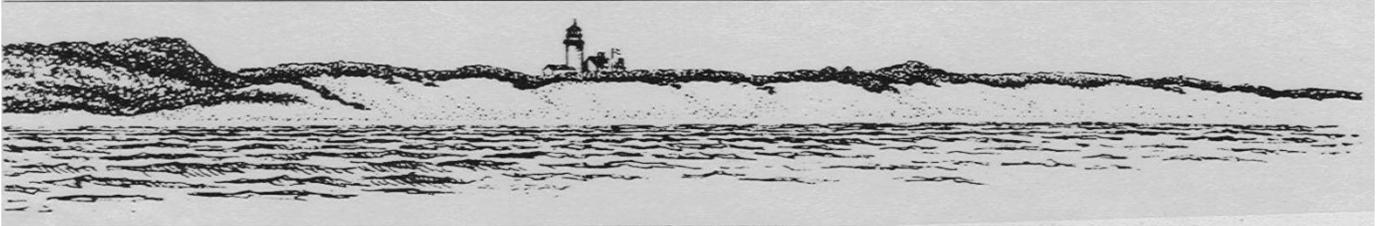


# TRURO CONSERVATION TRUST



Volume 8 No. 1

NEWSLETTER

June 12, 2008

## PROFILE

### ***Betsey Brown—Founding Trustee***

For TCT founding trustee Betsey Brown, the conversion to conservation activism came unexpectedly, twenty-six years ago, on an otherwise unexceptional drive back to her Truro home after a shopping trip in Orleans. Pulling off Route 6 at the Pamet Roads exit across from the liquor store, she noticed a stack of lumber piled high by the side of the road.

She was stunned. “My God, I thought, is somebody really going to build a house *there*,” she remembers.

Betsey wasn’t opposed to houses *per se*. Working with her husband Tom she’d helped make Thomas D. Brown Real Estate the premier realtor on the Outer Cape. “But I could see how development was changing Truro, and not always for the best.”

It wasn’t a house that was planned for the Route 6 site, actually. It was going to be a new office for Truro’s Chamber of Commerce. But Betsey still thought it would mar the access to two of Truro’s most scenic roads. Not sure how to proceed, she called her friend Dexter Keezer for help in how to stop it. “That’s when I became intensely interested in something other than selling houses,” she says.

A few months later, Ansel Chaplin called to tell her that he and Charlie Davidson were interested in starting a conservation trust. Would she be interested in joining?

“I didn’t know anything about conservation at the time,” she admits. “But I knew that people came to Truro for our beaches and open space. They were the best things we had to offer, and they had to be preserved.”

So began what Betsey calls now “a wonderful learning curve.” Over the next twenty-six years she would become a hard-working advocate for the preservation of Cape Cod. Besides her work with the Trust, she joined the Truro Planning Board, serving first as secretary, then as Chair, trying to bring order to Truro’s notoriously laissez-faire zoning laws. She was the guiding force behind Truro’s initial Local Comprehensive Plan, too, laying out a vision of balanced land use values that remain at the center of the town’s vision of its best possible future.

It is her work with the TCT that has been her greatest reward, as the Trust grew from an idea shared by a few to an ideal shared by the community, with almost 100 different properties and over 300 acres protected.



[more]

Betsey knows, and treasures, all of those properties. But the project she remembers most fondly is High Head, the 41.6 acres of conservation land bordering Route 6 across from Adrian's. "They planned to build a housing development there," she remembers, "with a New York-style concrete barrier to block the noise from the road. Wouldn't that have been terrible? Imagine driving that stretch of the road and looking at houses and a concrete wall rather than the view of the Bay."

Betsey's connection to Truro goes back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Although she cheerfully calls herself "a washashore", her father's family had lived in Truro for seven generations, and she herself came here when she was just 3 weeks old. Growing up she spent each winter in the Boston area with her family, but spent her summers here, and went to Truro Central School in the spring and the fall.

"People can't imagine how wonderful it was to be a child in Truro during those days," she remembers.

Pamet Harbor was her playground. Mornings she and her mother would go hunting for sea clams, then cook their breakfast on the beach. In the afternoons she would swim or ride her bike, a tomboy determined to keep up with a group that included Johnny and Chris Worthington and Ralph Woodward.

After high school Betsey went to Katy Gibbs, and "dreamed of returning to Truro, although I never thought it would be possible." Married in 1949 to Tom Brown, the couple came to Truro for two weeks when they were first married, and began to talk about how to make their dream of a life on the Outer Cape real.

In 1957, they took the plunge. Tom went to work for Tony Duarte, selling real estate, and the couple bought a cottage colony on Beach Point. Betsey raised the couple's two boys, and taught part-time at Truro Central School, eventually settling near the family's homestead at the end of Depot Road.

Today, 80 years after first arriving in Truro, she remains committed to preserving the town -- and to the Trust's work. "Twenty-five years ago we could move slowly," she says. "But we don't have that luxury anymore. People still come to Truro for the beauty of our beaches and our open space. But the pressures of development are more intense than ever. We don't have much time anymore -- if we're going to protect Truro we have to do it now."

## **TAX STRATEGY**

### ***Expanded Value for Conservation Restrictions Renewed***

On May 22, 2008 Congress enacted a Farm Bill that renews the powerful tax incentive which has helped to conserve a million or more acres across the US. The incentive had expired January 1st, but is now retroactive to the beginning of the year and will last through 2009.

A broad coalition representing sportsmen, outdoors enthusiasts, farmers, ranchers and national conservation groups, embraced the measure. Rand Wentworth, president of the Land Trust Alliance, said "This renewed tax incentive for donations of conservation easements is one of the best things Congress could do this year to help landowners choose the conservation option over sprawl." The incentive, which applies to a landowner's federal income tax, raises the deduction a donor can take for donating a conservation restriction from 30% of their income in any year to 50%, and increases the number of years over which a donor can take deductions from 6 to 16 years.

The other benefits of a conservation restriction remain unchanged. Although donors relinquish negotiated development rights, they keep ownership and title to the land, along with privacy rights and management control. They can sell it at will or give it to heirs. Donors win lower property taxes and lower estate taxes at the same time, and help protect Cape Cod's natural resources, wildlife, and wild beauty.

*The TCT is not offering tax advice. Please consult your accountant or attorney to determine potential suitability for your individual financial situation. To learn more about how a CR might work for you contact Mark Robinson directly at the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, by email at [compact@cape.com](mailto:compact@cape.com) or phone at 508-362-2565, or visit the TCT website, [www.truroconservationtrust.org](http://www.truroconservationtrust.org)*

## NEW FACES

### ***Meet Three New Trustees***

Bill Worthington (on the right) has had a long association with Truro. He remembers childhood summers spent on the beach at the end of Depot Road. His first job was at the Provincetown airport working as a line boy. After an education in physics, he worked at MIT'S Lincoln Laboratory from where he moved on to an instrument design and marketing career. With his retirement in 2001, Bill and his wife Vicky moved to Truro because of his fond memories and many cousins who live here.

Phil Smith (center) and his wife Beryl discovered Truro quite by accident some 40 years ago, and purchased a home here in 1998. Three years ago, after retiring from a career in finance and reinsurance and making countless weekend trips from Connecticut, Truro became their full-time home. Phil and Beryl enjoy frequent visits from children and grandchildren, who love Truro as much as they do .



Larry Lown (on the left) first saw Truro on bicycle 20 years ago, and knew a town with no stop light, no mail delivery, and no garbage collection was made for him. He and his partner John bought property in 1996, since which they divide their time between Boston and here. After being a sometime teacher and an oil and gas investment analyst, Larry now spends 70 to 80 percent of his time in Truro, learning about flora and fauna, hiking and pretending he's a gardener.

#### **Save the Date:**

### ***The Truro Conservation Trust Annual Meeting***

Join your friends and neighbors for the traditional gathering  
Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at the Pamet Harbor Yacht Club

### **The Truro Conservation Trust**

*Preserving Truro for Generations to Come*

The trustees:

John Marksbury, chair,  
Fred Gaechter, vice-chair and treasurer,  
Robert Bednarek, Betsey Brown, Carol Green,  
Howard Irwin, Larry Lown, Joel Searcy,  
Phil Smith, Bill Worthington

To learn more about the work and workings of the TCT,  
visit at our website, [www.truroconservationtrust.org](http://www.truroconservationtrust.org)  
Or contact us by phone, at 508-487-1190.

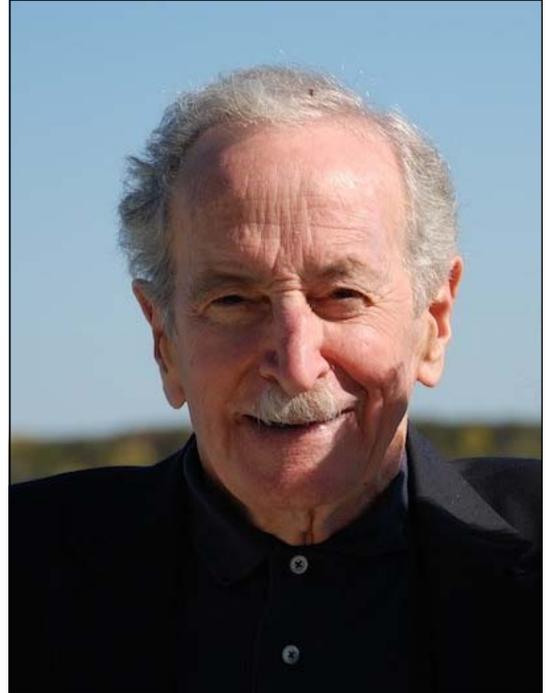
## TRUST SPONSORED EVENT

### ***Henry Beston In Truro!***

On Sunday afternoon, May 25<sup>th</sup>, The Truro Conservation Trust sponsored a reenactment of *The Outermost House*, a play by Cynthia Cooper, performed by actor Marvin Einhorn at the Truro Public Library. This performance was part of the ongoing program One Book/One Town, presented by the Friends of the Truro Library. Beston was a founder of the environmental and conservation movements, and his book, written in 1928, has become a classic in the field.

One Book/One Town invites an entire town to read one book; in this case, *The Outermost House*, by Henry Beston, and then attend a series of related events, including Mr. Einhorn's portrayal of Henry Beston. There was excellent attendance for the event and Mr. Einhorn's performance was enthusiastically received.

The Friday before, the Trust gave a cocktail party, hosted by trustee Carol Green at her home, to honor the Library Board of Trustees and the organizing committee of the Friends of Truro Library. It gave all a chance to meet Marvin Einhorn and his wife Annie while overlooking an alternately sunny and stormy Cape Cod Bay.



actor Marvin Einhorn

## SPRING ON THE CAPE

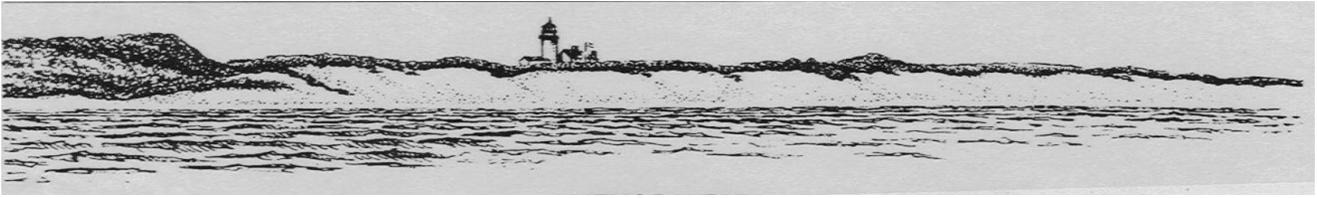
### ***Whales in the Bay***

April on the Cape this year was exceptional for its gentle weather, but also for the whales who visit Cape Cod Bay every spring. This was the year of the North American Right Whale, one of the most endangered species in the world, and saw the gathering of over 100 of the estimated surviving population of 350.

They came to feed on an unusually large concentration of zooplankton in the bay. Their numbers were so great that the speed limit for boats in the bay was reduced to 10 mph. Humpbacks and Atlantic Dolphins were numerous as well. These pictures were taken by one of our Trustees from a small boat.



# THE TRURO CONSERVATION TRUST



*Preserving Truro for Generations to Come*

## *A Letter from the Chair*

Dear Member,

On the cusp of the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding in 1709, Truro is taking stock. A successful exercise currently underway is the communal readings of the “One Book/One Town” series sponsored by the Friends of the Truro Public Library.

Henry Beston’s classic paean to Man and Nature, “*The Outermost House*,” in a reading co-sponsored by the Truro Conservation Trust, was a poignant reminder of why Truro remains such a special place—as the author’s quest for solitude in 1927 at Nauset Beach was very much easier to accomplish then than today.

We are drawn to Truro as a human-scale community where social connections are easily made in the presence of abundant and astonishingly beautiful nature. Truro is among those fortunate places in the world where solitude is accessible still and the restorative power of deep woods, long stretches of dune land and miles of shoreline is the core of our very surroundings. Humankind needs nature’s refreshment.

Beston reminds us we are all party to making a future that will someday form the past. Your support of the Truro Conservation Trust and its mission to preserve the rural character of Truro seeks to shape the Town’s future as a livable one, leaving a legacy of which we can be proud.

There remain many choices to be made. There is much more we need to do as citizens of this Town and as members of the Trust to determine what Truro will be like 10, 20, 100 years from now.

Please help the Trust again this year as generously as you can. We look forward to thanking you in person at our annual celebration on August 14 at the Pamet Harbor Yacht Club.

Yours,

John C. Marksbury  
Chair

Truro Conservation Trust  
P. O. Box 327  
North Truro, MA 02652

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Summer Mailing Address  
(if different): \_\_\_\_\_

My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (payable to the Truro Conservation Trust) is enclosed.

I pledge a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the Truro Conservation Trust, to be paid by \_\_\_\_\_, 2008.

Enclosed is my first payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Please also contact me with more information about how to:

- Volunteer with TCT
- Donate land
- Protect my land with a conservation restriction

*Gifts to the Truro Conservation Trust are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.*

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