

Pilgrim Pond Preserve

A “Preserve” in land conservation jargon is a designation given to a large parcel or separate contiguous parcels of land preserved for open space and wildlife habitat protection while also affording public access, where environmentally appropriate, for passive recreation.

As your Trust acquires such parcels in a common neighborhood, we intend to label them as a “Preserve” and to honor the designation, as described.

Our first official “Preserve” designation is being given to the Pilgrim Pond Preserve, consisting of 32 acres, in 13 parcels, surrounding the ecosystem of Pilgrim Pond in North Truro. The accompanying map shows the properties that currently make up this Preserve. Several other properties throughout Truro are under consideration for “Preserve” designation.

Currently, the 10-acres of the Twine Field parcels on Pond Road have an extensive and frequently visited trail system in a coastal meadow, including several benches. With the recent acquisitions along the Pond’s south shore (see front page article), it is your TCT’s intention to create another publicly-accessible trail system, with benches, on those 10 acres and to restore the abutting Proprietor’s Way (see the map, again) to its previous existence as an open and accessible trail along the south shore and the wetlands. The Way has become overgrown and, once cleared, would be maintained by your TCT.

Trustee Guillermo Chang Tribute

It is with sadness that we report that TCT Board of Trustees member Guillermo Chang died on January 27, 2021. Guillermo was a devoted and hardworking Trustee since 2015. He was integral in the production of our newsletter and managing our database of supporters. “Guillermo contributed immensely to the success of our Trust, as a Trustee and a friend of Truro. He will be greatly missed as both of those,” said Fred Gaechter, Chair of the TCT.

Guillermo was born in Havana, Cuba. As the political climate changed in Cuba, the Chang family moved to the United States, initially to Florida and then New York. Guillermo earned a degree in chemical engineering from the MIT. He spent the majority of his career working in information technology becoming an expert on internet security.

Guillermo and his wife Annmarie, along with their daughter

Elizabeth, moved to Truro in 2013. He loved the beauty of Truro and enjoyed clamming, oystering, kayaking and walks on the beach with his beloved dog Bella. Protecting the beauty of Truro was important to Guillermo.

“Guillermo loved Truro. He felt fortunate to be able to be part of the TCT’s mission to preserve the natural beauty of our very special town,” said Annmarie Chang.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Guillermo for his devoted service to the TCT. Thank you also to the many friends of Guillermo who have chosen to honor him through a charitable donation to the TCT in his name. He will be missed by many near and far.



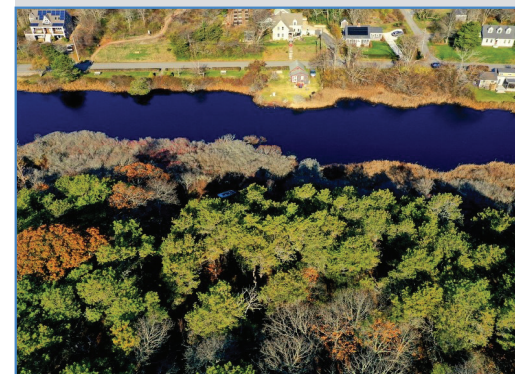
“StoryWalk” At Twine Fields

Your Trust is pleased to announce that it is hosting a Truro Public Library “StoryWalk” this summer in our historic Twine Fields, August 7-28. The program is appropriate for readers 3-7 years old. “In a Jar”, by Deborah Narcero, is a charming picture book about the power of memory and the magic of friendship. It is being presented in a series of framed large format pages displayed alongside trails accessed from the western entrance to the Twine Fields. Park on the east side of Pond Village Avenue and walk straight ahead from the entrance to find the first of the pages on your right. Follow them around a loop where you’ll also find shaded benches. Enjoy the tranquility of the Twine Fields while sharing a lovely story with your young readers.



Francis Farm Restoration

The first two phases of the Francis Farm Road restoration project have been completed. All invasive species have been removed, the soil has been treated for planting, and the seeding of the eastern portion of the property is complete. The western portion does not require seeding. The abutting property owner has provided a water hookup and has worked with the arborist to install a temporary irrigation system. The arborist and the TCT will monitor the progress of this year’s seeding and will, during the fall-winter, determine if any patch seeding will be required next year and decide on how extensive phase three will be in successive years – the planting of indigenous trees and bush pods throughout the property. We thank our friends and neighbors for monitoring the activity on this significant conservation land.



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

Newsletter

Summer 2021

www.TruroConservationTrust.org

Pilgrim Pond South Shore

The last six months have been a major success story for Pilgrim Pond, its adjacent wetlands, its upland wildlife habitat, historic Pond Village, and its underlying watershed. Almost four acres, in three contiguous lots – 12, 14, and 15 Laura’s Way, of environmentally critical land have been preserved in perpetuity through acquisitions by your Truro Conservation Trust (TCT), totaling \$1.1M (see aerial photo to left). The alternative would have been three large homes with septic systems, increased nitrogen loading of the aquifer, and significant tree and bush removal that would have adversely impacted wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration, and the beautiful landscape of this scenic and historic area. The Pond Village neighborhood formed a 16-member capital campaign committee that actively raised \$125,000, in three months, to obtain the last funds needed to acquire the 15 Laura’s Way parcel. We are all grateful for their very passionate and successful efforts. It was fun working with them. On April 24th, the committee hosted a well-attended Earth Day fundraising event at Pilgrim Park (see photo to the top right).

This story, however, has another major chapter, currently being written. In May, your TCT signed a Purchase and Sale Agreement for 6.42 additional and adjacent acres for \$340,000 with an August 1st closing date. The same Pond Village capital

campaign committee is committed to raising \$65,000, including \$50,000 in response to a TCT matching grant, for this acquisition. This additional acreage will increase the total land environmental protection on the south



shore, in the last 12 months, to a little more than 10 acres. The accompanying map illustrates the position of these new acquisitions and their proximity to Pilgrim Pond.

“So...”, you might ask, “...what was the source of the additional \$1.25M needed, after the committee’s fundraising, for these acquisitions?” Your TCT contributed \$250,000 towards these acquisitions, all from your generous individual donations. The remaining \$1M came entirely from several different anonymous donors, quietly but decisively, interested in the preservation of our beautiful Truro and its rural character! WOW!

We hope for, and will work towards, many such future joint projects between the TCT, neighborhood volunteers, and you — our supporters and contributors.



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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As we emerge, cautiously, from a difficult time, we realize the true value of community, in not just the physical or organizational sense, but in the interworking of personal and collective relationships necessary at such times. As we evolve from a virtual world to an in-person world there is a strong community sense of “we made it, together”. This bodes well for our future.

As you see in the articles of this Newsletter, the recent accomplishments of your Truro Conservation Trust, are a great example of us all working together to advance an important mission, despite the world around us. We thank all of you, individually and collectively, for your support.

Now we look to what is ahead. During the next six months we will be pursuing new conservation acquisition opportunities, continuing our land stewardship work, participating in discussions about environmental protection, and embarking on a large project to restore and expand public access to an existing Conservation Area. The truth, however, is that our recent successes have drained our financial resources. So, once again, we ask you to help us continue our successes into the future. Your always-generous

donations have been, are, and always will be greatly appreciated by us, the environment, and the people of Truro.

One last request: Currently there are two community efforts in Truro related to land use and the environment that we want you to be aware of and encourage your participation in. The Truro Climate Action Committee will be sponsoring three open, public sessions on the rear deck of the Truro Public Library on July 31st (10-11:30AM), August 28th (3:30-5PM), and September 25th (10-11:30AM). The purpose is to inform on what Truro has accomplished to date on climate change mitigation and adaptation, but, more importantly, to seek your thoughts and ideas on what we all can/should do locally in that regard. Also, the Truro Walsh Property Community Planning Committee will be implementing an active program to solicit public input on what the needs of the Town of Truro and its citizens are with regard to the potential uses of this 70-acre Town-owned property. Please participate in both activities to ensure that your views are heard to the benefit of our community.

BECAUSE I BELIEVE: Ellen English

My parents purchased a home on Pond Road in 1958. I have been coming here ever since as a summer resident, six-month resident and now, a full-time resident. My childhood memories here revolve around the bay, the pond, and the twine fields, which were an extension of our back yard. I worked one summer at the Fishnet Industries on the corner of Pond Road and Shore Road, selling fishnet fashion and seashore souvenirs. I spent hours checking out the candy counter at Dutra’s store and regularly filled up my bicycle tires with air at Punchy’s Garage.

Little has changed on Pond Road during my lifetime. A portion of the twine fields was developed in the late 1970’s, but a large area remains untouched. The Fishnet Industries is now an art studio, Dutra’s is now Salty Market and Punchy’s is now Grozier’s. But these are not substantive changes, and the character of the area is still intact. The place that my daughters now love is very much the same place I grew up loving.

We have the Truro Conservation Trust (TCT) to thank for much of this. My parents donated a small parcel of land when the TCT was still in its infancy, and now several parcels along both sides of the pond have been preserved by the

TCT. The anchor of this preservation effort is the Twine Field parcel, two lots totaling 10 acres, acquired in 2017 (*see photo below*). The acquisition was made possible through the effort of the TCT and of community volunteers who donated hundreds of hours over the course of a year and a half to raise the necessary funds. Residents and visitors alike now enjoy the trails throughout this historic property.

This is just one example of the work the TCT is doing throughout Truro. The Trust holds over 100 parcels of land totaling over 360 acres. There is a remarkable habitat diversity among these parcels: heath, dune, beach, pine/oak woods, marsh, stream, maritime thicket, tidal flat and marsh island, just to name a few. These habitats maintain a diverse population of flora and fauna, and they represent much of what we love about Truro.

Some parcels are donated to the trust, but others are purchased. In these instances, it has been gratifying to see all of Truro joining together to preserve land and habitats throughout the town. We do this not just for ourselves, but for our

children and their children. We are fortunate to have the TCT Board, its members and the community working to preserve the character of Truro. Please continue to support the TCT in this very important endeavor.



There Are Many Ways To Support The Truro Conservation Trust

Make a financial contribution directly to the TCT. A gift of any size is greatly appreciated and is fully tax deductible. We are a volunteer run organization. 100% of all contributions support the work of the TCT.

Support community efforts to acquire property. We often partner with other organizations and neighborhoods to raise funds to acquire property. Contributing directly to those efforts helps us purchase and protect land and open space.

Be our eyes and ears. If you see something happening on one of our properties that concerns you, please let us know right away. Perhaps it’s littering or a trail in need of maintenance or encroachment by a neighbor or destruction of the flora and fauna. If something doesn’t seem right to you, please reach out to us. You can send an email to trustees@truroconservationtrust.org. All reports are kept fully confidential.

Enjoy and take advantage of the public access provided on many of our properties. Take a walk on one of our many trails or have a seat on one of our benches to enjoy the view and the beauty of nature. We protect and conserve open space to benefit the community and for all to enjoy. Share these places with friends and family. The more people who know about us, the more support we garner and thus the more we are able to do. Thank you for your support!

Helpful Neighbors and Friends

Recently we experienced a serious encroachment on one of our properties and found out about it only because a concerned friend noticed it when passing by and reported it to us.

You can help the TCT by being our eyes and ears. If you see something happening on one of our properties that concerns you, please let us know right away. We have many parcels of land under our stewardship and it is often our neighbors or even passersby who alert us to issues on them. Here are some of the things we need to know about:

- Littering and dumping
- Missing or damaged signage
- Trails and benches in need of maintenance
- Encroachment
- Removed, damaged, or sickly flora and fauna
- Hazardous or unsafe conditions

If you see any of these things or if something just doesn’t seem right to you, please reach out to us. We greatly appreciate it. You can send an email to trustees@truroconservationtrust.org. All reports are kept fully confidential.

Thank you!