



## When Going Outside Became Essential

Barnstable Land Trust Board Chair Joseph Hawley on COVID-19 and Our Community

**C**onservation land is our refuge now. While protecting land has always been critical for wildlife habitat, water quality protection, and for the provision of beauty and open space, in this period of COVID-19 restrictions, open spaces and trails for people to walk and connect with nature are even more important.

At Barnstable Land Trust (BLT), we are seeing many more people enjoying our trails than ever before. Because many activities are cancelled, people have more unstructured time; kids are at home, and we all need to find relief from the confinement of home.

It's very clear how important our past conservation work has been, and how critical it is to continue to ensure that we will always have nature as our refuge.

Your role in helping locate land for conservation, in supporting our projects, and in engaging with us on the land, could not be more important.

You'll read about three exciting new conservation projects in this newsletter: Falcon Road in West Barnstable, Wakeby Road in Marstons Mills, and Bay Street in Osterville.

The first two are partnerships with the Town of Barnstable, cementing a new and productive relationship. The Bay Street project is a planned gift.

As we look ahead, we want to ensure that conservation benefits everyone and that open space is safe and accessible to all residents. We are excited to work with you to bring this vision to fruition.



Wakeby Road, see page 5

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*Joseph Hawley, Chair, BLT Board of Directors*

View of Sandy Neck  
from Cummaquid

Falcon Road, West Barnstable

## Falcon Road Project Protects Local History and a Family Treasure

**Off Route 6A in West Barnstable, a short drive along a lane lined with old farmhouses, pastures and quaint cottages reveals a hidden woodland gem.**

Lovingly nicknamed “Falcon Farm” by the owner Mark Wirtanen, this 16-acre property has been a favorite family spot for walking, exploring and taking in the quiet solitude for over 40 years, “As someone who was born and raised here, like my father before me, I remember the fields and the cranberry bogs that used to be everywhere,” Mark shared with us. “I have seen the way that overdevelopment has negatively altered this beautiful peninsula, so it seemed like the right thing to do to conserve this property.”

Preservation of this property is a chance to preserve the history of human occupation on the land. A trail cuts through from east to west, originally used by the Indigenous peoples to traverse Cape Cod between their summer and winter hunting grounds, before colonizers stepped foot on the peninsula.

Years later, the land was part of a 60-acre cranberry bog complex

abutting Garrets, Spruce and No Bottom ponds, and housed an old cranberry barn. When Mark purchased this parcel in 1980, the surrounding acreage was all privately owned.



The Wirtanen family is thrilled to protect nature and a favorite family spot.

*“I have seen the way that overdevelopment has negatively altered this beautiful peninsula, so it seemed like the right thing to do to conserve this property.”*

Mark Wirtanen

Now this property is surrounded by 142 acres of Town conservation land. Protecting this property will expand an invaluable corridor for wildlife, and includes a section of Cape Cod Pathways, a system of linked trails that stretches the length of the Town. The parcel also has the potential to house a drinking water well for the Town of Barnstable.

As difficult as it is to part with a piece of family history, Mark is happy to work with BLT to make sure that his vision of family, community, and conservation will live on, and that the land will be protected and accessible for generations to come.

BLT is grateful for the Wirtanens’ conservation goals and excited to work with the Town of Barnstable and Native Land Conservancy to support this conservation opportunity combining local historic and cultural integrity, water protection, and a family’s shared love of nature.

# Small Projects, Big Impacts

Lourdes' research into programming and kiosks helps guide us forward



This year, **Lourdes Abreu Torres**, BLT's AmeriCorps Cape Cod Service Member, researched how other similar organizations plan and conduct their programming. Her report helped shape our programming direction for the future in myriad ways. She also investigated models for signs and kiosks that BLT will install on our properties.

"Despite her shortened year, Lourdes made a huge contribution to our work and we are grateful to her and the AmeriCorps Cape Cod program," said Kelly Barber, BLT's Land Stewardship Coordinator.

## AmeriCorps Cape Cod Builds BLT Capacity

As usual, the **AmeriCorps Cape Cod** members made an enormous difference to BLT – from split rail fences at Ropes Field and Mill Pond Overlook, to invasive removal in Osterville, many hands made light work. Kelly Barber's training programs and at-the-ready work days earned her "Service Partner of the Year" for 2020 from the AmeriCorps Cape Cod Program.



Installing split rail at Mill Pond Overlook

# Andrew's Reflections

BLT's summer intern, Andrew Nober, learns all that goes into land conservation

**"My goal for the summer was to learn what is actually behind calling land 'conserved' or 'protected.'"**

My experience has resoundingly reaffirmed my belief in the importance of conservation work by organizations like BLT.

The first thing I came to realize was that progress is measured in months and years, not days and weeks. Human interference has degraded many areas over the course of many years, and it takes a similar amount of time to restore properties to their natural state.

Even removing invasive and non-native species and replacing them with native species is a process that happens over multiple growing seasons... This has led to me spending a disproportionate amount

of the last 8ish weeks trying to deal with black swallowwort and oriental bittersweet.

One consequence of my experience has been that I now can't go anywhere without noticing how pervasive invasive species are everywhere.

Another thing that struck me was simply how many disparate jobs and skills went into protecting BLT's land.

Knowing what is best for a natural area means having a grasp on ecology, hydrology, botany, trail planning and building, knowing how to use a large variety of hand and power tools, and having an advanced

degree in navigating permitting processes. That does not even include all of the non-field work that helps support any conservation effort.



Andrew Nober, Summer Intern

# Restoring a Salt Pond and a Neighborhood Jewel

**If you drive through Osterville, you may have noticed ongoing activity on the stretch of open space along East Bay Road, bordered by an old stone wall.**

Down a small slope sits Little Parkers Pond, which was an active salt pond until excess nutrients, invasive species, and a poorly-designed culvert worked to block the tidal flow. With leadership from the neighboring Shah family, BLT is helping to restore the salt pond.

Restoring the pond will bring back the plant and animal life that once

comprised its healthy ecosystem. The pond and meadow are also important community assets.

Renamed Bansfield Meadow in 2018, the small meadow and trail memorialize Red Bansfield, a former BLT staff member and community leader who worked year after year to remove invasive species from this parcel. Red fostered the young trees

planted to remember Peter Standish, who, with his wife Mary Gaines, donated the land to BLT in 1996.

We continue to hear how important this spot is from so many neighbors. Whether they stop to take in the view on their daily walk, slow a bit on their drive home to enjoy the scene, or walk the small trail for a natural connection, this place is a shared community retreat.

We look forward to updating you on the continued progress, and hearing how the community continues to experience this special place together.

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**Salt Ponds** form when a small part of a bay is closed off by land such as a natural sand spit or a manmade barrier, and are occasionally reconnected by storm surges.

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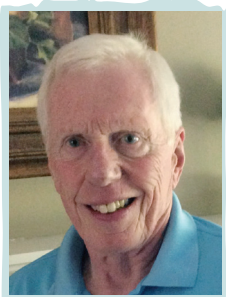
Native plant restoration at Little Parkers Pond



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## Welcome Board Members

# New Leaders Join Barnstable Land Trust



**Robert Callahan** was a Foreign Service officer for 32 years, ending his career as ambassador to Nicaragua from 2008-2011. He also taught national security policy for two years at the National War College and spent three years as a diplomatic fellow at George Washington University,

where he taught courses and lectured on foreign policy, public diplomacy, and international relations.

Now a full-time resident in Centerville, Bob is President of the Osterville Mens Club and an avid softball player.

A lifelong resident of the Cape, **Ben Canavan** is an owner of Solar Rising, a photovoltaic solar panel installer. He has worked for 15 years in renewable energy and installed thousands of residential and commercial solar installations on Cape Cod, the Islands and Southeastern Massachusetts.



Ben lives in Cotuit on his property, Fish Hawk Farm, with his wife, son, two dogs, and many chickens. They grow large vegetable gardens and specialize in berries. When he's not working, or in the garden, he spends his time on the water or cooking the harvest.

# Going Beyond Boundaries

**C**ape Cod land trusts tend to work town by town—but watersheds and other ecosystems don't respect municipal boundaries.

When a landowner approached BLT with a request to conserve her land that spanned both Barnstable and Sandwich, we faced a conundrum. The land was a high priority for conservation, capable of hosting an 11-lot subdivision, and the entire property lies within the zone that contributes directly to our drinking water supply.

BLT legal documents limited our work to the town of Barnstable; yet our conservation colleagues in Sandwich needed our help. At our Annual Meeting in July, our members agreed that in cases such as these, Barnstable Land Trust should be able to work in nearby areas in support of partners. We filed the papers with the Commonwealth, and are on our way. BLT can now help make this boundary-crossing conservation happen.

## **Saving 15 acres in Marstons Mills**

Conservation of the Wakeby Road property will protect critical drinking water and help to maintain the natural and rural character of Marstons Mills. The property's walking trails include the historic "Five Mile Line" that runs through the property, dividing towns of Sandwich and Barnstable and extending from Sandy Neck to Wakeby Road. The parcels border the Santuit Pond Preserve, which has over 300 acres of conservation land protected by the towns of Barnstable and Mashpee.

## **Town & BLT Partner on Conservation**

The parcel itself is thickly wooded with maples, oaks, and pitch pine and hosts two vernal pools.



This stone marks the intersection of Mashpee, Barnstable and Sandwich and the end of the Five-Mile Line.

BLT is partnering with the Town of Barnstable, which will own the land on the Barnstable side and give the conservation restriction to Barnstable Land Trust. The project was also the incentive for the Town to apply for its first-ever LAND grant from the Commonwealth, which if awarded, would provide half the funding for the land. Stay tuned for more news this fall!

Wakeby parcel wetlands host a pond and vernal pool.

# With Gratitude

## Thank you for honoring those you care for and supporting their love of nature

Gift Dedications from September 12, 2019 - September 9, 2020

### IN HONOR OF

#### All Land Trusts

Frank & Mary Wojciechowski

#### Jaci Barton

William E. O'Neill

#### Warren Chamberlain

Erin Chamberlin

#### Nancy Colbert

James Colbert

#### Ryan Donaruma

William & Janet Maguire

#### Patricia & Eugene Edwards

Courtney Nandagiri

#### Kay Berthold Frishman & Michael Frishman

Andrew Frishman

#### The Great Volunteers & Staff of Barnstable Land Trust

Will Holden

#### Our Granddaughter Lindsey

Robert & Shirley Stolte

#### Walter S. Hallett, Jr.

Benjamin Walcott

#### Edward Otis Handy, Jr.

The Handy Family

#### Irene Haney

William & Maura Haney

#### Jane Harvey

James Hinkle & Roy Hammer

#### Christopher Heckscher

Benjamin & Nancy Heckscher

#### Angela Hemmila

Boardwalk Business Group

#### Christopher Heckscher

Benjamin & Nancy Heckscher

#### Joyce Kazanjian

Carla Kazanjian

#### Paige Kourafas

Alison McMurry

#### Mama May

Sayeed Malek & Reema Alshirawi

#### Pat Merriell

Theresa Fitzgerald

#### Janet Milkman

Helene Lauffer

#### Mary Gaines Standish

Marguerite Standish

#### Volunteers of BLT & the Wampanoag people who were the original caretakers of the land

David & Alexandra Somers Lahr

### IN MEMORY OF

#### Red Bansfield

Eugene Curry  
Will Holden  
John Ieni  
Donald & Elizabeth Mossa

#### Eileen Betti

Robert & Elizabeth Betti

#### Bart Burgess

Thomas & Pieter Burgess

#### Virginia Carothers

Valerie Theberge

#### Mary O'Boyle Connor

Geoffrey Connor

#### Sean Cummings

Jon & Eliza Lewis

#### Paula Marie Danforth

James & Paula Danforth

#### Joseph (Sepp) Dietzgen

Marian Dietzgen Carapezza

#### William Douglas

Elizabeth K. Douglas

#### Dreamer Dog

Marty & Richard Krauss

#### Fred & Emma Kern

Fred & Anne Kern

#### John Enos Frazier, Frank Enos Frazier & Nancy Ivimey Frazier

Robert Frazier

#### Frank Gibson

Diane Gibson

#### Edward Otis Handy, Jr.

The Handy Family

#### Liam Hoeck

James & Virginia Hoeck

#### Carol Ann Hurley

Peter & Susan Morgan  
Faith Stewart  
Joyce Kazanjian

#### James Kittredge

Edward & Margaret Handy

#### Norman Knight

Richard & Geraldine Ainslie  
James & Nancy Barry  
Scott & Patricia Berkey  
Priscilla & William Johnson  
Christine White

#### Milton Larson

Jeffrey French

#### Paul Leeman

Virginia Leeman Johnson

#### Janice E. McChesney

Donald McChesney

#### Dr. Herb & Helen Minkel

Herbert P. Minkel

#### Bernice Ann Munsey

Everard Munsey

#### John Wellington Nichols

Mark Kimball Nichols

#### Elizabeth Nill

David & Julia Doll

#### John & Lucy Draper

Daniel J. Haas  
Judy & Mike McKay  
Rossman Family Charitable Fund  
Craig Schelter

#### Mary Noonan

Elizabeth Noonan

#### Jeffrey O'Neill

HP & Cheryl Weber

#### John Peck, Susie Odence, Terry Lloyd & Gerry Henderson

Guy & Nancy Jackson

#### Kenneth Walcott Powers

Gary & Jane Frieders

#### John & Jean Quigley

Mark & Kristen Coe

#### David Reber

Emanuel & Susan Mason

#### Bryan & David Rooney

Ellen Rooney

#### Robert Schuman

Marie Mainberger

#### Carol Seidler

Fred & Sharon Johanson

#### Geoffrey Schneider

Jody St. Hilaire

#### Cheryl Sencabaugh

Bud & Mary Bassing

#### Bob Sinuc

Thomas Prosser & Mary Jensen

#### Al Stone

Anita Weinblatt

#### Lillian Stone

Abigail Anderson  
Mary Heffernon  
Stephen & Ann Lawson  
Dwight H. Merriam  
Anita Weinblatt

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Margaret Lizaur  
Ralph & Melissa Rondinone  
Christine Thompson

#### Dorothy Tye

Larry Tye & Lisa Frusztajer

#### Louise Weintraub

Marc & Tobey Collins

#### Richard W. Wheeler

Kevin & Lee Kavanagh  
Christopher B. Wheeler

#### Donna Wick

Thomas & Gail Bruhn

*"There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature—the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter."*

Ralph Waldo Emerson

# Enjoy Your Land Today While Leaving a Legacy for Tomorrow

In 1972, Phyllis and David Cole bought the two wooded acres at 180 Bay Street in Osterville, thinking they might build a house there one day.

But their home ended up down the street and the wooded lot became their sanctuary, with a lovely fence, trail and dogwood and holly trees. As time went by, the thought of selling the lot for development became unimaginable.

Over the years, through many conversations with Barnstable Land Trust, advisors and family, it became clear to Phyllis that she would donate the land for conservation. But how to do that while she was still active

and healthy and yet maintain her right to use the land for walks and small projects?

Using a tool called a reserved life estate, BLT crafted a deed that allows Phyllis full enjoyment of the lot during her lifetime, but protects it from development forever.

Phyllis told us “Your commentary during the meeting assured me I was doing the best I could regarding my greatest concern: saving



*“I feel blessed...to gift the land.” —Phyllis Cole*

virgin land for my family and future generations. I’m grateful for our meetings, the information you sent me and your appreciation of David’s and my lot.”

We are grateful for Phyllis’ inspired generosity and the availability of creative tools that allow us to meet the donor’s goals and ours.

## Thank You for...

### Bringing the Barnstable Land Trust Conservation Center to Life



Education Center



Community Meeting Room



Viewing Platform



Boardwalk



Outdoor Programming Space

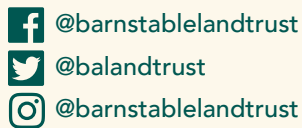


Tool and equipment shed



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**BLT.org**



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Kaitlyn Henderson



*Barnstable Land Trust is a non-profit charitable 501(c)(3) organization, registered with the Massachusetts Attorney General with ID #22-2483963. Your gifts are tax deductible within the extent of the law.*

The mission of the Barnstable Land Trust is to protect the natural places people love for present and future generations.

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage

**PAID**

Permit No. 11  
Osterville, MA

## Why You're Pawsome for Leashing Your Dog

One of the greatest joys in life is the happy dance a dog performs when you ask, "Ready to go for a walk?" before clipping on their leash. The excitement of being on the trail with a curious little friend makes the trip outdoors all the more special.

When bringing a dog of any age on the trail, it's important to remember to leash them, even when right around the corner from home.

### Here are some great reasons to leash your dog:

- You're ensuring your and your dog's safety by having them in sight and out of reach of poison ivy patches, ticks, and other sticky situations (and they won't disturb wildlife, meaning you may spot some special creatures later on);
- You're keeping your dog away from animals who may not be friendly, including other dogs;
- You're making the trail feel welcome for other people, including those who may not want to be approached by an animal on their walk, are unsteady on their feet, or are nervous at the site of unleashed dogs;
- You can keep track of your dog's poop, which can disturb the environment; dog poop contains high levels of nitrogen, a main cause of toxic algal blooms, and harmful bacteria that can make other dogs and wildlife sick.



BLT member leashes dog for walk through Bell Farm and Eagle Pond.

In the end, this rule is in place on BLT properties to offer a balance for visitors, our furry friends, and wildlife. Not all BLT properties allow dogs, but for those that do, it is with your help that we can keep the trails a welcome place for all. Thank you for following this simple rule and being a part of the solution.