

# Benton Beach Beacon



April 2007

## BBC Spring Work Weekend

**Saturday, May 19th and Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>,  
9 a.m. till...**

Spring is here and it is time to get the beach ready for the summer months. There are the usual projects, including laying the dock down, cleaning out the beach house and putting the canopy up. The big Nor'easter storm of the weekend of April 15th caused lots of damage all along the Connecticut coastline. Fortunately, it appears that our beach has escaped without any significant structural damage. However, the tide came up as far as the parking lot!!! There is 6 inches of sand over the decking under the canopy, sand in the fire pit and tons of debris in general that we will have to haul off. We will be focusing a lot of our effort in this direction and hope that many hands will make light work. Bring rakes, shovels and gloves on the work day. We are also hoping to be able to have some stone delivered to spread in the lowest areas of the beach road.

Since Saturday is usually when more people can make it, we will be providing coffee first thing in the morning that day as well as lunch and iced tea at noontime. If anyone is interested in bringing a dessert to share, that would be lovely. If Sunday is a better day for you, come and check the poster in the beach house to see what chores still need to be done.

So come whatever day is best for you. All cleaning supplies will be provided.

## Annual Summer Benton Family Picnic

**Saturday, August 4, 2007**

Mark your calendars now! Last year's picnic that included our extended Norton Family was just wonderful. For this year, we will be returning to a gathering of our immediate Benton family. We have not yet decided on the theme, but rest assured that it will be a day of great fun, food and catching up with family that we may not have seen in a while. More information will be sent as the time draws nearer.

## Transferring Benton Beach, Inc. Stock by Last Will & Testament

By Joel Helander

As BBC shareholders know, shares of stock in the family corporation can be transferred freely at any time to any lineal descendant of Eliot H. Benton. The advantages of transferring stock during life are many and this subject has been explored before. However, the matter of having an adequate will to address transfer of shares of BBC stock by last will and testament has not been addressed enough. It is vitally important to have an adequate or revised will to address changing circumstances. It is inappropriate for the columns of the family newsletter to begin to dispense legal advice, so shareholders are urged to seek professional advice from an attorney-at-law or estate planner with regard to their BBC stock.

The Board of Directors of BBC has observed through the unfortunate deaths of Roger W. Benton (2005) and H. Milton Benton (2006) that their shares of BBC stock were not adequately addressed in their last wills and testaments. Roger's will did not even mention BBC stock and Milton's will directed any remaining shares of stock to be returned to the corporation. In both these estates, legal issues have arisen that have posed risk and confusion. It gives the Board pause to remind all BBC shareholders *to make specific provisions* in their wills for Benton Beach Corporation stock.

Since shareholders are bound by the terms of the Stockholder's Agreement, it is important that shares of stock not be imposed on lineal descendants who may be unwilling or unable to support shares/additional shares. For this reason, it has been suggested that any provision in a will for BBC stock contain a contingency for the bequests. The language of the contingency might be as simple as stating that any bequest shall be contingent upon the recipient's interest in shareholding/additional shareholding and his/her willingness to accept the responsibilities and obligations of shareholding.

Shareholders and drafters of wills need to recognize that the Stockholder's Agreement demands transfer of stock to only *personal and individual entities by name*. Stock should not and cannot be willed to trust entities or to the corporation itself. In conclusion, if you own ungifted shares of BBC stock, it is recommended that you review the adequacy of your last will and testament to provide for the proper, legal inheritance of these shares.

If you have further questions on this subject, please feel free to contact Ellen Benton Fales as president or myself as stock registrar.

## The Marsh Fiddler Crab

Written by Eric Sanford of the North and South River Watershed Association, Marshfield Massachusetts; submitted by Holly Whelan

A trip to fiddler territory is a memorable sight. Crabs everywhere. They are by far the most common and visible invertebrate animal on the marsh. Holes everywhere. Each fiddler digs a burrow, usually 6-10 inches deep. One burrow may connect to another underground. Since there is at least one burrow for every crab, the marsh may be riddled with holes. Fiddler

territory is easily recognized, even if no crab is in sight.

The males are told from the females by their large claw. While the claws of the females and the young males are both a normal size, the adult males have one normal and one large claw, the large claw sometimes accounting for over half the crabs' total weight. About half the males are right handed and half left handed.

Typically, crabs use chemicals to attract a mate. Called pheromones, these are released into the water and the females follow this scent to the males. But fiddlers are land crabs, spending most of their time out of the water. Pheromones in the water would do them no good. To attract a mate, a male fiddler waves his large claw in a circular motion over his head. That along with stamping his foot on the ground is enough to arouse the female. She follows him home to his burrow where they mate.

The female carries the fertilized eggs attached to the under side of her abdomen in a mass called a "sponge". The sponge may contain tens of thousands of eggs. Sometime in June or July, the eggs will hatch on an evening high tide and the young larval crab will be swept out to sea on the outgoing tide. They will spend a couple of weeks to a month part of the plankton, until they finally settle down on the marsh to begin life as an adult fiddler.

It is important for the male fiddler to have an impressive large claw. The more impressive the claw, the better his chances of attracting a mate. But the large claw comes at a price. Both males and females use their claws in burrow digging and feeding. But since the large claw of the male is useless for these activities, he must make do with one. This handicap is especially noticeable in feeding. Fiddlers feed on detritus - decomposing bits of plant and animal matter mixed in with the mud. They scoop the mud into their mouths and separate the digestible parts from the rest, expelling the unused portion as fecal pellets, which can literally cover the marsh. Since the males can only use one claw to scoop the mud into their mouths, they must feed faster and longer than the females to get the same amount of food.

The salt marsh benefits in a number of ways from a healthy colony of fiddlers. The fecal pellets help add nutrients to the marsh. The burrows aerate the soil, allowing for a healthier root system in the marsh grass. Because of their

great abundance, they provide a food source for many marsh animals. And because they are susceptible to pollution and are easy to spot, they are a good indication of a healthy marsh.

## Benton Farmhouse Trivia

shared by Carolyn Benton Helander;  
recorded by Holly Whelan

1. **Who was Fred?**  
I remember Fred...he was Uncle Roger's pet, a Rhode Island Red Chicken. Roger would sit down in the chicken yard cross legged, leaving a little nest for his favorite chicken Fred.
2. **Who was Nicky?**  
I remember Nicky...short for Nickademus, who was the pet dog of the Sachem's Head Whiteheads. When I played the piano, Janice Paviglionite and I would sing along, and Nicky would always join in singing with us.
3. **What was the Red Devil?**  
I remember the Red Devil...it was our pick-up truck for delivering milk. I remember all of us delivering milk in the summer time, with cakes of ice on the crates of milk, to keep it cold.
4. **Who was Lily?**  
I remember Lily...she was our favorite cow. We always had Guernsey's, which were valued for their creamy milk. Holsteins were valued for the quantity of milk they produced. Lily was a beautiful Guernsey, with a white patch on her forehead. She died a sad death because she ate a branch from the wild cherry tree. Dad always would pick up each branch after a storm, so the cows wouldn't get sick. Lily ate a branch. She died under the apple tree near the rabbit house.
5. **Who was French?**  
I remember Mr. French...he was a professional photographer who lived on Vineyard Point and he took milk from us. We did an exchange, milk for photography. He paid off his milk by taking pictures of our family. So, when you find old family pictures, you may see "French" as the photographer. That's who he was.

6. **What was the "tin tub"?**  
I remember the old tin tub...it was for bathing. I can still picture Uncle Roger having a bath in the tin tub on the kitchen floor near the oil stove, so he would be warm.
7. **Who was Joanne?**  
I remember Joanne...she was a riding horse, not a working horse. Uncle Milton rode her. I know we have pictures of Milton riding Joanne.
8. **"Come Cawboose!"**  
My father would call the cows for the 5 AM milking. He'd put his two hands on either side of his mouth and shout "Come Cawboose-Cawboose!" "Come Cawboose-Cawboose!" That meant "Come cows! Come cows!" They always came to his voice.

## Notes

### Calendar of Events:

Please call Heather Collinson (860-663-3076), Benton Beach Corp Secretary, for scheduling a special beach event. This is not necessary for small, spontaneous gatherings. Please also note that scheduling **does not** grant exclusive use of the beach during the event.

**May 19, 20 (Sat, Sun)** BBC work weekend, starting at 9am Sat

**June 12 (Tue)** Lynne Ott, Alpha Club Picnic, 4pm

**July 4 (Wed)** Edwin Benton, Church picnic

**July 14-15 (Sat-Sun)** Tim & Sharon Chemaeki picnic & campout with friends

**July 22 (Sun)** Fales family picnic, 1pm

**July 28 - Aug 4 (Sat-Sat)** Whelan family campout

**Aug 4 (Sat)** Annual Benton Family Picnic, 2 pm (high tide 4 pm)

**Aug 10 - Aug 15 (Fri-Wed)** Fales/Schaefer family campout

### **Content Submission**

Please submit any articles or family updates to Tim Chemacki for incorporation into the next issue (*preferably by email*).

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