Reflections of Scorton Salt Marsh
Also by Luke and David Walden

The Narcotics Farm by Nancy Campbell, J.P. Olsen and Luke Walden
A New American TQM by Shoji Shiba, Alan Graham and David Walden
Four Practical Revolutions in Management by Shoji Shiba and David Walden
Breakthrough Management by Shoji Shiba and David Walden
Contents

Introduction 1
The harbor entrance 9
Up the east branch behind the barrier beach 33
The original entrance 51
The wildlife at the harbor entrance 59
Up the west branch behind the E. Sandwich cottages 89
The connection to the fresh water pond 101
Up the main stream to the beach across Route 6A 139
Overland, grasses and the higher marsh by the State conservation land 167
Overview of the marsh south of Route 6A 183
The connection to The Great Marsh and the activities bounding the marsh to the south 195
Back to home 201
Reflection 203
View from the house at sunset, and Acknowledgments 209
Bibliography 219
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.
Bibliography

Berrill, N.J. and Jacquelyn, *1000 Questions Answered About the Seashore*, Dover, 1957.


Lovell, R.A., Jr., *Sandwich A Cape Cod Town*, published by the Town of Sandwich, Massachusetts, and the Sandwich Archives and Historical Center, 1984.


Ottewell, Guy, *Astronomical Calendar 1991*, published by the author at the Department of Physics, Furman University, Greenville, South Carolina.


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