



NEWSLETTER

December 2013

Truro Conservation Trust, P.O. Box 327, North Truro, MA 02652-0327
www.TruroConservationTrust.org • PH: (508) 487-1190



from time to time, and your trustees make an effort to clean it up when some of us can spare the time and/or use of a pickup truck. We want to use your donations to acquire land; therefore, we resist paying for trash removal or for professionally made no dumping signs whenever we can.

Other dumping problems are more easily resolved (see accompanying photo). The old, raised railway bed that runs between the Corn Hill Beach parking lot and the Pamet River/harbor area is owned by the town all the way out to where it ends at the harbor. (There is an unmarked trail along the railroad bed. It's a very nice, short hike, if you haven't tried it yet). The Trust owns large parts of the marsh to the left/East of the trail. The tide sometimes deposits flotsam in this area, including the hull of an old boat. Since the offending material was on both town and Trust property, a call has been made to the Public Works Department. Removal may require a boat at high tide. The Trust has found the DPW and Paul Morris to be very helpful in working with us to ensure the integrity of open space.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

As you may recall from previous newsletters, once a year, usually in the fall and early winter, your 13 trustees divide up and inspect all the Trust's 100 plus properties totaling over 300 acres. This is a big job for which some of our members have volunteered to help, and your assistance is much appreciated. Sometimes a problem is difficult to resolve.

The accompanying photo of our no dumping sign illustrates one kind of problem. The property here, much of which is a wetland, is located on an isolated dirt road with no nearby houses. Someone dumped brush trimmings at a wide point on the road, on our property. We put up some steel stakes to let people know this is private land. But at some point, the stakes were taken down and some earth was dumped there. Thus, we put up the sign with our e-mail address (see photo) just in case someone misunderstands whose property it is, and what its use is.

Dumping trash on other Trust properties happens





Truro Conservation Trust

P. O. Box 327

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Chairman
Phil Smith
Treasurer
Robert Bednarek
Secretary

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John Pendleton
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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It is that time of year when we look back to the successes and disappointments of the current year and forward, with hope, to the opportunities of a new year.

Our successes this year include the several acquired properties and Conservation Restrictions reported in our last Newsletter and the completion of an on-site stewardship review of each property under our protection. Our site visits resulted in the identification of several properties that require some cleanup, and one property with an abutter's encroachment that will require resolution. This latter conservation lot is Town-owned and is one of the 20 such lots that we perform stewardship for under an agreement with the town.

Our one disappointment this past year is that financial contributions in support of our efforts were below expectations for the second year.

One of our most exciting opportunities for 2014 is the potential for a joint land acquisition, with another Truro not-for-profit organization, of an 11 acre parcel of land offered for \$1.8 million, several hundred thousand under the appraised value. We can't share all the details at this time since sensitive negotiations are continuing, but the property includes four sub-divided lots that are offered only as a package purchase. Two of the lots would be for conservation in perpetuity. The largest lot would be for the mission of our partner organization, and the fourth lot may be divided between our two organizations. We already envision a publicly accessible trail across this property that would lead to a vista with a spectacular view across the National Seashore to the ocean and, in the opposite direction, to Cape Cod Bay. A successful purchase will involve a lot of work and a capital campaign by both organizations, including several hopefully successful grant applications.

In addition to this potential acquisition, we are studying three other properties that could also add significant conservation value to our beautiful town. It is in this context that I ask you to please consider assisting us financially, as best you can in today's difficult economic environment, so that we can be successful in our several land acquisition projects as well as our stewardship and educational responsibilities.

Once again, we thank you for all your support over the past year and we look forward to seeing you in Truro during 2014.

Best Regards,

Fred Gaechter
Chairman, Truro Conservation Trust
On behalf of your Board of Trustees.

IN MEMORY OF...

DR. ROBERT CHANNING WHEELER

The sincerity and thoughtfulness of a letter received earlier this year, and copied below, impressed your Trustees. While not all of us have long family histories in Truro, all of us do share the expressed desire to preserve as much as possible of this special place for the future generations of all families.

In honor of the death of Robert Channing Wheeler, MD, please accept this gift from his son, Robert Channing Wheeler, Jr.

My father (b. 1920) started visiting the Cape and Truro in the early 1920's. His great, great grandfather was the sea captain John Wheeler, who lived on Corn Hill, and whose vessel Cincinnatus went down with all hands in the famous gale of 1841. John Wheeler's son, John Arey Wheeler (b.1840), eventually bought land in South Truro, and his son Joshua Stevens Wheeler (b. 1869) brought his family from Boston to South Truro to his father's homestead to vacation.



My father loved Truro, and was a big supporter of its conservation. His father and mother often brought him to grandfather Joshua Stevens home to spend time enjoying Truro. His father, Ralph Arey Wheeler, loved the Cape along with his brothers Jack, Charlie, Bill, Carl and Harold, and his sister Lila. In fact, Ralph Wheeler was a surveyor early in his career and helped survey the Cape Cod Canal. The Carl Wheeler in Truro today is the son of my grandfather's brother Carl Russell Wheeler, who retired to Truro with his wife Minerva.

All told, eight generations when including the children of my nephew and niece, and we all loved the natural beauty and unspoiled aspect of Truro and welcomed the designation of the National Seashore. My sister Susan Foot, her husband Dick Foot and my nephews Brad and Ben Brewster enjoy homes in South Truro within the National Seashore. Keep up the preservation of Truro for future generations.

*Sincerely,
R. Channing Wheeler*

This is not the first time this family has given to the Trust as a way of memorializing a family member who loved this town where they spent many summers. At the passing of Gail Wheeler Brewster in 2008 (daughter to Dr. Wheeler and sister to our letter writer, R. Channing Wheeler), family and friends gave to the Trust in her memory (see our December, 2008 newsletter at www.truroconservationtrust.org).

Can there be a better way to memorialize and honor a relative or friend who walked these shores, moors and woods, or who loved the quiet, the colors, the smells, and the unique light that is Truro?

On behalf of our entire membership, the trustees thank the Wheeler family for their contributions to preserving this special place.

PROFILE: Bob Bednarek

Bob Bednarek has been active in the Trust since its beginning. His life-partner Dr. Charles Davidson was one of the original founders of the Trust back in 1982. After Charles' death in 2000, Bob became a Trustee and serves as secretary for the Trust's meetings. He was secretary to the Truro Conservation Commission for 30 years. He served on a town government study committee whose work resulted in our town charter form of government, and he was on the Zoning Board of Appeals for 12 years, serving as chairman at one point.



Bob and Charles began vacationing here in 1957, and moved to Truro permanently in 1974. Bob was born in rural Wisconsin on a farm, and attended a one-room schoolhouse, eventually entering Ripon College at the age of 16. World War II interrupted his college career when he joined the army, which led to being stationed in Tokyo where he did work for the war crimes trials after WWII.

measure how much spray was falling on the boxes. They discovered many dead, young bluebirds that had eaten poisoned caterpillars. Their findings were published, and helped in the effort that halted the spraying. Also, for some 30 years Bob checked pond water levels for the Association to Preserve Cape Cod to monitor groundwater levels.

After his military service, Bob returned to Ripon College, but transferred to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he majored in architecture from 1949 to 1953. Bob then worked for architectural firms in Washington D.C., Boston and Cambridge. Once Truro became a permanent residence, Bob began his own firm, designing houses, offices and various types of renovations. Among his projects, he designed an addition to the Truro Congregational Church.

When asked about the biggest change he has seen in Truro during his half century sojourn here, he is quick to comment on the reforestation by pines and oaks. When he first came here most of the hills were covered just in sand, bearberry and blueberry, but Truro is still special in his eyes, just different.

Bob loves to walk the woods and beaches of Truro, partly to enhance his interest in nature and its wildlife. At one point the Cape was sprayed by air for caterpillars. Bob had been active in putting up nesting boxes for birds. He and Charles decided to

NEW TAX BENEFITS + CASH

Even if your legal residence is not in Massachusetts, you could give land to the Trust or establish a conservation restriction on land you own in Truro and receive tax credits and/or cash from the state for up to \$50,000. This is in addition to any federal income tax incentives for conservation of land.

Check out the details on how the new credit works at Truroconservationtrust.org

DISCOVER A TRURO YOU MAY NOT KNOW

Your trustees are looking for member volunteers to join our stewardship teams to help with the annual inspections of our more than 300 acres of land. E-mail or call us if you are interested. You don't need to be a year-round resident.

HELP KEEP TRURO RURAL

To learn more about the work of the TCT, visit our website, www.truroconservationtrust.org.

Out and about? Use this QR code on your mobile device to see a list of all 300 Trust landholdings; see stunning color photos of some Trust properties; see past newsletters; and see much more.

