



# Newsletter

Spring 2019

HPWA is a 501(c)3 Charitable Organization

Volume 10, Issue 2

## Directors

Don Williams, President  
Phil Angell, Vice President  
John Foye, Treasurer  
Peg Burke, Secretary  
Beth Sobloff, Webmaster  
Lee Pulis, Education and Outreach Committee  
Paula Kuketz, Water Safety Committee  
Martha Sheldon, Membership Committee  
Geri Williams, Newsletter Editor

Don Williams and Jack Kedian, Water Quality Committee Co-Chairs

Jerry Levine, Invasive Species Committee Chair

Ramona Krogman, Government Liaison

Patrice O'Connor, Board Member-at-large

## Website

[www.TheHerringPondsWatershed.org](http://www.TheHerringPondsWatershed.org)

## Upcoming Events

**May 19, 2pm HPWA General Meeting**  
Wildlands Trust Barn.  
Using native plants to create attractive yards with Michael Talbot

**May 15, 7am Bird Walk**  
Carter Beal Conservation Area in Bourne with Brian Harrington. Rain or Shine.

**May 22, 7am Bird Walk**  
David E. Alper Preserve at end of Little Herring Pond Rd.

**June 30, 2pm HPWA General Meeting**  
Wildlands Trust Barn.  
Slide presentation and talk by Ivan Mikoji with photos he has taken in the watershed.

## President's Message

Don Williams, President

This letter will be short and to the point. Many of you may know that the Herring Ponds Watershed Association is monitoring the watershed. Some of you know that this means testing for e. coli in swimming areas during summer season. Some of you may know that we also check for invasive water species each year. We are keeping track of the aquifer pollution rating. We get involved in land purchases and development plans when doing so helps guarantee watershed residents' quality of life.

It's membership renewal time. Of course we would love you to join up so we can continue our vigilance.

More than that, we would like you to join us as a community. I guarantee you would enjoy our annual August picnic. Your children would have loved the simulated "herring run obstacle course" Lee Pulis and his group set up as a highlight of the recent Herring Fest. The course featured a "slide back to the ocean" that was pretty thrilling when I tried it. Would you like to learn how to make an owl house or a bat house? Wouldn't it be fun to learn about some of the wonderfully unique inhabitants of our watershed? We count

migrating river herring and report sightings of birds. We host a variety of interesting guest speakers on a variety of topics. Something special brought us to this part of the world. We already have that in common. Come meet our Board of Directors and our members at our functions. Our next program will be on May 19 at 2 PM at Wildlands Trust. Our speaker, Michael Talbot, has helped us before with his landscaping tips. His topic this time is: **"Naturescaping: Using Native Plants to Create Attractive Landscapes that Help Restore Our Environment."**

Come introduce yourself to me on May 19. Tell me your thoughts. Let us know how you think HPWA is doing. What should HPWA be doing? You'll be happy you joined us.



Learn how you can create a landscape that is welcoming for your friends and family, beneficial for wildlife, and safe for freshwater sources. **On May 19 Michael Talbot**, award-winning landscape designer and Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner, will teach us how to create colorful and interesting year-round landscapes that help restore habitat for birds and pollinators and protect surface and groundwater from nutrient pollution. By using attractive, hardy native plants that thrive in our environment, you will be providing nectar, food, and habitat in your yard. Learn what you can do with your yard now and in the future to be part of the solution to environmental degradation!

This program is presented by the HPWA in partnership with Wildlands Trust on **Sunday, May 19 at 2:00pm** at the Wildlands Trust Conservation Barn, 675 Long Pond Rd. and is offered free of charge courtesy of HPWA to everyone interested in improving our environment. However space is limited so please register at <https://naturescaping2019.eventbrite.com>

## Gardening to attract Butterflies Using Native Plantings

By Patrice O'Connor

This list was compiled from several sources and is not exclusive. Be sure to consider all planting issues before making choices. Sunlight, soil type, surrounding plants etc.



Asters: Great late summer early fall, many beautiful color selections.  
 Black Eyed Susans: flowers from June to September  
 Blueberry: late spring blooms and of course edible.  
 Goat's Beard: Spring blooms  
 Holly: Spring  
 Foxglove: Spring



Milkweed: We are always tempted to pull these out. Don't! It's one of the migrating Monarch's first foods and where they lay their eggs  
 Wild Geranium: Spring  
 Purple Coneflower: Aka echinacea.  
 Added bonus, tea made from this plant has expansive health benefits.  
 Sweet Pepperbush: Late summer, early fall.



Wild Bergamot: Aka Bee Balm . Another amazing gift from nature with multiple healing properties.

Sedums: Late summer, early fall. Perfect to fill in low spots

Coral Honeysuckle: Summer. Great attractor of other pollinators.

Joe Pye Weed: Named after a Mohegan Sachem who used it to help stop a typhus epidemic in 1822. This plant can get to be 6' tall, be mindful of where you plant it.

Moss Phlox: Great for stone wall applications, spreads beautifully.



Wild Lupine: Gorgeous and showy, great mid height choice.

The following are butterfly larval host tree species:

- Cherry
- Plum
- Oak
- Willow
- Elm

Sources:

- \*Mass Audubon
- \*Mass Master Gardeners
- \*North American Butterfly Association

## Milkweed Seedlings

Member Teri Pekol is raising several hundred milkweed seedlings to help monarch butterflies find more food in our area. She will have them at the HPWA public meetings in May and June and the Shed Faire for a donation to HPWA. If you would like some you may contact her at [tpekol@hotmail.com](mailto:tpekol@hotmail.com). For more info go to [www.MonarchWatch.org](http://www.MonarchWatch.org)

## Education Committee News

by Lee Pulis, Education Committee

**Herring Run Celebration at Plimoth Grist Mill** - About 125 enthusiastic humans (ages 2-71) "ran" like river herring up HPWA's fish ladder activity for kids and parents at the April 28<sup>th</sup> event. HPWA's hands-on, minds-on herring run activity -- where kids (and adults) colored fish headbands, washed the taste of a salty pretzel away with a sip of fresh water in the "acclimation pool", then "ran" like herring carrying a ping pong "egg" up a 25-foot "fish ladder" complete with hazards (culvert, log jam, fish net, trash ring, and dam) plus predators (otter, herons, seagull, racoon, bullfrog, osprey, and eagle). Once their "egg" was deposited in the upper "pool" and "fertilized" with bubbles, they returned to the sea via a spillway slide for their photo op with Herring Woman's poster, plus free HPWA superhero herring comics, to relive the experience in their minds at story time. Thanks to the many volunteers that helped set up and operate the activity from 8 AM - 3 PM!





**“Fierce Fabulous Fiona” sold at Herring Festival**

One of our Herring Fest fish ladder activity predators, a life-sized osprey constructed by Lee and painted by board member Patrice O’Connor, found a new home by day’s end. If you like making things, consider donating them for sale at HPWA’s Shed Faire – proceeds to help more youth attend our area youth camps.



**WATER-“SHED FAIRE”**



**July 13, 2019 9:00-3:00**

**CEDARVILLE FIRE STATION**



**Save your Stuff for HPWA’s Water-“Shed Faire” - Sunday, July 13, 9am to 3pm Cedarville Fire Station.**

It’s getting closer and items for sale are accumulating in Phil’s garage. Categories of items for donation and sale include, but are not limited to: fishing, boating, gardening, biking, riding, and wildlife gear, guides, art, etc. A small sampling of items is shown including a rain barrel! Proceeds benefit youth camperships at our three ACEC camps: Bournedale, Clark, and Hedges Pond. Email Phil Angell [angell\\_phil@yahoo.com](mailto:angell_phil@yahoo.com) or call (781) 775-5132 with any questions, to volunteer to help, or to arrange for dropping off of your items for interim storage.



**Welcome to a New Board Member**

We welcome Patrice O’Connor to our Board of Directors as a new Member at Large. Patrice has jumped right in to help

with our activities, she painted the beautiful osprey, Fierce Fiona, in preparation for our Herring Festival activity and she researched and wrote the informative article on Native Plants to Attract Butterflies. Patrice lives with her family near Great Herring Pond.

**Water Quality**

by Don Williams, Water Quality Committee Co-Chair

For the last 16 months, Jim Smith has been taking two important samples at Little Herring Pond – a sample for nitrate at the spring source and a sample at the spillway for E. coli. It is significant that these readings have both remained consistently low. E. coli was being monitored to track the possible effect of the often large swan population on LHP on pollution. The nitrate was being tracked as an indicator of (adverse) human impact on the body of water tested. We have learned that the sole-source aquifer beneath the Herring Ponds watershed is clean.

Last year, the Water Quality Committee made the decision to study Little Herring Pond in more detail than in previous years. There were two reasons for doing so: 1) a potential problem discovered first in LHP will be easier to treat than if the problem is able to migrate down to the much larger Great Herring Pond and 2) it is important to know the extent of LHP’s contribution to GHP’s pollution so the we will better know where to attack the problem.

More data needs to be gathered before definitive conclusions can be drawn but already we have learned that the average nitrate level in LHP is 8 times greater than the nitrate level detected in the LHP spring source water sample. While not surprising, this first result indicates that there is (adverse) human impact on LHP *after* the water leaves the aquifer. It should be emphasized that both samples present no quality issues.

We plan to track total phosphorus, total nitrogen, nitrate, zooplankton and E. coli from Little Herring Pond to Great Herring Pond. We will be better prepared when our Watershed Management Plan gets funded.

## Membership Appeal

by Martha Sheldon, Membership Chair

Most of you know to expect our May membership dues appeal about this time of year. Please look for our annual appeal letter with its handy return envelope in your mailbox soon. As an all-volunteer organization, we depend on your dues to support HPWA's projects that benefit all of us who live in the watershed. Thanks, and I hope to see you soon during the summer months at our public talks or the picnic.



## Spring bird Walks

HPWA is offering two bird walks this spring, one at the Carter-Beal Conservation area in Bourne on **May 15**, and one at the David E. Alper Preserve at the end of Little Herring Pond Road on **May 22**. Both walks are slated to begin at 7:30 AM and to end around 9:00 AM. These events are BYOB (bring your own binoculars) and will be led by Brian Harrington and Martha Sheldon. Two pairs of binoculars will be available for loan. In the event of HEAVY rain the event will be cancelled. If you need additional information please email Brian at [bharr41@yahoo.com](mailto:bharr41@yahoo.com).

## By-law Update

by Brian Harrington, Past President

Our Board of Directors has charged Brian Harrington to form and chair a By-Laws Review Committee, which I am happy to do. This Committee will welcome suggestions for changes of our by-laws from all members of the Association until the 18<sup>th</sup> of May. The current By-Laws are linked on our website [www.theherringpondswatershed.org/about-us.html](http://www.theherringpondswatershed.org/about-us.html) for viewing and/or

downloading. Please send questions and comments to [bharr41@yahoo.com](mailto:bharr41@yahoo.com). Special thanks to those who are willing to help with improving our Association by-laws.

## Water Safety on Jet Skis

by Paula Kuketz Water Safety Committee Chair

Jet Ski regulations:

Mass law allows a competent person age 18 and above to operate a personal water craft (PWC).

Persons 16 to 17 years of age who have a Mass Safe Boating Certificate in their possession may operate a PWC.

Persons under 16 are prohibited operating a PWC, even if they have a Mass Safe Boating Certificate.

Everyone must wear a Personal Flotation Device (Life Jacket) when on a PWC.

**No towing a person behind a PWC.**  
**SAFETY IT'S THE LAW!**

## HELP WANTED

by Brian Harrington

We are starting a new newsletter feature listing ways that you can help our Association. HPWA is managed and operated entirely by volunteers, virtually all of whom enjoy their involvement. Become an active part of HPWA!

1. We are looking for donated items for our upcoming Shed Faire, scheduled for July 13<sup>th</sup>. Especially appreciated will be items that relate to water recreation, but other household items will also be appreciated. Contact Phil Angell [angell\\_phil@yahoo.com](mailto:angell_phil@yahoo.com) or call (781)775-5132 for more information.

2. Secretary position: we are looking for candidates for our officer position of Secretary. The Secretary is responsible for keeping records of Executive Committee actions, including overseeing the taking of minutes at Membership meetings and Executive Committee meetings, distributing copies of minutes to Executive Committee members, and assuring that Association records are maintained. The Secretary also keeps original copies of permits and documents that are required of the Association. The Secretary works with the President and

the Treasurer to ensure that copies of annual reports are delivered to government agencies and are archived in the Secretary's Notebook. Please contact Brian Harrington for more information ([bharr41@yahoo.com](mailto:bharr41@yahoo.com))



Nate Cristofori gave out HPWA comic books to kids that participated in a Recreation Dept program about river herring.

## June 30 Public Meeting

Ivan Mikolji is a world-renowned explorer, researcher, audio/visual artist and author from Venezuela. See his website <https://mikolji.com>. His dramatic underwater videos are seen around the world, and his photographs have graced publications and articles in numerous publications. For the past several years Ivan has been vacationing here on Great Herring Pond and documenting the plants and wildlife in and around our ponds. On Sunday, **June 30 at 2pm** Ivan will present some of his Plymouth photos. So save the date for a very informative program that will be hosted at Wildlands Trust.

## Things You Can Do to Keep Our Water Clean

- \*Maintain your septic system Health by pumping out the tank every 3 to 5 years.
- \*Maintain vegetation (preferably native species) near the edges of ponds, to catch runoff.
- \*Do not pour chemicals, medicines, or cleaning or personal care products down drains.
- \*Wash cars and boats on grass rather than driveways that drain to ponds.
- \*Limit use of chemicals and fertilizers on lawns. Sweep up excess off driveway.
- \*Join HPWA and volunteer on a committee.