

# Galloway Property

## 3.5 acres in Cotuit

### **That was then...**

The opportunity to purchase the parcel arose last summer when the Galloway family chose to sell their land to BLT for \$500,000, significantly below the appraised price. BLT sprung into action and with the help of pledges, fundraising efforts and grant sources, we were close to meeting the deadline of December 31, 2008.

Then the national economic crisis hit home and pledges began to dry up and we were left with a shortfall of \$160,000. Despite the financial challenges, BLT believed this priority parcel was too vital to lose. To cover the shortfall, The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts offered a loan of \$100,000 and agreed to pre-acquire the land. The BLT Board voted to dig into the organization's Green Fund to front State and grant funding.

### **This is now...**

These actions gave BLT until June 30<sup>th</sup> to complete the necessary fundraising in order to purchase the fee interest from the Compact and convey a conservation restriction to the Town's Conservation Commission.

We need your help to meet our goal! Please help us **Save Galloway** by making a tax-deductible donation **online** or by **sending a check** to BLT, PO Box 224, Cotuit MA 02635. Thank you!

### **Why the Galloway Property Matters...**

In 1980, a farsighted group of citizens responded to the potential development of a cherished place: They rallied to protect the 105-acre white pine forest that encircles Eagle Pond in Cotuit. The resulting village-based Mary Barton Land Trust (MBLT) was created to own and maintain the Eagle Pond Sanctuary. Over the years, BLT and MBLT have worked to protect additional acres of connected land of diverse habitat; as a result, the 180-acre Sanctuary now includes open meadows, forested upland and an unusual Atlantic White Cedar Swamp.

Eagle Pond Sanctuary, the Town of Barnstable's most popular privately held conservation area, is being "loved to death." Acquisition of the 3.5-acre Galloway Property allows for a new access point into the Sanctuary, helping reroute traffic away from environmentally sensitive areas.

The Galloway land falls within the Little River Corridor greenbelt, a major "fingerlink" in our Town's Open Space Plan. Both wildlife and humans alike will benefit from the preservation of the Galloway Property, which:

- Adjoins an 805-acre a protected greenbelt
- Helps prevent wildlife fragmentation
- Reduces nitrogen loading
- Enhances our sole source aquifer

- Protects down-gradient shellfish beds
- Refreshes the surface waters of the Cotuit Bay estuary
- Encourages passive recreational pursuits

### **Brief History of the Property...**

The Galloway Property was once part of the vast holdings of Col. Augustus T. Perkins, who owned the land surrounding Eagle Pond. Col. Perkins built the first summer home on Cotuit waterfront in 1863, which he called "Sandanwood." A local leader of the minority Democratic Party, Augustus was the grandson of Thomas H. Perkins, who amassed a huge fortune in the China trade shipping business. Thomas Perkins was also the creator of America's first railway, and his many philanthropies included the Boston Atheneum, Massachusetts General Hospital, the Bunker Hill Monument, and the Perkins Institute for the Blind, which is housed in Thomas Perkins' family home.