

Newsletter

Summer 2014

Volume 5, Issue 2

Association Leaders

Brian Harrington,
President
Lee Pulis, Vice Pres.
John Foye, Treasurer
Rali Pulis, Secretary
Ken Cannon & Kate von
Goeler, Webmasters
Claire & Emma Esterman
Student Assistant
Webmasters
Paula Kuketz, Water
Safety Committee
Martha Sheldon,
Membership Committee
Geri Williams,
Newsletter Editor
Lee Pulis, Education and
Outreach Committee
Eb von Goeler, Water
Quality Committee
Marleen von Goeler,
Program Committee
Dave Clark, Government
Liaison

Upcoming Events

August 9, 3pm to dusk HPWA Picnic

Join us for a picnic on
the beach of the
Weston's property at
173 Herring Pond Rd.

August 25, 7:00 pm HPWA General Meeting

New Testament Church
Long Pond Rd
Election of officers,
social time and sharing
tips for greener living.

October 6, 7:00 pm HPWA General Meeting

New Testament Church
Long Pond Rd
Presentation on
Plymouth's unique
ecosystems.

Website

TheHerringPondsWatershed.org

President's Message

Brian Harrington, President

For many of us the Fourth of July marks the beginning of a joyful period of summer recreation, complete with family gatherings, perhaps a party or two, and some outdoors fun. Our "watershed summer" likely will include some swimming, perhaps some boating or paddling, and maybe other activities that depend upon a clean and healthy watershed such as fishing. We are blessed that our watershed is still an unusually healthy one!

Summer living may also keep us from thinking about our responsibilities as watershed residents. Just as there is little point in paying for fire insurance after your home burns down, there is little point in pondering the safety and care of our watershed after it becomes polluted or otherwise damaged. Instead, we need to insure it with knowledge and understanding of threats to its health and its value to us as residents. Our Herring Ponds Watershed Association exists in good part to be a form of insurance, one that works to monitor the 'heartbeat' of our ponds and streams. For your part, if you have not already joined us, consider paying your dues to help insure your part of this wonderful treasure we share together. For those who have joined us, thanks for doing your part! Be safe and have wonderful summer!



Some of the folks at last summers picnic.

2nd Annual HPWA Picnic

from Dennis White, Picnic Organizer

You are invited to this summer's HPWA picnic on Saturday, **Aug 9th at 3:00 P.M.** with a rain date of Aug 10th at 3:00 P.M. The address is the Weston property at 173 Herring Pond Road, the beach and fields behind the bogs with all the flags. Look for the Herring Fish signs! Parking is available on the upper part of the field.

It is a cookout in addition to a pot luck. Bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share. A large barbecue grill will be provided for you to cook your own burgers or dogs or what have you, and some picnic tables. It would be helpful if you brought some chairs. There will be swimming and horseshoes available along with raffles and a kid's table.

If you plan to attend please contact Linda and Dennis White at 508-888-5489 with what food you will be bringing to share so they can coordinate. They will also answer any questions you may have.

This is an opportunity to meet some of your Watershed neighbors while enjoying a pleasant afternoon on Great Herring Pond. Bring your kids! Bring your grandkids! Bring your friends and neighbors!



Recent Water Testing Results

By Eb vonGoeler, Water Quality Chair

The lab analysis results of our water sampling on 6/30/14 can be viewed on our website:

TheHerringPondsWatershed.org

Here is my summary of the results:

The nutrient content (phosphorus) is low, which is good especially for the time of year. It's a bit higher in Little Herring Pond than elsewhere.

Nitrogen content is normal. E-coli are low everywhere except at two locations – acceptably high at Great Herring Pond (GHP) outflow into the Herring River, uncomfortably high at the outflow of Carters River into GHP. pH is close to neutral. Water transparency (Secchi disk results) is normal for the season at 2.5 to 3 meters, indicating moderate algae presence. Dissolved oxygen is close to 100% from pond surface to pond bottom, indicating no seasonable stratification yet, probably due to storms and wind churning the water all the way to the bottom.

I thank the three husband/wife teams (Joe and Barbara Solimini, who also provided their boat, Jack and Denise Kedian, and Bob and JoAnne McDonald) who volunteered as the GHP team, and our President Brian Harrington who braved the waters of LHP in his kayak on a beautiful but very windy day.

SAFETY!! IT'S THE LAW!!

By Paula Kuketz, Water Safety Committee Chairperson

By encouraging everyone who uses our beautiful pond to observe the safety rules and use common sense in and on the water we hope all will enjoy a safe and fun filled summer. Remember all children 12 and under must wear a life jacket when on any kind of boat, everyone must wear one on a personal watercraft. If you would like a copy of the boating regulations e-mail Harbor Master Chad Hunter: chunter@townhall.plymouth.ma.us

Wildlands Trust Representative at HPWA July Public Meeting

Are you interested in learning about your land conservation options? At the July membership meeting, Allegra Wrocklage, an AmeriCorps volunteer at the Wildlands Trust, spoke to HPWA members about the land conservation options available to landowners interested in protecting their land from future development. She provided information about a range of land conservation options including conservation restrictions, donations, sale for conservation, and agricultural preservation restrictions, and how the Wildlands Trust works with landowners who are interested in exploring these options. The presentation also discussed the important role that land conservation can play in protecting the Herring Ponds watershed, an invaluable resource that the Wildlands Trust would also like to help conserve for future generations.

The Wildlands Trust is a non-profit dedicated to conserving land and preserving the natural heritage of Southeastern Massachusetts. It was founded in Plymouth 40 years ago and has protected almost 10,000 acres in the region. They work to protect important habitats and landscapes by preserving open and undeveloped land. The Trust protects about 1500 acres in Plymouth, more than it does in any other community in their service area. The Trust's first property is also in Plymouth, the 130 acre Emery Preserve acquired in 1973. The Trust is looking forward to continuing it's long practice of reaching out to and working with Plymouth landowners through partnership with the HPWA.

Please visit the website <http://www.wildlandstrust.org> to learn more about the Trust and their work, or call at 781-934-9018 to discuss your interest in protecting your land. They look forward to working with members of the HPWA to conserve land and protect the Herring Ponds Watershed!

Elections to be held at August Meeting

By Dennis White

The HPWA Nominating Committee composed of Dennis White, Paula Kuketz, Peggy Burke and Barbara Solimini met on July 13, 2014. Dennis was elected Chairperson. Brian Harrington and John Foye had been contacted to see if they were willing to run for another two year term. The committee determined that they both had very capably filled their roles. Therefore they decided to nominate Brian Harrington for President and John Foye as Treasurer.

At the July 14, 2014 General Meeting of the HPWA, Dennis White presented the nominations of Brian Harrington and John Foye to the Membership. He asked for nominations from membership for president and treasurer. None being made he closed the nominations.

Elections for president and secretary will be held at the General Meeting on August 25, 2014 at 7:00 pm at the New Testament Church. A social hour with refreshments will follow. Contributions of bite-sized desserts would be appreciated.

HPWA Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City/Town _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

___ \$15 Member, vote & communications

___ \$25 Family, 2 voting members & communications

___ \$55 Contributing Member, vote & communications

___ \$100 Sustaining Member, receive all of above

Make checks payable to **The Herring Ponds Watershed Association, Ltd**

Mail to: Herring Ponds Watershed Assoc.

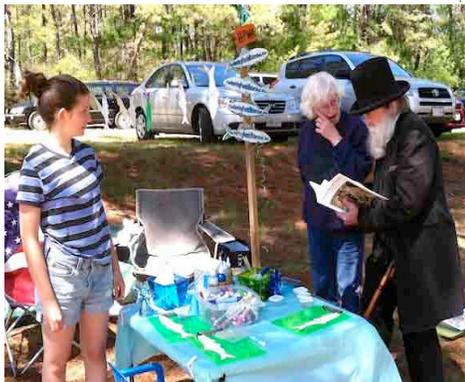
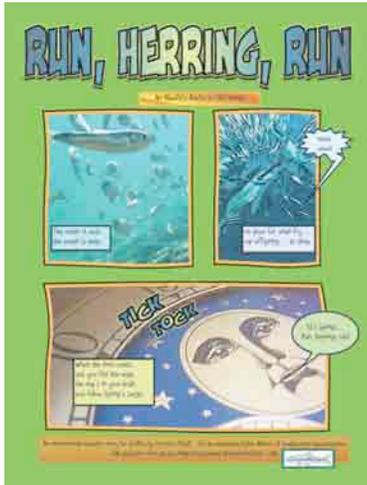
P O Box 522

Sagamore Beach, MA 02562

Education Committee Very Active

By Lee Pulis, Chairperson

A New England Grassroots Environment Fund grant of \$500 allowed HPWA to print about 500 4-page super hero mighty river herring comics, “*Run, Herring, Run.*”



We distributed them at the Plimoth Plantation’s 1st annual Herring Run Festival April 26th at the Jenney Pond Grist Mill, as well as the SE Massachusetts Pine Barrens Association’s May 17 Pine Fest in Myles Standish State Forest (MSSF). Our decorate-a-herring kids’ activity (with cutouts and glitter glue) entertained hundreds of youth. Join us for fun, and help on September 27th at the Friends of MSSF Fishing Derby.

On May 19 Brian Harrington and a handful of other early-rising HPWA members assembled at the cul de sac on Little Herring Pond Rd to observe and count birds on land between Little

Herring and Triangle Ponds, proposed for residential development. It was a beautiful morning for a leisurely stroll, and 38 species were recorded in 2.5 hours. We were joined by Irina Kadis and Alexey Zinovjev, assistant curators at Harvard’s Arnold Arboretum, who compiled a wonderful list of 80+ plants in the area, and keyed the list to [photographs on their website](#).

*Irina: “...this area has produced a very deep impression on us as a piece of solid pine/oak woods with Atlantic white cedar at wet areas—a forest that is nearly completely devoid of any non-native plants, harboring a vast variety of native ones. ...after just a single short walk we could easily produce a list of about 80 species, and we have plans to revisit at least two more times in order to add to this list during different seasons. One unusual thing about this forest is abundance of smooth shadbush (*Amelanchier laevis*), which we haven’t observed in such amounts ever before.”*

Our bird and plant lists were forwarded to the town’s Conservation and Community Preservation committees. Like Parcel 15 last year, this area is critically positioned with respect to water quality and designated priority wildlife habitat in the ACEC. Unfortunately a builder has proposed building 10 homes on this ecologically valuable site. The Planning Board will meet on September 8 to continue the review of this development.

The Education Committee is still on alert for a source of (preferably free) 55-gallon poly barrels, so we can run another DIY rain barrel workshop in cooperation with the Town of Plymouth. Contact Lee Pulis (at leepulis@gmail.com) if you discover a supply available for a good stewardship cause.

An email bookmark for a Google Earth aerial tour of the watershed (from our May 19 public meeting program) is available on request (contact Lee Pulis). The tour path starts at 30 ft elevation above Shaw’s Market in Cedarville, flies north up Hedges and Long Pond roads, then

south over Little Herring, Pickerel, Triangle and Great Herring Ponds, providing good views of the Carter’s River.

The Watershed Action Alliance of SE Mass, of which HPWA is one of 12 member organizations, will partner with Plimoth Plantation to convene a regional water conference on Friday, April 28th, 2015 in conjunction with the Plantation’s 2nd annual Herring Run Festival. Let HPWA know if you would like to help in any way with planning, sponsorship, logistics, topic presentation, etc.

Robbie Haigh Steps Down From Membership Chair

When Robbie Haigh joined the HPWA just about two years ago, she immediately became very involved, taking on the role of Membership Chairperson with gusto. She personally delivered nearly a thousand of our Watershed Stewardship Guides to residents of the watershed. With her smiling face and enthusiastic presence she greeted people and helped out at all the events where we hosted a table. However Robbie is moving to a new condo in the center of Plymouth and will no longer be living in our Watershed, so she recently resigned as Membership Chair.

In response President Brian Harrington wrote, “Robbie, you have been a breath of “hugging fresh air” on our Executive Committee, and will be missed by all of us. Of course I (we) understand and appreciate your reasoning. I hope our paths will continue to cross, and that you will find ways to attend our meetings now and then. Best wishes for a happy and successful transition to your new ‘perch’. Enjoy the rest of the summer (in spite of your move!).”

Brian’s wife Martha Sheldon has been appointed the new Membership Chair by the Executive Committee.

TANK TALK

By Dave Clark

Photo #1



Photo #2



Can anyone tell what these photos represent?

Photo #1 is of a septic tank that hasn't been pumped in a very long time. Possibly as much as ten to fifteen years. It looks pretty bad with a scum level so thick that it was flowing under the "Outlet Tee" and getting into the drain field. If left to continue this way, the drain field would have become clogged and require replacement.

Photo #2 is of a cesspool. The "Tee" is actually the inlet to the system. The fluid looks much cleaner than the first photo. Now, which one of these passed the Title V inspection? Hint: this was before cesspools failed automatically.

The one in Photo #1 passed. The drain field was still functioning and the septic tank was pumped.

Photo #2 was located about 75 feet from a pond and the elevation of the top of the cesspool was only about 5 feet above the pond level. The bottom of the cesspool was at water table level; therefore, there was no required separation.

Unfortunately these still exist and many are located within the watershed. Nuff said.

Fishing Licenses

And Wildlife Information

By Dave Clark

You all should be aware of a great resource, located a short ride from the watershed. The Southeast Wildlife District Office, located at 195 Bourndale Road, is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The office is staffed with knowledgeable people who can answer fish and game questions as well as point out the varied species that inhabit our woods and waters, depicted in well done mountings and photos. There is also a supply of informative booklets that can be purchased at reasonable cost. Carole and I visited the District Office after being told that the Massachusetts resident fishing license that is free to folks 70 years of age or over, would cost \$1.50 at the Town Clerk's Office. Upon questioning, I was told that this fee was required and sent to the State. After some research on line I finally called the District Office and learned that fishing licenses were indeed free as follows: Resident Freshwater Fishing (Age 70 or over), Free; Resident Saltwater Fishing (Age 60 and over), Free; Resident Minor Freshwater Fishing (Age 15-17), Free; and Resident Citizen Sporting (Age 70 or over), Free. When I asked about the \$1.50 fee charged at the Town Clerk's office, I was told that this fee is not sent to the state, but kept by the Town Clerk. Anyone wanting to obtain fishing or hunting licenses should visit the Southeast Wildlife District Office and perhaps spend the money saved on some of the great booklets offered.



Pickerel Pond Preserve

By: Allegra Wrocklage (AmeriCorps member, Wildlands Trust)

The best thing about the Pickerel Pond Preserve in Plymouth is its unexpectedness; visitors will be excited to find such a stunning and secluded preserve in the midst of the Ponds of Plymouth residential development. The Wildlands Trust acquired the 30 acre preserve in 2006, which includes a pine forest surrounding Pickerel Pond itself. Located just west of Little Herring Pond, Pickerel Pond is part of the same Biomap ACEC as the Herring Ponds, and a great place to experience the beauty of the Herring Ponds' watershed.

The Pickerel Pond Preserve trail is a relatively easy yet very enjoyable walk, showcasing the pond and its surrounding landscape beautifully. Visitors enter the preserve from its trailhead off a cul-de-sac, and follow the trail in a loop around the pond that takes the casual hiker about 10-15 minutes to complete. The trail is wooded and slightly hilly, with changes in elevation giving visitors spectacular views of the pond and mature pine forest surrounding it. Finally, Pickerel Pond is only a short drive down Long Pond Road from the Wildlands Trust's future headquarters at Davis Douglas Farm, the Trust hopes will encourage visitors to stop and see our new offices and grounds!

Directions: Take Route 3 to Exit 2. Briefly travel south on Herring Pond Road, then west on Long Pond Road. Turn left on Lunn's Way, left onto Raymond Road, left onto Persistence Cove, and left onto Pioneer Trail. Follow Pioneer Trail to the cul-de-sac at its end. Visitors can park on the grassy area to the right of the cul-de-sac. The trail head is beyond the grassy area, near several large boulders.