



NEWSLETTER

Winter 2019

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

Next Great Project: 42 Corn Hill

With the completion of the trails on the Twine Field property and the closing on the Great Hollow property (see related articles) we will be focusing our efforts for the next six months on the purchase of the property and historic cottage at 42 Corn Hill Road.



Photo by James Walczak

The current agreement with the sellers – Jane Bunker and Mason Morfit – requires a closing on the property by May 31, 2020. You will recall that the purchase price for this 1.3-acre bay-front property is \$520,000, well below the assessed value of \$689,000. Our efforts will be focused on fundraising for the purchase of this significant addition to our protected open space.

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ANOTHER SUCCESS: Great Hollow Purchase

After three years of work by many, we can all pat ourselves on the back in congratulations!

On November 1, 2019, the buyers – your Trust – and the sellers – the Wright family, met to close on the 1.09-acre property at 2 Kill Devil Road, in the Great Hollow neighborhood of Truro. It seemed anticlimactic after the prolonged effort of so many people. Your Trust thanks all of you who donated to the purchase, all who worked on the Capital Campaign - coordinated by Ann Courtney, and the Wright family who offered this property with the understanding that it would remain as open space in perpetuity.

THANK YOU!



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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The year 2019 was kind to your Truro Conservation Trust (TCT). As evidenced in the accompanying articles, we had success in acquisitions and success in creating public access to the Twine Field property in North Truro. The closing on the Great Hollow beachfront property at 2 Kill Devil Road was the result of a great deal of work by many people. A donation, by the Dalton family (thank you Clare Dalton), of a .9-acre parcel at 4 Pond Village Avenue – adjacent to our recently purchased Twine Field property - was a great addition to our inventory of conservation land. For the immediate future, we expect to close on the bay front Bunker property at 42 Corn Hill Road by the time of our next Newsletter - late-spring 2020. In that same timeframe, the Town of Truro expects to close on the 70-acre Walsh property, with Town-bonded funds and your Trust's \$500,000 pledge. So, our future looks bright, as well, with your continuing support.

There's one common component to all our successes: YOU, our supporters and donors. The acquisition and stewardship of land is only possible because of your donations and, of course, your words of encouragement. Donations come to us in several forms. As with the Dalton donation, a resident decides that a parcel of land that they own would be a great personal or family legacy and is donated at no cost to the Trust. The Great Hollow and Corn Hill properties are below-market purchases offered as family legacies to conservation. For all these projects, we prepare the requisite documents, including the application for a Commonwealth tax credit for up to \$75,000. Most projects also qualify for a Federal tax deduction. The last type of donations are those that come to us in one of two typical ways: annual donations and bequests. It is this last form of donation – bequests, that have made these recent significant purchases possible. In the last several years, two longtime supporters bequeathed to the Trust combined donations approximating \$1.5 million. We, of course, encourage each of you, where possible, to consider your TCT in your estate planning.

We also, more immediately, ask for your generous contributions during this season of giving to assist us, most particularly, with the purchasing of the Corn Hill property. Our current fundraising for this specific purchase remains well short of the purchase price. Please be generous in support of this project.

Your Trustees wish you a wonderful holiday season, a most Happy New Year, and a pleasant winter, wherever you are.

Fred Gaechter
Chairman

Loss of a Friend

On November 1st, William “Bill” Worthington passed away at home. He was a longtime Trustee of the Truro Conservation Trust and one of Truro’s strongest advocates for open space and land conservation. Whenever there was a project that needed attention, Bill would always step up with enthusiasm – “I can do that!” He designed, ordered, and installed many of our early trail signs. He coordinated the layout and creation of the trails, including the clearing and mulching. Bill knew every property in Town and most of the people. He volunteered for wetland cleanups and served on several Town Boards. He was always a gentleman and only spoke when he had something of value to contribute. Bill will be missed by all who knew him, served with him, or worked with him. Truro has lost a true friend!



coming up through the mulch and to keep the vegetation on the edges of the trails from falling into the mulched trails. Spraying above-the-ground growth for two or three years will eventually starve the roots of nourishment and these invasive plants will die. The Trust approached Mary Ann Larkin, a neighbor who was instrumental in the fundraising effort to purchase the property, to identify other neighbors who might assist TCT members in spraying this remedy where needed. Ray Clarke, a local ecologist, and a member of the original Twine Field Trails Design Committee, offered to head up the volunteers for spraying. He sectioned off trail assignments based on the amount of growth and yardage. Together with the volunteers, Ray was able to divide the trails into six distinct sections, each with an assigned volunteer(s). Already we are seeing some of the results from the spraying. Hopefully in a few years the paths will stay clear. The neighbors who volunteered for this task are: Ray Clarke, Scott Warner, David Kirchner, Jamila Colozzi, Carrie Stapleton, Barbara Wohlgemuth, Ellen English and Will Bullard. The Truro Conservation Trust thanks all who have worked to keep this property undeveloped and safely open to the public. Through everyone’s persistent efforts and contributions Truro has a valued landscape for all to embrace and enjoy. Thank You!



Twine Field Trails Update

The beautiful Twine Field trails were established late this past spring. We had many volunteers helping to clear and spread bark mulch over the trails, including several AmeriCorps crews. We finished spreading bark mulch in July, installed trail signs and added three teak benches in early-August. Not surprisingly, the Twine Field property has brambles, weeds, and poison ivy growing through many parts of the trails. We expected the bark to deter their growth and allow trail users to walk over those areas safely, but the weeds started growing over and through the bark mulch even though the Trust had a landscaper regularly mow the trails. What was required was a spraying of a non-toxic remedy (a well-known vinegar, salt, and water mix) to keep growth from

42 Corn Hill (Cont.)

This past September, your Trust and the Center for the Arts at Castle Hill jointly hosted a fundraising event on the site that was well attended (see photos) and added much-needed financial assistance for the project.



The event included an auction of art work from four acclaimed Truro artists – Robert Cardinal, Ken Hawkey, Donna Mahon, and Cheri Mittenthal. We thank the artists and event attendees for their support. This month, your Trust applied to the Truro Community Preservation Committee for a \$145,000 grant towards this purchase.

This property is the last privately-owned property along Cape Cod Bay from the Corn Hill Town Beach, across Pamet Harbor, to Great Hills Road. Its purchase and protection by the Trust will provide a continuum of almost a quarter of a mile of conservation land held by the Town and the Trust. The property is mostly sand, dune, and beach grass. We intend to offer public access with a defined path, subject to appropriate approvals, from Corn Hill Road to the beach with several strategically-placed benches along the way.

The Cottage, built in 1890, is to remain in-place for as long as possible. It will be maintained and inhabited seasonally by the Center for the Arts at Castle Hill as a summer residence for visiting artists. The TCT has signed a 33-year lease with Castle Hill, for \$1/year.



Great Hollow Purchase (Cont.)

The property deed, now held by the TCT, and filed with the Register's office, contains a statement that the property must be conservation land, maintained as open space, in perpetuity. There will be no change in use from the last several years since the cottage was removed under the Wright family ownership. The family is designing a commemorative plaque, recognizing their family's longstanding presence in and contribution to Truro. The plaque will be installed along the property line with the Town parking lot for ease of public access.

Another bay-front property, with 267' of frontage on Cape Cod Bay, has been saved from development, helping to protect Truro's environment and rural character, thereby, advancing the environmental protection aspect of sustainability. We all look forward to conducting our stewardship responsibilities at our newest acquisition.

"Because We Believe..."

Milton and Breene Wright's Love Affair with Great Hollow

Milton was smitten when he first came to Truro to paint in the late 1930s with Marston (Bud) Hodgkin, his art teacher at Miami University in Ohio. Breene fell under the spell when they honeymooned here in 1946.

In 1952 our grandparents Milton Wright, Sr. and Ann Wright built the 'Cottages on the Beach' at the end of Great Hollow Road. From then on, our whole family spent every summer here. In 1977, Milton and Breene left New York and 'retired' to live year-round in their cottage on the beach.

My brother Lorin Wright and I want to preserve the memory of our parents, Milton and Breene Wright, by conserving and protecting in perpetuity a small part of the place that they loved so much.

Martha Wright Crouch