



“ I think having land and not ruining it is the most beautiful art that anybody could ever want to own. ”

—Andy Warhol

Person Family Creates an Impressive Conservation Legacy

It may surprise you to see Andy Warhol quoted in a land trust newsletter, or in any conservation-related publication. Perhaps best known for his pop art prints of soup cans and famous people, Mr. Warhol nonetheless beautifully captured the spirit of the outstanding conservation legacy that Plymouth residents Martin (“Hap”) and Joan Person have established over a quarter-century of donating land to Wildlands Trust.

Growing up in Vermont, Hap and his family depended in part on a fireplace for heat which meant that it was vital to keep a significant supply of firewood readily available. His family later moved to Plymouth. While attending Dartmouth College in 1947 he met Ross McKenny, a well-known Maine guide, who initiated a “Woodsman’s Weekend,” a competitive tradition for many area colleges.

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The Wildlands Trust is a non-profit organization dedicated to conserving land and preserving the natural heritage of Southeastern Massachusetts. We work to permanently protect and steward important habitats and landscapes, including woodlands and fields, ponds, coastal areas, agricultural lands, and river systems. www.wildlandstrust.org

Taking the Long View

The process of saving land is fraught with set-backs as well as successes.



One of the important functions of Wildlands News is to provide our members with updates on recently

completed land projects. It's gratifying to report on these successes. However, sometimes the projects that don't ever end up in the success column are the ones that have required the most significant investment of time and attention.

In late 2009, the Trust brought together partners to pursue the most coveted of all potential conservation parcels in Southeastern Massachusetts—the 1600 acre Cumberland Farms property spanning the towns of Plympton, Middleboro, and Halifax. Forty years ago these fields were part of the largest Cedar Swamp in Massachusetts. The transformation commenced in 1971 when the convenience store giant, Cumberland Farms, began to convert the cedar swamp into cornfields and hay land in order to feed the large dairy herd that produced milk for their stores.

The property was heavily farmed until 1986 when Cumberland Farms opted to participate in a government “herd buy-back” program intended to reduce milk production in the U.S. Since then, Cumberland Farms has been selling small lots to developers and leasing fields to local farmers while waiting for a buyer to pay top dollar for the remaining land.

From a land conservation perspective, the Cumberland Farms fields are among the few remaining jewels in the entire state and certainly the most important in the southeast region. Although the unique ecological treasure we had in the cedar swamp is gone forever, what emerged, quite inadvertently, is a very healthy grassland habitat. Today these fields are a mecca for inland birding attracting people from all over New England because of the highly unusual avian diversity. The property also provides habitat for as many as two dozen threatened and endangered species and offers agricultural opportunities for local farmers.

There have been several attempts to purchase this land for conservation but a deal has never been reached. Our recent endeavor was no different, despite having a very strong conservation partnership at the table as well as highly committed funding sources. However, as long as this property remains undeveloped it will stay at the top of the Trust's list for protection and will be considered an open project. On recent advice from a highly experienced land protection professional, we will “stay positive; stay positioned; and stay polite.”

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Volunteers Mobilize for Brockton Audubon Preserve Cleanup

As part of the “Keep Brockton Beautiful” initiative, volunteers cleared the way for a more accessible natural environment in the heart of the city.

The Trust sponsored its first official event on our recently acquired Brockton Audubon Preserve, a clean-up day on April 21, Earth Day eve. Scheduled as part of the City of Brockton’s “Keep Brockton Beautiful” initiative, a city-wide effort to spruce up city streets, playgrounds, and parks, the clean-up day elicited the enthusiastic participation of 17 volunteers. Braving the twin menaces of ticks and abundant poison ivy, the intrepid volunteers fanned out along the preserve’s Pleasant Street frontage to pick up roadside trash and other debris.

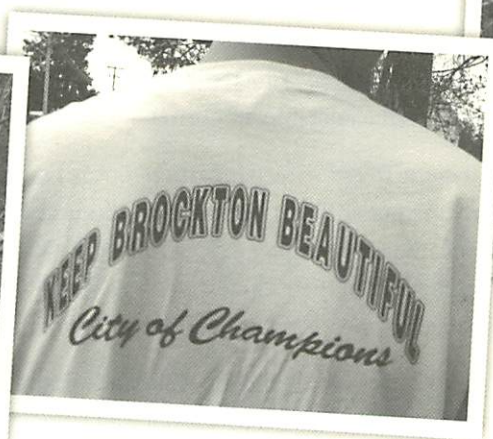
The many hands made short work of the trash and debris, and after completing the clean-up, several participants enjoyed a walk with Trust staff into the heart of the Brockton Audubon Preserve along its scenic loop trail. Long under-utilized and under-appreciated because of access constraints, this trail will soon be more accessible to Brockton residents. The Trust plans to create a trail head parking area later this year that will open the property to the public.

Among those participating in the clean-up were Cynthia and Dick Brown, grandchildren of Amelia Brown, one of the founders of the original Brockton Audubon Society in 1920. Cynthia, a local resident, is a longtime supporter of the Trust. Dick traveled from his home in New Hampshire to help out. Cynthia and Dick regaled the clean-up crew with memories of visiting the Brockton Audubon Preserve with Amelia many years ago, and expressed their happiness that her vision of a nature preserve in the City of Brockton has been realized.

Thanks to all who volunteered their time and energy to help us clean up the Brockton Audubon Preserve, and just as importantly, welcome us into the community. Thanks also to the Brockton DPW for supplying us with trash bags, rakes, and gloves.



People of all ages and from around the region, came out to help the Trust clean-up its first urban preserve.



The Trust Bids Adieu to a Valued Member of Our Team

Kay Foster, the Trust's all-around "Jane of all trades," leaves for new adventures.

TRAILBLAZERS GET A WELL-DESERVED BREAK



The season is winding down for the Wildlands Trailblazers as summer ushers back the bane of outdoor work—poison ivy, biting insects, and humidity. From September to April the crew may be seen on preserves throughout the Trust's region; clearing trails, cutting back brush, improving parking and generally enhancing the preserves for visitors to enjoy. We thank them for all their work and look forward to seeing them again in the fall.



Kay brought the experience and passion of an environmentalist to her role at the Trust.

With so many businesses using automated recordings to answer phone calls, it's a rare pleasure to be greeted by a live, friendly voice on the other end of the phone. For over a decade, Kay Foster was the affable voice of Wildlands Trust, giving her personal and friendly attention to members, land-owners, board members, and colleagues calling in to speak with staff. There may be certain things that we take for granted around the Trust, but Kay's cheerful phone manner was never one of them.

We bid good-bye to Kay in March when she and her husband Chuck decided to sell their home of 40 years and head south to be closer to their children and grandchildren. Kay's contributions to the Trust went far beyond her work on the phone. We are all just beginning to come to grips with how much she did to keep us on track.

Everything from the membership database to organizing mailings to volunteer coordination to office support was in Kay's eclectic job description. She came to the Trust at a time when the work load was rising exponentially without the requisite funding to hire more staff. Kay willingly took on more and more, and always managed to carry out her many and varied responsibilities with grace and alacrity.

But conservation wasn't just a job for Kay. It's always been her passion and way of life. Whatever the environmental cause or project, Kay could be counted on to be a key player, lending her knowledge, enthusiasm, and energy. As chairman of the Open Space Committee, Kay authored Duxbury's first Open Space Plan. She served on the Duxbury Conservation Commission with Lansing Bennett during the years that he developed the "Greenbelt Plan" and preserved more than 1,200 acres of land. In 1999, the town recognized her exceptional leadership, honoring her as Conservationist of the Year.

When it came to reducing her carbon footprint, Kay walked the walk. Literally. You would regularly see her with her back-pack walking the three miles to work instead of driving. She advocated for a simpler, greener lifestyle. With one car, an organic garden and a solar array on the roof of their modest house, she and Chuck strove to live in an environmentally responsible manner. For Kay, working at Wildlands Trust was a dream come true.

We thank Kay for all she did for Wildlands Trust and the environment. Her new community is lucky to have her. We wish her and Chuck the best and miss them very much.

The Folks at Bridie's Garden Dig Into Another Growing Season

Summer programs at the Trust's community gardens offer the opportunity for everyone to exercise their green thumb.



Vegetable neighborhoods bring whimsy to growing and learning in the garden.

Nothing beats the taste and nutrition of just-picked locally-grown garden produce. Bridie's Garden, an organic vegetable, flower, and rain garden located at the Plymouth Area Coalition for the Homeless in Kingston, is starting its second year of donating healthy veggies to the Coalitions' food pantry recipients and bringing the gardening experience to the community. The garden is maintained by shelter residents and by volunteers participating in "Garden Work Days" throughout the spring, summer, and fall.

The twice a week "Young Organic Gardener" (Y.O.G.) summer program invites young people between the ages of 15 and 18 to delve into the joys of working the

soil. Participants in the Y.O.G. program provide valuable community service while they tend Bridie's Garden. No prior experience is needed. Routine tasks like weeding, watering, composting, and rain collection help build their understanding of organic and community gardening. Taking time for writing and reflection is encouraged along with just getting their hands dirty and having fun. "A lot of kids don't grow up playing outdoors," says Sarah Kugel, Garden Coordinator. "They don't know where food comes from. Every kid needs to eat a tomato straight off the vine."

Kugel makes the garden playful by creating imaginative vegetable "neighborhoods"—like tomato heaven, green bean greenway, and lettuce lane, and a children's corner with logs for seating. Cucumber city was especially successful last year (see the recipe in the sidebar). Plans for a snow pea teepee, a corn maze, and a pumpkin patch never came to fruition. The plants just didn't cooperate. So this year, the poles will be repurposed into a morning glory teepee instilling a lesson in the virtues of flexibility and resilience.

"I watched a child pick a green bean for the first time," Kugel said. "He held it above his lip and, with a deep belly laugh, exclaimed, 'Look! A green bean mustache!' It's moments like this that you realize you're not only building a garden, you're nurturing the soul."

For information about becoming a garden sponsor, or to find out more about volunteering for "Garden Work Days" or about the Y.O.G. summer program, contact Sarah Kugel at 781.934.9018 or email skugel@wildlandstrust.org.

BRIDIE'S GARDEN INSTANT PICKLES

Ingredients:

2 medium cucumbers
4 sprigs dill
½ tbs coriander
5 whole black peppercorns
2 cloves garlic, chopped
1 tsp kosher salt
1 tbs granulated sugar
¼ cup white distilled vinegar
1 cup cold water
(or enough to cover)

Slice cucumbers into desired shape (wheels or spears). Place in a jar or plastic bag. Add seasonings. Pour vinegar over the mixture then add water to cover. Cover jar or seal bag and refrigerate. Eat within 1 week.

These tasty pickles were made last summer by garden volunteers and residents at the shelter.

Try them for yourself!



UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO BY SENDING US AN EMAIL.

Our e-newsletter is full of up to the minute information, and schedules for programs and events. To be on our list, send your email address to info@wildlandstrust.org.

Person Family Creates an Impressive Conservation Legacy

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Hap returned to Plymouth after completing his studies at Dartmouth and serving four years in the U.S. Coast Guard. His father had become interested in purchasing a few acres that would primarily supply the wood for their fireplaces. Hap recalled, “My experience at the Dartmouth Woodsman’s Weekend provided me with enthusiasm to chop and see what was needed for our wood stoves and fireplaces.”

Motivated not simply by a need for firewood but also by a genuine love of the land, Hap began building his land portfolio in the early 1950’s, when he acquired properties across Southeastern Massachusetts, including parcels in Kingston, Plympton, and Plymouth. Unlike many others who assemble real estate portfolios, he did not harbor aspirations of developing his land, nor was he seeking to cash in by offering them to abutters at a premium. Instead, he held them and carefully managed them, eventually entrusting them to the expertise of Phil Benjamin, a professional forester and longtime Trust board member.

Hap’s patience and eye toward the long term was remarkable and selfless, particularly in view of the fact that most of the parcels he had accumulated had significant development potential. Developers coveted his properties because of their ample road frontage and extensive uplands, and frequently contacted him seeking to purchase or—to invoke Warhol—ruin them.

Fortunately for us, Hap learned of Wildlands Trust after meeting Plymouth resident Charles Strickland, then president of The Trustees of Reservations. This introduced Hap to organizations which “love the distinctive charms of New England and believe in celebrating and protecting properties”. Hap was particularly pleased to learn how Wildlands Trust was dedicated to conservation in his immediate locale and became inspired to eventually donate properties to be forever protected for conservation.

Doug Wade Woods

11 acres—Kingston

Thrasherville Preserve

20 acres—Plymouth

Sylvia Place Pond

14 acres—Kingston

Sacrifice Rock Preserve

17 acres—Plymouth

Person Preserve

42 acres—Plympton

One of the first properties Hap gave to the Trust is named Doug Wade Woods in memory of a conservationist who had inspired him and many of his classmates in his early Dartmouth College days. This 11-acre parcel in Kingston is just off of Pembroke Street. The entirety of this preserve is mapped as rare species habitat by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, and is proximate to a large assemblage of town-owned conservation land.

This initial gift was followed some years later by the donation of the 20-acre Thrasherville Preserve in Plymouth, located near the junction of Ship Pond and Old Sandwich Roads and the Trust’s Emery East Preserve. The Thrasherville name evokes the specter of a long-vanished village that once existed in the area. This heavily wooded preserve includes areas of Pine Barrens, a globally rare forest community of which Plymouth has one of the largest concentrations in the world.

In 1999, Hap and Joan donated a conservation restriction on their homestead property in Plympton, not far from Plympton Beach. The restriction protects a parcel with sweeping views of Plympton Harbor and Cape Cod Bay, and that provides habitat for several species of imperiled shorebirds, including Piping plover and Least tern.

And more recently, as part of their estate planning, Hap and Joan decided to donate their three remaining undeveloped properties to the Trust. The first of the trio, a 14-acre property in Kingston, had long been admired by the Trust for its extensive frontage on Russell and Sylvia Place Ponds, unusually rugged topography, scenic values, historical importance, and proximity to our existing O.W. Stewart Preserve. It includes an esker that rises sharply above the surrounding landscape, and is within an area that was central to Kingston’s colonial-era prosperity because of its pond-powered sawmills.

Just a few months later, the Persons donated the Sacrifice Rock Preserve on historic Old Sandwich Road, Plympton, just south of the Thrasherville Preserve. The preserve’s namesake rock, long denoted on topographic maps and believed to have been employed by Native Americans for ceremonial use, is one of its most compelling and mysterious features.

And, this past February, the Persons completed their legacy of conservation giving by donating a 42-acre parcel in the northern tip of Plympton. This final donation is significant for more than just its size, habitat diversity, and proximity to other large undeveloped parcels. It is also one of the largest conservation holdings in the entire town and only the second property that the Trust has acquired in Plympton.

As Hap and Joan recounted, “We have been enthusiastic stewards of these woodlands over many years and look forward to the continued conservation of these properties by Wildlands Trust.”

The Trust is most fortunate to have families like the Persons in our region who possess an unshakable conservation ethic, a keen eye for land, and a generous spirit. The preserves entrusted to us by the Persons are indeed irreplaceable natural works of art. We will endeavor to maintain them as such.

Thank You for Your Contribution

The Trust relies on private philanthropy to fund the work we do to save land throughout the region. You, our members, are Wildlands Trust. Thank you for your vision and for your dedication to preserving land for future generations.

Welcome New Members

We welcome these new members who joined the Trust between December 2011 and April 2012:

Jeff & Peggie Baker, *Duxbury*
P. Bell, *Rehoboth*
Diane Benison, *Plymouth*
Gail Anne Briggs, *Plympton*
David & Candida Brush, *Duxbury*
Carl Casale, *Braintree*
Maria Curran, *Duxbury*
Kate Demong, *Washington, DC*
Ami Dion, *Plympton*
John Mariano, *Scituate*

Sharon Fearey, *Duxbury*
Sheila Garzoni, *Plymouth*
Adrienne Garzoni, *Plymouth*
Susan & Jeff Goodell, *Newbury, VT*
Elizabeth H. Gregg, *Duxbury*
Sarah & Doug Grey, *Plymouth*
Laura Harbottle, *Scituate*
Richard W. Jones, *Pembroke*
Catherine Kopper, *Pembroke*
William F. Krusell, *Scituate*

Mr. & Mrs. A. W. Langeland, *Duxbury*
Atty. & Mrs. Wesley Morris, *Bridgewater*
Dr. R. Scott & Ann Marie Oliver, *Duxbury*
Cliff Prentiss, *Hingham*
Linda Russell, *Plymouth*
Nancy R. Stewart, *Plymouth*
Matt Sweeney & Rita McDonough, *Marshfield*
Sue Sylvester, *Marshfield*
William Toland, *Plymouth*
John Twohig & Susan Nicasastro, *Brockton*

In Honor of

HELEN DROZDICK
(MRS. EDWARD J.)
-Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Iovino, *Hingham*

RICHARD & JOANNE
FARNSWORTH EMERY
-Mr. & Mrs. Edward Russell, *Plymouth*

STANLEY & ANN EMERY
-Mr. & Mrs. Edward Russell, *Plymouth*

KAY & CHUCK FOSTER
-Dr. & Mrs. Leo Chylack, Jr., *Duxbury*

ALLISON GILLUM &
GABRIELA SILVA
-Mark Russo, *Kingston*

ALLISON GILLUM,
SARAH KUGEL &
ALEX ETKIND
-Kay & Chuck Foster, *Fairfax, VA*

DON & BEV GOURLEY
-Kristen Draper, *Fort Collins, CO*

ANNE & HOWARD IRWIN
-Hara Reiser, *Bronx, NY*

THE PRINCE FAMILY
-Patricia Flaherty, *Duxbury*

CHARLOTTE & ED RUSSELL
-Dr. Edward Emery, *S. Burlington, VT*

JOANNA WAGNER
-Joe Wagner, *Utopia, NY*

MARY WINSLOW
-Elizabeth Nordell, *Duluth, MN*

In Memory of

HELEN PHILBRICK
-Thomas Chapman, *Duxbury*
-Carrie Farmer, *Duxbury*
-Patricia Garrity, *Duxbury*
-Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Hall, *Duxbury*
-Kathryn Heimerdinger, *Middleborough*
-Phyllis & Jerry Ingersoll, *Buzzards Bay*
-Patricia Michaud, *Scituate*
-Dr. Reed Stewart, *Marshfield Hills*
-Chuck & Marie Walker, *Duxbury*

ESTHER WALKER
-Sandy & Ron Bondlow, *Duxbury*
-Thomas Chapman, *Duxbury*
-Patricia Garrity, *Duxbury*
-Elaine Guilfoyle, *Duxbury*
-Marion Paulson, *Duxbury*
-Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Hall, *Duxbury*
-Pat & Dick Loring, *Duxbury*
-Mr. & Mrs. VonIlderstein, *Duxbury*
-Chuck & Marie Walker, *Duxbury*

DELIA BRIGGS
-Barbara Anthony, *Concord*
-Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bird, *Plymouth*
-Donald & Henrietta Cosentino,
Los Angeles, CA
-Frances Fuqua, *Duxbury*
-Patricia Garrity, *Duxbury*
-H.S. & Mary Kenney, *Fall River*
-Leighton & Dorothy Price, *Plymouth*
-Jean Travers & Kathryn Bittner,
Sarasota, FL
-Philip Winsor, *Sarasota, FL*
-The Village at Duxbury, *Duxbury*

EDWARD J. DROZDICK
-Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Iovino, *Hingham*

Thank You, Volunteers!

Thanks for all you do—the Trust wouldn't be where it is without volunteers.

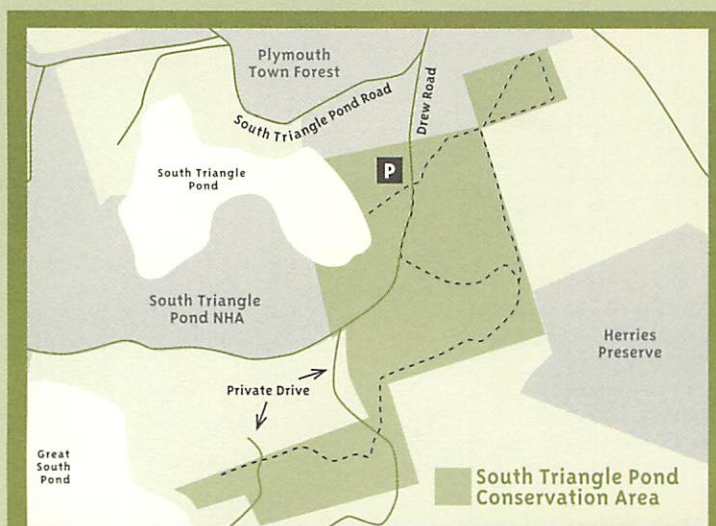
Sam Bartlett	David Mariano
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Thai Ha-Ngoc	Laurie Syberts
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Joe Keogh	Lorene Sweeney
Michael Kilfoyle	Maureen Thomas
David Killory	Diane Ventre
Deb Lehman	Frank Werny
Joe Lundeen	Molly F. Williams
Danny Mariano	



PROPERTY SPOTLIGHT

SOUTH TRIANGLE POND CONSERVATION AREA Plymouth, MA

Enjoy quiet solitude in one of the world's most ecologically significant habitats



A short drive down a shaded dirt road, South Triangle Pond Conservation Area is 47 acres of quiet woodlands and a tranquil pond. Here, you'll experience one of the most ecologically significant habitats in the world—coastal plain ponds. The preserve is part of a larger area that protects the high concentration of coastal plain ponds located in this section of central Plymouth.

South Triangle Pond, a kettle pond, is a short walk from the parking area. Trails from the opposite side of the road lead into a forest of eastern white pines, with its understory of huckleberry and low-bush blueberry. Canada mayflower thrives in the acidic soil created by the pine needles. Near the ponds, the pine

forest changes into a more open woodland of oak, white pine, and occasional pitch pine. Meandering trails wind through forested upland characterized by hummocky terrain. The small hills and steep-sided hollows were formed when, over 14,000 years ago, melt water from receding glaciers deposited sand and gravel.

DIRECTIONS: Take Rt. 3 to Exit 5, then go south on Long Pond Road. Go 1 mile, turn right onto Drew Road (dirt). Watch for a small parking area on the right after power lines. Enter the trails from either side of the road. Call 781.934.9018 for more info or visit www.wildlandstrust.org