



Newsletter

Spring 2014

Volume 5, Issue 1

Association Leaders

Brian Harrington,
President
Lee Pulis, Vice Pres.
John Foye, Treasurer
Rali Esterman, Secretary
Ken Cannon & Kate von
Goeler, Webmasters
Claire & Emma Esterman
Student Assistant
Webmasters
Paula Kuketz, Water
Safety Committee
Robena Haigh,
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

April 26, 11 - 4
Plimoth Plantation's
Herring Festival
Grist Mill at Jenny Pond

May 17 10am-8pm
SEMPBA Pine Fest
Charge Pond
Campground Miles
Standish State Forest

May 18, 7am Bird Walk
Bourndale Conservation
Area just off Herring
Pond Rd.

May 19, 7pm HPWA
General Meeting
New Testament Church
Long Pond Rd.
Learn the significance of
the Carters River and
Little Herring Pond

Website

TheHerringPondsWatershed.org

"Safety in numbers" - Associating for mutual benefit.

Brian Harrington, President

Why should you belong to the Herring



Red Knots on Delaware Bay

Ponds Watershed Association? About half of the people on our mailing list have paid dues and added voice to our Association efforts; about half have not. It is safe to think that all of us who have joined the Association hope that the others will also join. Quite simply, like "safety in numbers", greater numbers of members in our Association will help pave a path to greater effectiveness in protecting our own Herring River Watershed.

Our Association aims to magnify a potential that we each hold, and to apply our combined weight to better protect and manage the "ecological neighborhood" (our watershed) that we all share. We do this by monitoring water quality (costing several thousand dollars each year), by working to educate our neighbors about 'considerate practices' appropriate for living in a watershed, by using our amplified voice in political forums, schools, and by watchfulness over our mutual interests. Your Association directors aim to amplify our combined voice even farther by networking with other "like-minded" organizations. We are in close contact with

Plymouth and Bourne town governments, we participate with 10 other watershed groups in the Watershed Action Alliance of Southeastern Massachusetts, we have been working with Plymouth High and other schools, with the Wildlands Trust, and with environmental and planning departments of our towns. We attend public hearings, and volunteer time and talent to our community. We go out in storms to monitor water quality, operate water-sampling equipment on two of our ponds, and take samples to professional labs several times a year. Each week we measure water levels and report to state environmental managers. Catching my breath, I would add that we are entirely volunteer-driven; not one cent of your dues goes to salaries (let us know if you can help).

OK, enough. I thank you if you are a member of HPWA, but ask that you also tell your neighbors about us. If you are not a member, consider whether you should be. After all, we are all in this together. Like "safety in numbers", a larger Association membership will help bring benefits to our watershed neighborhood. And our dues start at just \$15. Visit us at

TheHerringPondsWatershed.org



HPWA window display on Main St.

Education Committee News

Lee Pulis, Chair

HPWA Education Committee activities for 2014 are about to begin.

On Saturday, **April 26** from 11 -4 HPWA will have a table and kids activity at the Plimoth Plantation's

Herring Festival

<<http://www.plimoth.org/calendar?tribeEmbed=date%3D20140426#/?tribe=1>> at the Grist Mill at Jenney Pond.

On **May 17** we will have a table and kids activity at the SEMPBA **Pine Fest**

<<http://pinebarrensalliance.org/pinefesthome.asp>> at Charge Pond in Myles Standish State Forest. Our watershed **Bird Walk** will take place on **May 18** at 7 in the morning.

In early February we had a very successful **meeting with Town of Plymouth officials** (Environmental Technician, Natural Resources Warden, Conservation Planner, and Community Preservation Committee Chair) plus Wildlands Trust, focusing on the Carters River "Parcel 15" purchase by the town. We discussed planned conservation restrictions and future access and usage possibilities. The CPC chair expressed interest in further work with HPWA and Wildlands Trust on efforts to inform watershed property owners, conserve strategic properties, protect water quality, and improve access for youth and adults to experience nature within the watershed.

From mid-March through April we have an **HPWA window display** at 58C Main Street in Plymouth. Be sure to stop by, count the herring, and see if you can spot the wood duck.

We just received notification of approval of a grant from the New England Grassroots Environmental Foundation to produce a storybook about river herring, and to purchase

supplies to support kids activities at events where HPWA will have a presence. Lee Pulis has written a 4 page booklet titled *Run Herring Run* and is trying to get it printed in time for the Herring Festival and Pine Fest.

In December Geri distributed 300 of our HPWA **Stewardship Guides** <http://theherringpondswatershed.org/uploads/HPWA_Stewardship_Guide.pdf> for use with South Middle School 7th graders this spring. We have also recently heard from a grade 11-12 environmental science teacher at South High School that she is writing a teachers guide for using them in her class and would offer her guide to other teachers. She was also receptive to our list of potential student service projects.

We are on the lookout for free 55-gallon plastic barrels to repeat our **Do-it-Yourself-and-Take-it-with-You rain barrel workshop** in time for summer gardening. Please let us know if you have a source!

If you are interested in helping out with any of these activities, chairperson Lee Pulis will be very happy to hear from you. <lee@theherringpondswatershed.org>. He especially needs volunteers to help man the activities tables on April 26, any time between 11am and 4 pm, and May 17.



Pine Fest—A Pine Barrens Multicultural Celebration!

Charge Pond Campground Pavilion
Myles Standish State Forest, Carver
May 17, 2014
10 am to 8 pm

Pine Fest is FREE and Accessible

More detailed info about several of the very unique events scheduled can be found at <http://www.pinebarrensalliance.org/pinefestlisting.asp>

Water Quality Committee Asking for Help!

Eb von Goeler, Water Quality Chair

As we have done in previous years, we would like to start our 2014 series of water sampling events in the last week of April/ first week of May, depending on the weather. We would like to catch the water when it is pristinely clean before the onset of the Late Spring peak of phosphorus pollution in Great and Little Herring Ponds.

Last year, during our sampling on the final day of April, the pond bottom of GHP could be seen from inside the boat almost everywhere; it was drinking-water-like, absolutely incredible. You'll never see this later in the season. Let's hope for a repeat.

We will need your help:

1. We will need a boat on Great Herring Pond, with space for 4+ volunteers. If your boat is already on the pond at that time, hopefully you will volunteer it and participate in this sampling, which takes between two and three hours. If you have a neighbor with a boat already in the water, could you ask, whether s/he might be able to help. I trust one of our hardy volunteers with a kayak will be available for sampling on Little Herring Pond and Carter's River.
2. We need a sampling crew. Without them there is no sampling. We have no paid staff. Volunteering will give you the great satisfaction of doing something really important for our water, our aquifer. You will be trained during the trip in the techniques of sampling. Lots of people have been trained before you – it's not brain surgery. So don't hesitate. Just do it. Give me a call at 508-833-2136.

New 'at-large' Director for HPWA

Your Executive Committee is delighted to report that Dennis White has agreed to join our Executive Committee as a Director. In his own words, here are some thoughts from Dennis.

Please allow me to introduce myself. I am Dennis J. White, a native Plymouthean, residing with my wife Linda on Carter's River. My interest in the natural environment started just recently, 1951. Being a fast study I got involved with HPWA in 2013, proving that time does indeed have wings.

I guess I have always treated Mother Nature with suspicion and wonder but after a few minutes of studying human beings I have concluded that "we" have to take care not to destroy "areas of critical concern."

The constant balance between "us" and nature seems to stimulate a morbid curiosity in me. I have a background of purely inconsistent behavior. I have shot game birds, now I study them. I live on a river but prefer salt water boating.

To sum up my involvement with the HPWA is to state the obvious. I want to live with nature and not disturb it...what a dilemma.



Dennis White with herring cutout

Upcoming HPWA Public Meeting

By Marlene von Goeler
Program Chair

Our first meeting of the year will be on Monday, May 19th, 7:00 p.m. at the New Testament Church on Long Pond Road.

The importance of the Carter's River area and Little Herring Pond will be discussed. You'll remember the Association's recent fundraising campaign helped save a critical 4.5 acre parcel on Carter's River from development - thanks to the generous donations of our members along with Community Preservation Act funds. Several Executive Board members will update us on the Town's progress toward setting conservation restrictions on this parcel and the significance of the Carter's River area within Priority Habitat 1396 of the Watershed's ACEC (Area of Critical Environmental Concern).

Of further interest will be a discussion on Little Herring Pond - its origin, unique features and wildlife, as well as its role in supplying Great Herring Pond with the majority of its water.

Questions and observations will be welcomed. Following will be a brief period of Committee reports. Come, bring a friend.

Reasons to Join us

By Robbie Haigh, Membership Chair

It is now a full year since I joined and supported The Herring Ponds Watershed Association. Several years ago, I received information in the mail regarding Little Herring Pond, and what was happening in and around it. For the last 17 years I like so many others on the pond, have enjoyed kayaking. Not only did I and my family enjoy the water, I invited my friends, who came back year after year. Finally, last year I became a member

of the HPWA. I attended meetings and am now on the Executive Committee. For the past year I have been learning from the people who are on the board.

Eb von Goeler has taught us about water sampling, which we do on a regular basis on Little and Great Herring Ponds.

We have been to the Herring Run Visitors Center in April to learn about the herring life cycle and see a significant increase in the numbers of herring swimming up the fish ladder. We constantly talk about the critical concerns of our watershed, familiar plants and animals in the habitat, and those that should not be in our ponds. It has been quite a rewarding year for me, and I invite all of you out there to come and share your interests. **Renew your membership by May 31, and invite friends and neighbors to do the same.** You can use the Membership form below.

Last summer, we had our very first HPWA picnic on the property of one of our members at the edge of Great Herring Pond --- what a wonderful day! We're planning on it being an annual event.

Come - Join our group - we value new ideas!

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

Safe Water Fun

Paula Kuketz. Water Safety Committee Chair

As the weather finally warms up and we start to think about getting out on the pond for recreation we should remember safety comes first. It is important to remember that you are required to wear a PFD or life jacket when jet skiing, sailing or any form of paddle boating.

A few other safety regulations to keep in mind:

The most important rule for the safety of all who use Great Herring Pond is that all motorized crafts should maintain a distance of 150 feet from shore, swimmers and all other crafts.

Several other safety regulations that pertain to PWC or jet skis specifically are: all passengers must wear a PFD or flotation vest; no towing of water skiers or tubes is permitted; operators must be at least 18 years old, with a certificate of completion of a Boating Safety Course 16 and 17 year olds can operate a PWC.

What do I do with...

By Geri Williams

Alkaline Batteries Non-rechargeable Alkaline Batteries (AAA, AA, C, D, 9V) are wasteful, but not hazardous.

Dispose with trash. Since it takes many times more energy to make a battery than you get out of it, it is better to use...

Rechargeable Batteries Many retailers have collection boxes for rechargeable, lithium and button batteries, including many hardware stores, Best Buy, Home Depot, Lowe's, Radio Shack, Sears, and Staples. Your town may have also a collection box at its transfer station or recycling center.

Call2Recycle provides the collection boxes at Radio Shack and Home Depot for the following hazardous battery types commonly found in cordless power tools, cellular and cordless phones, laptop computers, camcorders,

digital cameras, and remote control toys: Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cd), Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH) Lithium Ion (Li-ion) but NOT Lithium*

** Seal spent lithium batteries in a dry plastic bag and bring to hazardous waste collection

Textile Recycling

Are you done with those tattered towels? That coffee-stained shirt? The purse with the broken zipper? The shoe that lost its mate? Your cast-offs are still too good for the trash!

There is a widespread misperception that charities and textile recyclers only want "gently used" items that can be resold in thrift shops.

The fact is even your shabbiest old cloth, leather or small stuffed item in your house can be recycled. The only requirements are that they be clean (as in not stinky and gross) and dry. If they can't be reused whole, their parts and fibers can! It's big business, provides affordable clothing and supports jobs both here and in developing countries. Many non-profits and businesses provide collection containers and/or pickup service for these valuable materials. Some charities hire for-profit companies to manage their collections, and receive a portion of the proceeds.

All are providing jobs and value to our local and global economies, and preventing useful resources from going to waste.

Most of our SSRC member towns and/or school systems are partnering with Bay State Textiles to reduce municipal disposal costs and share the profit from reusing and recycling the materials. You can support our town or schools by recycling your unwanted textiles at Plymouth Long Pond Transfer Station, all public schools.

Safe Medication Disposal

A medication collection box is now available in the Plymouth Police Station lobby. It is important not to flush unwanted medicines down the sink or toilet, they get into our watershed.

Save Our Bees!

From Marleen von Goeler

Last year beekeepers from Massachusetts to California reported loss of 40% to 100% of their bees. Honey bee colonies in the US have declined from 6,000,000 in 1947 to 2,500,000 today.

A huge percentage of our crops and flowers are pollinated by honey bees. For example, 90% of apples, blueberries, peaches and almonds need bees for pollination. A growing body of science points to the world's most popular pesticides as a key contributing factor to killing the bees.

The following chemicals have been implicated in the die off: Acetamiprid, Clothianidin, Dinotefuran, Imidacloprid, Sulfoxaflor, and Thiamethoxam. If you see any of these listed as ingredients on products in your home and garden center, do not use them. Also, please alert the garden center to the danger of these chemicals and ask them to only carry products that do not contain them.

Nitrogen Facts

AKA: Food For Thought

By Dave Clark

Where does nitrogen come from? Everything we eat absorbs nitrogen from various sources.

All vegetation absorbs nitrogen from the air. Thus the produce we eat contains high amounts of nitrogen. The animals that eat grass also absorb large amounts of nitrogen. Therefore, meat and milk contain nitrogen. The nitrogen we take in every day cannot be completely absorbed. The result is 5.95 pounds of nitrogen per adult loading rate reaching the groundwater every year.

Tank Talk Humor

By Dave Clark

As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Kentucky back-country. As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost; and being a typical man I didn't stop for directions. I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late. I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play. The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before for this homeless man. And as I played 'Amazing Grace,' the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, and we all wept together. When I finished I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head hung low, my heart was full. As I was opening the door to my car, I heard one of the worker say, "Sweet Mother of Jesus, I never seen nothing like that before and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."

Spring Bird Walk. May 18 7:00am

Join Herring Ponds Watershed Association members and friends for a **Spring bird-walk**. Meet at the Bourndale herring run park located at the junction of Bourndale and Herring Pond Roads, 7:00 am, light rain or shine.

With luck we will find some migrant warblers and thrushes as well as resident bird species. The trip leader will be Brian Harrington, an ornithologist retired from the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences and President of the HPWA.

**ATTENTION
HOMEOWNERS:
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of Failed
Septic Systems
5-10-15yr. term loans
5% Interest Paid Semi-Annually
With Your Tax Bill**

Applications & Information
Available at
The Office of Community
Development
Town Hall, 11 Lincoln Street,
Plymouth
508-747-1620, ext. 144 & 149

Startling Statistics

*Between 1950 and 2000, the U.S. population nearly doubled. However, in that same period, public demand for water more than tripled! Americans now use an average of 100 gallons of water each day — enough to fill 1,600 drinking glasses! (EPA, 2008)

*A recent government survey showed that at least 36 states are anticipating local, regional, or statewide water shortages by 2013. (EPA, 2008)

*Recycling paper instead of making it from new material generates 74 percent less air pollution and uses 50 percent less water. (EPA, 2008)