

WILDLANDS TRUST
CAPT. DAVID CUSHMAN, JR. PRESERVE
DUXBURY, MA

- LOCATION:** Anchorage Lane, off St. George Street
- AREA:** 27.4 acres
- GIFT OF:** Lura Oakes Cushman, 1985
- DIRECTIONS:** Rt. 3 to Exit 11. Turn right onto Rt. 14 East toward Duxbury. At fork bear right, staying on Rt. 14. Cross 3A through lights, pass schools. Turn onto Anchorage Lane on right. Follow gravel lane to preserve signs.
- PARKING:** Turn left off driveway at preserve sign. Please do not park in large field.

Nestled along the banks of the tidal Bluefish River, the Cushman Preserve offers both historical and natural interest. Captain Cushman purchased the land from relatives of his wife, Mary W. Alden (a direct descendant of John Alden), whose family has held the property since the 1620s. The Captain's home, "The Anchorage," built in 1846, housed many treasures from his voyages to China and the South Seas between 1840 and 1860. The house and property were donated to the Trust by Lura Cushman, the Captain's granddaughter. The house remains a private residence.

A trail leads from the parking area into a field, skirting the edge of a woodland. English oak, a non-native species, is found in the tree line behind the old barn. At the eastern margin of the field, large Norway spruces can be distinguished from native conifers by their long, five-to-six-inch cones.

Tree and barn swallows sweep the air for insects above a variety of grasses and wildflowers, including black-eyed Susan, Queen Anne's lace, sweet goldenrod, and small white aster. Birders should keep an eye out for meadow-loving species such as eastern meadowlark, eastern bluebird, field sparrows, savannah sparrows, and hawks. To maintain diversity of habitat, the Trust mows the Cushman field after the nesting season, thus preventing its return to forest.

From Anchorage Lane and the spur trail, visitors are afforded lovely views of the Bluefish River and saltmarsh. The vegetation here is a mixture of cordgrass, salt marsh hay, and salt-loving wildflowers, such as sea lavender and seaside goldenrod. Watch the marsh and river for great blue or green-backed herons, great or snowy egrets, least terns, and a variety of ducks. At low tide, you may glimpse feeding shorebirds, such as greater yellowlegs, black-bellied plovers, and killdeer.

* See map on next page