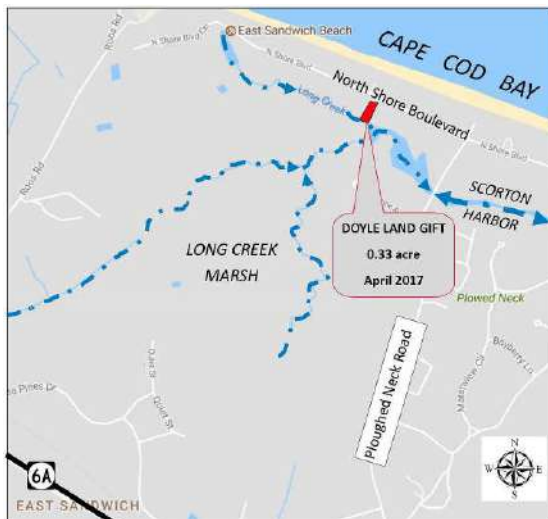




LOT DONATED NEAR EAST SANDWICH BEACH Early this year the SCT was contacted by Arthur Doyle of East Sandwich. He and his wife Susan have owned a home on North Shore Boulevard since 1980. Twenty years ago the Doyles had an opportunity to purchase a 1/3 acre lot close to their home, as an open space buffer. The Doyles were looking into land preservation early this year when they learned about the SCT from Trustee Cliff Irving. They promptly wrote us a letter inquiring about SCT interest in the lot. Our Board of Trustees was pleased to accept the gift, and after a bit of research and preparation the deed was signed in April. Technical help was provided by The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, of which the SCT is a member.

The land in question lies on the south side of North Shore Boulevard, and is thickly covered with small red cedars, pines and various shrubs. The last few years there has been an increase in the rabbit population amongst the cottages along this barrier beach. We suspect that land such as the Doyle Preserve is excellent habitat for these animals as well as mice, voles, their predators the foxes and coyotes, and bird life. The southern end of the parcel fronts on Long Creek, a strong shorebird habitat.

In addition to donating the land, the Doyles paid for deed preparation and recording, and are now enthusiastic SCT members. We welcome them to our organization and thank them very much for their interest and generosity.



Susan Doyle, John Cullity, and Arthur Doyle at the Doyle Preserve.

SCT REACHES OUT AT SANDWICH FEST SandwichFest 2017 on June 24th was a new venture for the SCT. We found our spot across from the former Thornton Burgess Museum on Water Street and wasted no time in getting a cover over our heads and tables as the sky darkened. The rain was coming and the few large drops quickly morphed into a downpour complete with thunder and lightning. The rain came so fast that the torrents of water overtook the top of the curb.

Steve Resnick, known for his harmonica playing, was visiting a tent across from the SCT, so I asked if he would play some weather appropriate music. He complied with a version of “You Are My Sunshine”. One may have thought the street would be empty, but there were still visitors under raincoats and umbrellas. Once the precipitation stopped, the people came out in droves.

Our star attraction was a 3 x 4’ map of Sandwich, depicting the locations of SCT properties. Thanks to Mike Lach from The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts for creating the map. Many people popped in to see what we were about and we gained a few new members.

There was much to see, even from within the booth: Stella the star (Sandwich Arts Alliance Starfish Trail mascot), a six-foot dancing lobster from Cape Country 104 Radio and the dog costume parade. In case you missed the sandwich winners, Marshland took the judges’ vote for the Sweet Elvis, while the Knuckle Sandwich from Fisherman’s View won the People’s Choice award. We hope to secure a spot at SandwichFest next year and to introduce ourselves and educate people about who we are and what we do. See you next June 25th.

Nancy McHugh

Many thanks to Nancy for organizing the booth, and to Peter Thomas, Joe and Carol Queenan and Bob O’Connor for helping.



*SCT Trustees at SandwichFest
L to R: Carol Queenan, Joe Queenan, Nancy McHugh, Peter Thomas, Bob O’Connor*

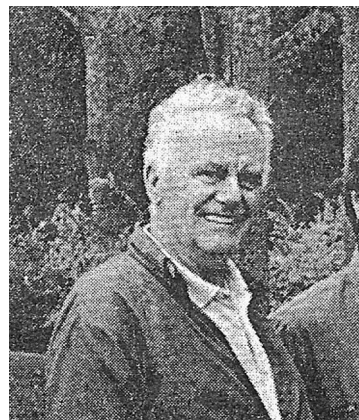
WE ALSO WISH TO THANK: Richard Connor and Mathew Anderson for volunteer mowing, Sam White for trail maintenance, The Cooperative Bank of Cape Cod for funding SCT map printing, and Riverview Café for donating a gift certificate. We also wish to thank the Paul Muther and Ulla Dagert Charitable Fund for a generous gift. Paul, who is from Toronto, learned about the SCT when he visited our booth at SandwichFest.

OTHER EVENTS SCT trustees, spouses and volunteers enjoyed a cookout on July 8th, hosted by Cliff Irving at his Plowed Neck Rd. home. Thanks, Cliff! The SCT Annual Meeting was held October 15th at the East Sandwich Grange Hall. About 40 people attended and heard “The Gray Curtain – The Impact of Seals, Sharks and Commercial Fishing along the Northeast Coast”. This excellent presentation by educator, author, photographer Peter Trull addressed a timely topic to an appreciative audience.

On November 11th a concert was held at the East Sandwich Grange Hall, benefiting the SCT and the Nye Family Association, who owns the hall. An excellent 5-piece band led by guitarist Tad Price played Brazilian music, with Rayssa Ribeiro singing. Special thanks go to Rob Vinciguerra and Peter Thomas for proposing this event, along with some of the old Grange Hall Coffeehouse crew who helped to put it on. The SCT received a contribution of nearly \$500.

A MEMORIAL FOR ROBERT A. SPRAGUE In 2016 the SCT received a number donations in memory of Bob Sprague, who had served as SCT clerk from 1994 to 2005. He also donated Elinor’s Woods, a 5 acre preserve off of Plowed Neck Road named in memory of his late wife. One of the memorial donors was Ralph T. Wood of CT, who had worked with Bob for GE. Ralph informed us that he and two other of Bob’s co-workers wished to provide something special in Bob’s memory, and we settled on the idea of a bench with plaque to be installed at Elinor’s Woods. A sturdy, comfortable bench was installed in a quiet clearing not far from the marsh.

This fall we heard from Ralph Wood again, saying that he and the two coworkers and spouses wanted to visit Elinor’s Woods and the bench in early November. What surprised us was the distance these good friends traveled specifically to visit the preserve; Ralph came from Connecticut, Joe Erkes from New York, and Manjit Singh from Ohio. It was a pleasure to meet these devoted friends and we thank them for their generous help.



The late Bob Sprague.

The visitors to Eleanor’s Woods and Bob Sprague’s Memorial bench; front L to R: Manjit Singh, Pauline Wood, Marie Erkes. Back L to R: Joe Erkes, Ralph Wood

OTHER MEMORIALS We wish to thank Emily Thomas, Frances and Charles Welsh, and Jeremy Hool for donating to the SCT in memory of Sara Johnson.

HELPING THE SCT First, we hope you will renew your SCT membership! Perhaps you would like to make a memorial donation, or a donation in honor of someone you cherish. Lastly, consider including the SCT in your estate planning – you can help the SCT stay strong for the future. Thank you.

THE TOOLAS PRESERVE 40 YEARS AGO The 6.4 acre Toolas Preserve is a lovely marsh side preserve accessed by Great Island Road, north of Route 6A in Spring Hill. It features a 1 1/2 acre field, and a trail through a pitch pine grove to a bench overlooking Spring Hill marsh. We encourage you to visit – a map is provided near the grassy parking area.

SCT president John Cullity has a long history with this land, which he farmed for five years during the 1970s. He thought readers would enjoy these contrasting photographs of the field in 1977 and a recent view after mowing. One of his main crops was the luscious strawberry, which is being harvested in this view.



Toolas Preserve when it was farmed in the 70s.



A recent view. The SCT acquired the preserve in 1997 from Bill Toolas, Mary Toolas Funk and Frank Toolas.

LAND MAINTENANCE APPEAL In late summer the SCT conducted an Annual Appeal specifically for land maintenance on its preserves, particularly those with trails. Occasionally we need to hire a contractor for tractor mowing, tree pruning and removal, and other work that can't be done by hand. We were pleased with the response of \$2140 from 44 donors. This allowed us to move forward with major trail maintenance in Joe's Woods and the adjacent 30 acre town property. The Sandwich Department of Natural Resources was willing to pay for work on the latter parcel, which we arranged for the town.

Our thanks go to the following donors:

~ APPEAL DONORS ~

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Martha Cutler
Phillip & Nancy Hamilton
Richard & Catherine White
Carol Thwaites
Susi & Dempsey Lott

Contractor, Paul Crane, mowing in Joe's Woods



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