

## EduCom Report – for December 9, 2019 BoD Meeting – Lee Pulis

### **Watershed Action Alliance Mtg – Nov 7 – at Wildlands Trust**

Lee attended the meeting, which was mainly a planning session for the March 31, 2020 WAA Legislative Breakfast. Dorie Stolley distributed minutes, attached. HPWA is asked to consider sponsorship (herring level = \$300+), Don is preparing fact sheets, and Lee agreed to make folk art Red-bellied cooters as desktop gifts for two key speakers. HPWA will want to do a 5-minute Powerpoint templated presentation again, but the topics differ from the conference presentation of last year, so someone needs to take on creating new slides and incorporating our new logo, look and feel consistent with the new web site. (See attached meeting notes.)

*Coconut shell and pine Red-bellied cooters for WAA – Lee Pulis*



### **Jones River Elm Street Dam Removal Celebration – Nov 22 – at Jones River Trading Co.**

Herman Waninngen from the Netherlands was in attendance for a well-attended and -executed celebration, followed by lunch and networking. Some highlights: Brad Chase of DMF promised HPWA 3 things: a) to run our herring count data through their estimator model (so Sara doesn't have to), b) to check on what Town of Bourne is doing with respect to their recent outreach on the dam at Carter Beal, and c) to share their data from a previous two-year study of LHP. JRWA's new ecologist, James Garner, offered to share his plans for studying low cost DNA analysis of water samples, which yields info on species present. Granddaughter Claire was invited by Herman to play cello along with Josh (of TNC) on guitar in the musical group being assembled for the [fish songs](#) festivity at WFMD 2020 in Plymouth. There is also a mandolin player so far. Herman said others who play instruments would also be welcome.



**Communi-Tree Replacement Ornament Provided - with 2-day turnaround**

I was notified by Frank Mand the Tuesday before thanksgiving that HPWA’s logo fish was missing (lost or stolen!) and the tree was going up the following Monday. It was faster for me to produce a new 28-incher from old patterns than design for the new logo.



Communi-Tree Ornament #2 – 2019 - LCP

**DMEA River Restoration Simulator Project – Meeting set for 1:00 for Wednesday, Dec 11 at Town Hall**

**RE: Dec 3 email from Michael Cahill:** “DMEA is working on creating an interactive river restoration simulator. This simulator will be used as a public outreach and environmental education tool. The simplest way to describe our idea is “Sim City” for river ecology. The simulator will demonstrate how a

*multitude of both biotic and abiotic factors affect the health of a river ecosystem. The purpose of the simulator will be to educate members of the community of all ages, but is being primarily geared towards students. We are planning that the simulator will be accessible to the public on a tabletop version (which would be housed in the Town of Plymouth's new maritime facility) and also online so it can be accessed internationally".*

*"We have been working with a multimedia design company based out of Boston, named FableVision to plan the project. FableVision has a long history of creating animations, games, websites, apps and videos used for education. Currently we are applying for environmental education grant opportunities to fund the project. We believe that the simulator will be a powerful tool that can be used to inspire the next generation of ecologists! We would love to collaborate with Herring Ponds on this project. I'm excited to hear your thoughts on this project and I look forward to the possibility of our organizations working together on this!"*

**Plymouth 400<sup>th</sup> WFMD 2020 Event Planning – check it out**

<https://www.plymouth400inc.org/event/world-fish-migration-day-celebration-lecture-series/2020-02-13/>

**From Town of Bourne Engineering RE: Carter Beal Mill Pond Dam – (followed up and ongoing)**

donotreply@godaddy.com

Inbox - Go-Daddy Yesterday at 4:39 PM

[theherringpondswatershed.org](http://theherringpondswatershed.org) Contact Us: Form Submission

November 21, 2019

To: lee@theherringpondswatershed.org

**Name:**

Timothy Lydon

**Email:**

[tydon@townofbourne.com](mailto:tydon@townofbourne.com)

**Subject:**

Herring River Dam in Bourne

**Message:**

Hello, I'm writing to inform your group of an Emergency Action Plan I am currently developing for the Town of Bourne for Mill Pond Dam. It is an earthen embankment near Bournedale Road that retains volume of flow from Great Herring Pond. I was wondering if you had any hydraulic information on the pond or the rivers upstream or downstream. Also I wanted to make you aware of the report as I will provide you with a copy for your reference. Feel free to reach out (or not) if you would like to exchange information in the future.

**Address (optional)**

**Phone (optional)**

**This message was submitted from your website contact form:**

<http://www.theherringpondswatershed.org/contact-us.html>

*"For the most part I want to make sure our earthen dam is kept in healthy shape and if there was an emergency we have a plan in place to address it. I may or may not commission a Hydraulic and Hydrology (H&H) study of the stream but it wasn't necessary for this exercise. But I hope to link up with you all and our Bourne Dept of Natural Resources if necessary when we make some improvements to our recreation area at the dam."*

*"I will be in touch in the future. Thanks for getting back to me."*

**Wood Duck Box Project Suggestion** – from HPWA member Tom Oertel

*I have a wood duck house on my property on Elbow Pond and would sure like to help foster woodie nesting success on the portion of the connector between GHP and LHP. There are wood ducks every spring there and nest boxes along the wooded waterway might encourage more nesting pairs. Do we have any lumber access or lumberyard sponsors? MassWildlife has helped in the past and encouraged kids help construct nest boxes, under strict supervision of screwing together kitted up nest boxes, and to track where 'their' nest box was installed. Rough sawn lumber is best, so even any person, or entity with a sawmill could be helpful. A Good kids event at any venue too, and interns can help. DUCKS Unlimited might also help out in some manner... has State and local chapter in Plymouth. Just my thought for future conservation project if we can get some participants, and interest.*

**Added Notes from Lee:** All good conceptually, similar to our Feb 2017 Owl box workshop. At that event we modified the holes of 6 or so of the 50 boxes to accommodate wood ducks, and several went to Tidmarsh. Jim Smith says MA Fish and Wildlife and fish and gun sports clubs regularly sponsor such builds and there are leftover houses available. Successful siting, placement, and predator protection for wood duck boxes in or near waterways is a bit more complex than for backyard screech owl boxes.

**More Possible New Initiatives** – Watershed board game/jig saw puzzle/points of interest map/4-century illustrated watershed history book for kids/digital story map

There are always plenty of ways to help wildlife:

