



Newsletter

August 2013

Volume 4, Issue 3

Association Leaders

Brian Harrington,
President
Dave Clark, 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
John Foye, Membership
Committee
Geri Williams,
Newsletter Editor
Lee Pulis, Education and
Outreach Committee
Eb von Goeler, Water
Quality Committee
Marleen von Goeler,
Program Committee
Robena Haigh,
Volunteer Coordinator

Upcoming Events

August 19, 7:00 pm
HPWA General Meeting
New Testament Church
Long Pond Rd
Election of VP and
Secretary. Septic system
care and social time
September 7, 2-5pm
HPWA Picnic
Join us for a picnic on
the beach of the
Weston's property at
173 Herring Pond Rd
October 1, 7:00 pm
HPWA General Meeting
New Testament Church
Long Pond Rd
Organic cranberry
growing presentation.

Website

TheHerringPondsWatershed.org

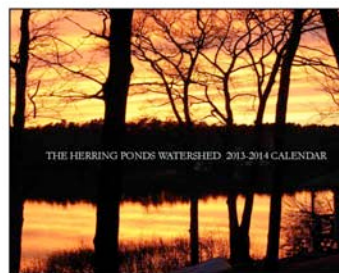
President's Message

Brian Harrington, President

For many of us summer is a spell of time when we can spend some 'quality time' focusing on family, friends and fun. We are fortunate to live where our surroundings foster good summer living. I feel very lucky about this.

But this also is a time to renew our dedication to protecting and nurturing the wonderful watershed we are so privileged to live in.

Right now a group of your neighbors have taken a chunk of their summer time to talk and meet with Town officials to develop a plan and a pledge for protecting a key parcel of land in our watershed that was slated for development. I have been awed by the commitment a number of watershed neighbors have made to help ensure the successful purchase of Parcel 15 by the Town of Plymouth for conservation and preservation. But we all need to do our part. Hopefully you have already sent dollars to support this need, but if not, please join with your neighbors to help make a good thing happen.



We have produced a beautiful 18 month HPWA Calendar with photos taken around the Pond and watershed. It will be sold at meetings for \$15 as a fundraiser. You can also contact John Foye at 508-888-5308 if you would like to purchase one or more for gifts.

Upcoming Meetings

By Marleen von Goeler

Our annual election and social meeting will take place this Monday, August 19th. We'll have refreshments, conversation and a chance to ask an expert questions on the care and feeding of a septic system. Join us at 7:00 p.m. at the New Testament Church at 1120 Long Pond Road in Cedarville.

In October, our last public meeting of the season will feature a presentation on organic cranberry farming, presented by two of our members - Kristine and Robert Keese. Note this meeting will take place on a Tuesday - October 1st.

Rescheduled Picnic

By Robbie Haigh

As you all know, our first annual HWHP Watershed Picnic, was "Rained Out". We had 42 members signed up for it. We are giving it a second chance on the afternoon of Saturday, Sept 7th ---with a rain date of Sunday, Sept. 8th, again on the Weston's property- 173 Herring Pond Rd. Please save the date. More info to follow.

Safety First

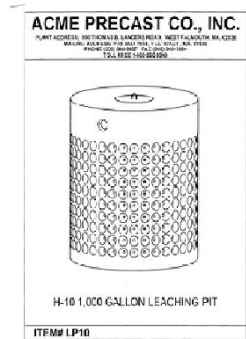
By Paula Kuketz

Three things to remember while enjoying water activities on lovely Great Herring Pond:
SAFE DISTANCE - 150' from shore, 150' from swimmers, 300' from a beach.
TOWING - never behind a JET SKI;
BOATERS must have an observer when towing.
HEADWAY SPEED (six knots) - between the hours of sunset or 7:30 p.m., whichever comes first, and 9:00 a.m. seven days a week.
SAFTY FIRST for ALL who enjoy this beautiful pond no matter what your pleasure might be.

Tank Talk

By Dave Clark

In this issue we will spend a little time on the style of soil absorption system that was in use after the old cesspool design, but before the modern Title V systems in use today.



This is basically a concrete tank with many holes on the outside and open at the bottom. This leaching pit shown above was installed in the ground resting on good drainage such as the sand found in this area. Crushed stone was placed around the outside to allow air space for bacteria growth and drainage.

Over time this leaching pit will fail. Predicting this failure is difficult and depends on usage, soil conditions, depth to groundwater, and installation variations. The cause of failure is a biomat (biological material) that eventually forms around the system. The drainage eventually slows down to a point where the system backs up or overflows onto the ground. What can be done to a system with this failure is limited and usually costly. It is possible to free up the leach pit, if it is caught in the early stages of failure, by the addition of a liquid called Aidox. This is like artificial respiration for bacteria and can increase their activity enough to keep the system draining longer. However; the system is still in failure and will need to be replaced eventually. Some septic companies will attempt to sell a “cleaning” service for the drain pit. This cleaning is based on pressure washing of the pit, but is actually used

to blast holes in the crushed stone surrounding the pit and in the sand floor. What this does is eliminate the area of bacterial action and increase the effective depth of the pit bringing it closer to ground water. This type of cleaning is not allowed within the town of Plymouth.

Replacement of any leach pit with a leaching field will eventually be required. This replacement will be mandatory upon the sale or transfer of the property or the town can require it if it becomes aware of any failed system.

The good news, if there is any, is that the state has tax credits available for upgrade expenses and when the system is brought up to code the homeowner will not have to worry about their septic system for a very long time.

Report of the Water Quality Committee

By Eb von Goeler, Chair

Water analysis results from the last sampling event in June have been posted on our web site theherringpondswatershed.org. Results show that nutrients have seasonally increased from the very low readings of April, as would be expected, but remain much lower than in past years. Needless to say we are very happy about this result. E-coli results were very low, close to the lab’s detection limit, except at the outflow of Little Herring Pond (LHP) into Carter’s River, where they were high. The meandering river demonstrated its filtering action by discharging the same waters with far less of a bacteria count into Great Herring Pond (GHP). All other water parameters analyzed were unexceptional. Our sampling crew in June for GHP was Denise and Jack Kedian with their boat, Rali Esterman and her daughters Catherine and Emma, Robbie Haigh, Kim Tower from Plymouth’s Environmental Dept. and myself. Brian Harrington and Dennis White did the LHP sampling from their canoes. Thanks to all of them for their

volunteering. Our next water sampling event will take place on Monday, August 19.

We have often talked about storm water runoff and the pollution it can wash into the ponds. One of our important efforts is identifying runoff locations in our watershed, and communicating with the Town of Plymouth the need to address these problems. As part of this work, we have collected storm water samples. We are continuing this effort. In September we will begin sampling storm water again, and are looking for you to volunteer.

I am very happy to report on two projects the Town has recently completed to mitigate runoff and its pollution into GHP. The first one, officially called the Pond Rd. project, affected the whole Pond Rd./Shore Rd. area in the Northwestern corner of Great Herring Pond. That area had long been identified as a major runoff area. The Town applied to CZM, a State Agency with access to Federal EPA funds, for mitigation money, and undertook a major project to reduce and slow down the rain generated water, which included installing oil/water traps, sediment traps, a rain garden, for a total cost of about a quarter million dollars, with a Plymouth cost share of close to \$100,000.



Rain garden installed by the Town at as part of the Shore Rd. Project

A second project, Carters Bridge Rd. Stormwater Improvement, was financed, designed, and worked on by the DPW of Plymouth. It included cleaning and removing accumulated

sediment from the existing storm drain structure along the road, just to the north of GHP. In addition, a new 6ft Deep Sump Drain Manhole was installed with an outlet structure called an Eliminator Hooded Outlet. This outlet structure treats the storm water by catching sediment and floating debris before the water discharges into the pond. The project was just completed. Both projects are giant steps forward in controlling pollution in Great Herring Pond, and we are enormously grateful to the Town.

Doing Your Part

From the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's Lakes and Ponds Program

Tips on what you can do to help stop the spread of invasive species:

- Remove all plant parts from boat motor, trailer, anchors, fishing gear. Dispose of plant matter above the waterline on dry land or in a trash can.
- Dispose of bait water and cooling water away from the shore after each use.
- Wash your boat, preferably with hot water, and allow it to dry completely before entering another body of water.
- Help spread the word about invasive plants.
- Familiarize yourself with invasive species with free color guides to invasive aquatic plants.
- Join a weed-monitoring group and help identify and eradicate new infestations in your lake before they become permanently established.

We are in need of a volunteer to head and re-energize our Invasive Species Committee (our weed monitoring group). Several members were trained a couple of years ago in a one night workshop and we would like to train some new volunteers. Contact Robena Haigh at 508-833-0304 or herringswan@verizon.net if you are interested in this committee.

Membership

By John B. Foye, Membership Chair

Protection through education is our goal and we need you, your neighbors and friends to participate.

We need your help to recruit your neighbors and friends to become members of the HPWA.

Membership dues help us keep our pond water, ground water and our watershed clean and healthy for future generations by our continued education and water testing.

We are asking you to invite those that live in your neighborhoods and who use the ponds and the surrounding area of our watershed to join The HPWA. Your support helps us to preserve our ponds and watershed. Please use the application to support and help us increase our membership.

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.

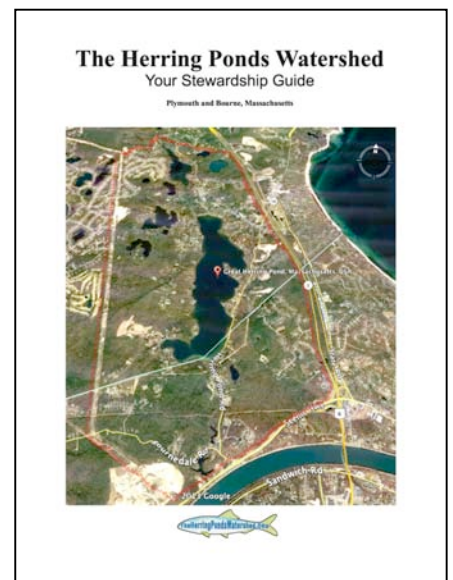
P O Box 522

Sagamore Beach, MA 02562

On TV

One of our Executive Board members, Robbie Haigh, hosts a local access TV show called Seniority. This past week our soon to be Vice President Lee Pulis was a guest on the show. Lee tells more about Parcel 15 along the Carters River and why we are trying to raise \$10,000 by August 31st.

You can watch it on PAC TV, or on FACE BOOK, or Sandwich access TV/Seniority.



This 24-page booklet was produced by HPWA members over the winter and printed with a grant from the Makepeace Neighborhood Fund plus a member donation. It is packed with protection and conservation information, history, and even some kid's activities.

Board Members delivered them to watershed residents. If you did not receive a copy or would like an additional one, contact Lee Pulis at lee@theherringpondswatershed.org or 617 216-4921.

An electronic version can be viewed or downloaded from the HPWA website Education and Outreach page: http://theherringpondswatershed.org/Education_Outreach.html