

## SNEAK PEEKS – FEATURE STORIES INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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### COHASSET TROOP 28 EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT: Ingram Park walking trail



Achieving Eagle Scout Rank is a daunting task. Requirement 5 is "...to plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project helpful to any religious institution, any school, or your community".

After consultation with his Advisor, Dick Avery, Eagle Scout candidate Robert J. Hillman chose an ambitious project: an access trail in the CCT's Ingram Park off Beechwood Street which includes brook and wetlands crossings.

See inside to read more about Robbie's project ...

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### SCOTT'S SHORE: Recreational Interests vs. Wildlife Habitat



Many of our conservation lands are open to the public, and we welcome visitors who walk our woodlands, meadows and coastal properties. However, some of our properties are dedicated wildlife habitat areas where access may be limited or prohibited and we appreciate your cooperation in abiding by any posted restrictions.

An example is Scott's Shore which was deeded to the CCT "for the protection of animal life therein...and not for recreational purposes".

See inside to read more ...



## FALL 2011 NEWSLETTER

Cohasset Conservation Trust, Inc.  
PO Box 314 Cohasset MA 02025

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*Photographs from Cohasset Conservation Trust files  
Earth Day photographs courtesy of The Cohasset Mariner,  
Photographer: Chris Bernstein*



## A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

September 2011

Dear Friend of the Cohasset Conservation Trust,

Summer and fall help many of us appreciate anew the things that make Cohasset such a special place: our beautiful beaches, marshes, rocky shores, and large tracts of woodland. We tend to be outside more, swimming, walking, hiking forest trails, and showing Cohasset off to visitors. With your support, these are the kinds of places the Cohasset Conservation Trust has worked to preserve and maintain since 1967.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter, which highlights our Scotts Shore property along Jerusalem Road, and two of our recent collaborations with youth volunteers: our annual Earth Day Cleanup with Cohasset High School students, and an Eagle Scout project in Ingram Park on Beechwood Street.

All of our properties are located on the map in this newsletter. We hope you've been able to include a trip to the CCT's Bassing Beach, a walk in Great Brewster Woods or a drive along our Scotts Shore and Francis Shore properties on Jerusalem Road in your summer and fall plans. Please come and visit us!

Your financial support now and during our year-end fund drive helps us to continue to maintain our over 100 acres of property and conservation restrictions. It also enables us to purchase new property when valuable open space becomes available. We thank you for your support over the years. You have helped preserve these special places for future generations to enjoy.

Sincerely,  
Cohasset Conservation Trust, Inc.

Deborah Shadd, President



*Pegram Preserve's saltmarsh and upland forest protects river frontage and provides wildlife habitat and nesting areas*

### 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 or donate online at [www.cohassetconservationtrust.org](http://www.cohassetconservationtrust.org)

## 4th ANNUAL CCT SPONSONSORED EARTH DAY CLEANUP: BASSING BEACH AREA



*Cohasset High School students, Cohasset Health Agent Tara Tradd, and CCT Directors, Debbie Shadd, Jim Hamilton, and Dick Avery gather at the staging area*

On April 22nd, 35 Cohasset High School students came out to recognize Earth Day with a cleanup of the CCT's Bassing Beach and the shoreline between the Sailing Club and Parker Avenue.

Harbormaster Lorri Gibbons provided transportation to and from Bassing Beach, Health Inspector Tara Tradd provided gloves and safety equipment, and the Department of Public Works supplied trash bags and pickup of trash from the Town docks.

The students collected a record amount of trash and debris, including discarded camping equipment, washed up lobster traps, clothing, hundreds of bottles and cans, and even a gas grill. All of this made a discouragingly impressive pile once transported back to the docks.

The CCT hopes this annual event will encourage users of Bassing Beach and Cohasset's waterfront areas to pick up their trash so these beautiful areas can be enjoyed by all.

Visit our website to view a slideshow of the day's activities.



*Students struggle to bring trash to the water's edge for transport to Government island*



*Some of last year's clean-up crew put this sign up*



*Some of the trash collected by the students*





*Today's view looking east toward causeway*

Scott's Shore is a pristine rugged rocky beach north of Atlantic Ave. It starts at the beginning of the causeway as you head west on Atlantic Ave from Sandy Beach and continues for 1000 feet.

The beach is a seasonal habitat for a variety of shorebirds such as plovers, sanderlings, sandpipers, rednots and herons—some of which are endangered and some which are migratory birds making their way from the Arctic to South America.

A species of local terns known as Least Terns lay their eggs among the stones in the spring and raise their brood there through August until they are strong enough to fly south.

Deer, fox, and skunks have also been seen on the property.

## SCOTT'S SHORE: PROTECTING WILDLIFE HABITAT

Catherine Scott generously donated the property for “preserving the natural beauties of the town of Cohasset and protecting the animal life therein...and not for recreational purposes.” The Trust received the property as two parcels, the first in 1973 and the second in 1990.



A picture from the Cohasset Historical Society, taken just after the Portland Gale of 1898, shows structures that were almost swept out to sea by the Gale. Frank Lean's fisherman shack on the right side of the picture was destroyed. However in the best New England tradition some of the other structures are still in use. For example, the Humane Society Boathouse is now in Scituate housing their youth sailing program.

Scott's Shore is one of the 19 properties owned or under conservation restrictions from the Trust, some of which are open for the enjoyment of the public and others for the protection of wildlife and their habitat.



### PEPPERMINT BROOK CONSERVATION RESTRICTION

We are pleased to announce that in July the Selectmen finalized a Conservation Restriction (CR), to be held by the CCT, on the 8.7 acre “Peppermint Brook” property owned by the Town between Route 3A and the Cook estate.

This parcel is part of the watershed for the Town water supply in Lily Pond. It also contains a vernal pool and serves as an important habitat for wildlife. The double layer of protection created by Town ownership and a CCT-held CR will ensure that this land will remain in its natural state forever.



*Pictured above are Eagle Scout candidate Robbie Hillman (center) with CCT Board Members (left to right) Jeff Waal, Gary Vanderweil, Mark DeGiacomo and CCT President, Debbie Shadd*

Our acquisition of the 22 acre Ingram Park off of Beechwood Street and near the railroad tracks was described in last year's newsletter, and we noted all the opportunities it afforded for Eagle Scout projects.

Cohasset's Troop 28, with 45 scouts, is a great local asset, and earlier this year we initiated our first project. Robbie Hillman, a senior at Cohasset High School, and active in scouting since he was seven years old, proposed the project.

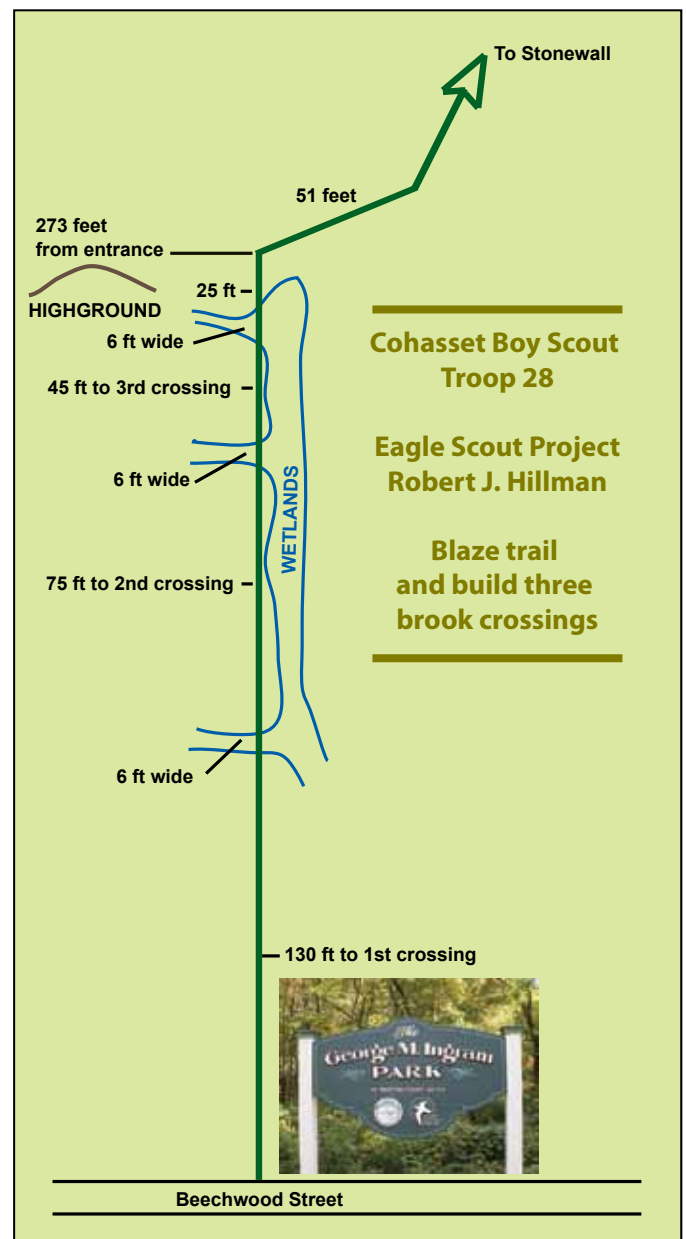
Working with CCT Director Dick Avery, who is also on the Board of Troop 28, Robbie submitted a proposal to the Trust to develop an access trail about 300 yards long, from the Beechwood Street entrance (near the Ingram Park sign) across several brooks and wet areas to the start of the uplands.

This will allow visitors relatively easy access to the beginning of the dry forest area, which is bounded at this point by a stone wall. Robbie sketched out the trail and his ideas on the entrance steps and stream and wetlands crossing and walked the site with CCT members several times.

He has had discussions with the Conservation Commission, and made his formal application for the project in July, prior to the planned late summer-early fall construction. The Conservation Commission approved the permit.

## BOY SCOUT CHOOSES CCT'S INGRAM PARK AS SITE FOR HIS EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Once the project is completed, the Trust hopes to build on Robbie's work with a follow-on project to push the trail southward in the direction of Ledgewood Drive, and then subsequent projects to extend the trail westward and finally to exit on Norman Todd Lane. Hikers will be able to complete the loop by walking down Norman Todd Lane and Beechwood Street to the park entrance. Stay tuned...





## COHASSET CONSERVATION TRUST

The Cohasset Conservation Trust's holdings comprise over 130 acres of shoreline, woodlands, and meadows.



**ADAMS PROPERTY:** 5.25 acre parcel protects Lily Pond and preserves wooded roadside

**ANDRUS ISLAND:** 3 acres of wooded land helps to protect Cohasset's water supply

**BARNES WILDLIFE SANCTUARY:** 32 acres of forest habitat abutting Wheelwright Park (Town owned/CCT contributed to purchase & holds CR)

**BARBARA CHURCHILL CONSERVATION AREA:** 5 acres of low-lying woods; provides habitat for birds, waterfowl, fish, and other wildlife

**BASSING BEACH:** 3/4 mile long barrier beach; first property purchased by the Trust; first property acquired in 1968

**BLAKE HOLMES PROPERTY:** 2.5 acres of dense woodland and rock ledges provide nesting areas for wildlife and birds

**ANNE & DANIEL CAMPBELL MEADOW:** 3.7 acre meadow bordered by hardwood forest; watershed for Peppermint Brook and Lily Pond

**DORMITZER SALT MARSH:** 4.7 acres of salt marsh provides nesting and cover for egrets, herons, and other bird and animal life

**FRANCIS SHORE:** a 350 foot section of rock ledge; expands public beach area

**GIUGGIO SCENIC VISTA:** .6 acre parcel provides an open view across salt marsh to Little Harbor

**ALBERT A. GOLDEN RESERVATION:** 3 acre parcel of marsh is home to wetland creatures

**GREAT BREWSTER WOODS:** 26 acres of woodland with hiking trails, marsh and rock ledges

**GEORGE M. INGRAM PARK:** 21.6 acres of densely wooded wildlife habitat

**PEGRAM PRESERVE:** 14.7 acres of salt marsh and upland forest; protects river frontage and provides wildlife habitat and nesting areas

**HECTOR J. PELLETIER MEMORIAL PARK:** 1.6 acres of low woodlands and marsh that serve as protected cover for small birds and animals

**PEPPERMINT BROOK CONSERVATION AREA:** 8.7 acres conserved for drinking watershed protection (Town owned/CCT holds the CR)

**SCOTT'S SHORE:** a 1,000 foot strip of rocky beach provides a nesting area for migrating shore birds

**SUMNER SMITH OVERLOOK:** a .8 acre rock ledge provides winter views of Little Harbor and the ocean

**WINSOR PROPERTY:** .44 acre habitat adjacent to Straits Pond in Hull