

November 1989



PASCOMMUCK  
CONSERVATION  
TRUST, INC.

POST OFFICE BOX 806  
EASTHAMPTON, MA 01027

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# NEWSLETTER



## November, 1989: President's Message

As we approach the end of the decade, some reflections about the Pascommuck Conservation Trust reveal significant accomplishments achieved, and a glimpse into the future decade of goals and objectives yet to be accomplished.

The Trust had its origins in 1982 with a handful of environmentally concerned friends who had the foresight to recognize the real need to enhance our natural resource awareness, and to secure open space through land acquisition for our future generations. At the educational and awareness level, we continue to sponsor and participate in a variety of environmental programs for the students in Easthampton, and, we maintain a community presence through a variety of activities including bake sales, tree seedling sales, pond tours and nature trail improvements to name a few. We now have holdings or easements on nearly sixty acres of land in Easthampton. Our current membership has grown to about two hundred people.

As we contemplate the next decade, a glaring deficiency is evident in our membership dues structure. No president enjoys having to announce an impending increase in "taxes". However, in the case of our Trust, membership dues have remained unchanged since the incorporation inception, while the costs of doing

business have risen dramatically. The Membership Committee has developed a new membership dues structure approved tentatively by the Board of Directors who plan on offering a formal motion to accept at the annual meeting slated for February, 1990. Please review the related article in this newsletter and let us hear from you on this difficult matter.

In addition to continuing to address our stated goals of the Nashawannuck Pond, Manhan River Greenbelt, Old Canal and Town Parcel, a major national event is planned to enhance the environmental awareness for the decade of the nineties. On April 22, 1990, we will celebrate the twentieth anniversary of Earth Day, the first of which in 1970 had over twenty million Americans who participated. The Trust is planning some level of participation which will be conveyed to the Membership through our local media when the plans are formalized. Welcome to the decade of the nineties.

Respectfully,  
Kenneth L. Larsen,  
President

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### FALL FESTIVAL

With my first Fall Festival as a member of the Pascommuck Conservation Trust behind me, I reflect on the opportunity of helping out with the boat tours of the Nashawannuck Pond during the

weekend of Sept. 23 & 24. It was the seventh year that Mick Duda, owner of the Oxbow Marina, donated the pontoon boat for our use.

With the skill of a Mississippi Riverboat Captain, Mike Tautznik, once again piloted the boat through the sometimes shallow, and almost always weed saturated waterways of our approximately 2 mile round trip excursion. There was not a pre-written script to be read as in the past. Many of our passengers had taken this tour before, and the progressive deterioration of the pond spoke for itself. Mike did however speak of the Nashawannuck Pond Steering Committee's request of the town to restrict vehicular access to the point areas, in an effort to help in the control of erosion. An area on the town owned western shore was pointed out as a possible future site for handicap access. Our captain made it very clear that all the studies were done, the politics complete, and the time right, for the most important part of this movement to begin, the actual fund raising; so very necessary to save our pond. I whole-heartedly agree with Mike when he says, I'm looking forward to the day when the Trust doesn't have to give these tours."

Saturday's weather might very well have been suited for the ducks on the pond, but with the rain and the chilly breezes, it kept all passengers on shore. Sunday however, was a different story. "Perfect weather", was a phrase echoed throughout the day, and the sign up sheets for the tours attested to that.

Hot dogs and pastry from the bake sale were not the only things being eaten on shore Sunday. John Bator's "Pond Song" was devoured by the cassette player after only a few

playings. "Sorry John, back to the studio."

Some of our guests had the opportunity to see a pair of Great Blue Herons fishing near shore. These beautiful waterbirds are avid fishers and have spent all summer on our pond. I was as surprised as everyone to see an Osprey flying around on Sunday as well as a pair of cormorants enjoying the great autumn weather. I had not seen them here before that weekend, nor since; it was quite a sight.

On a personal level, the weekend was quite an experience for me. I was able to witness not only the active members of the Trust in all their activity, but also my wife and two boys helping out at the stand on shore. It brings me pleasure to think that my sons care enough about the pond to pitch in when the time is right.

As the Pascommuck Conservation Trust, The Nashawannuck Pond Steering Committee and ALL concerned individuals join together in this movement to save this landmark, let us remember this..."I can't,...we can!!

John Watling

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#### AQUIFER UPDATE

The Barnes Aquifer Protection Committee is comprised of representatives from Easthampton, Southamptton, Holyoke, Westfield and the Pioneer Valley Planning Council (PVPC). Current activities include: (1) encouraging the government leaders of the committee to sign an agreement of official support from the towns and cities that obtain at least some of their drinking water supply from the Barnes Aquifer, and (2) seeking intergovernmental support for designation of the

Barnes Aquifer as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. Mapping of the aquifer boundries is being completed.

People who live over the aquifer in Easthampton (as well as people in the other aquifer areas) will be receiving written information from PVPC regarding how to protect it. The aquifer is Easthampton's sole drinking water supply source. There is a lot that the average citizen can do. The Pascommuck Conservation Trust Board of Directors has a representative who sits on the Aquifer committee. The Trust would like to ask that people be very conscious of the need to protect our water supply. Possible contamination to the aquifer by households includes the following: application of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides to lawns and gardens; leaking septic systems and use of septic system cleaners; toxic household wastes (like furniture stripping solutions, photo processing equipment, etc.); salt and de-icing materials; oil changes and storm water sewer run-off from roofs and pavement. Also, people need to conserve water in order to assure adequate supply. Aquifers are not unlimited sources of water.

Already, in this state, at least 50 public supply wells have been shut off due to some of the reasons mentioned above. These materials present serious potential danger to the aquifer, and may take decades to actually show up in the water supply.

In the near future, a considerable amount of additional housing development is being planned over Easthampton's part of the aquifer. It is clearly known that it is much less expensive and much easier to

protect an aquifer than to establish a new water supply. Aquifers are precious resources. Please let your friends and neighbors know about how we need to protect ours.

Debbie Davis

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SAVE OUR POND SONG

Most of you already know that our director, John Bator, has written and produced a song "SAVE OUR POND" which is John's feeling of growing up around Nashawannuck Pond and it's current situation. On October 25th at the Easthampton Photographic Club, John presented a newly recorded version of the song accompanied with a descriptive slide presentation. We hope that this well organized presentation will help to bring in donations for the Pond. We would like John Bator to know that his efforts and concern are greatly appreciated.

We will be promoting this slide presentation; and, if your organization or club would be interested, please contact John or any of the directors.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

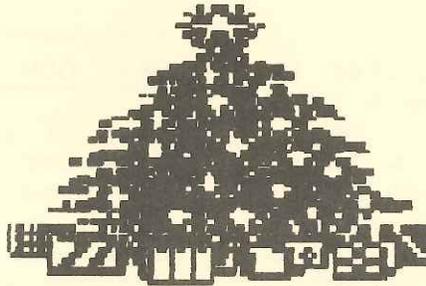
ACCOUNT BALANCES OF 10-1-89  
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INCOME 989.70  
EXPENSE 365.00  
BALANCE ON HAND \$16,572.11  
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ACCOUNT BALANCES  
Money Market \$ 2,658.62  
Checking 586.12  
C.D. 10,243.08  
BMS 223.83  
BMCD 1,450.00  
Pond Fund 1,410.46  
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\$16,572.11  
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CHRISTMAS GATHERING

Once again, due to a generous donation from one of our members, we are pleased to provide a program by Interpretive Naturalist, John Green who employs image blending techniques manually synchronized with stereo music. If you have not had the opportunity to view one of his presentations, I hope you will join us on Wednesday, December 6th at the Congregational Church in Easthampton. A dinner buffet will be served and details will be mailed shortly.



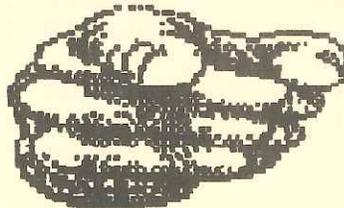
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MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE

This committee has set out to change the membership categories to appeal to a larger group. We are suggesting eight (8) different categories as follows:

Lmtd/Student	\$6	Contribtr.	\$60
Indiv.	\$10	Corp.	\$100
Family	\$18	Sponsor	\$150
Patron	\$25	Life	\$1000

To become effective these changes must be presented and voted upon at the annual meeting. If you have any opinions, please let us hear from you.

We will be actively monitoring the membership renewals and striving to increase membership numbers and need interested persons who would like to be involved in follow-up and letter writing and mailing. If you have some time to volunteer, please call Bill Burgart or Diana Pinkos.



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<<<< COMPLIMENTARY COPY >>>>

If you have received a copy of this newsletter with the "Complimentary Copy" stamped on it, you may have neglected to mail us your membership renewal. Please check your label for the code on the first line. Then, use the renewal form attached to insure receiving our next Newsletter and interesting handouts. Your financial support is necessary to continue the programs we provide,

such as the Arcadia Pond Study with the 4th Grade Students, and to impliment new educational programs concerning "The Pond". Please continue to be concerned and send us your renewal today.

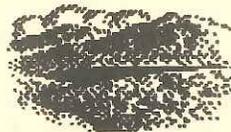
Thank you.

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ROUND AND ROUND AND ROUND...

There is an old, or maybe not so old, adage that goes like this: "What Goes Around, Comes Around". Well, there is something I've not only been spending some time thinking about lately, but also talking to people about that has gone around, and around, and around, for a very long time. And, after all this going around, it has now come around; come around to be synonymous with group effort, community pride, dedication. I am referring to a movement going on over the mountain from

Easthampton in Holyoke. John Hickey of the Holyoke Power Co. was concerned about losing a



landmark he so enjoyed as a child. Mt. Park had closed and the Merry-Go-Round was about to be sold to buyers out of this country. To shorten this story, John is now the President of the Friends of the Holyoke Merry-Go-Round, a success story that's bottom line spells ACTION. John gathered many people to help him in raising money to buy and relocate this landmark to a new home in Heritage Park in downtown Holyoke. They will meet their goal.

What does this have to do with the Trust you ask? Plenty! This town is in the process of losing a resource that, like the Mt. Park carousel, has brought so many hours of joy and pleasure to those who have visited it. Swimming was stopped in its waters many years ago; and now fishing in its weed encroached waters has become a task rather than a sport.

As a fellow member of the Trust, as a member of the Nashawannuck Pond Steering Committee, and as a fellow individual who remembers the pond in its better days, I ask you to help. Please. We need people for a fund raising committee, people to solicit financial support from their families and friends. No one of us alone can restore our pond to a condition fit for the future; but together WE can SAVE THE POND. Please write to Save The Pond, PO Box 806 Easthampton, MA 01027.

What goes around, comes around, please be a part of this success story, Thank you.

John Watling

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

RENEW--AND BETTER YET INCREASE--YOUR SUPPORT TODAY! FILL OUT THE MEMBERSHIP FORM BELOW, DETACH AND FORWARD WITH YOUR CHECK TO THE ADDRESS LISTED ON THE FORM, MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO PASCOMMUCK CONSERVATION TRUST, INC. REMEMBER, ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

YES, I/WE WANT TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING PRESERVATION OF THE AREAS NATURAL RESOURCES AND HISTORICAL HERITAGE, AND HEREBY MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IN THE PASCOMMUCK CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.

PASCOMMUCK CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.  
P. O. Box 806  
EASTHAMPTON, MA 01027

- REGULAR VOTING MEMBER.....\$ 6.00
  - SUPPORTING VOTING MEMBER.....\$ 15.00
  - CONTRIBUTING VOTING MEMBER.....\$ 50.00
  - LIFE VOTING MEMBER.....\$ 150.00 OR PROPERTY
- I WOULD LIKE TO BE ACTIVE.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

RAFFLE - FALL FESTIVAL

The Trust promoted a raffle with money raised to be turned over to the "Save The Pond" fund. The reaction of all people asked to support this project was most hear-warming and encouraging, rarely was there a refusal. To this observer, it appeared that money was happily contributed in the hope of saving the Nashawannuck Pond. Many participants asked how the money was to be spent, but all agreed that they looked forward to the day they could once again fully enjoy the pond.

The winner of the raffle for the Seiko Ladies watch, donated by DeGranpre Jewelers, was Mr. Steven Jones of Liberty Street. A total of \$467 was generated during this fund raising project.

Stella Wiernasz

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UPCOMING EVENTS

December 6, 1989 - Christmas Gathering with John Green slide presentation and dinner buffet.

January 3, 1990 - Board of Directors meeting. Sunrise Manor

FALL FESTIVAL - INDOOR EXHIBIT

Again this year the theme for our booth at the High School was "SAVE THE POND" with displays and information regarding the problems and solutions necessary to salvage the Pond. Thanks to Mass Audubon, Arcadia Sanctuary who loaned us a POD for projecting slides that gives the resemblance of looking at a large TV screen. Easy listening music was provided to enhance this atmosphere.

This booth served as a vehicle to increase the interest of the Easthampton residents to save the pond and equally important to raise money for its clean-up.

Bill Burgart

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February 26, 1990 - Annual Membership Meeting

April 22, 1990 - EARTH DAY



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DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

Kenneth Larsen, President                      Ed Dwyer, Treasurer  
William Burgart, Vice President              John Bator, Clerk

Thomas Clark  
Debra Davis  
Diana Pinkos  
Stella Wiernasz