



EMERGING FROM THE PANDEMIC Talk about taking the wind out of your sails, our organization, like many non-profits large and small, is cautiously emerging from the dark shade of Covid-19. Like the previous year, 2021 was characterized by curtailed activities and planning, and more Zoom meetings for trustees and committees. On October 31st we held another SCT annual meeting outdoors, this time at the Toolas Preserve at Spring Hill, followed by a sunny walk out into Spring Hill Marsh to visit Great Island. Unfortunately the island trails, newly restored by AmeriCorps Cape Cod, were impassable due to the energetic nor'easter that had swept through a few days before. Fortunately, the AmeriCorps Cape Cod crew was able to return in January to clear the fallen pitch pines. Our goal now is to revive our outreach activities – get our annual meeting back indoors and resume guided walks, to start.

This Snowy Owl was photographed near Scorton Marsh in East Sandwich by SCT trustee Joe Queenan.



After the SCT outdoor annual meeting, members pay a visit to Great Island.

On October 2nd the SCT participated in the SandwichFest outdoor event in Sandwich Village in which a portion of Water St. is blocked off from vehicle traffic, and many local organizations set up informational booths. We were very pleased to see that public interest in preserved land was quite strong. Thanks to a grant from The Fund for Sandwich, and design and artwork assistance from Patty Dysart, the SCT booth featured a new vertical banner which attracted attention. Our large map of preserved lands in Sandwich was of particular interest to visitors. Look for us again this year at SandwichFest on October 1st.



The SCT booth had lots of visitors at SandwichFest.

A WORK SOCIAL The nor'easter of October 27th took down trees and branches in our Elinor's Woods Preserve off of Ploughed Neck Road, so SCT trustees planned a work day for December 4th, which we later agreed was more of a "work social", to coin a term. We sent out an invitation to all those who had indicated interest in volunteering, and we had a great turnout, 21 of us in all. Again, after such a long time of Covid caution, this outdoor event felt like a celebration, only a lot of useful work was accomplished as well. We all agreed we would like to have more "work socials", but without the nor'easter! If you wish to help the SCT as a volunteer, there is a space on the SCT dues envelope where you can indicate your interest.

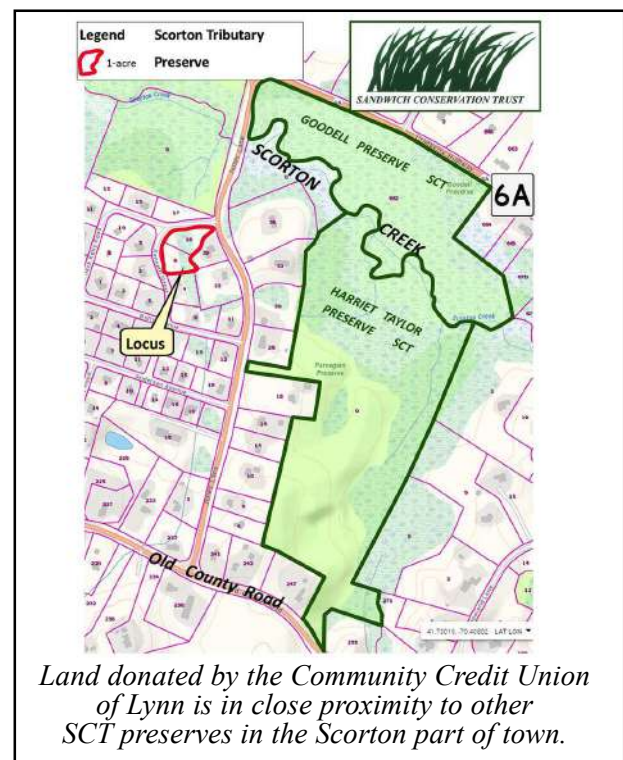
For those who are unfamiliar with Elinor's Woods, plan a visit. At a little over 5 acres, it is not huge, but it is interesting. It could be described as a marsh-edge lowland forested with a variety of large trees and with an intriguing trail system. The preserve was donated by Robert Sprague in 1994 and named in honor of his late wife.

CREDIT UNION DONATES SCORTON LAND

Last fall we were approached by the Community Credit Union of Lynn about two adjacent lots of land off of Jones Lane, near Scorton Neck. The lots, partially wetland, were not useful to the credit union, and they offered to donate the 1+ acre total to the SCT, which was done.

The wetland is fed by a small seasonal rill which flows out into Scorton Marsh. Its source is Lily Pond, a half-mile to the south. The land is forested with quite large specimens of pitch pine, red maple, and tupelo trees, none of which, remarkably, were blown down during the October 27th storm. This preserve is almost literally a stone's throw from our Harriet Taylor and Goodell Preserves, both of which front on Jones Lane.

Our thanks go to the leadership of the Community Credit Union of Lynn for contacting the SCT and following through with the donation.



Land donated by the Community Credit Union of Lynn is in close proximity to other SCT preserves in the Scorton part of town.

SCT GUIDED WALKS RESUME A certain set of circumstances has caused our program of guided walks to be postponed over the last few years, and we want to get back on track, or rather, back on the path. For years we held our walks on the second Sundays of spring and fall months, at 2 PM, and we will return to that formula this fall. To receive guided walk reminders or changes, make sure you are on the SCT email list.

Announcement of upcoming SCT walks will also be available on the SCT website, in the Sandwich Enterprise and other venues. Walk participants must be prepared for possible ticks (use permethrin spray) and poison ivy (be sure you can recognize it), and we ask that no pets be brought along. There is no charge for the guided walks, though donations to the SCT are much appreciated, as are new memberships.

Here is what we have planned – mark it down!

Sunday September 11th 2 PM. - GREAT ISLAND WALK – This begins at the Toolas Preserve, where there is ample parking in the field. From Route 6A near Gully Lane take Great Island Road towards the bay, cross the railroad and look for the Toolas entrance on the right. The walk is easy (level), will last about an hour, and will be led by John Cullity assisted by SCT trustees.

Sunday October 9th, 2 PM – MAPLE SWAMP CONSERVATION LANDS – Join us in exploring the largest conservation area in Sandwich – it's approximately 700 acres of some of the most topographically dramatic land on Cape Cod. It consists of 32 parcels of land gradually acquired by the town beginning in 1966. This walk is characterized by steep grades and loose stones and roots in some places. Hikers are rewarded by a spectacular view from Sam Nye's Mountain, and other scenic features.

WE WISH TO THANK OUR SUPPORTERS! – A big thank you goes to all of our members for their dues and enthusiasm, and we offer special thanks to the following: the SEMC Nature Run Sports Club and organizer Lillie Peterson-Wirtanen for donations to the SCT by participants in their May Nature Run in the Maple Swamp Conservation Lands; The Hannah Lyons Bourne Fund; the Paul Muther and Ulla Dagert Charitable Fund; Fidelity Charitable – recommending donors Jim Durning with Breckinridge Capital Advisors; also Dr. Christopher McCoy and Ms. Elisa Morris; the Merck Foundation Partnership for Giving/Rose Hanley.

MEMORIAL GIFT We thank Sally Winings for a gift in memory of the late environmentalist Marsha Gorden. Together with husband Morton Gorden she co-founded Development Sciences (DSI) in Sagamore in the 1970s, the first company in Massachusetts to offer energy and environmental consulting.

OUR VOLUNTEERS The following helped with trail maintenance: Jim & Joyce Durning, Sam White, Bill Collins, Bill Mills, Arthur & Susan Doyle, Charlie Gill, Margaret Phillips, and others whose names were regretfully not recorded. Thanks also to Patty Dysart who helped us design the banner for SandwichFest.

Trail Maintenance at its Best – Great Volunteers at Elinor’s Woods!



L to R: Sam White, Arthur Doyle and Charlie Gill at work.



Making the entrance presentable



The group poses after work is completed.



On Great Island
We can't say enough about the helpfulness of AmeriCorps Cape Cod. The group shown here came back to Great Island in January to re-clear the storm-damaged trails.

2022 SCT ANNUAL MEETING: Our annual meeting will take place on Sunday, November 6th at 2 PM. The meeting will be at the East Sandwich Grange Hall at 91 Old County Road, East Sandwich. Following a half-hour business meeting, SCT President John N. Cullity will present a slide show on the “History of the East Sandwich Game Farm”, beginning with the pre-historic period. In case there are changes to this event we will keep in touch by email. There is no charge for this presentation, but donations are much appreciated.

SCT Financial Summary for 2022:
Income from dues, donations & CD interest: \$9580.
Expenses: \$9068.
Net Income: \$512.
Cash Assets as of 12/31/21: \$38,404.

SUPPORT THE SCT Please take a moment to put a check for 2022 SCT dues into the enclosed envelope, 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 conservation land in Sandwich – thank you!



SCT member Dan Cullity spotted this big owl chick in the woods of East Sandwich in late April, where he believes it fell from a nest, but evidently was still being fed by its mother. After 5 or 6 days it began working its way back up a large pitch pine, and hopefully will survive. It is likely a Great Horned Owl.

- Lynn Cullity - Photos

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***THE SANDWICH
CONSERVATION TRUST
NEWSLETTER***

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

Thank you for your support.