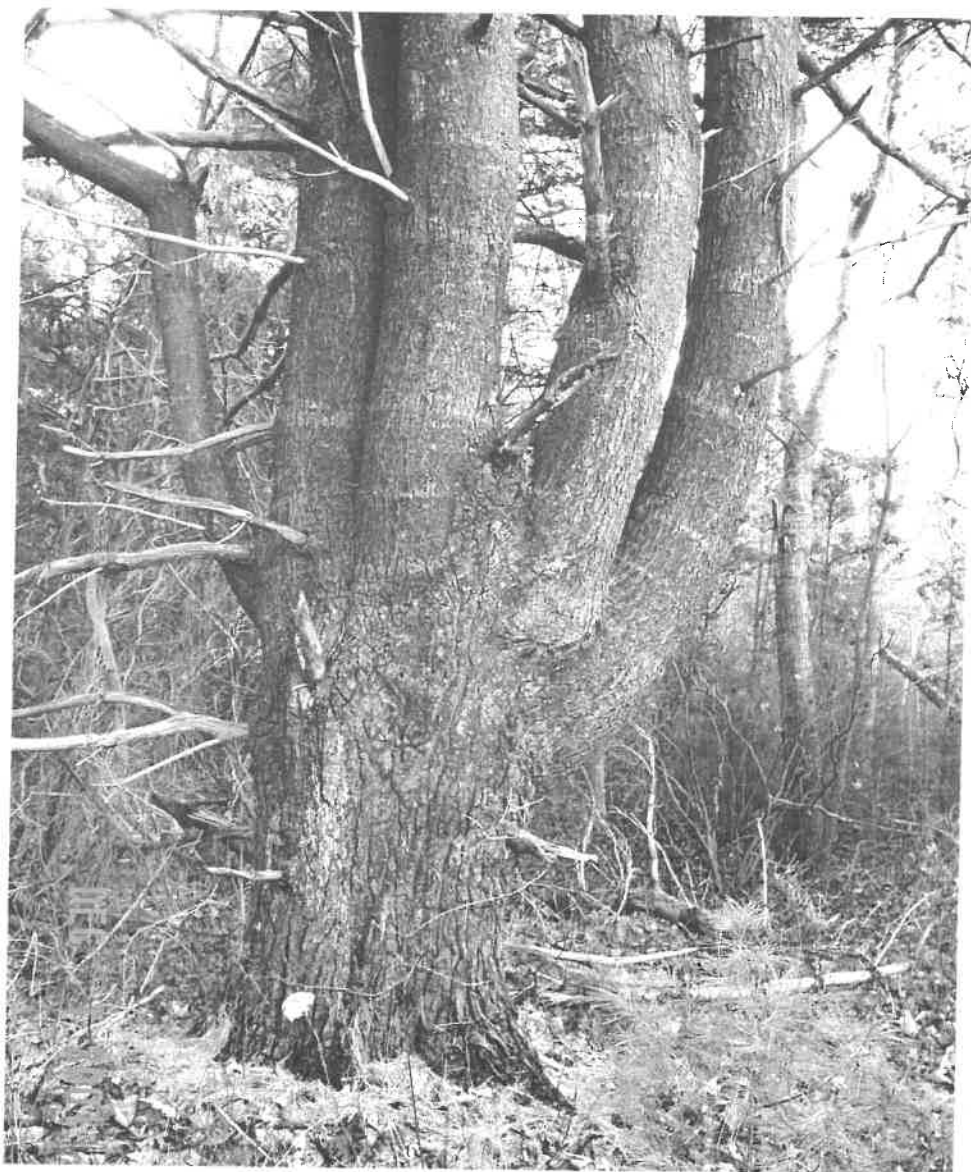
In memory of **Isabelle Wood**
Walter Everett
Joyce DeMaro
Pauline Lacasse
Mr. & Mrs. E. L. Mumford
Dorothea & Rick Schissler
Kay D. Stahl
Margaret Wiggin

In memory of **Betty Worley**
Frank W. Knowlton, Jr.

In memory of **Family and Friends**
Josephine Perry

In memory of **September 11, 2001**
Margaret Race

In memory of the
Victims of the World Trade Center
David & Polly Leshan
Party Cape Cod



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Dick Boyden Named BCT Trustee



Not long after he moved to the Cape in 1998, new Trustee Dick Boyden involved himself in its activities by blazing and maintaining trails on BCT lands, a practice he began in Maine for the Appalachian Mountain Club. Although a retired U.S. Naval Reserve commander, Bell Telephone executive and college admissions officer, Boyden is not at all retiring. He has simply shifted his efforts at trail maintenance from the Indiana Hoosier Hiking Council (where he was a board member) and at present serves on the board of Orenda Wildlife here on the Cape. Welcome aboard!

Trail maintained by Dick Boyden.

TEMPUS FUGIT

If you can't recall when you last made a donation to the BCT, check the mailing label on this newsletter. The number in the upper right corner represents the date of your last donation—first the year, then the month. For example, "9802" means February 1998. No number? We hope you will send us a donation soon.

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