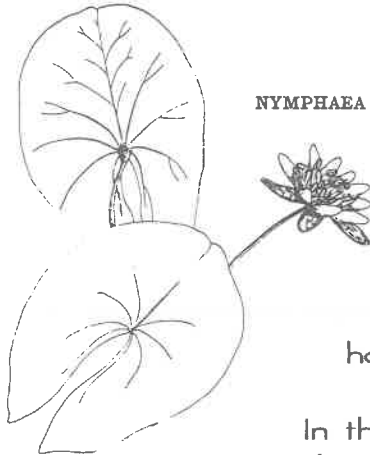


The Bourne Conservation Trust

NEWSLETTER Number 13

Fall 1990



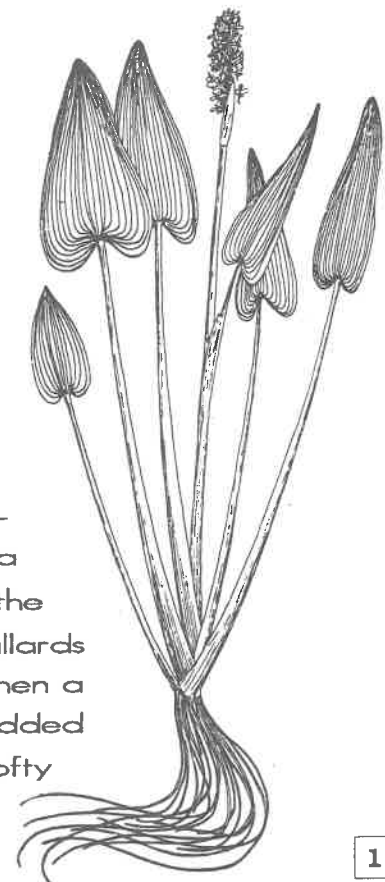
NYMPHAEA

When Autumn Comes, Can Buffleheads Be Far Behind?

After three months of meteorological quirkiness, Summer '90 made a typically dramatic exit, and out of a steady, two-hour downpour came a scrubbed, pre-dawn sky, then a crystalline blue daybreak. Fall '90 had arrived on the Cape.

In the windless mid-morning, the Pond's unruffled surface mirrored the cloudless blue above as well as the melded greens, yellows and reds at its edge where the springtime fringe of probing water willow tendrils had matured into encroaching rootlets, where only the forget-me-nots and water lilies were still in flower, where the blossoms of summer- the pasture rose, pickerel weed, swamp fly-honey-suckle- had already gone to seed. The run-off from the earlier shower swelled the flow out of the Pond and into the herring run, amplifying the white sound of gushing water a decibel or so. In the shallows, plants had already begun reclaiming the pebbly nests swept clean in the spring by spawning perch, and the frogs had long since ceased any serious croaking. The shrill referee's whistle of the red-winged black-bird sentries had been replaced by a raucous crow-and-jay early warning network. In slow motion painted turtles sampled the morning air.

On the eastern shore, elbowed into contortions by an ancient beech tree, some upstart swamp maples had arched out over the water to fashion a leaf canopy of shimmering green. Just to the north, standing tall in the sandy delta near the pump house- the Pond's prime gathering place- the resident swan couple chaperoned a half dozen female mallards caught up in a contagious fit of splashing and preening when a scolding mallard drake sailed in low from the west and skidded into their midst. Unruffled, the swans made their usual toplofty exit. Riding high over the north slope woods and momentarily disdainful of the Pond's generosity, a scouting osprey



PONTERDERIA

1

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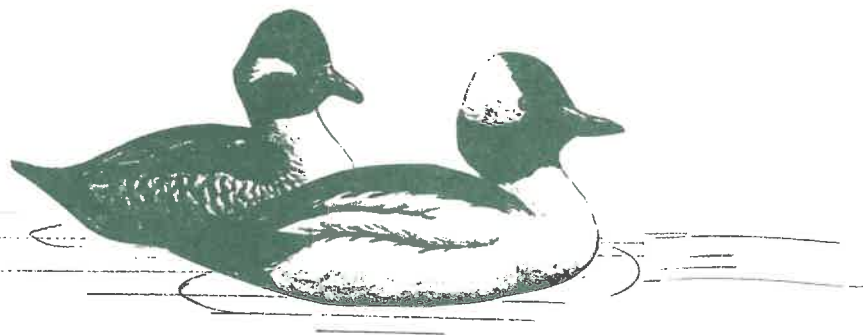


opted to check out the bounty of Red Brook Harbor.

At noon the mercury was still stalking 60, and the light southwest breeze that riffled the Pond was also coaxing a half dozen runty white clouds toward Provincetown. Splayed on half-sunken logs, wary turtles basked, their heads thrust up like radar antennas ready to react to any alien blips. Only a few blue-green dragonflies remained to dart and hover over the lily pads. From a south shore sentinel tree, a kingfisher catapulted himself downward, skimmed the sparkling water, wheeled abruptly and skirred back to his perch. Ten yards away the cormorant was half-way through his daily rinse cycle, too busy splashing to notice the great blue heron that lifted gently out of the north slope woods and glided downwind, out of sight. In the southwest cove, the mallard drake and his coterie were feeding contentedly when, again from the west, a second drake dropped in. From a discrete distance, the swans watched briefly the resultant bickering, then withdrew. Back from the harbor, the osprey traced a half dozen low circles over the Pond, hovered a moment, then- wings folded, talons extended- dived, raked the water, skidded skyward and disappeared with his quarry.

At ground level, the rising late-afternoon wind- an unflagging lily pad flipper- had raised a few scampering whitecaps and was sculpting the trees, grooming them, scattering shards of red and yellow across the Pond while overhead banks of bright-bellied, wind-driven clouds skudded east. A startled green heron exploded from its hideaway under the swamp maple canopy, momentarily lighted from below by flowing bands of ricocheting sunlight, while the turtles- now thoroughly sunbaked- seemed glued to their logs with apathy. The brazen arrival of a knot of drakes had restored gender equilibrium to the mallard flock, quickly fragmenting it into pairs eager to settle down to feeding under the circumspect supervision of the barren swan couple. High above the Shore Road the osprey deftly rode the erratic wind, rising and dipping on its fickle gusts.

A few hours later, the splendid sunset- Fall '90's first- faded into night and any day now a flock of arctic buffleheads will skitter in from their arctic summer, home to liven up another winter on the Pond.



How Are We Doing?

As outdoor temperatures inch down, our donation thermometer inches up—and inverse relationship which we trust will last only until next spring.

As of 10/30/90, we had raised \$567,000. Visually, that puts us at 44.2C°.

Where Are We Going?

In the all-too-short run, we need \$250,000 by January 2, 1991. With that sum, we will be approaching 75% of our goal. In numbers, support is broadening. The Red Brook Pond Project attracted 244 donors in 1989 and 390 in 1990, for a 60% increase. The average gift per donor was \$1,453.85.

How Will We Get There?

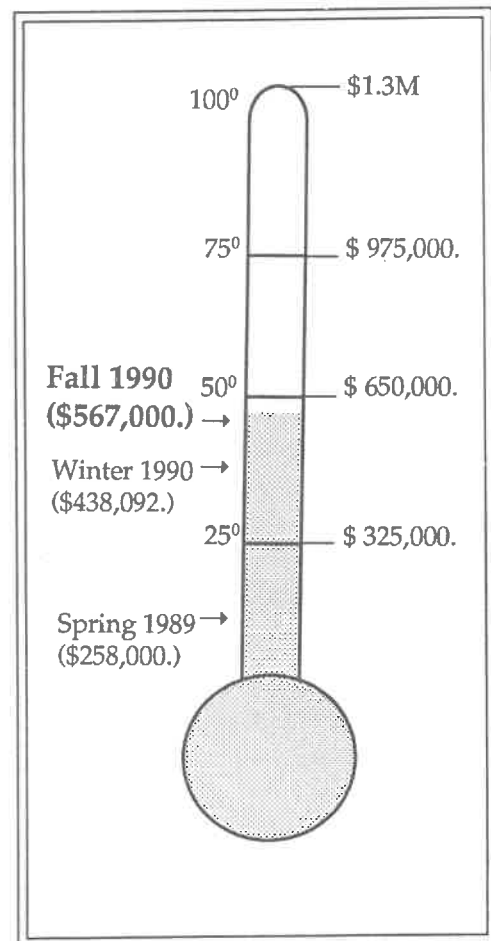
State and local funding is clearly unavailable; however, the BCT has always depended primarily on its own resources—its own bootstraps—to propel it upwards. And now, until the end of the year, you can propel with twice the push . . .

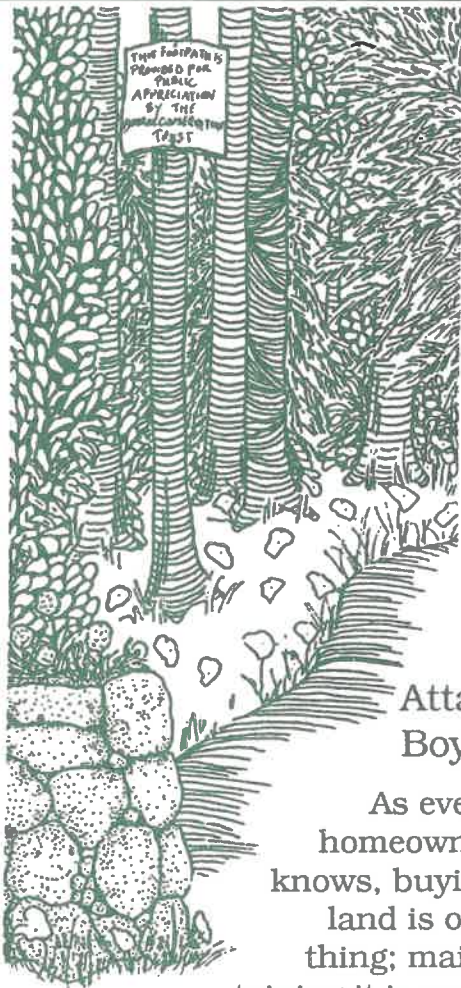
DOUBLE YOUR PLEASURE! DOUBLE YOUR FUN!

No, we're not talking chewing gum: we're talking contributions. A generous donor has pledged to match each donation, dollar for dollar, up to \$50,000. The offer ends with 1990.

This fund-matching inspired one correspondent to express how much it means to those who are less affluent, as with himself, to be able to contribute to the BCT and to have that contribution doubled. He went on to describe how he and his family take “full advantage” of the trail network for hiking, bicycling, and pulling his two-year-old son about on a sled.

With support such as that, we will succeed. After all, history is on our side (as long as we can control the historians).





Atta
Boys!

As every homeowner knows, buying land is one thing; maintaining it is quite another. The BCT has been most fortunate in securing the “sweat equity” of a number of volunteers, and would like to extend thanks to:

Ed Robinson and Don Mears, who have done trail maintenance and planting on the Robinson Conservation Land in Cataumet.

Bill Arnone, who has done similar maintenance on the John E. Handy Conservation Land in Cataumet.

Jeff Moon, whose activities were noted previously in our Spring Issue, for heading up a group of volunteers and working the trails on the Red Brook Pond Project.

And from our worldwide correspondents...



There are those who would say that the world was made in six days—and looks it. We know better. To keep our section as pristine as possible, we have encouraged contributions from every section of the globe. Our geographic score is as follows:

In the U.S., 31 states, including Alaska and Hawaii; plus:

Canada	Australia*
Costa Rica	Zimbabwe*
Bahamas	Kenya*
Fiji*	England*

* For these exotic additions, we are grateful to one of our more peripatetic contributors. (Thanks Grace!)

Were You On the House Tour?

If not, you missed a day of sheer delight. Each house and garden, old and new, had a special character. For the visitor—in addition to the charm of the interiors—the experience of peering out of windows, windows into which many of us had hitherto only glanced quizzically, was an intriguing experience.

Our deep appreciation to the owners for their hospitality and support, and to the volunteers for conducting the tours with efficiency and grace.

The results: for BCT, a clear profit of \$1900; for the community, a symbolic clasping of hands with neighbors whom many of us had not met before.



Annual Yuletide Problem:



What to give that special person who already has a yo-yo, a radon detector and two crates of Indian River fruit

Annual BCT Solution:



A contribution in (her, his, its, their) name to the BCT, thus solving your problem and meeting the challenge

Challenge? The \$50,000 Matching Fund Challenge. Your gift will be matched — \$ for \$ — until midnight of December 31, 1990.

What will be done with all those doubled \$\$\$? They will be used to make a sizeable dent— a \$100,000 one, it is hoped— in financing the BCT's Red Brook Pond Project.

Red Brook Pond Project? The Pond plus 40 adjacent acres of open land 'purchased' in 1989, now laced with wooded trails, easily accessible from a parking lot at Shore and Thaxter roads.

All that for \$100,000? Well, \$1,300,000 actually. But \$567,000 has already been raised. Now we need to raise an additional \$250,000 to meet the January 2nd payment.

Can I help? I thought you'd never ask. Certainly! Just make a donation— small, medium or large— to the Project in the name of that problem (those problems) on your Christmas list, and we will inform (her, him, it, them) of your generosity and thoughtfulness with a specially designed card. And Merry Christmas !

Please send gift notification to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

From:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Make checks payable to:

The Bourne Conservation Trust (Box 302, Cataumet, MA 02534)

Please use the reverse of this page to add additional addresses



We Don't
Want To
Walk
Without
You

So, unless you're a confirmed loner, join us for a stroll through the forty wooded acres of the Nivling-Alexander Reserve and along the shore of Red Brook Pond. Guides-- knowledgeable volunteers acquainted with the area's birds, beasts and bushes-- will conduct you along well-maintained paths and trails. Park off Shore Road just over the hill south of the Cataumet underpass on Thaxter Road. Tour dates and times will appear in local newspapers.

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Tempus Fugit

Perhaps you can't recall when you made your lastest 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 (example: "8906" is June 1989). No number? We hope you will send us a tax deductible donation soon.

Send It Where. . .

The Bourne Conservation
Trust
Post Box Office 203
Cataumet, MA 02534

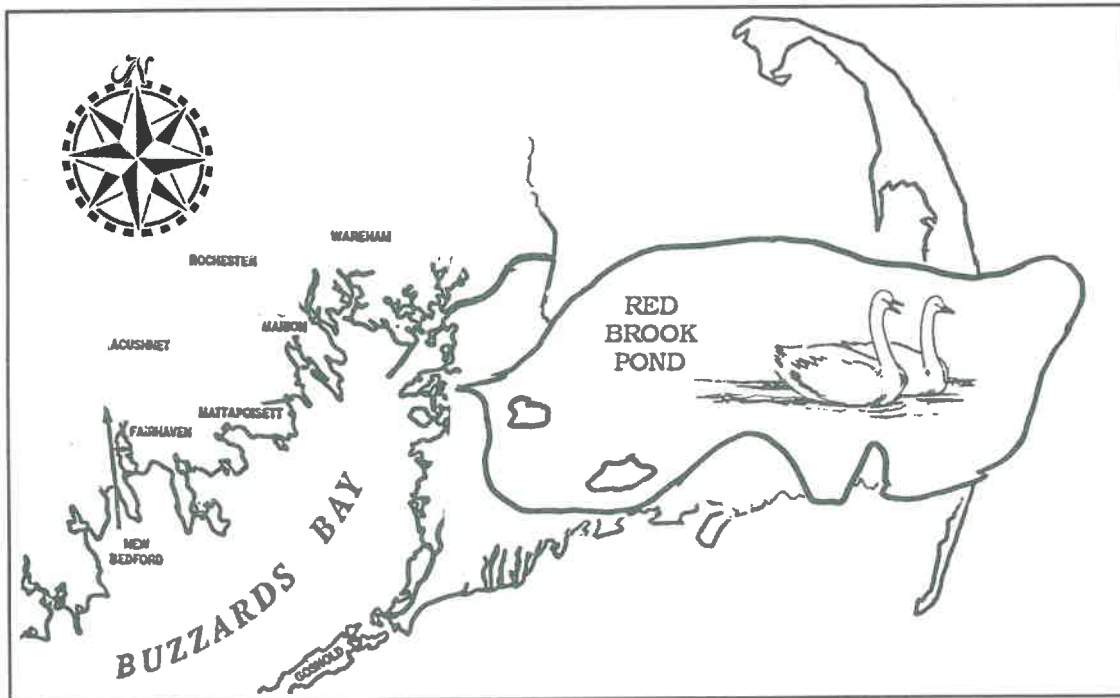
The BCT is tax exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations to the BCT are tax deductible (ID Number: 04 2767827).

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As Goes The Pond, So Goes The Bay.

From our purely parochial perch, the relative importance of Red Brook Pond and Buzzards Bay may look like this to us:



But, as always, reality, perspective and even sanity may intrude. Buzzards Bay, one of the Commonwealth's most treasured resources, is experiencing growing pollution problems. Since the Bay acts as a basin, receiving run-off from a large drainage area that includes Bourne, it also receives the excessive nutrient loading generated by local land development. The Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for Buzzards Bay is relying heavily on local government to attack that problem at its source.

Red Brook Pond is one of those sources. Just stand at the Herring Run on Shore Road, and you'll be impressed by the volume of water pouring out of Red Brook Pond into Red Brook Harbor, and thence into Buzzards Bay. In terms of Buzzards Bay, the Herring Run may be only a rivulet, but of such small streams are born mighty pollution problems.

The plan notes the "tracts of undisturbed land or vegetation buffers around surface water bodies protect water quality." Precisely what the Red Brook Pond Project does. And your generosity is making it possible!

Memorial Donations • July - Oct. 1990*

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Mr. & Mrs. John Bolton in Memory of Don Worley
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Ballentine in Memory of Don Worley
Mrs. Donald Worley in Memory of Donald Worley

Special Donations

To Joe Lastowski in Honor of his Birthday
from Francine Lastowski & Ralph Weichselbaum

From Mr. John Rowe in Memory of some faithful friends:
Jearl, Eagle, Useless I, Pants, Pussy Cat, Ariadne, Bogie, Birdie, Bacchus,
Patches, Noodle, Ace, Roy, Joseph, Tommy Choate, P-4, Snoopy, Tigger, Wart,
Bippy, Bebe, Lily, Topper, Minnesota Fats, & Micky



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* Donations received after 10/30 will be listed in the next newsletter