



BOURNE  
CONSERVATION  
TRUST

The *Real* Snowbirds <sup>2</sup>  
(See page 2)

EDGAR ALLAN SEOTHMAN

FALL/WINTER 2019

Number 53

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# THE *REAL* SNOWBIRDS

Cardinals, yes, Cardinals, and we are not talking about a baseball team in Missouri. We are not focusing on high school or college mascots, signs of the zodiac, numerical nomenclature, anything to do with deadly sins or red-cloaked prelates of an ecclesiastical hierarchy. We are talking about Northern Cardinals, real snowbirds, those that do not find it necessary to migrate south in winter. Before examining what makes these year-round neighbors unique we first



need to sort through names they have been given over time.

For example, some textbooks refer to them as the “Common Cardinal,” a moniker that is downright defamatory because, as we shall see, there is nothing common about the Cardinal. Further, calling them “rebirds” seems uninspiring

and the clearly redundant Latin classification used by ornithologists (*Cardinalis Cardinalis*) may be useful to science but is confusing to most. Even the name “Northern Cardinal” is misleading because their habitat stretches from Maine to Mexico.

Nomenclature aside, the Northern Cardinal is a most exceptional bird and for good reason. Male and female Cardinals quite simply are standouts, beginning with their extremely distinctive coloration: fire-engine red for the male and a softer, buff plumage for the female, with just a touch of crimson at wing-tip, tail and crest. Both sport black masks, although they are about as effective at disguising their true identity as those worn by Batman and Robin. The mask of the female is a bit more discrete, but talk about style!

Male and female Cardinals further distinguish themselves as deliriously boisterous songsters. Trying to describe their repertoire is impossible because they are capable of as many as sixteen different calls, some of which include piping two different tones at the same time. One thing is certain: any Cardinal perched high in a treetop is the undisputed herald of winter’s slow turn of season to spring, the advent of warmer weather to come.

On Cape Cod, while spring grudgingly arrives, females build nests with the care and precision of basket-makers, using grass, twigs and dry leaves to make a sturdy refuge, tucked away in low bushes

or underbrush. Meanwhile, males stand guard, driving away rivals that might get too close. While this behavior is important to preserve the couple’s territory, it can get a little embarrassing when a male discovers his reflection in a house or car window and obsessively attacks it.

The breeding season is long, from March to late summer and males dutifully visit the nest to feed females while they incubate two to four eggs in a “clutch.” A Cardinal’s



diet consists mostly of spiders, insects, wild seeds and they get their coloration from pigments in all of the berries they eat.

When the first clutch is out of the nest, females customarily incubate a second and sometimes even a third group of eggs, while males assume feeding and training duties

for the newly fledged youngsters. Two to three clutches of two to four eggs in each clutch—imagine if there were college tuitions to consider!

As snow returns to our landscape and insect food is in short supply, Cardinals become popular visitors at backyard feeders. Although they can be seen to manage a balancing act on tiny perches designed to discourage visits by bigger birds, they usually are content to wait under the feeder for castoffs from the smaller birds above them. Why waste energy when gravity provides treats!



Connecticut artist **Don Carter** has been reinterpreting the works of James Audubon for several years. He has graciously allowed us to use his version of Audubon's "Cardinal Grosbeak" (left) as our cover art. You can see more of his contemporary bird works under his nom d'arte, Edgar Allen Slothman, at [slothman.cargo.site](http://slothman.cargo.site)

## BCT EVENTS

### Easter Egg Hunt in the Rain

Why not! Easter Bunnies don't mind a little rain and come to find out, neither do children, happy to go on a hunt for candy and other treats, regardless of the weather. Spring Hill Farm was awash in color, from umbrellas to rain jackets, to candy buckets and candy wrappers, as the kids scattered throughout the fields gathering goodies and searching for the golden eggs. A quick stop to meet Ruff and Tuff, two young goats joining Buttercup (our senior goat), capped off a grand event.

This hunt is a happy and favorite family tradition sponsored each year by the Cataumet Civic Associates, with help and support from the BCT and the Cataumet Methodist Church.

**Save the Date: Saturday, April 4, 10:30 am**, for the 2020 Easter Egg Hunt at Spring Hill Farm, 1079 County Road, Cataumet. There is a rain date of April 11, but it has to be really pouring to postpone this popular annual family event.

### Grace Talks BCT

Grace Rowe, BCT Trustee, treasurer and historian, continues her talks around town, educating local organizations and friends about the BCT, its roots in the community and its mission to protect natural habitats from development. Her latest presentation was part of the 250th anniversary of the Bourne United Methodist Church held in August this year.

### BCT Christmas Tree Sale

After a year off for some needed growth, once again you will have the opportunity to harvest your very own Christmas tree, grown right here in Cataumet. Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 7, from 12 to 2:00 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. There are many sizes, all in natural shape, with plenty of room for lights and ornaments. You won't find a fresher tree, and even better, the cost of each tree is a donation to the BCT. Many thanks to the Dimmick family!

# BCT FINANCIAL UPDATE

## Additions to Our Properties

- ◆ 27 Ocean Avenue in Cataumet, as announced in the 2018 Donors Book, protecting a critical half acre of land from development (with only \$40,000 more to raise).
- ◆ A parking area behind the Sagamore Inn, providing great access to walking trails to the Canal. Thanks Mike and Sue Bilodeau for this gift.

## Yearly Expenses

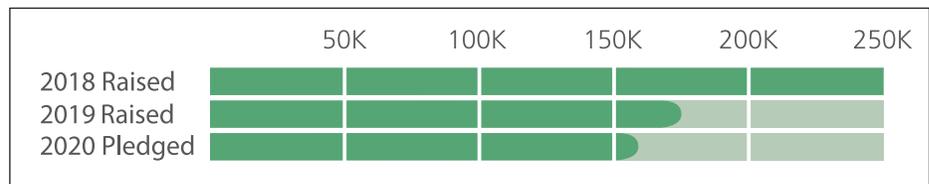
On average for the past five years, annual expenses to “run” the BCT total about \$65,000:

- ◆ \$33,000 for maintenance of properties
- ◆ \$9,000 for mailings to supporters
- ◆ \$9,000 for insurance
- ◆ \$14,000 for other services such as legal, accounting and technology, office expenses, and contributions to our land trusts partners

- ◆ Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Inc.
- ◆ Land Trust Alliance
- ◆ Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition (MassLand)
- ◆ Orenda Wildlife Trust

## A Snapshot of Our Accomplishments

- ◆ Estimated property value of BCT land: \$14 million
- ◆ Total acreage under our umbrella: 300 acres, give or take a little
- ◆ Five-year average donor revenue: \$360,000
- ◆ Endowment Fund: \$2,000,000



## Status of Current Financial Challenges

- ◆ The Matching Gift Challenge for Endowment: Your donations are still needed! By the end of 2019, we must raise another \$75,000 to meet the \$250,000 goal and receive the \$250,000 match.
- ◆ 27 Ocean Avenue, Cataumet: \$40,000 more completes the purchase.

## Bequests

This year the BCT received a generous bequest from the estate of Michael Walsh. In addition to that, one will be forthcoming from the estate of Peter Colgan. As always, these bequests are much appreciated.

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PLEASE NOTE: *In mid 2020, the BCT will send out a complete list of all of those who donated in 2019. As always, we send big thanks to all who gave time and/or money to the BCT and who support our efforts to cover our expenses and reach our financial goals.*



## Supporting Other Land Trusts

The BCT sends yearly contributions to other local organizations that support our mission of protecting land from development and preserving wildlife habitats:

- ◆ Association to Preserve Cape Cod
- ◆ Buzzards Bay Coalition

# GIVE TO THE BCT!

## Your Ongoing Financial Support Is Key to Our Success

Donations large and small help maintain the BCT's 501(c)(3) status and grow our general fund. This fund enables the BCT to act quickly on new property purchases and the general maintenance of all properties. It is also used to hire professional help when needed. These costs can be significant.

Our fundraising efforts are based on a soft-sell approach, with this newsletter the most important tool. Donations of any dollar amount are important, because the number of donors demonstrates to foundations and large donors the degree of local support and helps us to retain our status as an IRS 501(c)(3) organization. This status allows your donation, within IRS guidelines, to be tax deductible. In other words, please contribute what you can, as often as you can.

## Ways of Giving

- ◆ Cash, check, money order, wire transfer—all are quick and easy.
- ◆ Name the BCT in your will or as beneficiary of a life insurance policy.
- ◆ Donate 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. These gifts provide tax advantages and help preserve the scenic character of our area, provide a natural habitat for local wildlife and maintain air quality.
- ◆ Offer a matching gift to support our efforts to purchase property. Our donors respond generously when they know gifts will be doubled.

Contact the BCT office at 508-563-2884 or log on to [www.bourneconservationtrust.org](http://www.bourneconservationtrust.org) for more information or for answers to your questions.

## It Works

The BCT approach to fundraising works because our well-preserved woodlands, shore frontages, marshes and walking trails speak for themselves. Because we are surrounded and supported by people who understand the value and importance of open space and realize what our Town might be like without it. They know that it is everyone's responsibility to protect and maintain it.

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*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.*

# OUT ON THE TRAILS

## Report from the Trail Meisters

The Trail Meisters spread their wings this year. Not only did they monitor, maintain and clear all of the walking trails of blow-downs, branches and sticks on a regular basis, but many also lent their hands at other events around town: cleaning up the parking lot at Monk's Park; taking down and cleaning up a make-shift campsite near the railroad bridge at Little Bay; and helping at the Spring Hill Farm fall and spring cleanups.

This is not easy work: cutting up and clearing fallen trees; hauling trash and debris; clipping, clipping, clipping. Kudos to our Trail Meisters: Dick Boyden, Ron Boucher, Jay Fisher, George Gillis, John Holden, Joe Hurley, Dick Murphy, Rick Rheinhardt, Paul Rossi, Carl Wirsén, and John Woodley.

In June, Grace Rowe and her



*Betsy Woodley on the trail, after the installation of a Little Bay trail sign.*

husband Hal DeWaltoff hosted, at their barn on County Road, a BCT Trail Meisters and trail monitors Thank You Dinner. A group of 25 attended including spouses, friends and other BCT volunteers. It was a

special night of "catch-up fellowship" and good food enjoyed by all!

**Many thanks to all Trail Meisters** and all walkers who support their efforts 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.

## Want to be a BCT Trail Meister?

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

## New to Town or the Trails?

Why not review (and print) the BCT trail maps, available online at [www.bourneconservationtrust.org](http://www.bourneconservationtrust.org). 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.



## FAVORITE "TREAT" MEISTERS

*By Wagler the Dog  
(with a little help  
from Gordon  
Schimmel)*

The photo on the back of last year's BCT newsletter, featuring seven handsome Treat Meisters attending a morning meeting, received so much attention that we decided to ask Wagler to catch up with each member of the group to learn a little more about their work with the Trust.

**From left to right: Lattice**, a yellow Lab and **Valor**, a Lab and Golden Retriever mix informed Wagler that they were actually visiting consultants at the meeting. They are part of California-based Canine Companions for Independence, a service organization that provides dogs for skilled work with children and adults who need help and assistance. Lattice is about ready to graduate to advanced training and Valor is already placed with a veteran who, as a New York City firefighter, was a first respond-

er on 9/11/2001. If any of our BCT members would like more information about Canine Companions it can be found on the website at [cci.org](http://cci.org).

Continuing from left to right, are **Chester** and **Noah**, two Boston Terriers, who are obviously focused! As with many Terriers, Chester is a "digger" and proudly reports he has invented "Find It and Lose It," a personal beach game consisting of unearthing a seashell, then knocking it back into the hole so as to, once

again, retrieve it. While Chester loves the water, Noah imperiously declares that he is not much of a digger and does not even like to walk in wet sand. He happily reports that his owner has nicknamed him, "Princess."



*The Treat Meisters, L-R, Lattice, Valor, Chester, Noah, Spica, Ghillie and Dodger,*

Moving on, **Spica** informed us that she is the most outspoken member of the group, one who likes to bark orders and sound alerts if necessary. Her pedigree is a mixture of Australian sheep and cattle-herding heritage, with an added dash of Dingo. One of her responsibilities at home is responding to multiple doorbell rings, a favorite activity of another member of her household, the four-year old son of her owner. "Four year-olds!" she sighed, with just a touch of exasperation.

**Ghillie** is the big four year-old Lab in the back of the photo, seen here exercising his responsibility as maintainer of meeting decorum. He confessed that his favorite spot in the BCT office is the couch where he holds the self-proclaimed title of "Head Potato." When out on a BCT trail his favorite activity is finding the perfect stick, not just any stick but, in his judgment, the perfect stick, often in short supply due to the efficient work of the Trust's Trail

Meisters. This activity really can be taxing so he gets back to the couch as soon as possible.

And finally, on the far right, there's **Dodger**, also a bit of an "artful dodger." His favorite pastime is sleeping under his owner's desk with dedication hard to match in the canine world—except perhaps by Ghillie. His favorite activity is jumping into bog ditches in pursuit of frogs and, although he has devoted considerable time to this pursuit, he has yet to catch one. Dodger frankly acknowledged that he did manage to catch a rabbit that got into the goat pen at Spring Hill Farm, but in a classic dog-catches-car conundrum, he did not quite know what to do with it. Upon command, he dropped the rabbit that wisely made a hasty exit, never to be seen again, at least in the goat pen.

Interestingly enough, the hot topic of the day was trail maintenance or, more specifically, trail hygiene. We

learned that the discussion centered on how to help owners remember to use and properly dispose of "doggie bags." The dogs report that some owners do a great job but others could use a reminder or two. Fortunately we learned that the dogs have volunteered to sniff out any of these forgotten items to help owners keep the BCT trails neat and tidy, canine collaboration at its best.

Meeting adjourned and treats all around!

*WAGLER REMINDERS: Please make sure your dog is under control at all times, respect private property, don't let your dog "shake" or jump on other walkers, and pick up and take all its "business" from the trails and most especially from the shores and around bogs (dog feces are a huge pollutant of our harbors). And finally, Wagler thanks you for being considerate of other walkers and respectful of BCT properties and those of abutters.*

# NEWS & NOTES



## **SMILE: Shop on Amazon, Support the BCT**

The BCT is a registered organization under Amazon SMILE. Once you join SMILE and choose a favorite charitable organization, hopefully the BCT, Amazon will contribute a portion of the purchase price of most items to the BCT. Learn more at <https://smile.amazon.com>.

## **Report from Spring Hill Farm, a BCT Treasure**

### *The Fence*

The new split rail fence at Spring Hill Farm is about 50% complete. And

can be dedicated in memory of, or in honor of or celebration of, a pet, family member, friend or whoever or whatever has special meaning for you. The plaque is included in the \$100 donation. To reserve your section, go to [www.bourneconservationtrust.org](http://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 Goats*

Buttercup, Ruff and Tuff, our resident Nigerian Dwarf goats, are



kids can't resist, please feed small amounts and appropriate treats: raisins, pieces of fruit or vegetables or an occasional cracker or cookie.

### *The Volunteers*

Thanks to each and every one of you who volunteered your time at the farm this past year: raking and brush trimming in the fall; tending gardens in the spring and summer; cleaning the barn, farm house and goat house, and feeding the goats, all year long. Can't imagine where we would be without your help.



*Gathering black walnuts and scaling the chicken coop at Spring Hill Farm.*

what a difference this fence has made in the farm's overall appearance. We have several sections to go and need your help. A \$100 donation will buy a section of fence, that

happy and playful in their home on the farm. Stop by anytime and visit them. Treats for the goats are not encouraged, but if you or your

**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: [bct.trails@gmail.com](mailto:bct.trails@gmail.com).



**The Shultz Family Property**

You may drive by it on your way for ice cream...the corner lot at Scraggy Neck Road Ext. and County Road. Since this land was purchased from the Shultz family in 2016, the Trust has invested time and money in clearing and leveling the land, taking down dead trees, fixing drainage problems and seeding for wildflowers. This summer all of this work began to pay off...wildflowers were in bloom. And, it's just the beginning of a very colorful vista to come.

**If You Build It, They Will Come... and Nest**

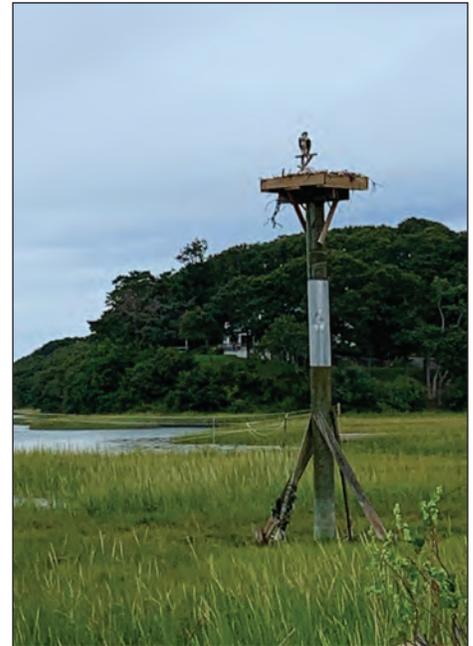
First, let us thank Dick Jason and Ben Nadeau. Here's why: no one knows what happened or how, but the osprey nest by the shore where Cataumet meets Megansett was destroyed last fall. Only the pole was left standing. When the call went out for help, Dick and Ben, without hesitation, took on the challenge. They cleared what little was left of the old framework, built and installed a new nest high on the pole and included a perch...

research told Dick that osprey like to perch.

"Our" osprey family was about the last to arrive in the area, but arrive they did. Immediately they got to work bringing sticks and branches



for a nest that grew bigger every day. Eggs were laid and hatched, the babies grew until able to fly, learned to fish, and headed south on their migration, hopefully to return by end of March 2020.

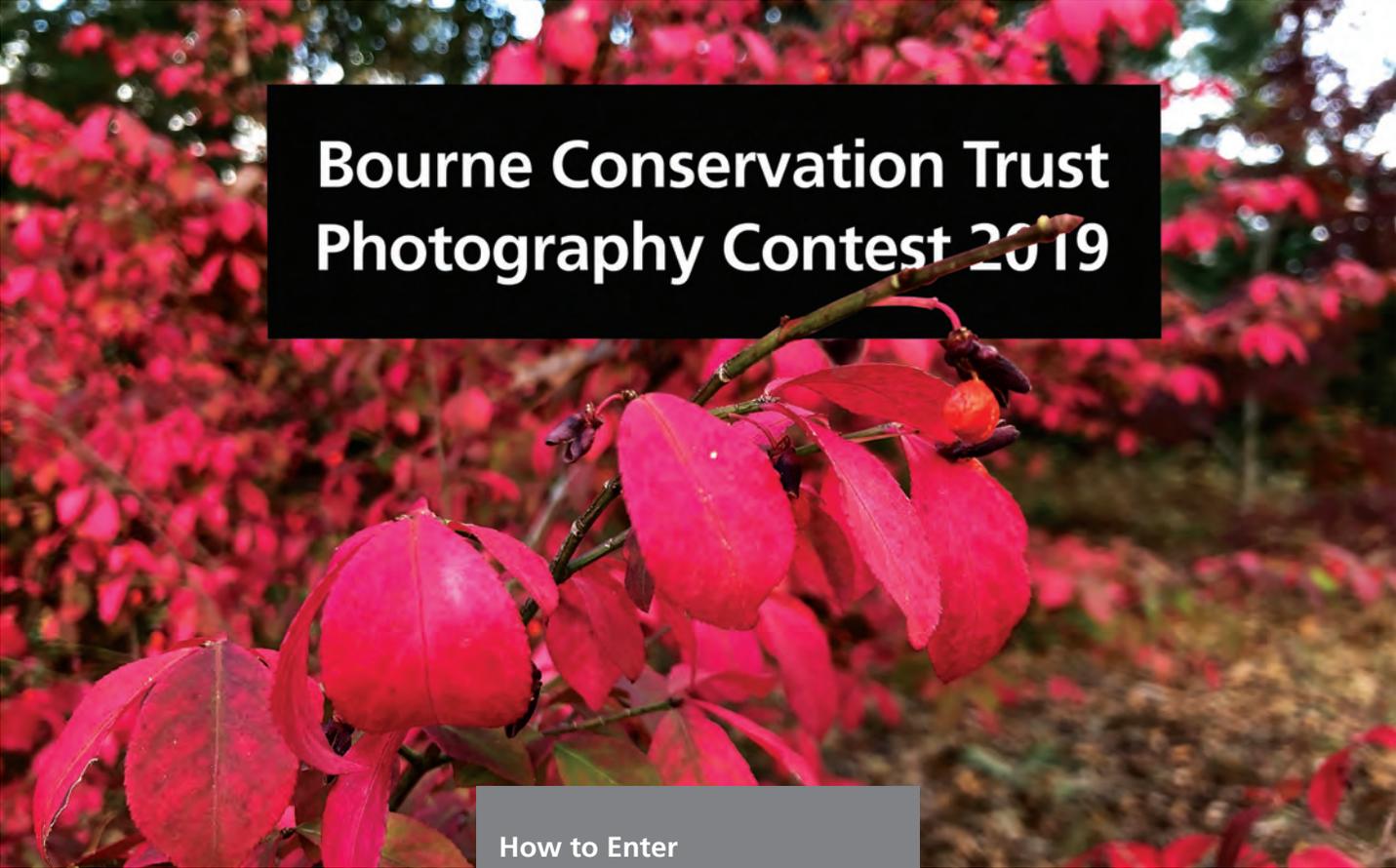


There are many of us that cannot imagine not having an osprey nest on that pole, not being able to watch these magnificent hawks up close and personal, not celebrating the first time we see the heads of the hatchlings, and not loving each time one was seen on that perch. Again, thanks Dick and Ben.

**Also thank you to Dick Jason** for building and installing new racks in the Depot for our village newsletters and trail guides.

# 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.*



## Bourne Conservation Trust Photography Contest 2019

We think Kahlin would agree that there are beautiful sights to see throughout our BCT properties. For this year's contest, as announced in the 2018 BCT Donors book, we invite anyone *of any age* to take pictures of these sights. Have fun—show us your favorite spots, show us your family and friends walking the trails, looking for mushrooms, a wildflower or wildlife, maybe even finding little fairies and wee folk in the crooks of trees, maybe even discovering a pot of gold!

### How to Enter

Photos must be taken on BCT properties and submitted along with a description of where the picture was taken, the date, and the photographer's name and contact information. There is a limit of three pictures per photographer.

Submit a copy of the original file with no reduction in size and no manipulation, by the deadline:  
**December 31, 2019.**

### Email it:

[bct.trails@gmail.com](mailto:bct.trails@gmail.com)

### Mail it:

Box 203, Cataumet, MA 02534

### Drop it off:

Ballentine's Boat Shop, 1104 Route 28A, Cataumet

First, second and third cash prizes will be awarded. Winners will be announced in the 2019 BCT Donors book to be sent out mid-2020. Winning pictures and other submissions may appear on the BCT web site and in future BCT publications.

# IN MEMORY

## **Alexander Morrison Joyce**

The BCT is deeply saddened by the loss of Alec Joyce. As a friend and as our attorney, Alec supported the trust over the past 25 years, helping us to procure land and lending solid advice as needed. From the early days of BCT land acquisition, Alec and the Joyce family helped to make the Cataumet Greenway what it is today. With the donation of the Joyce Path, we were able to connect two other major properties and create the Greenway. Alec will be greatly missed.

# STAY IN TOUCH

We urge our readers to visit the website: [www.bourneconservationtrust.org](http://www.bourneconservationtrust.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.

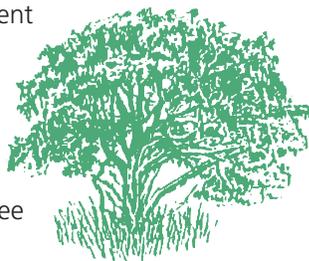
As you navigate through the website look for pictures contributed by numerous gifted photographers. Then as you wander along our trails enjoying the quiet peaceful serenity, take your own picture of any wildlife or wonder of nature you come across. Share it with us at [bct.trails@gmail.com](mailto:bct.trails@gmail.com), and we'll try to include it on our website or in future mailings to donors.

## **Reminders:**

- ◆ Send us your wildlife sightings, including any photo you can capture.
- ◆ Submit your picture(s) for the Photo Contest (see page 10).
- ◆ Think about donating a section of fence for Spring Hill Farm.
- ◆ Support the Trail Meisters out on the trails.
- ◆ Support the BCT! Help us meet our fundraising Matching Gift Challenge! Remember, every dollar you donate will be doubled, up to \$250,000 for this and next year. We will recognize all donations in our annual Donor List, including those made in memory of, in honor of or in celebration of (a birthday, wedding, anniversary, grandchild, graduation, retirement, pet, a holiday including Ground Hog Day—whatever brings happiness to your life).

## **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 ambiance and make it available for recreational and educational purposes. The BCT owns and maintains approximately 300 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](http://www.bourneconservationtrust.org).*

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**Contact Information:**

508-563-2884   [www.bourneconservationtrust.org](http://www.bourneconservationtrust.org)   [info@bourneconservationtrust.org](mailto:info@bourneconservationtrust.org)   [photos4BCT@gmail.com](mailto:photos4BCT@gmail.com)   [bct.trails@gmail.com](mailto:bct.trails@gmail.com)

*Horses at sunrise, Dimmick Field*