

Reflections of Scorton Salt Marsh

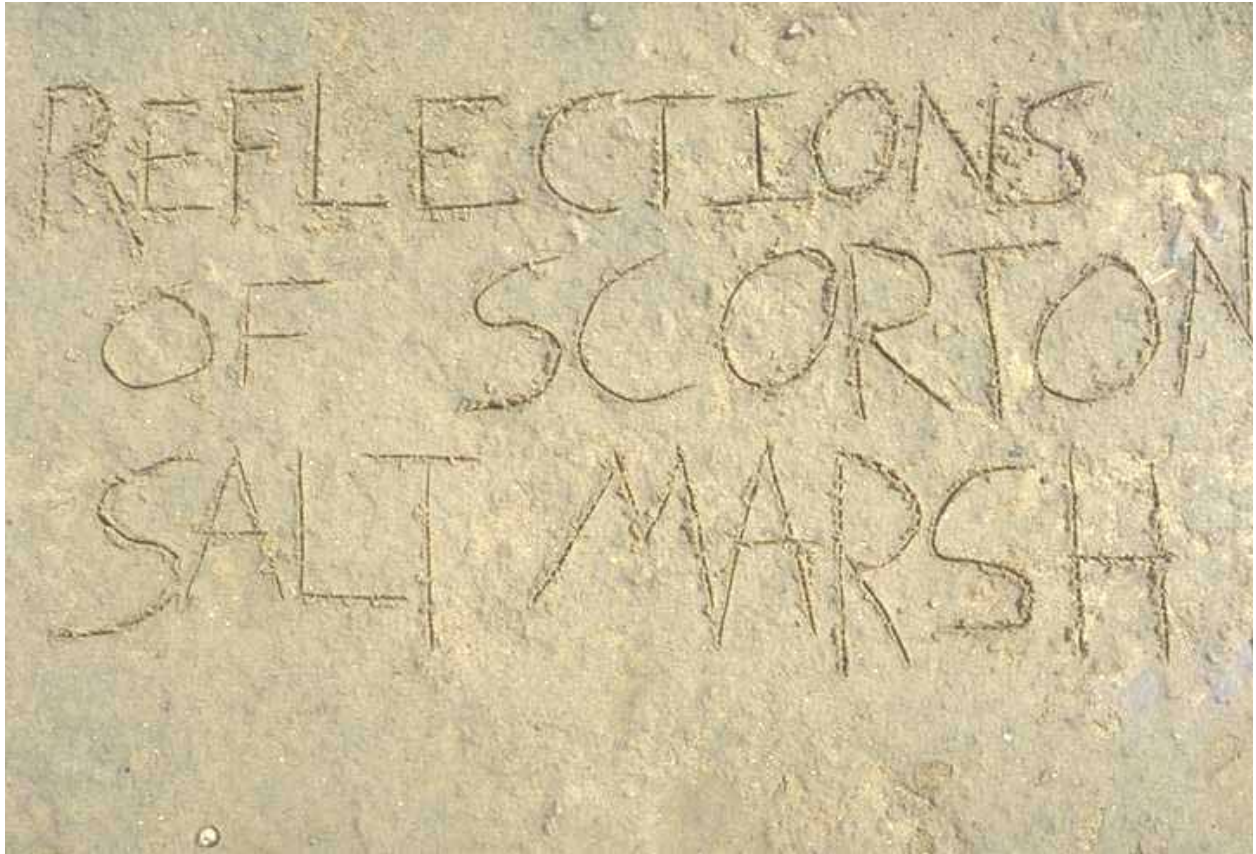
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Introduction



We have been coming to the Scorton salt marsh on weekends and holidays since 1981, although we spent little time out in the marsh over the years.

We have sometimes walked and played on the barrier beach which protects the marsh.



And we have spent much time looking at the marsh from our house.



From the viewpoint of our house we can see across the main channel of Scorton Creek to beachfront cottages on Cape Cod Bay.



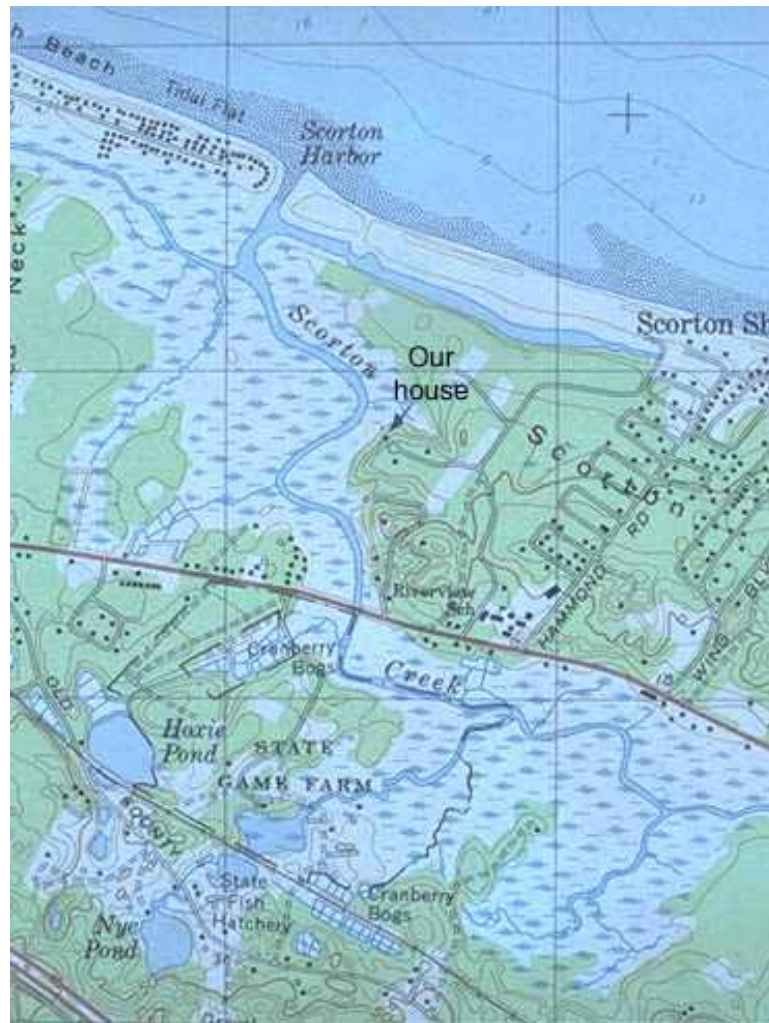
We sometimes walk the 60 or 70 yards from our house to swim from our neighbor's boat dock, at which we also moor our canoe when it's not on the floor of our garage.



In the summer of 1991 we decided to explore the marsh more thoroughly, and to try to learn something about how the marsh was created and shaped by ocean tides, plants, animals and man.



The Scorton Salt Marsh lies in East Sandwich on the north or Bay side of Cape Cod, about six miles from the entrance to the Cape Cod Canal and one mile from Sandwich's boundary with Barnstable. It's location is marked by a small X in this picture.



This USGS topographical map for the Sandwich quadrangle shows the entrance from Cape Cod Bay into Scorton Harbor, the east branch of Scorton Creek behind the barrier beach, and the west branch of Scorton Creek extending behind the beachfront cottages. It also shows the main channel of Scorton Creek winding its way through the marsh to the bridge at Route 6A, shown here in red. South of Route 6A, the creek diverges into several tributaries, one of which reaches Jones Lane at the right edge of the map, whence it flows on to meet the Great Marsh of Barnstable.

The harbor entrance



A natural place to start this exploration Scorton Salt Marsh is at the Scorton Harbor entrance from Cape Cod Bay.

Looking at the harbor entrance from the Bay, one can see beachfront cottages on the right ...



And one can see a gravelspit and rock jetty on the left.



Together Luke and Dave explored the marsh and developed the narrative. Luke did the photography. In the spring of 2000 Dave began adapting the slide show to an electronic format with written narrative; he finished in 2005. In 2008 Dave converted the electronic form of the slide show into this book.



Our reference materials were obtained from the Green Briar Nature Center, the Sandwich Public Library, and the Sandwich Town Archives.



The slides were taken on Fujichrome 100 film with a Nikon camera and lenses.



We thank Sara Walden who helped us in every way to learn about Scorton Salt Marsh.





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Luke and Dave Walden working at their “light table,” creating the original slide show.