



Preserving the Cohasset landscape since 1967

Giuggio Scenic Vista



*Photographs from Cohasset Conservation Trust files*



COHASSET  
CONSERVATION  
TRUST

[www.cohassetconservationtrust.org](http://www.cohassetconservationtrust.org)

SUMMER 2007 NEWSLETTER

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

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# CONSERVATION LAND STEWARDSHIP

The expense of maintaining properties, and funding land surveys, soil tests and associated legal fees cannot be funded solely from the Trust's endowment interest. Additional contributions are vital to sustain our annual operations.

Over the past several years, the Trust has mailed an annual fundraising request to abutters of CCT properties and to Cohasset residents who have generously supported our conservation efforts.

Last year, the Trust's first town-wide mailing generated a significant number of new contributors to the Trust's modest endowment.

This year, we've expanded our outreach program, making presentations to several of Cohasset's Garden Clubs and to the Old Goats in an attempt to

familiarize the groups with our various properties and to raise interest in and awareness of our activities.

Please support our efforts to conserve land for our townspeople's enjoyment and future generations.

Every donation is tax deductible and is acknowledged with a window decal featuring our logo so you can proudly display your support.

Visit our website to learn more about

*the Trust and its properties. You'll find a timeline featuring the history of CCT land acquisition, a brief slideshow and a description of our properties for recreation, wildlife habitat or scenic outlooks as well as interesting links for land*



Barbara Churchill Conservation Area



## HELP US CONSERVE COHASSET'S NATURE

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 \_\_\_\_\_

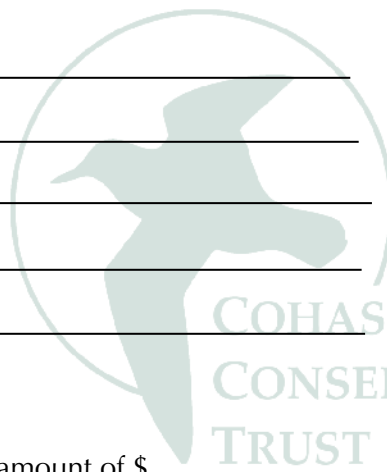
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

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



COHASSET  
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# STEWARDSHIP THROUGH COMMUNITY ALLIANCES

## Great Brewster Woods, the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church & The Keepers of the Earth

Judging from the story below, Great Brewster Woods is one of the Cohasset Conservation Trust's most prominent properties – but its best kept secret.



During the church year 2005-2006, the 4th through 6th grade class of First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church initiated an earth stewardship project: The Keepers of the Earth.

Since they regularly walked in the wooded area behind Town Hall and noticed trash littering the trails, they chose to care for these woods.

The first year, the children collected many large bags of trash and took them to the Transfer Facility, but as time went on the children happily found less and less trash. They also cut back vines, brambles and brush growing into and obstructing paths.

At the end of the first year, after consulting with the Town Manager, they designed, paid for and erected the beautiful sign pictured on the right. That's when things got really interesting!

As part of the Conservation Trust's stewardship management plan, we regularly walk our properties. Imagine our surprise to find a new sign welcoming us to the Cohasset Town Forest!



The mystery was easily solved, and after conversations with Annie Spang, coordinator of the Church's Youth Program, it became obvious this was an ideal partnership.

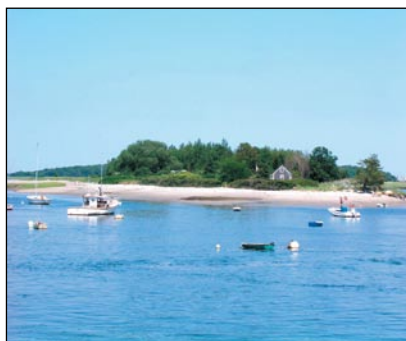
The children's efforts will continue as an integral part of the stewardship management plan for Great Brewster Woods – the actual name of the 18-acre property.

## Bassing Beach, the Harbor Master & Jack Buckley's Community Service Class

Dominating Cohasset Harbor, Bassing Beach is easily the Trust's most visible and most popular property.

During the summer, tenants fill the houses and the beaches host swimmers, picnickers, and nature walkers.

Most visitors are respectful of the environment, but others leave their trash behind, littering the otherwise pristine beaches.



Nature contributes jetsam and storm debris that floats in from the open ocean.

Last fall, Cohasset Harbor Master Lorrie Gibbons contacted Jack Buckley and arranged to

have students from his Community Service Class work with her to clean up the beach areas.

Students Nick Cambri, Jack Gilbert, Ryan Kucinski and Chris Riikimaki worked tirelessly picking up literally boatloads of bags of trash and debris which Lorrie then brought to the Transfer Facility.

Lorrie also contacted the Tenants Association and made arrangements for them to use the abandoned wooden floats for firewood – effectively eliminating another eyesore!

This was a creative win-win-win solution and one we hope will be an on-going cooperative effort to keep Bassing Beach clear of trash and debris.

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## Great Brewster Woods continued

The sign has been revised and will stand near the entrance to Great Brewster Woods as testimony to the environmental dedication of the youth of the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church and to a new environmental alliance in Cohasset.





# STEWARDSHIP THROUGH COMMUNITY ALLIANCES

## Pelletier Conservation Area Clearing Project

Pelletier Conservation Area, which is heavily wooded, abuts Jacobs Meadow, a salt water marsh, and together these parcels provide wildlife habitat for a variety of birds.

The property was part of the original 1938 subdivision of Sankey Road and the present-day path was originally laid out as an extension to access additional building lots.

Now partially obstructed, the path once afforded lovely views of Jacobs Meadow. The management plan called for partial clearing to restore the path and view.

This spring, the CCT met with residents of Sankey Road to outline the plan and to seek neighborhood input regarding fencing. Our hope is that by including the residents in the process they will become vested in maintaining and protecting the abutting conservation land.

The Trust, with the approval of the Conservation Commission, then contracted with a local landscape firm to remove accumulated debris that had been dumped on the property, and to clear overgrowth from the roughly paved road which runs through the property to the marsh.

These stewardship efforts have made the views at the end of the property more accessible to walkers. The photos show before and after shots of the entrance to the property, as well as the reopened view of the marsh.

*Photos on right show the path before clearing, after clearing and the view into Jacobs Meadow.*



## Boy Scouts Work in the Great Brewster Woods: *Citizenship in the Community* merit badge



Over the Memorial Day weekend, members of local Boy Scout Troop 28 worked in the Great Brewster Woods.

Under the direction of leaders Rob Hillman, Bruce Sinclair and Bill Mack, troop members Graham Sinclair, Tucker Oddleifson and Kevin Mack picked up litter in the park, cut back brush that impeded the walking trails, and removed several trees which had fallen across the trails during the winter.

The scouts' work fulfilled a requirement of the ***Citizenship in the Community*** merit badge, which is required to attain Eagle Scout status. To earn this badge, the scouts are required to do a service project for a local charitable organization.

The CCT looks forward to working with the Boy Scouts in the future on other stewardship projects.





# A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

COHASSET  
CONSERVATION  
TRUST

Scott's Shore – Restricted Habitat  
Migratory & shore bird nesting area

## DIRECTORS:

Dick Avery	383.6043
Mark DeGiacomo	383.6413
Jim Hamilton	383.9834
John Hartshorne, Emeritus	383.0317
Charles Higginson	383.9427
Dick Leggat, Emeritus	383.1908
Ed Long, Emeritus	383.1426
Karen Quigley	383.6368
Debbie Shadd	383.1624
Gary Vanderweil	383.6590
Jeff Waal	383.6882

July 2007

Dear Friend of CCT,

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Cohasset Conservation Trust, during which time it has acquired title or conservation restrictions on well over 100 acres of shoreline, woodlands and meadows. Although some of our properties are restricted habitat areas, all of them must be responsibly managed to preserve the integrity of the land and its vegetation and wildlife habitat. Those open for public recreational use have additional management concerns.

And so, our 2007 Newsletter focuses on stewardship of conservation land.

Management for each of the 18 CCT properties begins with the assignment of a steward from the Board of Directors. Each steward is then responsible for developing strategies specific to each property, and for regularly walking the property to assess its status and to inspect for issues that might require attention.

Some strategies are simply to remove debris left by nature and by humans. Others require the clearing of overgrown paths and the removal of fallen trees. Yet others, like Dean's Meadow, demand a comprehensive restoration project.

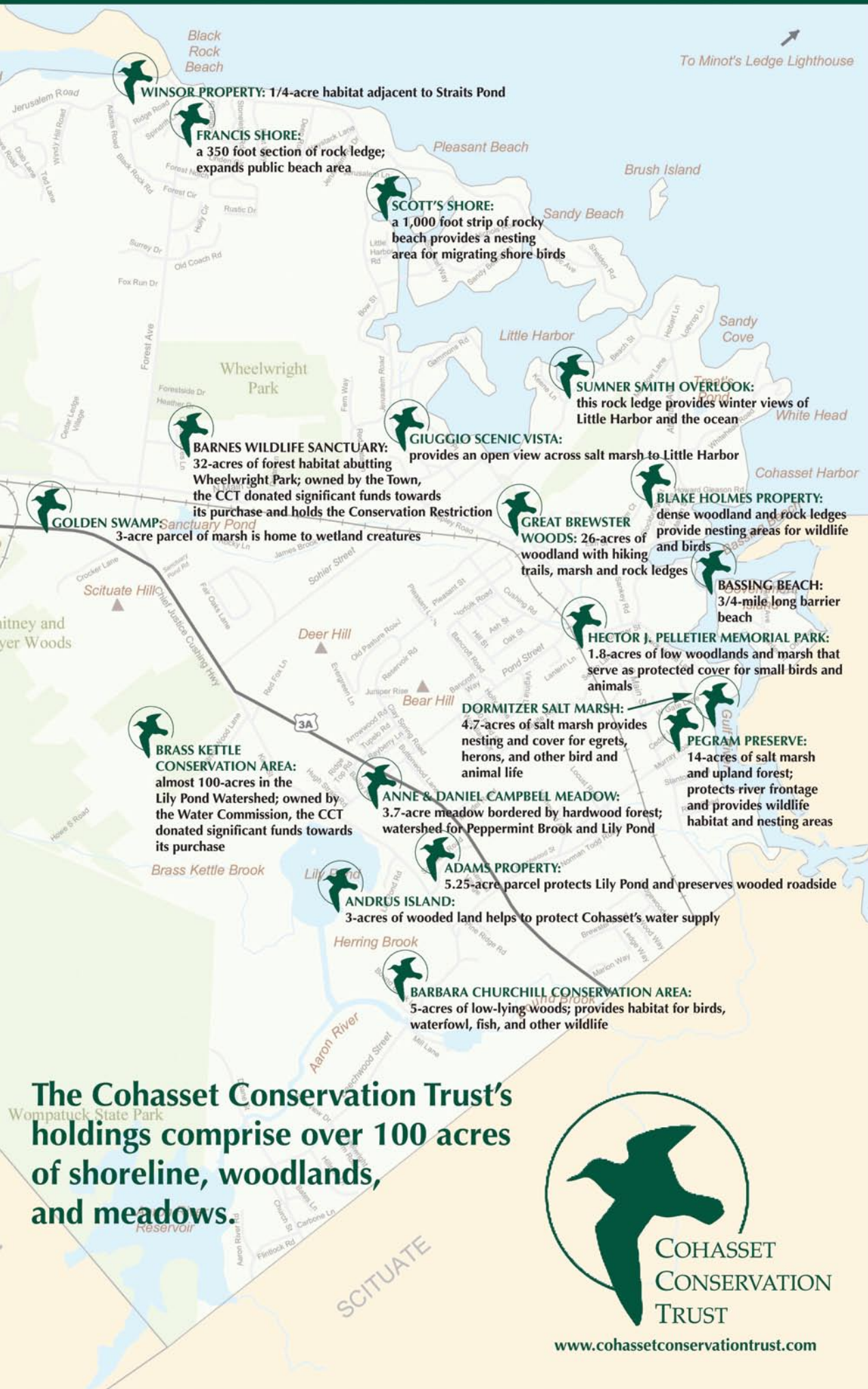
The Trust views our lands as a legacy for local residents and an asset to our town. Over the years, we have sought to establish relationships with abutters and local groups; some have resulted in cooperative maintenance efforts that greatly increase our ability to manage our properties.

Our 2007 Newsletter reviews CCT Management, and, more importantly, local involvement in the stewardship of two of our largest properties. We hope you enjoy the reading and, perhaps, will be motivated to volunteer your time, efforts and/or money toward helping us manage some of the last of Cohasset's undeveloped land.

Sincerely,  
Cohasset Conservation Trust

Gary Vanderweil, President





Black Rock Beach

To Minor's Ledge Lighthouse

**WINSOR PROPERTY:** 1/4-acre habitat adjacent to Straits Pond

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

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

**SUMNER SMITH OVERLOOK:**  
this rock ledge provides winter views of  
Little Harbor and the ocean

**BARNES WILDLIFE SANCTUARY:**  
32-acres of forest habitat abutting  
Wheelwright Park; owned by the Town,  
the CCT donated significant funds towards  
its purchase and holds the Conservation Restriction

**GIUGGIO SCENIC VISTA:**  
provides an open view across salt marsh to Little Harbor

**GOLDEN SWAMP:**  
3-acre parcel of marsh is home to wetland creatures

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

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

**BASSING BEACH:**  
3/4-mile long barrier  
beach

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

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

**BRASS KETTLE  
CONSERVATION AREA:**  
almost 100-acres in the  
Lily Pond Watershed; owned by  
the Water Commission, the CCT  
donated significant funds towards  
its purchase

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

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

**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

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

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



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**COHASSET CONSERVATION TRUST**  
Conservation & Preservation of Cohasset's Natural Resources