



Newsletter

June 2018

HPWA is a 501(c)3 Charitable Organization

Volume 9, Issue 2

Directors

Brian Harrington,
President

Don Williams, Vice Pres.

John Foye, Treasurer

Peg Burke, Secretary

Asst. Webmaster, Lee
Pulis

Paula Kuketz, Water
Safety Committee

Martha Sheldon,
Membership Committee

Geri Williams, Newsletter
Editor

Lee Pulis, Education and
Outreach Committee

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

Jerry Levine, Invasive
Species Committee Chair

Phil Angell and Ramona
Krogman, Members-at-
Large

Website

www.TheHerringPondsWatershed.org

Upcoming Events

**June 25, 7pm HPWA
General Meeting**
Wildlands Trust Barn.
Michael Talbot presents
Invasive Plant control
for your backyard.

**August 4, 3-6pm HPWA
Picnic** Westons Bog,
173 Herring Pond Rd.
Join us for a fun
afternoon. Bring
something to share.

**August 13, 7pm HPWA
Annual Meeting**
New Testament Church.
Butterflies of Cape Cod
presentation, Elections
and Social Gathering.

President's Message

Brian Harrington, President

After 6 years, I plan to be stepping down as your President at our next annual meeting in August, so this is a good time to reflect on where I think our organization stands today. In a word or two, we are in good shape. We have made incredible achievements, our Treasury is in good shape, our membership has increased, and we have had amazing "buy-in" to our goals of protecting the treasured watershed we live in. We have had wonderful support from the Town of Plymouth, as well as from state and federal agencies. We have lots to celebrate. Nevertheless, as I step down, I feel that our Association needs more. Let me explain.

First, take note that our Association's success stands largely on the shoulders of a relatively small number of our hardest-working volunteers. I feel this is a fragile foundation. Quite simply, we need more friends stepping up to the plate to work hard for our watershed and our Herring Ponds Watershed Association.

For a small organization, the HPWA has had big impacts (see our web site at www.theherringpondswatershed.org/). Our success is thanks to hard, voluntary work done by a small group of our most dedicated members. Many of our other members are unaware of who these people are, or of what they have done for us. But the workers themselves know, and their families know, how much of their energy and time has been devoted to HPWA. I am awed, and incredibly grateful, for what these core drivers have

done for all of us, and for how they have benefited the environmental neighborhood we all share. They have spent a lot of time and energy, or in some cases money, working selflessly in support of HPWA. Will burn-out and advancing ages of our work-force come into play?

I worry that HPWA has few new worker bees ready to go to bat for HPWA. And this causes me to worry about our sustainability. We need new key people if our organization is to continue with the success we have enjoyed to date. It's about working for the ecological environment where you and your family live. Can you step up to this plate and swing your bat with the HPWA team? Please consider this question seriously. Joining one of our committees (listed on our web site) can be a good way to start.

As I step off our Board, I want to say what a privilege (and joy) it has been to work with my fellow Board Members and with our membership. I have made some wonderful friends, and look forward to working with them and with HPWA in some new ways. Thanks to all.

Save the date for the HPWA



POTLUCK PICNIC ON THE POND
Saturday August 4, 3:00 - 6:00 PM

Rain Date - Sunday August 5
Westons Bog, 173 Herring Pond Rd.

Please bring some food to share
Swimming, games and fellowship

June 25 Invasive Plant Program for Home Owners

You may have invasive plants on your property! You may even have introduced or welcomed them to your yard. So, what should you do after discovering their invasive habits? Learn techniques for managing and eradicating specific invasive plant species that are increasingly crowding out native flora from our yards and surrounding Massachusetts Coastal Pine Barrens habitats.

HPWA and Wildlands Trust are co-sponsoring an Invasive Plant Management Education program presented by Michael Talbot, Environmental Landscape Consultants, LLC on **Monday, June 25, at 7:00 PM.** Mr. Talbot will address invasive plant identification and differentiate between invasive versus merely aggressive or weedy plant species. He will discuss the difference between management and eradication of invasive species and why this is important: what you can do yourself, when you need professional help, and whether Conservation Commission approval is required. The presentation will be at the Wildlands Trust's Community Conservation Barn, 675 Long Pond Road. The program is free. Please RSVP to Jerry Levine at jersail123@gmail.com

Nominating Committee Recommendations for 2018

by Martha Sheldon, Chair

At the request of the Board, the Nominating Committee was asked to consider and make recommendations for the 2018 slate of candidates for the following positions: **President** and **Treasurer**. Retiring HPWA President Brian Harrington and Treasurer John Foye will finish their 2-year terms in August, 2018. Brian will be stepping down after serving for 6 years. The recommendations of the Nominating Committee composed of Martha Sheldon, Brian Harrington and Sandy Cira, are as follows:

Don Williams for President and John Foye for Treasurer.

Don Williams is currently serving as Vice-President. We are nominating Phil Angell to fill the Vice President's remaining 1 year.

Nominations for all these positions will be taken from the floor at the next HPWA public meeting, and then nominations will be closed. The next public meeting will be on June 25 at 7 pm at the Wildlands Trust Community Conservation Barn, 675 Long Pond Rd, Plymouth. A vote for the slate of candidates will be conducted at the August 13th Annual Meeting at 7pm at the New Testament Church which will also feature a program by George Morse of Butterflies of Cape Cod, time to socialize and refreshments.

Water Quality Testing Program

by Don Williams, Water Quality Committee Co-Chair

The Town of Plymouth has agreed to pay for the analysis of our regular pond samples for June, July and August. In addition, the HPWA Board of Directors has agreed to pay for E.coli sampling at the main swimming areas of GHP and LHP during the summer months. Our valiant boating crew of Jack Kedian, Joe Solimini, Bob McDonald, Carol Morley, Jim Smith, Geri Williams and Jerry Levine will be busy!

Jack and I will each be taking two samples a month for Kim Tower (Plymouth Division of Marine and Environmental Affairs) to check for cyanobacteria, a nasty visitor that, when present, can give off potent toxins. While our watershed has had no confirmed infestations, other ponds in Plymouth have been shut down for swimming because of this pest. It is best to detect it early.

Jim Smith will continue to take monthly water samples at Little Herring Pond that will be analyzed for E. coli and nitrate, an indicator of human impact. The first five samples had very low E. coli levels. Nitrate levels have all been very low. The part of the aquifer beneath

our watershed seems to be in good health. Good news.

Tess Goldmann, our Rising Tide intern, was such a valuable addition, that we will try for another intern to develop a better way to store and present testing data to all of you and to website visitors. Jerry and I attended the presentation by 7 of the Rising Tide interns and feel this is a valuable experience that HPWA should support.

We also welcome Chris Lewis to the Water Quality Committee. If you'd like to see our stellar committee cast more often, please consider joining us. Call Don at 508 833-4355.

Two Guides on Invasive Aquatic Species in MA

by Jerry Levine, Invasive Species Committee Chair

The Invasive Species Committee has surveyed both GHP and LHP, and so far found no problems. The most effective management tool is to monitor our environment to detect the presence of invasive species before they take hold. The state of Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation has two guides that can assist in aquatic plant identification. "A Guide to Invasive Non-native Aquatic Species in Massachusetts" and "A Guide to Aquatic Plants in Massachusetts". Both guides have identification keys.

I have a limited number of the guides and would be happy to distribute them. Contact me at jersail123@gmail.com Also, HPWA and Wildlands Trust are sponsoring an Invasive Plant Management Program for homeowners presented by Michael Talbot on June 25th, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

Counting River Herring Returning to Herring Pond

by Ramona Krogman, Herring Count Coordinator

Not rain, nor sleet, nor dark of night could keep the 2018 herring counters from their appointed 10 minute counting slots. Well, maybe dark of night, since

the counts are easier to make during daylight. From April 1 to May 31, herring counters sat on a small bridge watching for Alewife and Blueback herring to enter Great Herring Pond. This yearly activity is part of an effort to establish the number of herring returning to spawn in Great and Little Herring Ponds.



This year, 23 counters made a grand total of 217 counts. Each count includes the collection of water and air temperatures, weather conditions and the number of herring passing the bridge. There were a lot of zero counts before the water temperatures increased enough to invite the herring to make the run. Zeros are important, since they confirm the count covers the entire run. Counters reported seeing a variety of birds, including an osprey from a nearby nest. Counting was an opportunity to sit, watching the water and listening to the increasing bird song that comes with early spring. It was also a chance to include members of the public in the activity. Counters answered questions for those driving by and wondering why someone would sit on a bridge and stare at the water!

The 2018 count started with the first fish seen on April 6. Approximately 10,000 herring were counted. The highest was 1850 fish in a 10-minute count. On May 14, the first fish were seen swimming downstream, back to the Cape Cod Canal. With twice as many fish counted as last year, our overall impression is that the run was stronger this year. It will be a few months before our data is statistically calculated and results from electronic counter at the canal are reported. Our count ended on May 31. HPWA thanks the 2018 counters: Wendy Alabisco, Phil Angell, Cheryl Caputo, John Foye, Donna Fultz,

Sara Grady, Tess Goldmann, Brian Harrington, Amy Heine, Ramona Krogman, Linda Lancaster, Jerry Levine, Judy Livera, Kevin Mills, Teri Pekol, Lee Pulis, Marguerite Saunders, Martha Sheldon, Jim Smith, Dennis and Linda White, Don and Geri Williams.

Education Committee News

by Lee Pulis, Education Committee Chair

HPWA guides distributed to legislators

About 100 guides were included in handouts to legislators and attendees of **Watershed Action Alliance of SE Massachusetts April 12 Legislative Breakfast**. Read all about it: <http://plymouth.wickedlocal.com/news/20180417/watershed-action-alliance-takes-its-message-to-boston>

Plimoth Plantation Herring Run Festival, Saturday, April 21

The weather was great, and the crowds fantastic. Ramona, Tess, and Lee represented HPWA, and made contact and conversation with federal, state and local officials, fellow environmental leaders, volunteers, and parents, while providing 2 popular kids activities: fairy watershed potion making and herring cut-out coloring.



Alper Pine Barrens Plant ID Trail

Most QR-code tags made it through the winter, with minimal replacements needed. The supply of walking sticks and wizards wands has been refreshed, and fallen trees removed. Your help in removing some continuing litter and dumped yard waste will be appreciated. Serviceberry (shadbush), Mayflower, Star

flower and Pink Lady's Slipper orchids have been blooming. Bring your phone and enjoy the walk.



Screech Owl Box Nesting Report

On April 28th three eggs were visible with an incubating red phase owl in an HPWA-built box erected in the Ponds of Plymouth.

HPWA Spring 2018 High School Social Media/Webmaster Assistant Internship Projects Completed

Rising Tide Charter Public School senior Intern Tess Goldmann's 3 videos have made training volunteer herring counters much more efficient for six watersheds:

River Herring Basics for Volunteer Counters:

<https://youtu.be/z38B0Pfbz0U>

(why we count)

HPWA volunteer Herring Counter Training:

<https://youtu.be/iR4hLX8TTj4>

(how-to, at bridge)

Generic Counting River Herring with Dr. Sara Grady:

<https://youtu.be/tEh8klXxsNE>

Tess also reformatted HPWA's website News Archive pages, and recorded HPWA's March 17 public program of Dr. Joel Llopiz of WHOI. Her 30-minute video of "Research on the early life stages of river herring in Great Herring Pond" will be available for viewing on our website and Facebook page in the future.

Tess's official last day as intern was May 18. Her final internship presentation at school was May 22. Many thanks to Tess, and best wishes at Smith College this fall!

The “Camps” of Little Herring Pond

by Jim Smith

I was first brought to Little Herring Pond when I was 3 weeks old. My father used to work with Roland Smith (no relation) at the Naval Air Station in South Weymouth. Roland had a “camp” on the east side of Little Herring Pond where our family would often stay. At the time, the east side was groomed and mowed regularly so that the shore could be walked by anyone who wanted to. You can still see a flat section down by the pond below my current house – one of the few remaining remnants of that path.

As I grew up, I remember hearing many stories about Little Herring Pond. Warner Eldridge told me about the lumbering industry. Logs would be cut at the north end of the pond and floated down to Rafting Place Way (still listed on Plymouth’s road list!) where they were loaded on carts and pulled by horses to Cedarville Landing (now in Kingsbridge Shores) for shipment by sailing schooner to Boston. The schooner would be brought in at low tide then loaded and floated out at high tide. Warner and his family had their “camp” at the north end of the pond where there once was a cranberry bog. Bill Sampson also tended cranberry bogs on Little Herring Pond. Bogs north of this area were owned by George Swift, who ran his lobster boat out of Ellisville until the 90’s. Bog owners maintained “camps” so that they could tend the bogs throughout the year and watch for late frosts in the spring and early freezes in the fall.

Gean Richards who died in June 2017, mentioned that the causeway at the south end of the pond was built to create the pond by damming up the springs that are the source of the Carters River. I remember that my father and grandfather had to redo the barrier when someone broke through it and caused the pond to drop a foot and a half overnight. Considering the pond is only 5 feet deep at the maximum that was a significant water loss. The repair

involved building a new form and mixing the needed concrete. Gean moved to Plymouth in 1980 after summering for many years at Little Herring Pond. Her grandfather, Harold Champion, was the first fire chief in Bourne and had a “camp” on the pond, which was a duck blind for the Whittimore Company out of Buzzards Bay that made train cars.

Around World War II time, there were only two “camps” on Little Herring Pond. Until the Ponds of Plymouth development was built, there were no permanent homes on the west side of the pond. There was, however, a rather elaborate “camp” that was built on the west side that consisted of a cabin with gas-fired stove, lights and refrigerator. It was owned by a family from Acushnet but used rent-free by another Acushnet family that worked nearby and who spent summer weekends there, fishing and playing cards. When the property was passed on to the children in the 70’s, they wanted to collect back rent so the “camp” was vacated. It was not long thereafter before the property degenerated and succumbed to fires. The second “camp” was on the east side, just below where I live. It was owned by Gunnar Jaukkuri from Quincy and was built before World War II. After the war, Gunnar stayed in California and he passed the care of the camp on to a childhood friend, Al Parker, who lived on Haskell Road.

My folks bought land in 1962 and built our “camp” in 1963, to be followed by a house in 1979. I am grateful for the time I have spent living in this special place.

Safety First on the Pond

by Paula Kuketz, Water Safety Chair

HPWA’s goal is to promote Safety for all residents and visitors by reminding all of the Boating Rules and Regulations of the Town of Plymouth. The need for all to practice safety is greater than ever with the increase of recreational activity on GHP by motorized and non-motorized boats, swimmers and jet skis. Just to mention a few rules for Safety First:

Safe distance is 150' from shore, swimmers and other craft for motorized boats and jet skis.

It is illegal to tow any person in any manner behind a Jet Ski.

Maximum speed is 45 mph.

Membership Notes

by Martha Sheldon, Membership Chair

First of all, a very big *thank you* to the many HPWA members who have renewed their support for the Association in response to our May dues letter. More than 50% of our members have already done so. If you set aside the return envelope in the “to do” pile, I hope you will retrieve it and support us. If you’ve never joined, you can support the HPWA for as little as \$15 a year. Since we are all volunteer, dues directly support our water quality, protection and outreach activities in the watershed.



YES, I want to help the Herring Ponds Watershed Association monitor and improve the health of our ponds, rivers, and wildlife by supporting water quality sampling, good stewardship practices, and education. Your dues help defray expenses for water testing and many other activities.

Our membership year is June 1-May 31. Donations are welcome. Thank you.

If you would like to serve on a Committee, please let us know which is of interest to you.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____
Your email address helps us to stay green, and you to stay updated.

Phone _____

Individual Membership	_____	\$15
Family Membership	_____	\$25
Contributing Membership	_____	\$55
Sustaining Membership	_____	\$100

HPWA Committee of interest (circle one or more):
Membership, Water Quality, Education, Invasive Species, Newsletter, Website, Water Safety, Gov't. Liaison

Please print form and mail check (made payable to HPWA) to:

HPWA
PO Box 522,
Sagamore Beach, MA 02562