



Newsletter

Spring 2013

Volume 4, Issue 1

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

April 27, 10 am
Herring Run Education
Canal Visitors Center
Meet with a Naturalist to
learn about the herring
migration and observe
the annual herring run

May 18, 7am Bird Walk
Bourndale
Conservation Area just
off Herring Pond Rd
Brian Harrington will
lead this informative
walk to see spring birds

May 20, 7pm HPWA
General Meeting
New Testament Church
Long Pond Rd
Learn everything about
lawn care near a pond

Website

TheHerringPondsWatershed.org

Volunteerism ("V-Power") and our Watershed

Brian Harrington, President

"V-Power" is the organizational energy that propels our Herring Ponds Watershed Association and works to make us viable and successful. Alas, good, energy-packed V-Power is a scarce resource – indeed so scarce that it is precious. V-Power is hard-to-find, and when found, it can be hard to tap. Special ways are needed to reach hearts and minds. V-Power comes from good will, from dedication, from caring, and from concern. It cannot be extracted with drills or mining machines, but instead is found only from caring, free and willing sources. It is V-Power that propels our Association and helps protect our local quality of life. V-power benefits all residents in our watershed. Do you know of any precious sources of V-Power? You see, we are limited in what we can do by a scarcity of V-Power, and the amount that we do have is becoming over-extended. Put 'crudely', we need more juice! Got Juice?

As a Herring Ponds Watershed resident, you freely benefit from our over-tapped V-power.

Do you 'owe' any dollars in return? No. But does this mean that you cannot help? Clearly, the answer is you can, because you have V-power in your being, and it is energy like yours that can keep our engines purring. How can you help? We need help on our Education and Outreach Committee. We need writers. We need web-savvy helpers. We need new and dedicated water-quality monitors. We need education helpers. We need boats with their masters for sampling days. We need help to carry water samples to our labs, and we need helpers to read water gauges. We need members, we need neighbors who will talk to other neighbors about living in a watershed, we need...., and oh yes, we needed

Want to know more? We will be delighted if you contact our Membership coordinator (John Foye) and/or our new Volunteer coordinator, Robena Haigh (email: herringswan@verizon.net)

For more background visit our website TheHerringPondsWatershed.org

Safety Concern – Cold Shock From Paula Kuketz, Water Safety Committee

With the start of Spring and many anxious to get on the ponds, we remind you of these important facts.

Cold water removes heat from the body 25 times faster than cold air. Survival time can be reduced to minutes. Strong swimmers have died before swimming 100 yards in cold water. Exposure of the head and chest to cold water causes sudden increases in heart rate and blood pressure that may result in cardiac arrest. Other responses to cold water immersion can result in immediate loss of consciousness and drowning

Without a life jacket, a victim may inhale while under water (involuntary gasping reflex) and drown without coming back to the surface. This can only be prevented by wearing a life jacket at all times on the water in the off-season. There is no second chance.

MA State regulations require life jackets be worn between October 15th and May 1st.

Programs Scheduled for 2013

By Marleen von Goeler

We have a great series of General Meeting programs planned this year. All meetings will be held in the large education room of the New Testament Church on Long Pond Rd. at 7pm. So keep the following dates open:

May 20. An expert explaining everything you ever wanted to know about lawn care near a pond – including information on herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizer.

July 15. A hydrologist will share his knowledge of the Plymouth-Carver aquifer and how it relates to our ponds and drinking water.

August 19. Our annual Election/Social Meeting – combined with a review of proper care of septic systems and cesspools.

October 1. A program on cranberry culture – by the owner of a local organic bog.

In addition, our association will sponsor three outdoors events;

April 27. A viewing and ranger talk of the canal herring run.

May 18. A bird walk with our own avian expert.

July 26. A supper picnic on a lovely Great Herring Pond beach.

Details of each program will be sent a month before the event.



A cheerful sign of Spring

HPWA Stewardship Guide Project

By Lee Pulis

Education and Outreach Committee volunteers have worked through the winter drafting and revising content and layout for a 20-page booklet highlighting natural resources, history, concerns, and stewardship tips for the watershed. A grant from the Makepeace Neighborhood Fund plus a generous matching donation from a HPWA member make possible printing 1000 copies and mailing to watershed residents later this spring. The booklet can also be made available to a much wider audience in digital format with active hyperlinked resources. A link will be created for access via our website. If you would like to be involved with finalization and distribution (proofing, addressing, stamping, etc.) contact Lee Pulis: lee@theherringpondswatershed.org



Bring the Family to see the

ANNUAL HERRING RUN

Saturday, April 27th

10:00 AM

Rain or shine

Meet at The Herring Run Visitors Center

By the Canal on Rt. 6

For a 20 minute talk with a Naturalist about the local Herring migration

Then we'll view the Herring as they struggle up the fish ladder to breed in Great and Little Herring Ponds

Free - All welcome

Tell your friends!

New 'at-large' Director for HPWA

Your Executive Committee is delighted to report that Robena Haigh has agreed to join our Executive Committee as a Director. And even better, Robena has agreed to fill the needed role of Volunteer Coordinator for our Association. Hopefully some of our readers will be inspired by what we are doing, and will want to pitch in with our volunteer teams to help keep our great momentum going. Robena can be contacted by email at the address given below.

In her words, here are some thoughts from Robena about why she has decided to 'enlist' as a Director of our Association.

I love the water! I lived in Scituate for 33 years. I have been enjoying Little Herring Pond for better than 16 years. I was fascinated by the scenery and amazed by the 4-5 foot depth of its water. When I received my first [HPWA] newsletter and read it through I knew I had to be a member of The Herring Ponds Watershed Association. Why it took me 4 years to finally write my check to the watershed, I do not know. I can only think it was because I was volunteering in so many different directions--Council on Aging; Habitat for Humanity; local access TV; Chamber of Commerce, all the while enjoying; but the literal 'right in my backyard' is where I want to be. It is more meaningful to enjoy the pond while striving to assure it remains as healthy as it can be. I opted for the Membership Committee and as a volunteer coordinator hoping I could convince others of the value of our ponds. Please join me in becoming a member and volunteer for The Herring Ponds Watershed. The "Ponds" need our help NOW. Thank you for your consideration. Robbie Haigh
herringswan@verizon.net

Report of the Water Quality Committee

By Eb von Goeler
Water Quality Committee Chair

We would like to start our 2013 series of water sampling events at the end of April/ beginning of May, in order to monitor the usual Spring peak of phosphorus pollution in Great and Little Herring Ponds. Last year, there was a very welcome decline of phosphorus in our water samples all through the year, and we are anxious to find out whether it continues. In order to be able to do this, we have to overcome two obstacles:

We need a boat – already on Great Herring Pond, this early in the season, - for about 4 volunteers. If your boat will be on the pond at the end of April, hopefully you will volunteer it and participate in this sampling. It takes between two to three hours. If you have a neighbor with a boat in the water, will you ask, whether he might be able to help?

We need volunteers. Without them there is no sampling. This is a cry for help. We have no paid staff. We are not asking very much of you – at a minimum, two to three hours not per week, not per month, only per year – which will give you the great satisfaction of doing something really important for our water supply. You will be trained during the trip in the techniques of sampling. So don't be afraid. Just do it. Give me a call at 508-833-2136.

Cleaning Without Chemicals

By Geri Williams
A couple of years ago I discovered microfiber cleaning cloths from a company called No More Chemicals. They really do work to clean without leaving streaks, with just water. They make a kitchen surface cloth that I use for cleaning everything, and special cloths for windows that give the best results ever. You can order them at nomorechems.com and stop putting so many chemicals down your drain.

Prevention is the Key

Non-native or exotic species are plants or animals that are indigenous to other parts of the country or world, and when they are introduced to a new area often disrupt the balance of the new ecosystem. Many non-native aquatic plants reproduce very rapidly, displacing native species and developing mats at the water's surface that render boating, fishing, swimming and other recreational activities impossible or dangerous. Once introduced to a new area, they are further spread around to additional water bodies on boat motors, trailers, fishing gear and in bait buckets. Even one small plant fragment is capable of infesting an entire lake or pond. When a non-native species is established it is very expensive to control and nearly impossible to eradicate. **Prevention is the key!**

During the five years (as of 2008), since the launch of the statewide Boat Ramp Monitor Program in 2004, DCR boat ramp monitors have conducted 11,572 surveys and inspected 10,941 boats. Of the boats inspected, 2132 (19.5%) were carrying plant fragments and of these fragments, 879 (41.2%) fragments were non-native. (The rest were either native or too dry to identify). These were considered *saves* because the removal/disposal of these exotic plants prior to the boat entering or leaving a water body likely prevented a new introduction or the spread of that species. This cost saving measure potentially spared the Commonwealth thousands of dollars in invasive species management, had any of these 879 plants become established and had control measures been implemented. Overall, 77.5% of boaters were aware of aquatic invasive species, and 75.8% of boaters were aware that they can be spread on boats, gear, trailers and in bait buckets/ live well water. 97.5% of the boaters surveyed were willing to wash or inspect their boats.

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/watersupply/lakepond/rampMonitor.htm>

Spreading the Word

By John B. Foye, Membership Chair

Let your neighbors and friends know about the important role that The Herring Ponds Watershed Association plays in protecting of one of our most beautiful natural resources that provides the residents of the watershed with:

Drinking and household water
Irrigation

Recreation

Flood control

Run off mitigation

The state of Massachusetts felt so strongly about our resource that they declared our ponds an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and our association has volunteered to act as stewards of the watershed area.

Help us grow by reaching out to your neighbors and friends, pointing out our web site, theherringpondswatershed.org. A wealth of information is available to see and understand what we are doing to protect this valuable resource.

The membership dues to this volunteer organization will be used to provide pond water testing at least five times per year, and purchase much needed test equipment and supplies. Please help us spread the word by pointing out the form below and assist us to grow.

Keep in mind, *protection through education is the goal of our association.*

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

Black Bears around the Pond

By Geri Williams

Did you know that last August after several alleged sightings around town, Massachusetts Environmental Police verified the presence of a juvenile black bear in Plymouth?

According to Wicked Local Plymouth website on a Thursday evening at 7:54 p.m. a resident of Papa's Hollow in Cedarville called police to say there was a bear up a tree near the Little Red Schoolhouse on Long Pond Road. Plymouth Police responded and, after verifying its presence, called in the Massachusetts Environmental Police. They arrived in time to see the creature descend from the tree and scamper into the woods that surround the Elmer Raymond recreation area.

The Environmental Police officers that responded have confirmed that black bears are back in Plymouth.

According to Marion Larson, the chief of information and education for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, you shouldn't be afraid of this bear, but you should be impressed. "Historically, there were no (written) reports of bear sightings in Plymouth as far back as the early 1700s. When the Pilgrims landed on 'the Rock' black bears were common in the area," Larson told the Old Colony, "but it didn't take very long before they were extirpated from all of Massachusetts." Larson says residents of the area should take measures to reduce their property's appeal. If you have a bird feeder it should be brought in when bears are active. Wildlife officials say that bird feeders should go out no earlier than December, and be brought in by May 1. Pet foods as well, should not be left outside.

In a related episode on 10/10/11 Lee Pulis and John Foye, of the HPWA Executive Board were given a tour of Don 'Mac' Raymond's 100 acre property on the south end of Great Herring Pond and spotted some fresh



scat, pictured here, with undigested cranberries. Lee's research indicates this was most probably black bear scat.

Notes from Gean Richards For HPWA historical program on 10/3/11

As told to Lee Pulis:

'Little Herring Pond is a man-made pond – over one hundred years ago. Full grown trees can still be seen in some of the shallower areas. Depth varies – some areas are well over my head, probably where the original stream went through.

The dam was made by the ancestors of Haskell, Eldridge, Nightingale families for their bogs.

The Southwest (Ponds of Plymouth) side has approximately 12' frontage owned by Haskell/Parker family described as "flood zone" which prevents the Ponds' owners from pond rights.

There was no electricity on the Long Pond Road side til late 70's, so only the hardy had "camps" along the pond, 4-5 of us.

Wildlife – lots of fish, sun turtles & huge snap turtles, which may explain the demise of the bullfrogs but we do have peepers in the spring – a welcome sound. We also have blue-grey heron, loons, swans, geese, ducks, deer, bald eagles, cormorants, and otters that this year had five babies.

In addition to the state's testing, the New England Aquarium came down twice in the summer of 2010 and collected samples of our water weeds. They found them all to be very healthy and beneficial to our water quality and the inhabitants.'

39th Audubon Christmas Bird Count

The Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences has coordinated the [National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count](#) (CBC) for Plymouth the past 39 years. During the count period volunteers across the United States, Canada and other Western Hemisphere countries go out over a 24-hour period during late December or early January to count birds. They follow specified routes, counting every bird they see or hear all day.

This year the Plymouth count was on Wednesday, December 19. Weather was overcast, 39 degrees, with no precipitation. The 15-mile diameter circle for Plymouth is divided into 6 sub-areas, with a small group of birders assigned to scour each area by car and foot for the full day. The Herring River ACEC is in sub-area 5.

3235 individual birds and 77 different species of birds were identified in area 5. Many eiders, buffleheads, goldeneyes, mergansers, ruddy ducks, American coots, mallards and herring gulls were identified. 3 bald eagles were counted in our area and a total of 9 in Plymouth, the most in recent years.

Click the link to review full Plymouth count data for all 6 areas combined. http://www.manomet.org/sites/manomet.org/files/2012_cbc_account.pdf

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.