

Summer 1989



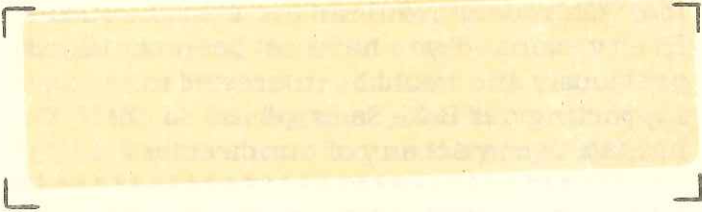
PASCOMMUCK  
CONSERVATION  
TRUST, INC.

POST OFFICE BOX 806  
EASTHAMPTON, MA 01027

Summer, 1989

# NEWSLETTER

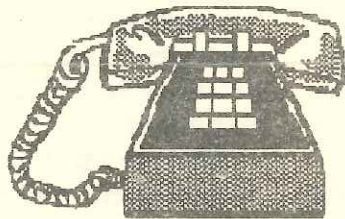
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## President's Message

Greetings, and welcome aboard! That was the message given to me upon accepting the position, confidence and trust of the members of the Board of Directors to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the president of your Pascommuck Conservation Trust. It is a welcome that I extend right back to each and every member of our organization. This welcome is coupled with enthusiasm for anticipated activity and accomplishment of future goals of the Trust. It is most pleasing to report that we now have a full Board of Directors all of whom have accepted positions to chair the vital subcommittees envisioned in a 1985 organizational report. This reorganization effort will more properly focus our activities toward our defined goals: The Nashawannuck Pond, Manhan River Greenbelt, Old Canal, and Town Parcel.

The members of the Board of Directors have diverse educational and occupational backgrounds. They bring their formidable human resources with them to create what I believe will be one of the most energetic and successful Boards in the history of our organization. It is a distinct privilege for me to have an opportunity to work with them. Some of you may be wondering what became of the "Save Our Pond" effort which was the theme of the 1988 Easthampton Fall Festival. Our Board convened on May 1, 1989 and decided to make this issue the first focus or goal for this year. No doubt you will be hearing more about the Nashawannuck Pond in the near future. Take a brief moment to let us hear from you on



this critical problem. And so, for now, to all of you, I leave this message of introduction.....  
Greetings and welcome aboard!  
Sincerely, Ken Larsen, President

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TRUST RE-ORGANIZATION--At the June 7th Board of Directors Meeting, assignments to subcommittees were made as follows: Tom Clark - Director of Research & Education, Bill Burgart & Diana Pinkos - Directors of Membership, Diana Pinkos - Director of Publicity & Public Relations, Debbie Davis - Director of Land Acquisition, Morris Lainer- Director of Financial Planning & Development, John Bator- Director of Land Maintenance, and Stella Wiernasz- Director of Special Projects.

Ken Larsen was elected President at the May 1st meeting, along with Ed Dwyer as Treasurer and John Bator, Clerk. If any member has an interest in any of the mentioned committees, please do not hesitate to contact one of the above directors. Any amount of involvement will be appreciated. We sincerely need your participation if we are to accomplish our goals, and your input would be helpful.

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BAKE SALE --On a rainy and foggy Saturday, May 6th, some diehard Trust directors again promoted the annual "Keep Easthampton Green" tree and bake sale at Big E's Foodland. This event was very successful and provided \$326.00 to add to the Trust's savings. We would like to thank all those members who supported us with baked goods, as well as those financial contributions made in place of cookies. Also, we are sincerely sorry for any inconvenience

which was caused by the incorrect date published in our prior newsletter, and hope that this situation will not occur in the future. In any event, if you have not been contacted previously and would be interested in supporting our Bake Sales, please do not hesitate to contact any of our directors.

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**PUBLICITY & PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT -**

The general function of this committee, as outlined in the Organizational Manual is to develop and implement programs to promote public interest, understanding and goodwill. Our primary focus this year will be to produce a new updated brochure, which will represent this organization as an established, professional group. We are also hoping to be able to publish a new trail guide, while listing all accumulated parcels. The "Newsletter" will be issued at least three times a year and is scheduled for March, September and November, which is focused around annual events.

Diana Pinkos, Director  
Publicity and Public Relations Committee  
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**LAND ACQUISITION REPORT** - The Trust would like to take whatever measures possible to acquire land for conservation purposes. Currently budget constraints on the federal, state and local level do not look promising for the funding of resource areas. The state's Open Space Bond Funds (if all goes as planned) will be available to purchase important aquifer areas. Beyond this we will need innovative methods to secure other lands.

Easthampton and its surrounding towns is experiencing enormous growth in development of land. Many local residents look at the loss of beneficial natural resource areas as the price of progress. There are ways, however, to affect control of this growth. One way is to get involved in local government on a voluntary basis. Another way is to become a citizen activist, or advocate for the environment. People also need to know that allowing their land to not be developed may save them money through less or eliminated taxes, especially in areas that would not be buildable for housing or industry. Local

residents should not feel powerless under their onslaught of pressure to reap as much financial gain as possible from the land.

**Land Preservation Projects:** We would like to increase public awareness of land conservation needs and to make available to land-owners methods for restricting or donating their land. The Trust would like to urge members to support zoning legislation that would assist conservation efforts. The Trust will also look into the possibility of grants for land. We have a lot of tasks before us and are always looking for assistance in these areas. We continue to look for ways to purchase Manhan River properties as well as general green-belt areas.

Members who are interested in possibly saving on taxes and also in helping to preserve the beauty and integrity of our region are urged to contact the Trust for details.

Debbie Davis, Director Land Acquisition Cmte.  
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**MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT REPORT** - The goal of this committee is to develop and administer programs to increase the PAID voting membership. We will actively solicit our expired memberships who are currently receiving literature and try to re-enlist these members. At this time we feel it is necessary to increase the membership dues and will be presenting this at the next Annual Meeting, since this can only be changed by a vote of the membership. It has been noted that in the recent issue of "Land Trust Exchange Newsletter" the common minimum among land trusts is \$15 - \$20, which barely covers expenses.

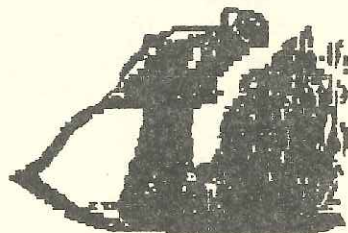
With the publication of a new brochure we would again like to make contact with the local business community for their financial support. However, this would require participation from the membership in order to accomplish this very important task. If any members would like to assist this committee, please call us any time. Any amount of involvement would be appreciated. Bill Burgart & Diana Pinkos, Directors, Membership Development Cmte.



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LAND MAINTENANCE REPORT --The Trust controls approximately sixty acres of land. Status of Property : To date, the Old Pascommuck Conservation Area (approx. 5 acres) is the only piece of property maintained. Trail Maintenance Work Party : In June, a fairly good showing of volunteers cleaned up the trails which involved mowing, pruning back overhanging branches & vines, weed whacking, clearing trails of debris, installing a bat house at the entrance area, and repairing damage done to the main footbridge due to heavy spring rains. A second work party will be scheduled to install or replace pallets in wet or low areas, and to re-instate the stone bench, which was vandalized. The picnic table at the entrance may need a fresh coat of stain or preservation, also.

Suggested Maintenance Schedule: An annual spring work party should be organized to clear the trails and



make all repairs. Flowers should be planted at the base of the main sign each spring and regularly tended (weeding, watering, fertilizing and mulching). The grass should be mowed weekly, depending on the growing conditions. Volunteers are needed to help maintain the main entrance area on a regular basis. If you can help with any of the above tasks, please let us know.

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UPCOMING EVENTS --Aug 2, Board of Director's Meeting 7:30 pm Chestnut Room, 395 East Street. --Sept 6, Board of Director meeting 7:30 pm Chestnut Room-- Sept 23 & 24, Easthampton Fall Festival, Trust Boat Tours on The Nashawannuck Pond.-- Oct 28 to Nov 5, Canoe the Okefenoke Swamp, Georgia. A five day wilderness loop (approx. 8 miles/day) with camping at designated platforms. It will involve two days travel each way by car to Georgia.. Experience the adventure of this mature preserve that offers an abundance of

wildlife... reptiles... minimal impact of people. Only one group per day is permitted to enter this primitive area. Group limit 12 people, camping and flat water canoe experience necessary. Contact Bill Carroll 527-5148, or Bill Burgart 527-9080 for more details. Reservations required by September 20th.

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TREASURER'S REPORT : ACCOUNT BALANCES AS OF JUNE 1, 1989 :

	\$16,146.83
INCOME (6-1-89 to 6-30-89)	
Membership	\$99.00
Gifts	54.00
Interest	91.68
Other	492.50
	737.18
TOTAL INCOME	\$16,884.01

EXPENSES

Community Projects	\$1,227.88
Supplies	10.00
Land Aquisition & Mtce.	114.77
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,352.65

Balance as of 6-30-89.....\$15,531.36

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CHESTNUT ROOM-- Thanks to Tom Clark, Ed Dwyer, Bill Burgart and Ken Larsen the main meeting room of the Board of Directors is now organized. File cabinets were painted and folders were organized and properly filed for ready access. It was cluttered with all sorts of reading matter, and now things are "findable".....if a cluttered desk is the sign of a cluttered mind, what's the sign of an empty desk?.



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TRUST LOGO-- Bob Pinkos has agreed to do some graphic arts work for the Trust. He will present some art sketch options to the Board of Directors of minor changes to our tree scene logo. After acceptance of a particular design, new "Trail Guides" and new "Membership Brochures" are planned. Your ideas are welcome.



**GRASS-CLIPPINGS-WANTED TOUCHSTONE FARMS**  
 George McNeil, owner and operator of Touchstone Farms, is one of our members. He uses organic farming practices and would like to have your grass clippings to enrich the soils where he plants his vegetables. The farm is located at 132 West St., Easthampton, MA (527-8723).

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**BURGART MEMORIAL**—In the Spring of this year, the Burgart Memorial was dedicated at a program held at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary and chaired by Director Mary Shanley. Attorney Michael Ryan gave the dedication address and State Representatives Shannon O'Brien and William Nagle spoke kindly in memory of Bill Burgart's wife and mother. Arcadia and the Trust collaborated to preserve over twenty acres of wildlife habitat floodplain known as "The Meadows". A memorial plaque is displayed in the meeting room at Arcadia and planned visits to the property will be announced.

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**BAT HOUSE UPDATE**— Does anyone have any *Myotis lucifugus* (pronounced my-oh-tis lew-sieve-in-gus) living in their backyard? This is the little brown bat that could be roosting in any of more than 125 bat houses sold to our members, Easthampton residents, and others hoping to offset the annoyance and discomfort of mosquito bites or to provide habitat for these mammals. To date, the Trust has expended the grant money from the National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides (NCAMP) by purchasing lumber and other materials associated with the construction and distribution of the bat houses. A growing awareness of the bat as a beneficial mammal is being fostered. In addition, minimal use of pesticides in our environment is being encouraged. A few bat houses remain and more will be made next year, probably at a slightly higher price to offset materials costs. Write us a note and tell us if you have *Myotis lucifugus* in your backyard.

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**SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING**— The Trust held it's seventh Annual Meeting at the Cliffview Manor Community Room on April 24, 1989. The meeting began at 7:30 pm with a brief annual report by the Board of Directors followed by discussions on upcoming events and activities. Charled Conner of Taylor Realty was present to announce the donation of a parcel of land on the north branch of the Manhan River, approximately five acres of the Hamilton Woods project. The Board of Directors expressed some concern over the reduced attendance by members to this particular event; and, in accordance with our by-laws, Article IV paragraph 4 was amended to hold this event earlier in the year. This by-law required that the Annual Meeting be held on the fourth Monday in April each year. We now will be holding it during the last week in February. It is assumed that people begin to get very busy by April, and by changing the meeting date to February, better attendance can be expected. Make it a point to attend the next Annual Meeting for it is at this time when your voice is most effectively heard and your opinions are given the most weight. We plan to include some light entertainment at the February, 1990 meeting meeting. Hope to see you there!

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| John Bator      | Edward Dwyer   |
| William Burgart | Morris Lainer  |
| Thomas Clark    | Kenneth Larsen |
| Debra Davis     | Diana Pinkos   |

**OFFICERS**

- Kenneth Larsen, Pres.  
 William Burgart, Vice Pres.  
 Edward Dwyer, Treas.  
 John Bator, Clerk

