

BOURNE
CONSERVATION
TRUST

The Wildlife
Among Us

FALL/WINTER 2017		Number 51	
Cover Story	2	Out on the Trails	8
Tale of a Rescue	4	Money Matters	9
Events	6	Kahlin's Korner	10
News & Notes	7	Ways of Giving	11



THE WILDLIFE AMONG US

With the acquisition of so many acres of land in Bourne, the BCT has assured that we will live in an area of open space and nature preserves. With this extraordinary gift comes the opportunity to coexist with a wide array of wildlife. We have great blue heron and white egrets along our shores, song birds greeting the day, gulls quahoging, loons quietly drifting in the bays, cormorants sitting proudly atop moorings, and osprey (and other hawks) circling overhead as they look for their next meal.

In the woods and backyards, even under sheds, there are chipmunk, of course squirrels, rabbits,

skunk, fox, deer, wild turkeys, turtles, raccoon, fisher cats, mink (yes mink) and coyote. Many of these animals are cyclical...one year you may see many rabbits and chipmunks. That changes as the fox population increases. For this year, there are fewer foxes but many sightings and even face-

offs with coyote. It's all part of the wonder of nature in our town.

Coyotes in Our Midst

On any given day, an Eastern Coyote



may traverse several square miles of Bourne, through settled neighborhoods, across open fields, along salt marshes and our shoreline, and

Note to Walkers

If you are out on the trails and see a coyote that appears aggressive or standing its ground, let us know. As a result of a report this spring, the BCT closed the north trail of the Red Brook Pond Conservation Area because of a coyote family protecting its den.

in woodlands. It will slip quietly from the edge of a tree line, cross paved roads, lope along the side of an unoccupied cottage and then disappear behind the hedges of a neighboring yard.

According to Massachusetts Fish and Wildlife, coyotes are "Edge animals who are omnivorous and crepuscular." Translated, that means that coyotes prefer to work the borders of woodland and open space, preying on small animals that can be caught in the open.

(omnivorous). They prefer the gray light of dawn and dusk (crepuscular) for their hunting and feeding.

Coyotes are territorial with one family unit per territory...a territory can range in size from a neighborhood to a 30-square-mile area. On the Cape, a territory is more likely to be the size of a neighborhood.

Anyone who has seen a coyote knows that they can be scary, intimidating and may stand their ground. The message to all of us from the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife is this: "Don't make your neighborhood a comfortable feeding ground for coyotes and they won't waste their time being nuisances." Here is more advice:

- Do not make food accessible outdoors
- Keep garbage, trash and compost in secure containers
- Clear fallen fruit from around trees
- Feed your pets inside

- When outside keep your pets leashed and under control

Be aware that coyotes are attracted to areas that are appealing to rodents, such as wood and brush piles, crawl spaces

under buildings and under bird feeders.

When faced with a coyote, be ready to "haze" them. Make loud

noises, blow a whistle or fog/air horn, clap and wave your arms, bang together garbage can lids. Be as big and as scary and as obnoxious as you can be. Don't run.

Coyotes are here to stay. They are breeding successfully every year and because food is so plentiful, they are able to divide available territory into smaller zones. If we don't feed them; if we reduce the areas that attract rodents and small mammals; if we use negative reinforcement and haze them with loud noises; and if we secure our pets and livestock, then the coyotes will be forced to roam larger territories thus reducing their total population and making them a less common sight in our neighborhoods. Then perhaps we can live in harmony with a few of these beautiful creatures of the wild.

This article has been reworked from an article first published in BCT newsletter #30, Fall 2002.

Let's Keep Track

Here's a challenge to our readers, young and older. Let us know of all the wildlife you see on Cape Cod. Be as specific as you can as to what you spotted, where and when, and send your report to us at bct.trails@gmail.com or Box 203, Cataumet, MA 02534. We'll report back in our next newsletter. And if you have a chance to take a picture, we'd love to see that too!



They are opportunistic feeders that eat a great variety of meat, insects, berries, fruit and sea creatures

TALE OF A RESCUE

by Larry Murphy

Labor Day weekend, my wife noticed a Great Blue Heron struggling mightily in a thicket at the far edge of Red Brook Pond in Cataumet. The bird's extended wings were over five feet across, and it was flapping them powerfully but in vain. It was unable to free itself from some unseen entanglement below the water. Deeply concerned, we called Wild Care of Cape Cod, a donations-supported group dedicated to wildlife rescue based in Eastham on Cape Cod.

Without hesitation, Jayne Fowler and her son Bradley, Wild Care volunteers, were on the way to help. Using my small boat, the rescuers plowed bow-first into the thicket where the bird was last seen. Jayne then slid barefoot off the bow into the water up to her waist, slogged



ahead until she spotted the injured heron. Amazingly, the bird calmed down instantly as if sensing Jayne's kind intentions. As Jayne emerged from the thicket cradling the bird, she shouted,

"Wow, I think I just stepped on the snapping turtle that grabbed this heron!" It was clear that a big snapper had grabbed that leg and held on for over two hours as the bird yanked and struggled to get free. Somehow escaping the turtle's sharp beak, the heron hobbled away to hide in the thicket, which is where Jayne found it. Jayne told us that if this bird could not fly again, it would have to be euthanized.

As we think about this rescue, three take-away messages come to

mind: First, life is tough and sometimes seems cruel. Second, there are still good people who selflessly devote themselves to helping



others, and that includes all living things. Third, Jayne's instinctual bravery in the wild was inspiring, as she put her own safety and well-being beneath the welfare of an injured animal. She gives us hope that, despite our troubled world, good hearts will carry on.

HOW TO REPORT ORPHANED OR INJURED WILDLIFE

At any given time, you may come across wildlife that may have been injured and needs a helping hand. For example, a wounded, stranded or trapped animal, a bird with a broken wing or leg, a baby bird fallen out of a nest. Here is a list of places to call for help and advice; you may want to save this list and perhaps put these numbers in your cell phone so you are able to act quickly when needed:

PLACE:	FOR HELP WITH:	CONTACT:
Cape Wildlife Center 4011 Main St (Rte. 6A), Barnstable	All wildlife (except marine mammals & sea turtles)	Help line & care 508-362-0111 7 days, 9:00-4:30
Wild Care 10 Smith Lane , Eastham (at rotary)	Wildlife, except NO rabies-carrying species: foxes, coyotes, raccoons, skunks, fishers, woodchucks, bats	Help line & care 508-240-2255 7 days, 9:00-5:00
Bourne Department of Natural Resources	The capture and transport of injured or orphaned wildlife to the Cape Wildlife Center for care if you cannot safely do so yourself	508-759-0621
Wellfleet Audubon	Beached/stranded sea turtles	508-349-5615
IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare)	Stranded (or dead) marine mammals	508-743-9548
Center for Coastal Studies	Entangled sea turtles or marine mammals	800-900-3622
STATE AGENCIES:		
Massachusetts Department of Fish & Wildlife Regional Office, Buzzards Bay	For help and advice if you run into problems with local wildlife	508-759-3406
Massachusetts Environmental Police		800-632-8075

GREAT NEWS

Announcing Two New Gifts of Land

Big thanks to the Birch Family for the donation of the Birch Woods. This is a three-acre parcel of land that enlarges the Cataumet Greenway. It was formerly owned by the Joyce family, and the current Upper Joyce Path already winds through this land for the enjoyment of all trail walkers. We are grateful to now have it under the BCT umbrella.

And another big thanks to Joan K. Partridge for the donation of conservation land on Bassett's Island.

This is a 3.25 acre wildlife refuge, subject to conservation restrictions held by the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Inc. Since this land is environmentally sensitive, like several other BCT properties, we will not be promoting recreational use of this land. But how lucky are we to be able to protect it under our Trust.



EVENTS



BCT Christmas Tree Sale

BCT members and friends once again have the unique opportunity to cut their own Cape-grown Christmas tree! Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 9, 11 am to 2 pm. Park behind the Dimmick barn at 1167 County Road, and walk back to the tree farm to find balsam, spruce, scotch pine, concolor fir, and more. The trees come in all shapes and sizes. For photos take a look at <http://capechristmastrees.blogspot.com/>. The cost of a tree is a donation to the BCT; in past years donations have typically been \$50 to \$100, sometimes even more. Last year about a dozen trees were sold, with \$860 donated to the BCT.

Note: If December 9 does not work for you, contact Sally Ballentine at 812-234-8040 or Dave Dimmick at 508-561-6812 to find a time to visit after the 9th. The BCT sends big thanks to the Dimmick family, and to those of you who purchase your special tree at this festive event.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Tree Sale Sat., Dec. 9, 2017
Winter Fun Run Sun., Jan. 7, 2018
Egg Hunt Sat., March 24, 2018

Cape Cod Road Runners “Winter Fun Run”

When it comes to the Winter Fun Run, runners have always been assured that it would be held “rain, snow or shine.” For the first time, that proved wrong. Fourteen inches of snow that fell the night before was just too much and this past January the race was postponed for two weeks. On the rescheduled race day, 153 runners found close to perfect conditions: 45 degrees, slightly overcast, light breeze. The winner was Ryan Gattoni with a time of 28:20. Kudos to Henry Gartner, age 11, who came in 6th with a time of 31:43 (it must be genetic).

The 38th running of the Winter Fun Run, will be held on January 7, 2018. There are awards for the top three finishers in each age group, for both men and women: junior, open, submaster, master, senior, super senior and age 70+. The reward for participating: clam fritters, seafood chowder, water, plus a pair of cotton running gloves. There is a raffle and a cash bar all afternoon following the race. The race starts and ends at the Weary Travelers Club, 77 Valley Bars Road, Monument Beach. The course is 4.9 miles, on paved and somewhat hilly roads. Start time is 10:30 am, rain, light snow or shine. The fee is \$16 for pre-registration; \$20 if you register on race day, by 10:00 am. All proceeds from the run are

donated to the BCT to help in its efforts to purchase land for conservation and recreation. The BCT sends big thanks to the Weary Travelers Club and Cape Cod Road Runners for their ongoing support.

Note: For a complete list of 2017 runners and times, go to www.capecodroadrunners.com.

Easter Egg Hunt at Spring Hill Farm

Each year, the Easter Bunny drops by BCT's Spring Hill Farm to lead a procession of kids to the annual Cataumet Civic Associates Easter Egg Hunt, held on farm property.



The kids, baskets in hand, then scatter to search for candy, toys, trinkets and the special golden eggs. A visit with the resident Nigerian Dwarf goats, Mrs. M and Buttercup, and any horses residing at the farm, caps a very special morning.

Save the Date: Saturday, March 24, 2018, 10:30 am, for the annual Easter Egg Hunt and a visit with the Easter Bunny, at Spring Hill Farm, 1079 County Road, Cataumet. Rain date: March 31.

NEWS & NOTES

Goodbye to Ollie

We are sad to report that Ollie, one of the goats at Spring Hill Farm, passed away on the morning of November 22. Ollie was diagnosed with cancer almost a year ago. He was always a fun and happy goat and that never changed, even after his diagnosis. He is missed by all. Ollie is survived by his mother, Mrs. M and his sister, Buttercup, and they welcome your visits and appropriate treats.

Let's Keep Extending the Fence!

Thanks to the support of many donors, two portions of the new split rail fence at Spring Hill Farm are complete and the memorial plaques installed. There is more fence to be built, so it's not too late to be part of this important initiative. A \$100 donation will buy a section of fence, which can then be dedicated in memory of, or in honor or celebration of, a pet, family member, friend or whatever or whoever has special meaning for you. The plaque is included in the \$100 donation.



BCT on Stage at the Schoolhouse

The BCT has a tale to tell and Grace Rowe, one of our Trustees, had the opportunity to tell it at one of the August "Tuesday Talks" at the Cataumet Schoolhouse. More than 40 people came to hear about this most amazing land trust and how the Bourne community helped get this grass roots organization to where it is today.

"It all started when Philip DeNormandie and Steve Ballentine crossed paths back in 1980, in the height of a Cape Cod building boom, and discovered they shared a common approach to land: preserve it; keep it in its natural state; when possible, make it available for the pleasure of all. After 40 years of persistent work, the Bourne Conservation Trust, founded by Philip and Steve, has received more than \$5 million in donations and acquired 265 acres of open space in the Town of Bourne, including marshland, wetlands, woodlands, areas fronting on ponds and cranberry bogs, an island wildlife sanctuary, working farm and historic train depot."

To read the whole talk, go to www.bourneconservationtrust.org.

To reserve your section, go to www.bourneconservationtrust.org.

There is a link on the home page to the donation form.

Simply fill out the form, print it and mail it along with your check to the BCT, PO Box 203, Cataumet MA 02534. The goal is to have additional fencing, along with the plaques, in place

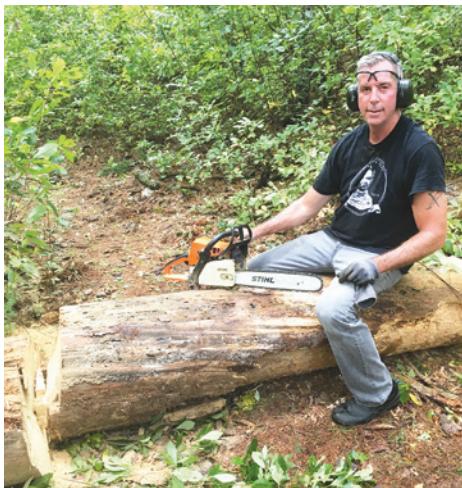
by next spring. The BCT wants to thank you in advance for your help completing and installing this fence.

PS, When you stop by the farm, walk along the fence and read the plaques, and then be sure to say hi to the resident goats, Mrs. M and Buttercup, and to the horses, Penny, a miniature horse that will delight your children, and Mark, a normal size horse; both horses are currently boarded on the farm by Shea and Sean Burke.

OUT ON THE TRAILS

Whatever the Season

The spring and summer months joined to September were a relatively toil free time for the Trail Meisters and trail trimmers. But a late October storm with high winds and heavy rain changed that status quite quickly. Crews were immediately sent out to clear more than



Joe Hurley

a score of blow downs, large and small, and endless fallen branches throughout the BCT trail system. One monster blow down, a two-foot in diameter pine, challenged the cutting talents of Joe Hurley and Dick Boyden; with two chain saws, wedges, talent, grit and a little bit of luck, they prevailed. Early November walkers were rewarded with clear trails and beautiful weather.

Many thanks to all Trail Meisters who faithfully walk and monitor their respective trails, and cut, clear and pick up debris they find along the way. And thanks to trimmers and walkers who help.

Trail Walkers,

we need your help! As you walk along the trails, please support our Trail Meisters by picking up trash, twigs and branches, doing side trimming and reporting fallen branches or tree blow downs via email or telephone to the BCT headquarters.

New to Town or the Trails?

Why not review (and print) the BCT trail maps, available online at www.bourneconservationtrust.org.



Dick Boyden and Joe Hurley

Copies are available at Ballentine's Boat Shop, Parker's Boat Yard, Kingman Marine, Bourne Public Library and Bourne Town Hall. Then make a pledge to walk along as many trails as you can.

Want to Be a BCT Trail Meister?

Email the BCT (bct.trails@gmail.com) or call 508-563-2884.



POOCH PATROL

There are so many pooches on the trails these days with noses to ground (or in the air) enjoying the scents of wildlife, tracking their canine buddies who have passed through on an earlier walk, and taking care of so much business. To the human companions of these fine dogs, we say thank you for removing their business (with those handy bags) from the trails and most especially from the shores. We also thank you for teaching (or leashing) Fido to insure respect for property lines of private homes along the trails and shores.

And finally, thank you for being considerate of other walkers and remembering that not everyone loves the exuberance of a happy, wet, and free-running pup (I know, hard to believe).

MONEY MATTERS

Your Ongoing Financial Support Is Key to Our Success

While the BCT is not currently fundraising to purchase a specific property, that could change in the course of a day. It matters to have a cash reserve that will enable the BCT to act quickly on new property purchases. It also matters to have the funds needed to maintain the properties, hire professional help such as legal and accounting services, print newsletters and trail guides, and so on. It matters to look to the future, to build the BCT endowment to ensure the stewardship of our preserved and enjoyed lands. To these ends, BCT again and always asks for your support.

Cash donations large and small help maintain our cash reserves, build our endowment, and maintain the BCT's 501(c)(3) status (this status allows your donation to be tax deductible). Donations of any dollar amount are important, because the number of donors shows foundations and other large donors the degree of local support. In other words, please contribute what you can, as often as you can.

The BCT approach to fundraising has always been a soft sell, with this newsletter being the primary fundraising tool. This approach works because we are surrounded and supported by people who understand the value and importance of open space, know what our Town might be like without it, and understand that it is everyone's responsibility to help protect and maintain it, and to expand it whenever possible.

STAY IN TOUCH

We urge our readers to visit the website: www.bourneconservation-trust.org, to learn more about our history, mission, properties, trails, events and the many ways you can support the BCT. You could also "like us" on Facebook.

As you navigate through the website, look for pictures contributed by numerous gifted photographers, particularly pictures of local wildlife. Then, as you wander along our trails, enjoying the quiet, peaceful serenity and never-ending wonders of nature, take your own picture of any wildlife or wonder of nature you come across, and share it with us at bct.trails@gmail.com. We'll try and include it on our website or in future mailings to donors.

Help Wanted

The Trust is always looking for help. You may volunteer at Spring Hill



Farm to help maintain the grounds and care for the animals. You might prefer to support the Trail Meisters out on the trails. There are also needs for help at the office. Please pitch in any way you can. If you are interested in volunteering, contact the BCT at 508-563-2884 or bct.trails@gmail.com.

Reminders:

- Send us your wildlife sightings, including any photo you can.
- If you see wildlife in trouble, call for help.
- Submit your child's artwork to the Kahlin's Korner Art Contest.
- Think about donating a section of fence for Spring Hill Farm.
- Support the Trail Meisters out on the trails.
- Support the BCT! Remember we will recognize all donations in our annual Donor List, including those made: in memory of; in honor of; or in celebration of (perhaps a birthday, wedding, anniversary, birth, grandchild, graduation, retirement, pet, Christmas, Ground Hog Day...whatever brings joy to your life).

Kahlin's Korner

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. Kahlin loved to draw. How about your kids?



Second Annual Children's Art Contest

"All Creatures, Great and Small"

The BCT properties have so many varied habitats that we hope you will have fun finding a creature to draw. Perhaps something small like a squirrel seen in the woods or a swan on the pond, a crab on the beach or maybe a bird in the sky.

Artists (age 12 and under) can create their own drawing, painting, or photo (any medium is accepted).

How to Enter

Entries should be done or mounted on 8 ½" by 11" paper. Please be sure the masterpiece is signed and dated.



Include a brief description of the work along with the artist's age and contact information.



Mail it:
Box 203, Cataumet 02534
or drop off at:
Ballentine's Boat Shop, 1104 Route 28A, Cataumet



Deadline: January 31, 2018

There will be two judges. First, second and third-place winners in varying age groups will receive \$25, \$15 and \$10 respectively. Winners will be announced in the BCT Donor List sent out early in 2018.

Shown are two early entries, from Hallie and Charlie.

WAYS OF GIVING

In addition to cash donations, there are many ways of giving to the BCT:

- Name the BCT in your will or as beneficiary of a life insurance policy.
- Give appreciated securities.
- Contact your bank or financial institution to automatically send a monthly donation to the BCT from a checking or savings account.
- Give the gift of real estate (or sell it to the BCT for less than its fair market value; the difference is considered a charitable gift). Note: A gift of land is a win-win for donors, the BCT and residents of Bourne. Such gifts provide tax advantages and help preserve the scenic character of our area, maintain air quality and provide a natural habitat for local wildlife.
- Offer a matching gift to support our efforts to purchase property. People respond generously when they know their gift will be doubled.

Contact the BCT office at 508-563-2884 or log on to www.bourneconservationtrust.org for more information or for answers to your questions.

IMPORTANT: Early next year, the BCT will send out a complete list of all those who made donations to the BCT in 2017.

Note: The BCT does not currently accept credit cards or take donations through its website. In this way, we are able to put 100% of your donations into our mission. (Credit card companies and organizations such as PayPal charge monthly fees plus take a percentage of each donation.) If you want to donate online, it may be done through www.networkforgood.org. We will review this policy periodically, taking into consideration and welcoming feedback from our donors.

The Bourne Conservation Trust is tax exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Within IRS guidelines, contributions and gifts may be tax deductible from your taxable income. The Trust's tax identification number (TIN) is 04-2767827. Please consult your tax advisor for more information.



Board of Directors

Stephen Ballentine, President
Grace Rowe, Treasurer
Robert Birch, Trustee
Dick Boyden, Trustee
Tom Corcoran, Trustee
Philip DeNormandie, Trustee
Bill Dibella, Trustee



The BCT is a private nonprofit land trust with a primary objective of acquiring land and leaving it in its natural state to: protect habitats, provide groundwater recharge, preserve rural ambience and make it available for recreational and educational purposes. The BCT owns and maintains more than 250 acres of open space. Miles of walking trails thread their way through these protected woods and waterfront areas. The BCT is always looking for volunteers and donors to help achieve its mission and both maintain and enhance its properties. Learn more at www.bourneconservationtrust.org.

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Contact Information:

Bourne Conservation Trust

Post Office Box 203

Cataumet, MA 02534

508-563-2884

bct.trails@gmail.com

info@bourneconservationtrust.org

www.bourneconservationtrust.org

Shultz Property Update

BCT completed payment for the Shultz property on the corner of County and Scraggy Neck Ext. roads this year, and the lot produced its first crop of wildflowers! Some grading work was done, and the town may have fixed the huge puddle at the side of the property.

A beehive owned by the Fisher and Hickey families sits on the property and its residents will help in the pollination of the wildflowers.

