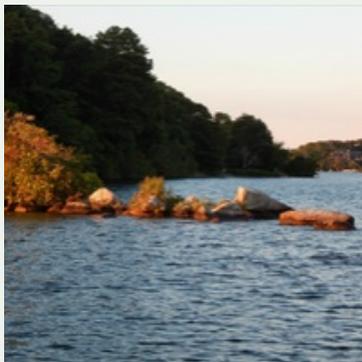




# HPWA

## March Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 6 March 2020 HPWA is a 501(c)3 Charitable Organization



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### VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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

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## President's Letter – 2020 Plans

by Don Williams, President

As you read through this excellent newsletter, you will learn about many projects that the Herring Ponds Watershed Association will undertake in the coming year. We have planned an ambitious mix of community, water quality, educational and fun projects and I offer the following bullet list as additional ventures. We are passionate about leaving our watershed intact and hopefully improved to our children and grandchildren.

- **Ramona Krogman** is recruiting volunteers for the spring (April 1 – May 31) **GHP herring count**.
- The annual search for **invasive plant species** in GHP and LHP, organized by **Jerry Levine** and conducted by **Sara Grady**, will take place in late summer.
- An ad hoc committee (**Lee Pulis, Phil Angell, Martha Sheldon** and **Ramona Krogman**, Chair) has organized a **Herring Crawl** on May 1 and 2 to celebrate World Fish Migration Day. (Details in article)
- **Beth Sobiloff** will launch a more user-friendly **HPWA website**. [TheHerringPondsWatershed.org](http://TheHerringPondsWatershed.org)
- **HPWA's Herring Run Simulator** will be repeated at Plymouth's annual Herring Fest on April 25 at Plimoth Grist Mill Park.
- HPWA will donate \$1000 to fund **Camperships** for disadvantaged children at Camp Clark.
- The **Annual HPWA Picnic** will be held Saturday, August 1 (rain date August 2) at Weston's Bog.
- **Melissa Ferretti**, chairwoman of the Herring Pond Wampanoag tribe, and Dr. **Amy E. Den Ouden**, will speak at Wildlands Trust at 2 PM on March 29 about the Wampanoag's history. Other informative and interesting speakers are being scheduled by **Geri Williams**.
- **Teri Pekol** is ready and willing to grow and distribute 200 milkweed seedlings at our events to help increase the area **Monarch Butterfly** population.
- **Peg Burke** has launched a **community ambassador program** that introduces new members of our community to our beautiful watershed.

In order to successfully accomplish all of these goals, we need your help. Let me repeat, we need your help. Our Water Quality, Education, Safety, Membership and Invasives Committees are vital, hard-working contributors to this effort. Are you looking for a rewarding outlet for your talents? Our committee chairs will work with you to match your interests with their needs. I am willing to talk with you in more detail about the Herring Ponds Watershed Association. Please feel free to call me at 508 833-4355 for more information.

Specifically and most urgently, HPWA needs to fill the **Recording Secretary** position. The Recording Secretary takes minutes at the Board of Directors and General Meetings.

Finally, the **Education Committee** needs volunteers. **Lee Pulis**, chair of the committee, has worked incredibly hard to explain the workings of this watershed to its residents. He will soon be stepping aside and is looking to share committee responsibilities.

Please consider donating your time and energy to a truly worthy cause – our water.

# In Memory of Eberhard von Goeler (1930-2019)

By Brian Harrington, President *emeritus*

In 2006 a friend introduced me to Marleen and Eb von Goeler, and to their concern about the well-being of Great Herring Pond. Soon we gathered a number of concerned residents, and advisors from the Six-Ponds Association and from the Massachusetts Maritime Academy, to discuss forming an organization to protect Great Herring Pond. We quickly decided that the Pond was not something unto itself, because it was a part, of and dependent upon a larger watershed ecosystem. In 2007 the Herring Ponds Watershed Association was born. Eb and Marleen were its first Co-Presidents, with Marleen focusing on education and outreach, and Eb's aim was to understand everything he could to preserve the pond and its environment. He was instrumental in setting up a water quality monitoring program, and in building and training a cadre of volunteers to take years of water samples. The baseline measurements this established will be key watershed reference points for future decades.

Eb's efforts facilitated projects around the Watershed to reduce the impact of rain runoff pollution. And although Marleen and Eberhard eventually retired from their HPWA leadership positions, they were gratified at what a vital force the HPWA has become.

Today HPWA is a vibrant organization, led by a Board of Directors and nurtured by the community that it serves. The foundation that Eb and Marleen von Goeler helped to put in place will be a solid frame from which HPWA has been, and will continue to be built.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 2nd at 1:00 pm at Faith Community Church, 29 Carver Road, Plymouth, MA

*Eb's family would like to thank all the members of the HPWA who have called or sent cards of condolence and sent donations to HPWA in his memory.*

## From the Education Committee - Lee Pulis, Chair

### Helpers are needed for HPWA's Annual Plymouth Herring Run Festival Activity - Saturday, April 25 at Plimoth Grist Mill

HPWA will again host a herring ladder and slide activity for hands-on learning and fun about the herring life cycle. Setting up and supervising the 25-foot run is a labor-intensive task requiring at least 16 volunteers over the 10 AM - 3 PM time frame.

Contact [lee@theherringpondswatershed.org](mailto:lee@theherringpondswatershed.org) to volunteer.

**Herring Run Child's Play** - The 2019 prototype activity consisted of a brief actual "run" much like herring make every Spring from the ocean back to the same freshwater rivers in which they were born -- a hands-on, minds-on herring run activity -- where kids (and adults) color fish cutouts to make into headbands, take a bite of salty pretzel, wash the salt away with a sip of fresh water in the "acclimation pool", then "run" 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" is deposited in the upper "pool" and "fertilized" with soap bubbles, they return to the sea via a "spillway" slide for a triumphant photo op with Herring Woman. Free HPWA superhero herring comics help them to relive the experience in their minds at story time. For a video clip of the activity, see: <https://youtu.be/ANOQwba67a0?t=1254>



### Herring Crawl - Friday, May 1, repeated Saturday, May 2, 9 AM - 12:30 PM

As an event to celebrate World Fish Migration Day 2020, HPWA is planning a chartered mini-coach tour of the five river herring runs that are all or partially in Plymouth. (Town Brook, Eel River, Agawam River (originates in Wareham and extends to Halfway Pond) HPWA's Monument aka Herring River (originates in Bourne at the Cape Cod Canal), and Barlett/Beaver Dam Brooks/Tidmarsh Sanctuary.

**Goals:** To raise awareness and educate about Plymouth's 5-run resources, promote camaraderie among officials and volunteers, support WFMD 2020, celebrate Plymouth 400, provide a lasting self-guided tourism and education aid (DMEA's color-keyed map with navigation points)

- Two identical 24-seat mini-coach tours, one on Friday, May 1, plus a repeat on Saturday, May 2, 9 AM to 12:30 PM (Note: if you are planning to attend HPWA co-founder Eberhard van Goeler's memorial service on May 2, you should sign up for the tour on Friday.)
- Tours start and end at the Plimoth Grist Mill
- On-board narration and a series of stops will note entry/exit points, fish ladders, obstructions,

counting stations, spawning ponds, and other points of interest for each of the 5 river herring runs that are all or partially in Plymouth

- Goodie bags: water, energy bars, HPWA herring comics, Herring Crawl tour map and fact sheet, PLY fish stickers, tin of smoked herring, WFMD fish song sheet
- Ticket to ride: \$15/adult, \$10/student
- Reservation and payment via new Event button on HPWA website (after March 12)

## World fish migration day activities, May 15-16

There will be a fish parade up Town Brook from Water Street to the Grist Mill on Saturday morning, May 16<sup>th</sup>. There is plenty of time for you get your fish costume or HPWA t-shirt ready to participate. More activities can be found on the websites: <https://bit.ly/2PO3Dd9>; <https://bit.ly/2vCQa0M> and <https://bit.ly/2uV1wx1>



## Town Cleanup, Saturday, May 2, All Day

If interested in organizing your neighbors or going it alone, fellow residents and our ACEC waters and wildlife will appreciate your efforts.



## HPWA 2020 Camperships

HPWA Board of Directors has again approved \$1000 to sponsor camperships for underprivileged youth to obtain a summer camp experience within our watershed. If you would like to contribute to this fund and our impact on youth, please send your donation to: HPWA PO Box 522,

You can sign up at Town Hall on the third floor and pick up the purple bags provided. DPW will pick up the bags. Questions: contact Patrick Farah 508-322-3374

Sagamore Beach, MA 02562. You can earmark if you wish for either Camp Clark, Hedges Pond Day Camp, or Camp Bournedale.

## Volunteers Needed

The Herring Ponds Watershed Association is actively recruiting volunteer fish counters for the spring fish run starting April 1<sup>st</sup> and continuing through May. Volunteers count herring for 10 minutes at the south end of Great Herring Pond at the Sandy Pond Rd. bridge. There are three shifts each day: 7am – 11am, 11am – 3pm and 3pm – 7pm. We need two counts in each time slot each day for our numbers to be statistically significant. So please volunteer to help us count the herring returning to our Herring Ponds to spawn.



**Please contact Ramona Krogman at [ramiek99@hotmail.com](mailto:ramiek99@hotmail.com) if you're interested!**

## Water Quality by Don Williams

The Water Quality Committee is pleased to report that Plymouth Division of Marine and Environmental Affairs (DMEA) has committed to increase Plymouth's share of the \$80,000 cost of the watershed Water Quality Plan. HPWA's partnership with the Town of Plymouth has been a long and active one. Plymouth's pledge of additional funds for the Water Quality Plan was prompted by HPWA's contribution of \$38,380 toward the purchase of the 53 acre Condon Property. Preserving this land will not only protect our water quality, but actually save taxpayer dollars by preventing residential buildout. How does this work? Most housing constitutes a next tax loss due to the cost of schooling, police and fire service costs and running utilities to the area. The Water Quality Plan is an extremely important element in HPWA's long range vision. This plan will not only identify the sources and amounts of watershed pollution but also suggest ways to reduce or eliminate pollutants. It will provide justification for future projects. HPWA and partners will be able to prioritize actions based on sound data. The Plan will constitute a major step forward for Water Quality.



Kim Tower, Plymouth DMEA, recently informed me that Plymouth will be funding our three water samplings again this year. Plymouth' financial support of water analysis has been a major reason why HPWA has been able to monitor watershed quality in a consistent way over the last 12 years.

HPWA has been spending its own money to monitor total phosphorus (major area pollutant) and nitrate

(indicator of human impact) from the watershed spring source in Little Herring Pond to the Carter's River to Great Herring Pond. Jim Smith's sampling diligence has enabled us to see that the spring source is still very clean but that successive (but acceptably small) pollution seeps into the watershed from LHP, Carter's River and GHP. We have decided to stop E. coli monitoring of LHP; results over the last 2 years are low, despite the presence of often large numbers of swans.

HPWA will also be funding E. coli testing of the major swimming areas in the watershed during the summer months. We want to be the first to know if there is a potential problem.

Join our lively Water Quality boat crew of Jack Kedian (Water Quality Committee Co-Chair), Denise Kedian, Joe Solimini, Bob McDonald, Jim Smith and Kim Tower.  
Email me at [donald\\_r\\_williams2003@yahoo.com](mailto:donald_r_williams2003@yahoo.com) and help improve water quality!

## Upcoming Program - Sunday March 29



### Herring Pond Wampanoag Culture, History, and Place-Based Knowledge

Protecting land and water is a central concern of Indigenous peoples in North America. Indigenous women are at the forefront of these efforts, and their knowledge and leadership reflect the principles of traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) – respect, responsibility, reciprocity—that guide relationships between humans and the non-human world. Even during historical periods when colonial and state government policies sought to undermine tribal communities and detach them from their homelands, tribal communities have protected their place-based and community-centered values.

**Melissa (Harding) Ferretti**, Chairwoman / President Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe, Inc and **Dr. Amy E. Den Ouden**, anthropologist and Associate Professor in the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Department at the University of Massachusetts Boston, will present a program based on the course they are co-teaching at UMass Boston. They will discuss Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribal history, and tribal initiatives in the present which focus on the preservation of traditional ecological knowledge for future generations.

In this presentation, Tribal Chairwoman Ferretti and Dr. Den Ouden will also discuss the community engagement focus of their course on Indigenous Women's Leadership and Tribal Self-Determination, in which students are reading the work of Indigenous women scholars and activists in order to build an understanding of Indigenous environmental justice issues. They will discuss the importance of teachings of Elders, and tribal youth, about Indigenous place-based knowledge: a knowledge which reflects the spirit and power that is in the land and the water, offering us the guidance required to heal the earth and end the practices of environmental exploitation and destruction.

This program will be presented on **Sunday, March 29 at 2:00pm** at the Wildlands Trust Conservation Barn, 675 Long Pond Rd. Plymouth, sponsored by Herring Ponds Watershed Association (HPWA) and Wildlands Trust. Join us for this interesting free program.

## Attend the Legislative Breakfast on March 31

HPWA will be co-sponsoring and participating in the 2020 *State of Our Waters* Watershed Action Alliance Legislative Breakfast on March 31, 2020. This unique event takes place every two years and provides opportunities for meaningful interactions between residents and their legislators. The program goals are to educate both groups about critical water-related challenges, provide a showcase of successful projects, and foster interaction between citizens and government.

The event will begin at 9:45am with time for informal conversation, followed by presentations by representatives from Watershed Action Alliance (WAA) member organizations and legislators. State Senator Paul Feeney is the legislative sponsor and will speak about his efforts in support of clean, plentiful and connected waters in the region. State Senator Julian Cyr will also provide remarks on the work he has done in promoting the same on the Cape and Islands. HPWA's background, local challenges and successes will be the subject of one of these presentations. The program will be capped off by small group visits to legislators' offices from noon to 1 p.m. Legislators unable to attend will receive a packet of information including the HPWA Stewardship Guide, new association brochure and our famous herring comic books.

The lead organizing association, WAA, selected three main topics for this year's event:

- water quality, particularly as related to stormwater and wastewater;
- water quantity, especially balanced and equitable use and withdrawal; and
- reconnection of waters to their sources, which benefits the fishing economy, human health and safety, and aquatic wildlife.

All members of HPWA are invited to attend this free event. Registration is available on line at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2020-state-of-our-waters-legislative-breakfast-tickets-83163918519>. The event will take place in the Massachusetts State House, 24 Beacon Street, Room 428 Boston, MA 02133. There are several options for transportation from Plymouth to the State House:

**Commuter rail-** Kingston/Plymouth Line leaves from Kingston station on Marion Drive and arrives in South Station. All day parking is available at Kingston for \$4.00. Tuesday morning trains leave at 7:11 am (arrive South Station 8:10 am), 7:36 am (arrive South Station 8:35 am). Tickets are \$24.50 per round trip. South Station to the State House is approximately 0.8 miles walk. Or take the Red Line from the South Station stop to Park Street in Boston Common.

**Red Line T-** Park at Braintree or Quincy Adams T Stations for \$9.00/day. The trip to Boston Common (Park Street stop) takes between 40-45 minutes. After leaving the station, walk across the Common to the State House (easily visible from the station when you come up to street level). Round trip is \$5.80 (\$2.20 with a Senior Charlie Card).



## Morning Bird Walks

HPWA is offering 2 spring bird walks, on May 11 and on May 25, both starting at 7 AM. Enjoy a morning walk and learn more about local birds. The walks will be led by Brian Harrington, our resident bird specialist and former HPWA president. You can join Brian for part or all of the walk. Cancelled in the event of heavy rain. If in doubt call Brian Harrington (774-487-2683) after 6:00 AM on the day of the walk.

**May 11.** Meet at the Carter-Beal park in Bourndale at 7AM for walk that we plan to finish by 9:30.

**May 25.** Meet at the David E. Alper Preserve at the north end of Little Herring Pond Rd.(Plymouth) at 7AM for walk that we plan to finish by 10:00.

## HPWA Has Two New Interns From Rising Tide for the Spring!

*by Beth Sobiloff*

Dante Sologaistoa is a senior, lives in Middleboro, and is interested in marine biology. For his project, he is going to run a poster contest with the 5<sup>th</sup> graders. He has several topics for the posters, including Fish Migration and Water Pollution. He proposed having several categories of prizes. The posters will be displayed around the school to raise awareness of the issues.

Tyler O'Neil is also a senior, an Eagle Scout, lives in Plymouth, and is also interested in biology. He will be creating a new introductory video for HPWA. He will highlight what we do, why it's important to take care of the watershed, and what people can do to help protect the environment.



Pictured: Dante and Tyler took a tour of the watershed area with Brian Harrington and Beth Sobiloff.

Tyler and Dante will also be organizing an event at the school to help raise awareness of HPWA and educate attendees about the watershed, as well as other environmental issues such as water pollution. Tyler is a member of the Eco club at the school, and they will be helping out at the event. Tentatively, the event is being held on Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 6-7 pm at Rising Tide. The event will feature the unveiling of Tyler's video, as well as the winners of the poster contest. There will also be some demonstrations and mini talks from students, HPWA, the International Dark Skies Association, and more. The event would be open to the public. The goal is for the event to be fun and educational.

## Thank You, Members!

*by Martha Sheldon, Membership chair*

Your membership dues and support enable us to do the things you read about in this newsletter. With more support we could do even more!

Our membership year is from June 1- May 31. You can join and donate on our website. We now accept PayPal to make it easier.



We hope you like our Newsletter. Send any suggestions or pictures you would like to see in future newsletters to Geri Williams at [geri3williams@comcast.com](mailto:geri3williams@comcast.com)