



A view of Dean's Meadow in Great Brewster Woods

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Photographs from Cohasset Conservation Trust files

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SUMMER 2008 NEWSLETTER

August 2008



A Letter from the President

Dear Friend of the Cohasset Conservation Trust,

We are pleased to share with you via this Summer Newsletter several initiatives undertaken by the Cohasset Conservation Trust (CCT) this year.

The CCT celebrated Earth Day on April 22 by working with students at Cohasset High School to clean up Town-owned land in the Brass Kettle Conservation Area on King Street and the CCT's Giuggio Scenic Overlook property on Jerusalem Road. The students collected several truck loads of debris from the properties and learned some important lessons about the value of conservation property and the need for all of us to be good stewards for these beautiful sites. We hope to make this Earth Day Clean Up with local students an annual event and have also had discussions with the director of the Community Service Program at Cohasset High School about the possibility of having students do future projects at our properties.

Also in April, a youth group from the First Parish Church re-installed a sign marking the entrance to CCT's Great Brewster Woods property on Highland Court. This youth group has been keeping the trails in Great Brewster free of debris and overgrowth for some time now, illustrating to all the importance of good stewardship.

In May of this year, the Town of Cohasset finalized the purchase of several parcels of land that complete the 120-acre Brass Kettle Conservation Area along Lily Pond on King Street. The CCT contributed towards this purchase. The four year effort to protect this land involved a partnership between many groups. The CCT was pleased to be a part of this successful land conservation project, which will protect the Town's drinking water supply and open a new recreational trail network to the community.

We hope you enjoy reading more about these initiatives in this newsletter. More information on the CCT, including a map of our properties and photos of many of the properties can be found at our web site:
www.cohassetconservationtrust.org.

Please consider making a donation to the CCT, or including the CCT in your estate planning, to enable us to continue to protect the natural beauty of Cohasset. If you own land that you are interested in protecting, please contact any of our Directors to discuss available methods.

Finally, we encourage all of you to visit our properties this summer and fall. Enjoy a summer day at Bassing Beach, a walk through the woods on the trails of Great Brewster Woods or a visit by kayak to the Dormitzer Salt Marsh along the Gulf River. Our successful efforts to protect all of our sixteen properties would not have been possible without your support.

Sincerely,
Cohasset Conservation Trust

Deborah Shadd, President



Cohasset Conservation Trust sign re-installed at Great Brewster Woods

Just five days after the official observance of Earth Day, members of the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church re-installed the Cohasset Conservation Trust sign at Great Brewster Woods. The new welcoming sign bears the name of the Youth of the First Parish who help maintain the land for the Cohasset Conservation Trust. The First Parish youth, Keepers of the Earth, will also fund-raise to help pay for the new sign.

The Keepers of the Earth project was initiated by the First Parish to introduce 3rd through 6th grade youth to one of the Trust's properties and give them a sense of stewardship. The youth group patrols the Great Brewster trail, cutting back vines and picking up trash.

Great Brewster Woods, an 18-acre woodland north of Highland Avenue and east of Beach Street, was granted to the Cohasset Conservation Trust in 1985 by the Great Brewster Corporation, a real estate development venture of Cohasset residents, Edgar Hill, Walter Railsback, Raymond Remick and George McLaughlin.

The name Great Brewster comes from another venture of Edgar Hill's, a gravel mine on Great Brewster Island in Boston Harbor. Because the Cohasset land was unable to be perced, it was donated to the Trust, thus saving it in perpetuity from any further development.

Residents are encouraged to enter by way of Highland Court off Highland Avenue at the southeast corner of the property which is an easy walk from the parking lot at Cohasset Town Hall.



Volunteers work to install the newly revised sign that welcomes visitors.



HELP US PRESERVE COHASSET'S NATURAL BEAUTY

What we have saved and what we will save is all that will remain to be passed on to future generations. You can make a difference. Please support the CCT's conservation and stewardship efforts.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____

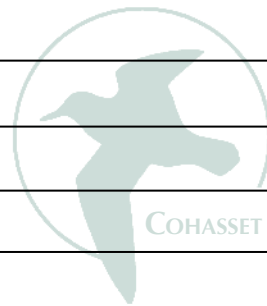
EMAIL ADDRESS _____

☐ I have enclosed forms for a matching gift.

Enclosed please find my tax-deductible donation in the amount of \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: The Cohasset Conservation Trust Inc. and mail to Cohasset Conservation Trust Inc. PO Box 314 Cohasset MA 02025

A woodland path winds its way through Great Brewster Woods



COHASSET CONSERVATION TRUST





CCT partners with other contributors to purchase Brass Kettle Conservation Area

On May 22, the last parcels of Brass Kettle Conservation Area were purchased by the Town of Cohasset completing four years of land purchases that now comprise 120-acres of Lily Pond watershed protection.

At the Spring 2004 Town Meeting, the Water Department received voter approval to purchase private woodlands in the watershed of the Town's primary drinking water reservoir Lily Pond. Funding initially came from Water Department revenues, state grants, the Cohasset Preservation Commission, and the Cohasset Conservation Trust.



*An old farmland stone wall
winds its way through the woods*

Key pieces of property were purchased along King Street, essentially locking up the frontage and thus preventing potential developers access to the properties within the Brass Kettle Conservation Area. Many of the properties were landlocked woodland parcels inherited by their owners or purchased as a part of a land swap.

A NOTE TO THOSE WHO VISIT OUR PROPERTIES

Many of our conservation lands are open to the public, and we welcome visitors who walk our woodlands, meadows and coastal properties. We ask only that you "Leave only footprints, take only memories." *Chief Seattle*

However, some of our properties are dedicated wildlife habitat areas where access may be limited or prohibited. We appreciate your cooperation in abiding by any posted restrictions.

Thank you,
Cohasset Conservation Board Members

By purchasing the last two pieces of property, the Town has permanently set aside significant acreage that serves multiple purposes – a protected watershed, a wildlife refuge, wild flowers and ferns, vernal pools, historic stonewalls, and a recreational trail network that is connected to Wompatuck State Park and Whitney-Thayer Woods.

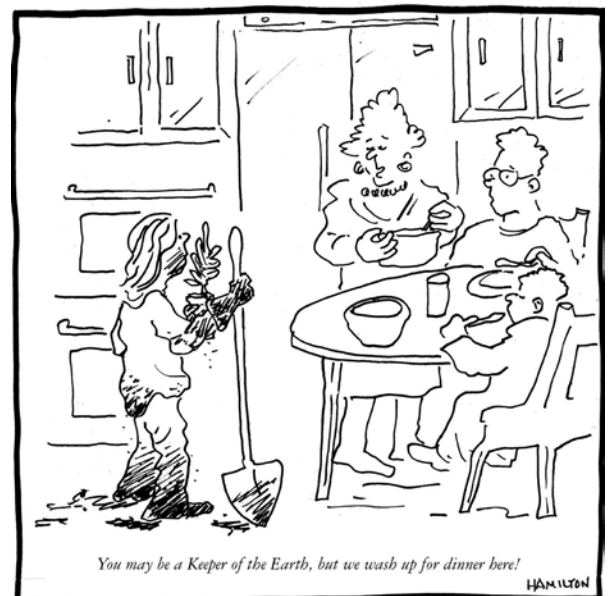
The Trustees of Reservations will hold the conservation restriction on this land as well as an adjacent seventy acres owned by the Water Department and will be responsible for maintaining the trail system throughout the conservation area.

The final purchases were made possible by a unique partnership of public and private contributors all working together to achieve a common goal. \$500,000 came from the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, the Cohasset Preservation Commission, the Water Department, the Cohasset Conservation Commission, the Trustees of Reservations, the Bates Family Trust, and the Cohasset Conservation Trust.

Altogether, \$2,500,000 was raised over the four years it took to complete the purchases involving negotiations with the various landowners.

The CCT thanks the major contributors and recognizes the significant achievement of Water Department chairman Glenn Pratt. He was the primary negotiator with the landowners, was personally involved in the land transactions, and created the parking lot on King Street that allows access into the Great Lot Lane, the historic cart path that dates back to the colonial times.

Cohasset, known for its rocky seacoast vistas and picturesque harbors, can also claim the distinction of preserving one of the largest percentages of municipal green space of any South Shore town.



*Cartoon by CCT Director Jim Hamilton
Reprinted courtesy of the Cohasset Mariner*





CCT works with Cohasset High teachers to co-ordinate Earth Day clean up April 22

From an article in the Cohasset Mariner by Nancy White

Mother Nature seemed to recognize Tuesday, April 22 was Earth Day and pulled out all the stops in celebration. The picture perfect spring day – sunny skies, temperatures in the high sixties and a brisk, salty breeze – made getting outside an easy choice.

KING STREET SITE



Members of the Cohasset High School Boys Lacrosse Team

Under the direction of Cohasset High teachers and members of the Cohasset Conservation Trust, high school students grabbed gloves and pitched in to make two tracts of land a cleaner place. About 30 students showed up on Tuesday morning to join the clean up.

Varsity lacrosse players of the boys and girls teams, community service students and just plain volunteers split into two groups. One group headed to upper King Street near the water treatment plant and the other group undertook the Conservation Trust's Giuggio Overlook off Jerusalem Road. Both spots, organizers said, were targeted because they are routinely used as dumping spots for cars passing by.

"We thought a project like this would be good because it gets kids involved in becoming stewards of the town and helping to keep beautiful places (like Giuggio Overlook) clean," said Cohasset Conservation Trust president Debbie Shadd. "They can enjoy the special qualities of the site while cleaning it up."

What the students found at Giuggio Overlook was bagfuls of trash. Soda cans, flower pots, beer bottles, tires, papers, plastic bags, pressure treated wood, a bicycle, pieces of telephone poles, twisted pieces of metal from cars and a cell phone were just a few of the items found at the Giuggio Overlook.

At the spot on upper King Street, just beyond the water treatment plant, the high school students, mostly from the boys lacrosse team, filled a truck bed full of trash in just 35 minutes. In total over 30 bags were taken to the Transfer Center requiring two trips.

The Giuggio Overlook hadn't been cleaned up in years, said Shadd. The three lots spanning 348 feet of land along the east side of Jerusalem Road overlooking the salt meadow, Rice Island and Little Harbor beyond were donated by John and Barbara Giuggio in November 1993. The Conservation Trust owns the land. Its steep grade down to the marsh makes the spot an attractive place to dispose of litter because once it goes over the side of the road it is out of sight.

Jim Hamilton, a Conservation Trust director, was delighted with the high turnout of volunteers despite the nice weather and school vacation week. "Many hands make short and easy work," said Hamilton. "(The Giuggio Overlook) was long overdue for a cleaning." Hamilton also saw the project as a way to begin to introduce youth to the conservation land right in their own town. "I'd like them to learn to take some pride in what they see."

High School social studies teacher Jack Buckley hopes the students will take away more than just trash, "I think doing a service like this makes everyone participating in the clean up think twice about littering," said Buckley. "After cleaning up other people's trash, you remember that next time you need to throw something out."

The students seemed to agree. "We thought helping to clean up great spots like this would be a good way to spend Earth Day," said Mike Grimm, a senior and varsity lacrosse player. "Earth Day is a day to appreciate the earth and to take care of it," said Stefi Belz. Will they be back next year to clean up? "Hopefully we won't have to because it will be kept clean," said CHS senior Jake Cuneo.

GIUGGIO OVERLOOK SITE



Madeline Leahy, Grace Clougherty, Jake Cuneo, Amy Meikleham, Mike Grimm, Ben Buckley, Mitchell Buckley, Peter Ernst, Maggie Ernst





The Cohasset Conservation Trust's holdings comprise over 100 acres of shoreline, woodlands, and meadows.

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Conservation & Preservation of Cohasset's Natural Resources