



THE HARRIET TAYLOR PRESERVE IS ESTABLISHED

In 2003 the SCT was very pleased to complete a conservation agreement on 28 acres of an old East Sandwich farm at 247 Old County Road. The owners of the property, Dr. V. Adrian and Valerie Parsegian, were following the wishes of their friend and long-time resident of the early 18th century farmhouse, Harriet Marot Taylor. Harriet had left the property to Adrian because she trusted that he would find a way to preserve the land.

Dr. Parsegian is retired professor of biophysics at U Mass in Amherst and, worked for the MIT biophysics lab and for the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD.

The Parsegian family enjoyed occasional visits to Harriet’s house and became very interested in the land, which had fresh and salt wetlands as well as typical Cape Cod pine/oak forest. They had the farmhouse carefully restored in 1995, and it became a rental property. The Parsegians met SCT president John Cullity in 1991, when they hired him to remove locust trees knocked down by Hurricane Bob.

In the early 2000s, Adrian and Val contacted the SCT and decided to move ahead with seeking a conservation restriction for most of the land, excepting 2.43 acres reserved for a possible building lot and a “building envelope” surrounding the old house.

In 2018 Adrian and Val decided to carry their preservation efforts even further by donating the 28 acres plus the building lot to the SCT, meanwhile creating a separate lot for the farmhouse, which they still own. This was easier said than done, as there were a number of legal steps and approvals to complete. These were masterfully carried out by Mark Robinson, Executive Director of the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Inc. over a two year period, resulting in SCT ownership with a new conservation restriction (another layer of protection) now held by the Orenda Wildlife Land Trust. The SCT is deeply appreciative of the Parsegian’s devotion to and care of the property and their generosity, and also the work done by the Compact and others at the town, county and state levels, who, helped with this project.

Some history of the property: The earliest name associated with this farm is that of 17th century settler, Robert Harper, whose property was mentioned in a 1684 document describing the new layout of the County Road. Soon thereafter, the farm was owned by a Robinson family, who were there until the beginning of the 20th century.

Harriet Marot Taylor (1907-1979) arrived in East Sandwich in the early 1930s with her mother, Helen Marot Taylor, a teacher. She had purchased the Robinson farm after the school she taught at failed in 1932. With Harriet and Helen came a former student, Marise Fawsett, from Wisconsin and another classmate. On the old farm this group established a somewhat marginal but creative lifestyle. They kept gardens and a cow, sold muskmelons, studied philosophy, wrote and ran a small printing business. This experience ended in 1943 when Mrs. Taylor died, and the group split up.

After the Second World War, Marise Fawsett returned to East Sandwich with a new friend, Yvonne Rousseau. Together they started a small but charming gift and printing business in an old shed moved from the Taylor farm to Route 6A near Sandwich Downs – the “Christmas Shop”. Harriet Taylor sold to Marise and Yvonne and, a few others, some of her land along Jones Lane for house-lots. This helped Harriet financially but also prompted her to think about how the rest of the land could be preserved.

The SCT wishes to thank the Parsegians very much for their recent gift and also for their interest, support and friendship with the SCT over the years.



*The osprey nest at the Goodell Preserve
Joe Queenan photo*



GIFT OF AN ACRE ON 6A – THE MOOREHOUSE PRESERVE In early 2020 SCT trustee Jack Vaccaro was contacted by a former client, Jack Casey of Corvallis, OR. Acting on behalf of his sister Maureen F. Moorehouse, he was searching for a suitable non-profit recipient for an acre of marsh side land owned by Maureen, located in East Sandwich at 606 Route 6A. Jack V. described the land preservation activities of the SCT to Jack C., who agreed that the SCT sounded like the right organization to receive the land. The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Inc. assisted with research and document preparation, and in a short time, the gift was completed.

The SCT appreciates the opportunity to preserve this piece of Scorton Neck. From its frontage on Route 6A, the densely vegetated parcel tapers down to salt marsh. Though not well suited for a trail system, it will serve well as wildlife habitat. We thank Jack Casey and Maureen Moorehouse for this gift made in memory of the late Richard Moorehouse.

FROM THE SCT PRESIDENT First, I wish to thank our Board of Trustees for their devotion and work to further our cause – preserving land in Sandwich, and in the same breath I am so thankful for each and every member and donor – you keep us running!

Like most small non-profit organizations, we have had to adapt and address the many challenges presented by the pandemic over the last year. Zoom meetings saved the day, and we produced a couple of E-letters for members (on the Cross Preserve and Brady’s Island – let us know if you didn’t receive these and we will send them). We were able to keep several projects active and we held our November 1st annual meeting - outdoors.

We haven’t yet determined the date and location of the 2021 annual meeting, but we will use email and regular mail to keep you informed.

We are hoping to return to leading guided walks once again. Further news on this will be shared via email (Please make sure we have your address!) and the weekly papers. We are also planning more emails with the “Land Through Time” feature.

Please take a moment to put a check for SCT dues into the envelope provided, and if you can provide extra for our Land and Trail Maintenance Fund it is immensely helpful to us. Please do what you can to support the preservation of undeveloped land in Sandwich – thank you!

- John N. Cullity



The SCT 2020 Annual Meeting was held in November at the Maple Swamp Conservation Lands parking lot.

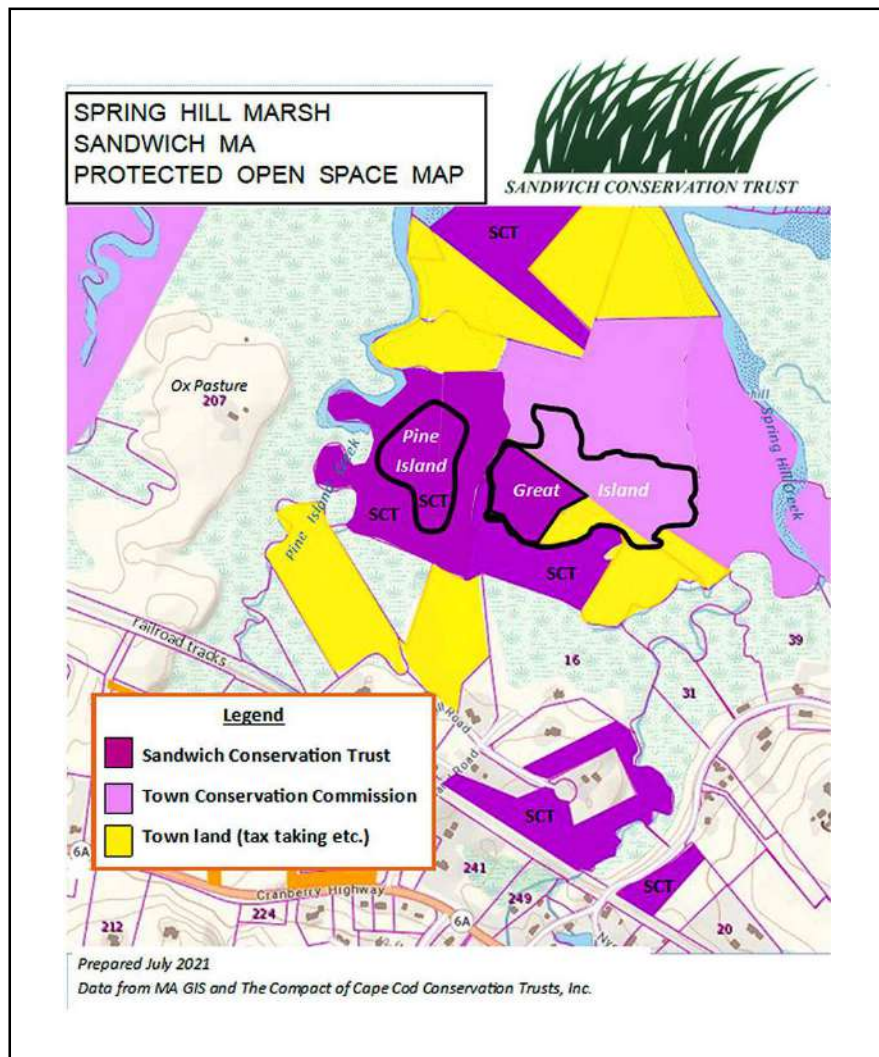
THORNTON W. BURGESS SOCIETY TRANSFERS MARSH ISLAND PARCELS TO THE SCT This interesting project all began with conversations about trail maintenance. Our SCT newsletter has featured information and photos of the several wooded islands in the Spring Hill Marsh in recent years. The ownership of Great Island, Pine Island and Little Island, consisting of eight upland parcels, each with adjacent saltmarsh, was divided between the Town of Sandwich (via town meeting purchase and tax-takings), the SCT and the Thornton W. Burgess Society. The SCT used to lead walks to Great Island, but pathways have become overgrown.

Early this year, SCT trustees discussed the idea of engaging AmeriCorps to clear the path out to and across Great Island and re-establish our guided walks. This seemed like a good project to pursue jointly with the town and the Burgess Society, and communications between the three entities were begun.

These discussions led the trustees of the Burgess Society to consider their ability to monitor and maintain the three parcels that they owned: half of Pine Island (7.4 acres of upland and marsh donated by Gifford Foster in 1990) and two pieces on Great Island (donated by Nancy Huntress in 1989 and Gifford Foster in 1990) that totaled a bit less than 3 acres. The Society had conducted educational programs around the islands and wanted to be able to continue to use the area for education, but wondered if they would be better off turning the monitoring and care of the lands to the SCT.

After careful consideration it was decided to transfer the properties, which was done in mid-May. SCT trustees were pleased to add this land to our existing holdings, which included half of Little Island with marsh (donated by Kenneth and Dorothea Luce in 1993), the other half of Pine Island with marsh (donated by Malcolm and Judy Reiss in 2007), and about five acres of marsh with the elevated causeway that leads out to Great Island from town conservation land (a 2008 bequest from Shirley G. Cross). The SCT also owns the Toolas Preserve adjacent to Great Island Road, which makes parking and access easier for the various preserves further out in the marsh.

Our thanks go to the Thornton W. Burgess Society trustees and the trustees of the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, with whom the Burgess Society will be merging. Funding to assist with this project was provided by a grant from the Cape Cod 5 Foundation and the Charles H. Thomson Land Fund for Cape Cod, administered by the Compact.



AMERICORPS HELPS OUT AGAIN In late 2020, the SCT utilized the excellent services of AmeriCorps again, this time to clear a seriously overgrown length of split-rail fence at the Osborne-Sherman preserve on Gully Lane. Supervisor Dan Flockton and his crew did an outstanding job clearing the tangle of invasive vegetation.

AmeriCorps is a Federal agency that assists towns and non-profit organizations striving to make positive a positive impact in communities.



The AmeriCorps crew at the Osborne-Sherman Preserve

OTHER OSBORNE-SHERMAN DONORS Home Depot of Wareham donated split-rail fencing for this beautiful hillside field, and special contributions for this preserve were provided by Linda Gaboriau and Paul Muther – thank you!

MEMORIAL DONATIONS – We received a contribution from Bethany Knowles made in memory of Rosanna Cullity. Donations in memory of Mary Thulin were made by Paula and Richard Yanni, Peter Thomas, R. W. Anderson & Sons, John Cullity, Jack Vaccaro and David C. Thulin. Carolyn Weimer sent a donation in memory of Robert Medeiros, and Jim & Joyce Durning contributed in memory of Jack & Eileen Durning. We thank one and all for their support of the SCT in memory of their loved ones.

OTHER CONTRIBUTORS We thank James M. Thomas for his donation made in honor of Peter Thomas, and these SCT members who contributed “above and beyond”: Jocelyn Schermerhorn, Gary Hiller & Susan Spero, John Casey, The Hannah Lyons Bourne Fund, The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trust’s Charles H. Thomsen Land Fund for Cape Cod, The Cape Cod 5 Foundation and Adrian and Valerie Parsegian.

Our thanks also go to Lillie Peterson-Wirtanen, who organizes the SEMC Sports/Nature Run Club, in which participating runners meet at a conservation area for their run, and contribute in order to support a local land trust. The group ran at two Sandwich locations: Shawme Crowell State Forest in March and the Maple Swamp Conservation lands in April. Thank you, Lillie, and all participating runners!

Finally, we thank Bill Mills and Sam White for trail maintenance, and Karen and Stuart Gagneaux for their mowing and care of the Toolas Preserve.

WELCOME NEW SCT MEMBERS:

Hope Aldrich	East Sandwich, MA.
Esther C. Bremer & Linda V. Hewitt	Cohasset, MA
Margaret M. Burke	Plymouth, MA
John Casey	Corvallis, OR
Darryl & Jeannie Dodson Edgars	East Sandwich, MA
Jim & Joyce Durning	East Sandwich, MA
Adam J. Gamble	East Sandwich, MA
Randy Harelson & Richard Gibbs	New Roads, LA
John & Therese Goodchild	Sandwich, MA
Andrew & Marianne Harcourt	Bourne, MA
Kathleen Kelly	East Sandwich, MA
Gary & Karen MacDonald	Sandwich, MA
Kevin & Cheryl McCarthy	East Sandwich, MA
William & Deb Mills	East Sandwich, MA
Lillie Peterson Wirtanen	Sandwich, MA
Steven J. Pezwick	Sandwich, MA
Muriel Thomas	Falmouth, MA



AmeriCorp's work at Osborne-Sherman (Gully Lane) before, and after.

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SANDWICH CONSERVATION TRUST

***THE SANDWICH
CONSERVATION TRUST
NEWSLETTER***

***Please renew your membership
with the enclosed envelope.***

Thank you for your support.