



“Protecting and improving the health of Brewster’s ponds through science, education and advocacy.”

“SPOTLIGHT ON A BUSINESS PARTNER”

The Brewster Association of Part-Time Residents

<https://www.bapr.org/>

(From BPC Winter 2024 Newsletter)

Founded in 2002, the Brewster Association of Part-Time Residents (BAPR) is a volunteer, nonprofit corporation dedicated to supporting the needs of part-time residents of Brewster who now comprise nearly half of Brewster's residential property owners.

The organization was originally formed as an advocacy group and its first project was a successful campaign that overturned an act that was seeking additional taxes for owners of second homes. Over the years, it has grown into more of a civic organization. “The BAPR not only supports Brewster’s part-time residents, but also the community that brought the residents to the town,” said BAPR President John Stendahl.

The BAPR has adopted the slogan "Working Together for Brewster," and has donated over \$25,000 to the town including contributions to the Town Fuel Assistance Program, the Council on Aging, the Brewster White Caps, the Brewster Ladies Library, and most recently \$250 to the Brewster Ponds Coalition. John noted that many members of the BAPR have been active supporters of the BPC for several years, supporting its mission and programs. Thus, the BAPR’s contribution to the BPC was a natural extension of its shared desire to preserve the freshwater resources of Brewster.



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Woodworks Gallery

www.woodworksgallery.com

(From BPC Summer 2023 Newsletter)

Bob and Ellen Meier, owners of the Woodworks Gallery, moved to Brewster in 1985 to be closer to family, although Bob continued to commute to Connecticut a few days a week until his retirement in 2005. Their sons, Chris and Rob, in grade school when the family moved to the Cape, enjoyed growing up here and attending the Nauset schools. Some of the family’s favorite activities included swimming and sailing in Sheep Pond, hiking around Cliff Pond, and fishing in the bay.

In 2009, Bob decided that it would be fun to open a small business here in Brewster. He had always loved the store Wood Chucks that had closed a few years earlier, so he decided to open a similar shop that would sell mostly handcrafted wooden items. Today, Woodworks Gallery carries a wide variety of very unique wooden and nautical items made by both local artists and craftsmen from around the US and Canada, as well as Fair Trade products from less developed countries.

Bob and Ellen’s son, Rob, began helping to manage the business seven years ago, and is largely responsible for expanding its outdoor furniture offerings which includes recycled and environmentally friendly outdoor furniture made by two Amish companies. Rob also bought and manages the adjoining shop, the Brewster Bird House, which carries a wide assortment of products for bird lovers.

The Meiers have greatly enjoyed their 14 years in business, especially meeting and working with people, both from Brewster and afar. Ellen is no stranger to the BPC, having recently assisted with the Pond Education field trips for the 2nd and 5th graders in the spring of 2023.



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Green Road Refill

www.greenroadrefill.com

(From BPC Spring 2023 Newsletter)

Jess Georges, owner of the Green Road Refill, first came to Brewster in the summer of 2003 to audition for a production at the Cape Rep Theater. She met her husband, a Brewster native, and has made the Cape her home ever since.

The Green Road Refill carries over 40 refillable plant based cleaning supplies and personal products, as well as many very unique, locally made, and fair trade gifts. Jess was prompted to start the business over concern for the health of our planet and her desire to make a difference.

The Green Road Refill made its first appearance with “Betty the Bus” in the 2018 Brewster in Bloom Parade. Betty is a converted school bus that Jess used as a store on wheels to bring her Earth-friendly wares to area farmers markets. Betty, now retired, has since been replaced with “Sally the She Shed,” mounted on a trailer, who also visits fairs and farmers markets. The Green Road Refill acquired a delightful permanent location a year and a half ago in Brewster’s Foster Square.

Jess, her husband, and their two children have had many happy memories of swimming in Seymour Pond and the ponds in Nickerson State Park. A favorite water sport is riding their noodles like horses across the ponds.



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The Kitchen Cafe

<https://thekitchencafebrewster.com/>

(From BPC Winter 2023 Newsletter)

Owners Jayme and Danielle Valdez opened the business in mid-2021, locating their restaurant in Brewster because their golden retriever, Tristan, loved coming to the Cape. The family is particularly fond of walks around the ponds in Nickerson State Park.

Originally from the Dominican Republic, Jayme came to the US in the mid-1990s. His first jobs were working in various food establishments in the Bronx. Happily, the food business suited him and led to the opening of his own restaurant in Boston six years ago, called Kitchen Cafe Boston. Jayme and Danielle bought a house in Brewster to retreat to on weekends and found that Tristan preferred the Cape over Boston, so the couple decided to move their restaurant here.

The menu at the Kitchen Cafe has a delicious Dominican flare with a condiment table featuring many varieties of hot sauce, but Jayme and Danielle say they have no old family recipes. Rather, the couple creates their own, trying out dishes at home before bringing them to the restaurant.

Jayme and Danielle were eager to become BPC Business partners because they want to support the protection of the environment and give back to the community that they are happy to be part of.



“SPOTLIGHT ON A BUSINESS PARTNER”

Terra Firma Permagardens

<https://www.thisisterrafirma.com/>

(From BPC Fall 2022 Newsletter)

Peter Jensen, founder of Terra Firma International, has traveled the world but grew up in Orleans and attended Nauset Regional High School. After earning a degree from the University of Vermont in Animal Science and Environmental Studies, Peter worked with the Peace Corps in Haiti on an agroforestry project that involved growing trees to harvest the leaf matter, which was then used to improve soil for growing crops. Understanding that healthy soil is critical for food security, Peter went on to get his master’s in soil health from the University of North Carolina.

Several years later, Peter joined the Peace Corps again as the Assistant Director of Environmental & Agricultural Training based in Malawi. This global assignment took him to Ethiopia and other African countries, where he observed ancestral techniques for capturing and redirecting water to facilitate farming. Peter explained, “The key to successful farming is to turn destructive runoff into nourishing *walk off*.” In other words, harness runoff by slowing the flow, giving it a place to sink into the soil, and a directed path to spread underground. “You can’t change the climate above your head, but you can change it below your feet.”

After the Peace Corps, Peter founded Terra Firma International and became an independent consultant assisting families in a South Sudan refugee camp. However, unable to renew his visa due to the political situation, Peter returned to the U.S. several years ago and founded Terra Firma Permagardens. His work now focuses on protecting the fragile watersheds of Cape Cod by creating beautiful landscapes using rain gardens, downspout keyhole gardens, water walks, swales, and terraces to control runoff from roofs, roads, and driveways. To learn more, email Peter Jensen at terrafirma.jensen@gmail.com.



“SPOTLIGHT ON A BUSINESS PARTNER”

Agway of Cape Cod

<https://agwaycapecod.com/>

(From BPC Summer 2022 Newsletter)

The brother and sister team of Josh Wile and Jessica Thomas are third-generation owners of Agway of Cape Cod and have been BPC Business partners for two years. Their grandfather, Roger Wile, a poultry and cattle farmer, was the founder. He opened Agway in Northboro, MA, in the 1960s and passed the store down to his son and daughter-in-law, Peter and Susan Wile. In 1993, the second-generation Wiles relocated their home and Agway store to Cape Cod, where they opened their first garden center in Orleans. Seven years later, in 2000, they purchased an existing business in Dennis, then another garden center in Chatham in 2006. Though Peter and Susan officially retired in 2001, Susan can still be found in the garden centers hanging signs and making everything look great.

Josh and Jess grew up in the business, so it’s been a way of life for them—not just a career choice—and they have some fun memories. “I remember visiting my dad in the store as an elementary school kid,” Josh recalls. “He would put me to work scooping bird seed. I would count up my hours every few weeks, and I would be paid in miniature toy tractors.” Jess also has a story: “When I was little, my friends and I would ride our bikes down the rail trail to Sheep Pond. The water’s always been so crisp and clear, and the cement dock was so fun to jump off of. It’s been my favorite pond ever since.”

When asked what they would like our members to know about their business and community involvement, the siblings respond, “We’re here for you! We’re proud to support dozens of local organizations per year and always do what we can to keep Cape Cod a safe and clean place to live and work.”





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Brewster Ace Hardware

<https://www.acehardware.com/store-details/17076>

(From BPC Spring 2022 Newsletter)

Jimmy Baskin, owner of Brewster Ace Hardware, was born and grew up on the Cape. His mom and dad moved here in the 70s and began by buying a small hardware store in Orleans. Their second store, the Brewster store, was bought in the 80s. The Baskin family then went on to buy three more hardware stores all of which have stayed in the family. Jimmy owns the Brewster store and his sister, Lauren, owns the other four. Although initially affiliated with True Value, the Baskin family began a partnership with Ace Hardware about four years ago.

What does Jimmy love about the hardware store? A hardware store is a focal point in a community. He enjoys engaging with the locals, many of whom have become great friends, and finds it very gratifying to help customers with their home repairs and projects.

Jimmy also appreciates the Brewster residents that choose to shop locally. He believes that it’s important to take care of our community and he became a Brewster Ponds Coalition Business partner as a way of supporting our town.

Although he enjoys Flax Pond for a day of swimming and paddle boarding, Jimmy has a soft spot for quiet secluded Schoolhouse Pond, which he thinks is a wonderful pond to learn to fish.





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The Brewster Book Store

<https://brewsterbookstore.com>

(From BPC Winter 2022 Newsletter)

The Town of Brewster is incredibly fortunate to be home to a unique and inspiring independent bookstore, the Brewster Book Store. Likewise, the Brewster Ponds Coalition is fortunate to have the bookstore as one of our first and very engaged business partners.

Opened in 1982 by John and Nancy Landon, the Brewster Book Store was recently sold to Jessica Devin and Susan O’Malley, book lovers and friends for many years. As co-owner, Jessica continues a family tradition spanning three generations. Her mother and aunt, Jean and Jane Mackenzie (sisters-in-laws), were the two original store managers and are still involved today. Growing up, Jessica, her brother, and cousins also worked in the store, as do, more recently, Jessica’s own children. Jessica related that the best part about the bookstore is interacting with all of their amazing customers. She loves living in Brewster and identified Higgins Pond in Nickerson State Park as her favorite pond for swimming.

A third manager, Val Arroyo, has been with the shop for twenty years. Val assisted the BPC Pond Education Team with creating a pond-related reading list for all ages. Val can also be seen on our YouTube channel standing in front of the bookstore with BPC mascot Shelly the Turtle while introducing a virtual book reading by local author Heidi Clemmer.



“SPOTLIGHT ON A BUSINESS PARTNER”

Pomeroy Photography and Graphics

<https://www.pomeroy-photo-graphics.com/>

(From BPC Fall 2021 Newsletter)

“Bill” William F. Pomeroy, of Pomeroy Photography and Graphics, was 10 years old when he received his first camera but didn’t get really serious about photography until years later. As a graphic design major in college, he started his career as a designer, where he “wrecked” photos to create corporate logos and advertisements.

As a professional photographer, Bill has looked more for composition and was hired to take mostly portraits along with occasional action at ski resorts and cruise lines. It didn't take long for him to find that his true passion was in photography.

After spending summers on Cape Cod as a child, Bill moved to live here year-round in 2008 and cemented his own photography and graphics business. Some of his preferred subjects are landscapes, children because of their candid nature, and his life-long passion for sports.

Bill is the official photographer for the Brewster Whitecaps, a freelance photographer for The Cape Codder newspaper, and, more recently, a huge and very welcome contributor to BPC publications. Aside from time with his dog and family, Bill enjoys swimming, sailing, and kayaking, and is looking forward to learning more about the many ponds in Brewster.



“SPOTLIGHT ON A BUSINESS PARTNER”

Crocker Nurseries

<https://crockernurseries.com>

(From BPC Summer 2021 Newsletter)

At any time of the year, Crocker Nurseries is arguably one of the most beautiful businesses to visit in Brewster. They are also one of the BPC’s first and most supportive business partners, hosting two native plant and alternative lawn workshops last summer and donating plants to the BPC for rain garden projects.

Owner Dave Crocker grew up on Cape Cod and began the nursery in 1976, based on a business plan he developed while in college. Located at 1132 Long Pond Road, the nursery began small but has grown over the years to cover seven acres and include two 90-foot greenhouses, a beautiful glass canopied retail showroom, and an expansive garden shop. The nursery offers thousands of varieties of annuals, perennials (many of which are grown at the nursery), shrubs, and trees.

Crocker Nurseries is truly a family business. Dave’s wife, Ann Marie, manages the annuals. Daughter Becky helps run the business as Dave’s VP, while daughter Katrina, a graphic artist, created and maintains Crocker’s beautiful website and produces advertising materials. A third daughter, Marisa, helps out seasonally during peak periods.



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Arbor-Way Gardens

508-385-3474

(From BPC Spring 2021 Newsletter)

The Arbor-Way Gardens/Brewster Ponds Coalition partnership began as many relationships do — by making a personal connection. Arbor-Way’s owner, Glenn Ralston, first was approached by BPC Board member Rob Condon, who saw Glenn working on a landscape project across the street on Mill Pond Road. Rob was hoping to engage Glenn and his Bobcat to help with Lower Mill Pond’s remediation project by helping to dig a stormwater retention basin. On the spot, Glenn offered to donate his time as a way of giving back to the Cape Cod community.

A longtime resident of the Cape for more than 50 years, Glenn explained that “I felt that I had lived in the town for many years and really hadn't had the opportunity to do something beneficial for the town. This was a good opportunity for me to do that.”

Glenn has lived on the Cape since 1963. His family opened Arbor-Way Gardens in Dennis in 1976. The family sold the retail business to Agway in 2000 and kept the Arbor-Way Gardens name. Glenn then opened his landscaping business, a work that he takes great pride in.

A proud father of two grown-up children, he and his loving partner, Janelle, have taken on the next generation and are raising three grandchildren, ages 8, 11 and 14. Glenn’s two favorite things about the Cape are the temperate weather (not too hot, not too cold) and, on a warm day, being able to take a boat out on the ocean.





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SUPfari Adventures

<https://supfariadventures.com>

(From BPC Winter 2021 Newsletter)

Ryan Burch and his wife, Juliet, started SUPfari Adventures in 2012 and added partner Luke Foley several years ago. When I first spoke to Ryan about SUPfari becoming a BPC business partner, I asked how they came up with the name. Answer: SUP stands for Stand Up Paddle and “fari” is a reference to “safari.” Adventure is what they offer: fun, safe, and educational SUP and kayak eco-paddles, evening glow tours, and family-friendly outings.

Ryan began his career as a seasonal assistant natural resource officer for the Town of Brewster. Although he spent many years exploring and surfing the globe, Ryan says he always returned in the spring (“just like the herring”) to work with the Brewster DNR. Juliet, originally from South Africa, met Ryan in Hawaii. In addition to being an outdoor enthusiast, Juliet is a professional dancer, yoga instructor, and nutritional wellness healer. The couple were drawn to Brewster because of the town’s natural beauty and dedication to protecting its natural resources. Their joint interest in water sports and the environment prompted them to start SUPfari Adventures.

Ryan attributes much of SUPfari’s success to the addition of partner Luke Foley five years ago—not only thanks to Luke’s 30+ years of experience as a guide for Eastern Mountain Sports, but also because of the entertaining and educational stories he tells while leading tours.





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Leighton Team

<https://www.leightonteam.com/>

(From BPC Fall 2020 Newsletter)

“These days my favorite pond activity is simply listening to it and watching it,” says Michael Leighton, BPC’s newest business partner. “When I had more time, it was fishing and boating.”

Working as owner, broker, and listing agent for Cape Cod’s #1-ranked real estate company hasn’t left Michael as many hours on the water as he would like, but through the Leighton Realty (now known as the Leighton Team, Keller Williams Realty) he supports local ponds in other ways, such as sponsorship of BPC’s Annual Meeting this past August.

“Sheep Pond — that’s where I vacationed as a boy and where I live now,” he says. “My parents’ only Cape experience was Hyannis, and they never liked it that much. But after my aunt bought them a week in Brewster on Sheep Pond, they never looked back. Now I’ve lived here more than 20 years, and I rent the cottage we used to vacation in.”

Michael’s love for the land has led him to plant more than 700 trees and shrubs on his property over the last three years. He also serves as president of a foundation that helps provide educational and physical supplies to children both locally and nationally.

If you’re “pond-ering” your next real estate move, you can see Michael’s team of agents on the back cover of the *2023 Brewster Ponds Guide*, or visit the company’s website





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J.M. O’Reilly & Associates, Inc.

<https://www.imoreillyassoc.com/>

(From BPC Summer 2020 Newsletter)

A significant new step this year for the Brewster Ponds Coalition has been our active pursuit of business partners to help fund pond educational programs, water quality testing, and pond remediation projects. J.M. O’Reilly & Associates, Inc. was the first business to answer the call! Not surprising since John O’Reilly, president, has long been committed to the Cape Cod community, working with the local elementary schools, Boy Scouts, and Habitat for Humanity. John currently sits on the Nauset Regional School Board and is active on the committee planning the renovation of Nauset Regional High School.

As an engineering firm, J.M. O’Reilly & Associates, Inc. specializes in Engineering, Land Surveying, and Environmental Services, and has often worked with the town of Brewster, the BPC, and various pond associations on stormwater remediation projects. These projects include the work at Blueberry Pond and the current project at Walkers Pond.

