

PROTECT & PRESERVE

HERRING PONDS WATERSHED NEWSLETTER



HERRING PONDS
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

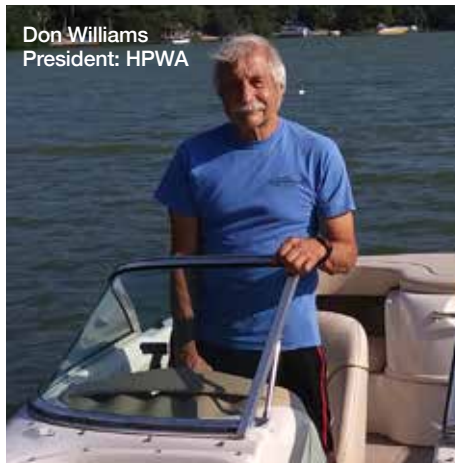
HerringPondsWatershed.org



I AM EXTREMELY PROUD OF THE PROGRESS

that the Herring Ponds Watershed Association has made over the past year and very excited about our prospects for the coming year. Thanks to all of you, we were able to quickly raise our watershed's share of the cost of the Water Quality Plan - the first water quality samples will be taken on April 22 and the sediment samples will be taken by scuba divers within the following week. We have been told that the study results will be done by February 2022. We should then know a lot more about the source of the pond pollution causing cyanobacteria and algae blooms and about ways to prevent future blooms. Look for regular updates on study progress via email, website and Facebook.

Thank you also for your participation in last year's watershed resident survey. As a result, we have established a Communications Committee (Beth Sobiloff) that will share important information more efficiently. Jointly with the Education (Jen Yaeger) and Outreach (Geri Williams) Committees, we have been holding well-attended webinars on a monthly basis on topics of watershed interest. Meanwhile, the Water Quality



Don Williams
President: HPWA

Committee (Jack Kedian) is learning more about how the ponds work and will again monitor swimming sites for harmful bacteria. The Safety Committee (Tom O'Brien) has asked the Plymouth Fresh Water Patrol Officers to visit our ponds in the beginning of the boating/swimming season to help raise awareness of best water safety practices.

Be on the lookout for our Herring Counters at the Sandy Pond Road bridge. Ramona Krogman has organized volunteers and devised safe practices for counting this year. Later in the summer, Sara Grady will help the Invasives Committee (Jerry Levine)

check for invasive pond plants. Finally, don't forget to send in your membership contribution to our Membership Committee Chair, Martha Sheldon.

Our Committee Chairs are always eager for new members so please contact them if you are interested in helping out. We also need a volunteer for Secretary (meeting minutes) on our Board of Directors. Contact me if you are interested.

We are looking forward to hosting more social gatherings in the future, also as a result of our survey so watch our media for announcements.

Let us know how you like the new newsletter format. We will be supplementing the newsletters with email announcements when necessary.

Meanwhile, take a bird walk on the Condon property, soon to be dedicated as the Comassakumkanit Preserve, or the Carter Beal tract, paddle a kayak from Great Herring Pond to Little Herring Pond and back, talk to a herring counter, learn how to sail, watch an osprey or catch a bass – all without leaving your watershed.

Be well!

Don Williams

President, Herring Ponds Watershed Association

Donald_r_williams2003@yahoo.com

PHOTO BY CHRIS LEWIS, GREAT HERRING POND



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YOUR Point of View

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!

Nature, sunsets and family fun in the great outdoors!

Please submit your photos to Chris Lewis at: studio.chrislewiscreative@gmail.com



Photo By Tom O'Brien



Photo By Ulla Dagert



Photo By Brian Harrington



Photo By Patricia Casey



Photo By Martha Sheldon



Photo By Chris Lewis

Upcoming Spring Programs

THE BUGS THAT BUG YOU



Thursday, April 22, 2021 | 7:00 PM

A zoom program with Plymouth County Entomologist Blake Dinius

Ticks and mosquitoes have existed on this planet for millions of years. More than just annoying, the bite from either one can pass on germs with life-altering consequences. (Step aside, great white sharks!)

Understanding tick and mosquito biology holds the key to preventing disease. In this workshop, we will bust myths and review an integrated approach to fighting back against diseases. With the right knowledge and tools, vector-borne diseases are preventable.

Registration Here: [The Bugs That Bug You](#)

ENJOYING GREAT HERRING POND SAFELY THIS SUMMER



Monday, June 7, 6:30 PM

On the lawn at Camp Bournedale, 110 Valley Rd. Our first in-person meeting of the year with Harbor Master Chad Hunter who will go over boating safety regulations, answer questions and help us understand how to keep ourselves and our neighbors safe on the water this summer.

PLYMOUTH CLEAN-UP DAY



Sat. May 8 anytime

Let's beautify our watershed by removing trash and litter. Geri Williams will pick up special trash bags from Town Hall and DPW will take them away for free after the Clean-up date. If you would like to participate contact Geri at geri3williams@comcast.net or 508-833-4355 to arrange to pick up a bag, let her know the area you will be sprucing up and advise her where you will leave your filled bag. A simple way you can make a difference!

SPRING BIRD WALKS



Wednesdays, May 19 and 26, 7am.

We are happy to announce that HPWA is planning two spring bird walks, one on May 19 and the other on May 26. Both walks will be co-led by Martha Sheldon and Brian Harrington, starting at 7 am, for 2-3 hours. Participants can choose to leave the walk at any time.

Meet at the Carter-Beal Conservation Area, which is near the junction of Herring Pond Rd. and Bourndale Rd. We will have a few binoculars available for loan during the walk. Masks will be required unless otherwise recommended by the CDC. Walk will be cancelled in the event of heavy rain.



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MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

The annual dues drive is coming up in May, you will be getting our solicitation letter. Our membership year runs from June 1 – May 31, so memberships are due for renewal on June 1. HPWA is an all-volunteer organization, and every penny in dues goes towards accomplishing our mission – monitoring our water quality, protecting our beautiful ecosystem and preserving the land and water for future generations.

INVASIVE PLANT COMMITTEE:

Jerry Levine, committee chair, reminds all to check your property for invasive species and to try to control and eliminate them. They are easier to spot in the spring as they tend to green up sooner, are smaller, and there are less competing plants to hinder your removal efforts. There is a very informative website at Mass Audubon (<https://www.massaudubon.org/learn/nature-wildlife/invasive-plants>) that helps you identify invasive species with tips for eradication. Particularly problematic in our watershed are Oriental bittersweet, Japanese bittersweet and multiflora rose. If you need more information on invasives you can contact Jerry at jersail123@gmail.com.



WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE:

The committee members will be assisting the Town and SMAST researchers with collecting samples for the Water Quality Plan Study throughout the year. As the water warms up water samples will be tested for e.coli at major swimming sites in GHP.

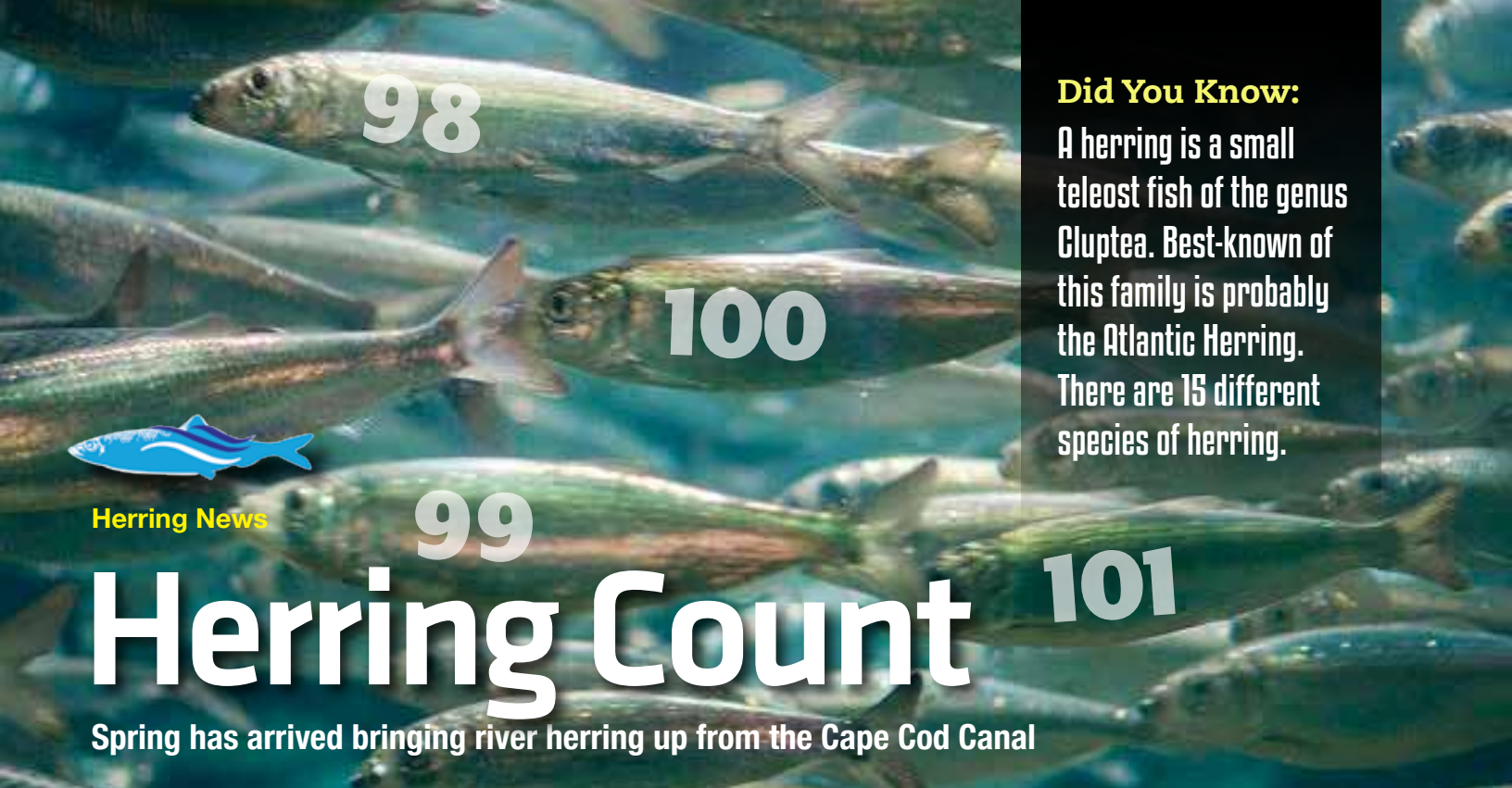
COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE:

Beth Sobiloff and **Martha Sheldon** have been doing an excellent job posting to our Herring Ponds Watershed Association Facebook page. Check it out! They are also keeping members informed of events via emails several times/month.



BECOME A MEMBER

[HerringPondsWatershed.org](https://www.HerringPondsWatershed.org)



Did You Know:

A herring is a small teleost fish of the genus *Clupea*. Best-known of this family is probably the Atlantic Herring. There are 15 different species of herring.

Herring News

Herring Count

Spring has arrived bringing river herring up from the Cape Cod Canal

BY RAMONA KROGMAN

AFTER A YEAR OFF, volunteers are counting returning river herring entering Great Herring Ponds. Counters were grounded by COVID 19 during the 2020 herring run. An electronic counter provided the only counts for last year. The volunteers can return to counting due to improved COVID 19 numbers, increased vaccinations and some special counting procedures.

River herring are an important part of the history of Massachusetts. They provided a source of nutrients for Native Americans and newly arrived settlers. Today they play a vital role in the North Atlantic ecosystem, providing food for tuna, cod, striped bass, seabirds, herons, dolphins, and whales.

River herring are a key food for nearshore cod populations. Recovery of their populations help stabilize coastal fisheries. River herring provide a nutrient transfer link between the ocean and streams.


River herring include Alewife and Blueback herring. They are anadromous species meaning they spend most of their lives at sea but return to fresh water to spawn. They lay their eggs in the same stream or pond in which they were hatched. Unlike Pacific salmon, they do not die but return to the sea after spawning. Individuals complete the cycle several times in their lives. The young hatch and grow into fingerlings before following their parents out to sea.

The temperature and current of the water are important to spawning. Spawning for Alewives is initiated as the

water reaches 51°F. They prefer the quieter water of Great and Little Herring Ponds. Spawning for Blueback herring is initiated as the water reaches 57 °F. They prefer to spawn in fast moving waters such as the Monument (Herring) River.

Blueback and Alewife river herring populations declined sharply during the 1980's due to pressures on habitat and overfishing. They did not become a threatened species because of a lack of data to support the need for protection. Counts like the HPWA count provide data for the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries to support efforts to protect the river herring.

River herring entering Great Herring Pond leave the Cape Cod canal and enter a fish ladder located along Route 6. They move under Route 6 and through an electronic fish counter then into the Monument River. Those traveling into Great and Little Herring Ponds continue up the river past our counters. Herring typically come through in groups. At the height of the run, several hundred can come through in a single count.

HPWA counters volunteer to aid in the collection of valuable data to protect the overall well-being of the river herring in the Pond. They also raise awareness of the run with neighbors living on or near the Pond. 

If you would like to volunteer as a counter in May, email Ramona Krogman at ramiek99@hotmail.com

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HERRING CRAWL

FAMILY FUN

Celebrate your own fish migration day by doing your own self-guided tour of the 5 fish runs that are partly or entirely in Plymouth using the beautiful brochure designed by the Town just for this event! Download the brochure and visit 2 or 3 of the runs, or maybe you want to follow the map and try for all 5 (that takes about 2 and a half hours)!

Best time to go? Early May is ideal! When the water warms up the fish will surge into the streams in great numbers and can be easily seen.

Download Brochure:

<https://watershedaction.org/resources/herring-crawl-plymouth>



1

TOWN BROOK, PLYMOUTH

Plimoth Grist Mill – 6 Spring Ln, Plymouth

2019 Visual Count: 230,860 – At the Grist Mill an underwater camera provides live streaming video of herring as they exit the fish ladder on Town Brook on their way to their spawning grounds. Town Brook, the site of Pilgrim Settlement, has been the subject of ongoing river restoration efforts involving dam removals with local, State and Federal partnerships. Herring enter at the mouth of the harbor and travel upstream along Town Brook to the headwaters at Billington Sea (a pond).

2

EEL RIVER, PLYMOUTH

Eel River Preserve - 204 Long Pond Rd, Plymouth
Follow drive to end, park & walk to footbridge

No Count Available – The Eel River Preserve is the site of the first large scale dam removal, stream restoration and wetland restoration project. Herring enter at Plymouth Harbor and make their way through two privately owned dams to the headwaters in the preserve.

3

AGAWAM RIVER, PLYMOUTH/WAREHAM

Mill Pond Dam @ Elks - 2855 Cranberry Hwy, Wareham

2019 Electronic Count: 102,105 – Since 1632, the Agawam system supports a productive herring run largely due to the 500+ acres of spawning habitat available in its ponds and impoundments. Herring enter at the mouth of Buzzards Bay and travel upstream through cranberry bog impoundments to the headwaters at Halfway Pond in Plymouth.

4

MONUMENT/HERRING RIVER, BOURNE

Carter Beal Park – 20 Bournedale Rd, Bourne

2019 Electronic Count @ Canal: 526,929 – This run has been monitored for 38yrs using electronic and visual counts and is one of the largest runs on the South Shore. This population is the primary source of mature alewives for stocking programs. Herring enter at the mouth of the Canal, travel through the fish ladder in the park upstream to Great and Little Herring Ponds in Plymouth.

5

BEAVER DAM BROOK, PLYMOUTH

Tidmarsh Sanctuary – 60 Beaver Dam Rd, Plymouth
Take trail from lot to bridge

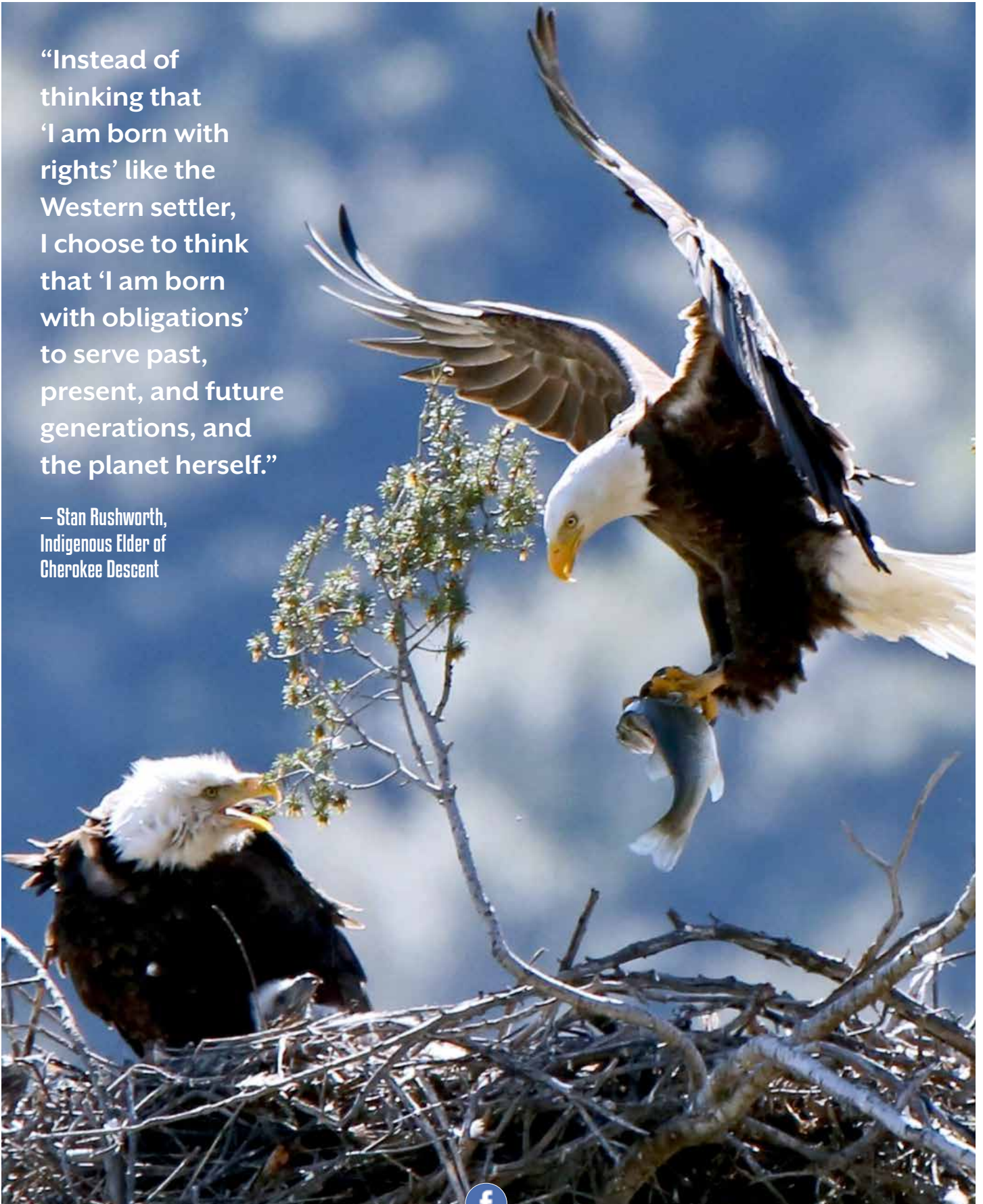
2019 Visual Count: 2,246 – This Sanctuary was part of a large scale dam removal, stream restoration and wetland restoration project. Herring enter Bartlett Brook at White Horse Beach and travel upstream to spawning habitat in the brook and Fresh Pond.

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“Instead of thinking that ‘I am born with rights’ like the Western settler, I choose to think that ‘I am born with obligations’ to serve past, present, and future generations, and the planet herself.”

— Stan Rushworth,
Indigenous Elder of
Cherokee Descent





In Your Backyard

Helping Nature in Our Own Yards

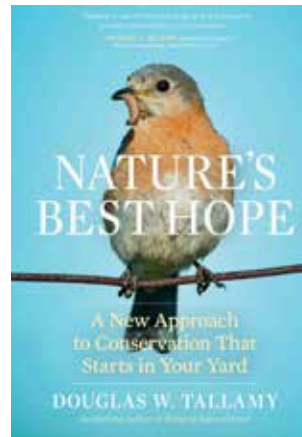
BY GERI WILLIAMS — EDITOR

THIS WINTER I attended a number of zoom programs on the importance of using native plants, designing with them and removing invasive plants. Why the emphasis on native plants? Native plants support insects and birds, without these pollinators we wouldn't have fruits and vegetables, grains and flowers. Native plants create habitats for wildlife, birds, insects and people. They grow better and more sustainably with fewer inputs of water and fertilizer.

In his latest book "Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard" Douglas Tallamy explains that we each can make a difference if we replace part of our nonproductive lawn with native plants that host native insects, particularly moths and butterflies and their caterpillars. Nearly all birds need to feed their babies caterpillars. To raise one clutch of chicks, a chickadee feeds them 6000-9000 caterpillars in the two weeks until they fledge. Not all native plants host as many insect species - native trees in the oak, birch, cherry and



willow families are especially important host plants, as are goldenrods, Helianthus (wild sunflowers), blueberries and Eupatorium (Joe Pye and boneset). You can find the best host native plants for your specific area on [National Wildlife's Plantfinder](#), and [SEMPBA](#) (SE Massachusetts Pine Barren Assoc.) has developed a list of Plymouth County native plants which can be found on their website. Be sure to specify that you want to purchase native species of these plants.




Many cultivars or natives of these plants are bred to be different colors and/or have variegated or purple leaves, which are attractive to us, but not helpful for our native birds and insects.

Lawns occupy more than 40 million acres in the US which is an area greater than New England and more than twice the area

of all our National Parks together. If we each converted part of our lawn to native plantings we could be part of the [Home Grown National Park Project](#) and enjoy the benefits of nature in our own yards, and attract more birds and butterflies.

It is also important for those of us who live near a pond or stream not to cut down or clear cut the trees and shrubs that are within 50-100 feet of the water. These plants absorb the rain and prevent runoff of pollutants and nutrients into our ponds, which cause algae and cyanobacteria blooms. It is also illegal!

Like the Native Americans, think of ourselves as born with the obligation to serve past, present and future generations, and the planet herself. 

"Nearly all birds need to feed their babies caterpillars. To raise one clutch of chicks, a chickadee feeds them 6000-9000 caterpillars in the two weeks until they fledge."



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How to Care for Your Septic System

Septic systems can impact local drinking water wells or surface water bodies. Nutrient loading in our ponds is a serious problem and is largely a result of activities 250 to 300 feet from the water's edge. It is estimated that 75% of phosphorus in waste water now comes from toilets following the elimination of phosphorus from detergents. The extent of this impact depends on how well your septic system is maintained and if it is used properly. Septic system maintenance is not complicated, and it does not need to be expensive. Upkeep comes down to four key elements:

Inspect and Pump Frequently: Inspect every two to three years by a septic service professional. Household septic tanks are typically pumped every three to five years depending on household size, total wastewater generated and volume of solids in wastewater. If the septic system is not monitored, solids from the septic tank will overflow into the soil drain field necessitating a preventable, expensive replacement.

Use Water Efficiently: All of the water a household sends down its pipes winds up in its septic system. Just a single leaky

or running toilet can waste as much as 200 gallons of water per day. Toilet use accounts for 25 to 30 percent of household water use. Consider installing a high efficiency toilet which uses 1.6 gallons of water or less per flush. Faucet aerators, high-efficiency shower heads, and shower flow restrictors help reduce water use.

Properly Dispose of Waste: Your septic system is not a trashcan. Do not flush anything besides human waste and toilet paper. Never flush: cooking grease or oil, non-flushable wipes, such as baby wipes or other wet wipes, cat litter, paper towels,

pharmaceuticals, household chemicals like gasoline, oil, pesticides, antifreeze, and paint or paint thinners. Avoid chemical drain openers for a clogged drain. Instead, use boiling water or a drain snake. Eliminate or limit the use of a garbage disposal. This will significantly reduce the amount of fats, grease, and solids that enter your septic tank and ultimately clog its drain field.

Maintain Your Drain Field: Never park or drive on your drain field. Keep roof drains, sump pumps, and other rainwater drainage systems away from your drain field area. Excess water slows down or stops the wastewater treatment process. Plant trees the appropriate distance from your drain field to keep roots from growing into your septic system. A septic service professional can advise you of the proper distance, depending on your septic tank and landscape.

Your septic system contains a collection of living organisms that digest and treat household waste. Avoid harsh chemicals and cleaners such as bleach, which will destroy the beneficial bacteria in your system.

If the system is abused by the frequent use of a grinder, heavy use of chemical cleaners such as bleach, washing out paint brushes, flushing anything not intended for introduction into the system, flushing unused medicines, then the system may need to be pumped every 1 to 2 years.



This information came from the EPA website for more information go to:

<https://www.epa.gov/septic/how-care-your-septic-system>



All You Want to Know About Septic and Our Aquifer Tuesday, May 4, 7pm zoom program



Brian Baumgaertel and Kalliope Chute are water quality professionals at Barnstable County government and are part of the Groundwater Guardians team. Brian is the director of MassTC a national leader in innovative septic system research; and Kalliope leads the Water Quality and Hazardous Materials Program at Cape Cod Cooperative Extension with the goal of protecting Cape Cod's largely unconfined sole source aquifer from chemical contamination.

They will be discussing water quality issues, such as wastewater impacts on pond health, contaminants of emerging concern, and chemical resiliency. They'll give information on proper disposal of unwanted medications, mercury, and other items too toxic to trash. They also provide guidance on proper septic system maintenance and innovative alternative options. **Register Here:** [Septic and Our Aquifer](#)



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Testing the Waters

Our watershed's fresh water supply comes from a subterranean aquifer that first fills Little Herring Pond. The Carters River carries the overflow into Great Herring Pond and ultimately into the Cape Cod Canal via the Herring River. Rivers and lakes are susceptible to pollution from many sources and this contamination is quickly spread throughout our entire watershed system. Our ponds, where water is not easily flushed, are the most susceptible to pollution.

The Herring Ponds Watershed Association (HPWA) has chosen to pursue watershed water quality improvement.

In the long run, prevention techniques are preferable to and less expensive than the pollution cures. HPWA is dedicated to learning as much as possible about the watershed and to applying this knowledge to preserve this beautiful, unique environment for generations to come. Why?

Water has brought us together. Whether we enjoy boating, swimming, fishing or wildlife/birding, the central element is the water. It supports humans as well as the flora and fauna of the surrounding Pine Barrens. On a more practical level, good water quality also keeps property values high.

The Herring Pond Watershed Association has been monitoring watershed water quality since 2008. Our active Water Quality Committee (join us!) takes samples for analysis. While both Little Herring Pond and Great Herring Pond are officially considered "impaired", three runoff sites have been remediated and total phosphorus pollutant has slowly decreased.

On April 22, the first samples for the Plymouth/HPWA funded (thank you all for your donations!) Water Quality Plan will be taken. The Plan will be completed by February 2022 and will identify the sources of pollution causing cyanobacteria and algae blooms and make suggestions for reducing phosphorus pollutant.

Water

Water is the main constituent of Earth's hydrosphere and the fluid of all known living organisms. It is vital for all known forms of life, even though it provides no calories or organic nutrients.



Here are some things that you can do to improve the Herring Ponds Watershed by reducing the negative effects of phosphorus pollution:

- Check your septic system every 3 – 5 years and pump it out when necessary
- Refrain from clear-cutting your property to prevent runoff
- Properly dispose of animal waste
- Limit lawn and garden fertilizer near the ponds
- Use phosphorus-free fertilizer (Total Phosphorus)

Some helpful definitions:

Total Phosphorus

Phosphorus is a plant nutrient that in excess can cause harmful algae blooms. Excess algae can consume oxygen needed by mussels, snails and fish and cause the release of more phosphorus from pond sediment.

Nitrate

Nitrate is a measure of negative human impact on the environment. It is introduced into the environment by lawn and garden fertilizer, septic systems and animal waste.

Dissolved Oxygen (DO)

Dissolved Oxygen (DO) is needed for most pond dwellers. DO levels vary with pond depth and temperature and change seasonally. Healthy plants and wind improve water oxygen content; decomposition of pond debris (including dead algae) decreases DO level.

Clarity

Clarity indicates an absence of algae blooms, runoff silt and cyanobacteria. Greater clarity leads to an increase in depth at which plants can receive light and provide oxygen.


E. coli

E. coli are bacteria that can cause severe illness upon ingestion. These pond residents are generally the result of human pollution from septic or animal waste.

Cyanobacteria

Cyanobacteria (Blue green algae) are the bane of many Plymouth ponds. They bloom for many of the same reasons as algae but some strains produce debilitating toxins that can even cause serious illness in adults, children and pets.

Runoff

Heavy rainfalls transport soil, E. coli, phosphorus and nitrate into our waterways reducing water clarity, increasing harmful bacteria levels and encouraging algae and cyanobacteria blooms. Clear cutting shore properties, especially on slopes, drastically increases the severity of runoff. 

For test Results go to:

<https://www.theherringpondswatershed.org/monitoring/>

- **Cyanobacteria Bloom**
- **E. coli Sampling**
- **Little Herring Pond Bog Results**
- **Elbow Pond**

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Ospreys' recovery from pollution and shooting is a global conservation success story

Photo by treehugger.com

BY BRIAN HARRINGTON

ONE OF THE EARLIEST BIRDS to return to our watershed region in the spring is the Osprey, a fish-eating raptor that is related to eagles. Ospreys that nest in Plymouth return in late March or early April from very distant wintering places in the Amazon and other watersheds of Central and northern South America. Once here, Ospreys require dead trees, or some substitute for dead trees, for building their large and bulky, stick nests. In our area the stanchions for the “trunk” powerlines that pass along the western boundary of the watershed provide tall and open structures that Ospreys like for nesting. This powerline is close to the fishing areas they need in our watershed, and for nearby fishing later in the summer in Buzzards Bay.

Our Ospreys begin setting up for nesting (courtship, nest repair, and establishing a territory) around the middle of April. According to Birds of the World.



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Aerial spraying of DDT in the 1940-1960s greatly harmed Osprey populations. But Osprey represent a huge conservation success story after DDT was banned.

There can be little doubt that the arrival of Ospreys in our watershed is closely linked to the return of river herring in April and May. Herring largely provide the energy and protein that our female Ospreys need for forming eggs, and that the males need for provisioning the females once the nests are established. After adult herring leave the watershed in June, the Osprey continue fishing for yellow perch, or in some cases, begin commuting to Buzzards Bay to hunt for fish there. Through Ospreys, our watershed has connections to the rivers and wildlife of South America, to the keystone herring fishery, and to the wildlife diversity of our watershed. 🐟



Photo by Mark Wallack

“Mated pairs usually return to the same nest year after year, especially if they successfully fledge young the year before. Both male and female take part in nest construction and incubation. After being incubated for 34 to 43 days, the chicks hatch. The chicks are fed by the female, who apportions food that is delivered to the nest by the foraging male. The chicks fledge after 44 to 59 days in the nest, but they remain in the territory of the parents for a month or two longer before setting off on their own.”¹

1 Winkler, D. W., S. M. Billerman, and I.J. Lovette (2020). Osprey (Pandionidae), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (S. M. Billerman, B. K. Keeney, P. G. Rodewald, and T. S. Schulenberg, Editors). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.pandio1.01>

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RECREATIONAL SAFETY

Playing it Safe On Our Beautiful Pond

As summertime approaches, friends and family head to the pond for fun on the water. While those long lake days conjure up images of bathing suits, sunscreen, fishing and water skis, we can't forget that a lovely day on the pond could quickly turn dangerous when safety isn't top of mind.

Keep your loved ones safe on the water by learning and following these important boating and water sports rules.

Always wear a life jacket. It can be tempting to ditch the life jacket, especially if you feel confident in your abilities as a swimmer. But even when a life jacket isn't required, it's a good idea to wear one. Accidents on the water cannot always be predicted or prevented, and even strong swimmers may unexpectedly find themselves in a dangerous situation. In Mass over the last 10 years, 85% of the victims who died in boating accidents did not use life jackets. Many of these deaths would have been prevented if a life jacket had been worn. Wear a life jacket whether on a motor boat, jet ski, sailing, kayaking or on a paddle board. Federal regulations require that all children under 13 years of age wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved life

jacket at all times while out on the water. Boats are also required to have U.S. Coast Guard approved life jackets for every person on board.

Know your hand signals when skiing or tubing. Water skiing and tubing while being towed by a boat is a fun and popular pond activity. But before your boat speeds off into the open waters pulling a skier behind it, make sure that everyone understands hand signals so that those on the boat can communicate with those on the water. Hand signals allow non-verbal communication (such as "get me back in the boat," "I'm okay," and "I'm done") and can allow the person on the water to tell the boater to go faster or slower, or turn left or right.

When boating always designate someone to be the "spotter." It's easy to

get caught up in the social side of boating and forget that your vessel shares the lake with a number of other vessels and swimmers. To ensure that someone is always keeping an eye on the water, assign someone on your boat to be the official "spotter." The job of the spotter is to keep an eye out for other people on the water and to alert the captain of the boat to any approaching hazards. This is especially important when you are towing a skier or tube, the spotter needs to advise the captain of wellbeing and safety of those being towed.

Use navigational lighting between sunset and sunrise.

Riding jet skis is a popular activity on Great Herring Pond, but it can also involve a serious risk for injury. There was an unfortunate jet ski accident on White Island Pond last year in which a young woman was seriously injured when thrown from the jet ski she was a passenger on when two jet skis collided. Luckily she had a life jacket on and an off duty fire fighter was able to rescue her.



ENJOYING GREAT HERRING POND SAFELY THIS SUMMER

Monday, June 7, 6:30 PM

On the lawn at Camp Bournedale, 110 Valley Rd. Our first in-person meeting of the year with **HARBOR MASTER CHAD HUNTER** who will go over boating safety regulations, answer questions and help us understand how to keep ourselves and our neighbors safe on the water this summer.

For everyone's safety please follow the Massachusetts Boating Safety Rules regarding operation of jet skis.

- Life Jackets must be worn by all riders.
- Absolutely no towing behind a jet ski.
- Drivers must be at least 18 years old (16 with a Mass Safe Boating certificate.)
- Operate 150 ft. from shores and 150 ft. from all other crafts and swimmers.
- The coves present a particular safety issue as they are small areas with lots of activity and swimmers. Use extra caution!

Plymouth bylaw 134-3 states:

On Great Herring Pond motorboats are restricted to headway speed between the hours of sunset or 7:30 p.m. whichever comes first, and 9:00 a.m. seven days a week. Headway speed is defined as six miles per hour. Maximum speed is 45 mph.

Never boat under the influence.

Operating a vessel while intoxicated is a MA and federal offense. The sun, wind, noise, vibration, and motion common to the marine environment intensify the effect of alcohol and drugs and dramatically

affect judgment, balance, coordination and reaction time.

Don't go out alone. While alone time on the water can sound like the ultimate escape, one of the first rules of water safety is to never go out alone. Whether swim-

ming, paddle boarding, kayaking, boating or diving, bringing along a buddy can help ensure your safety should you find yourself injured. If you do choose to go out on the water alone, let people know where you are going and when you expect to return home. 🐟



PROTECT AND PRESERVE: WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO



HERRING PONDS
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION



WITH YOUR HELP:

WE MONITOR

Since 2008 HPWA has monitored Water Quality by testing nutrients, clarity, dissolved oxygen and water flow at sites on Great and Little Herring Ponds and the Carter's River. We coordinate volunteers for HPWA's spring river herring count, monitor for invasive plant species, lead bird walks and monitor wildlife via video cams.



BECOME A MEMBER
HerringPondsWatershed.org

WE PROTECT AND PRESERVE

Protecting our water resources for drinking, recreation, aesthetics, and migrating river herring is a foundational goal of HPWA. We work with towns on remediation projects to reduce pollutants entering our ponds. And we work to preserve our land, its unique vegetation and high priority open space for wildlife and for people, helping to preserve 100+ acres to date.

Donate

WE EDUCATE

Citizens are integral to safeguarding our natural resources. HPWA provides information and promotes awareness for watershed stewardship, including newsletters and educational programs for the public. We also sponsor special projects for children and adults alike. Our stewardship guide is acclaimed as a model.

2021 Community Events and Programs

Photo By Martha Sheldon



- Newsletters, emails and social media postings to keep residents informed of what's happening in the Herring Ponds Watershed
- Annual Members' Picnic
- Bird walks
- Volunteer herring count in partnership with the Town of Plymouth at the Herring River outflow from Great Herring Pond

DO YOU HAVE A TOPIC YOU THINK WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO OUR READERS?

Send any suggestions or pictures you would like to see in future newsletters to:

Geri Williams | geri3williams@comcast.com
HerringPondsWatershed.org



HPWA Accomplishments

- Sampled water quality in Plymouth's Great and Little Herring Ponds since 2008
- Raised \$38,380 to help with the Town CPC purchase of the 54-acre Condon property on Roxy Cahoon Road. It is an important recharge area for Great Herring Pond
- Preserved with CPC 43.6-acres between Little Herring and Triangle Ponds, now the David E. Alper Nature Preserve
- Established a Pine Barrens Plant ID Trail at Alper Preserve
- Built 100 Screech Owl and Bluebird nest boxes
- Printed and distributed Watershed Stewardship and Volunteer Action Guide to 2500 households
- Remediated storm water runoff with the Town of Plymouth at two sites on Great Herring Pond
- Protected five acres along the Carter's River (by Plymouth CPC for conservation restriction)



PROTECT & PRESERVE

HerringPondsWatershed.org



2021 Plan of Action

- > Continue with and expand our Public Educational Programs
- > Keep an open line of communication with HPWA members and residents through e-newsletters and social media
- > Assist where needed with the Town's water quality study
- > Continue our efforts to monitor, educate and preserve the Herring Pond Watershed in order to protect the integrity of our natural environment for generations to come



EXPLORE EXPERIENCE ENJOY

Content, design and web presence for the **Protect & Preserve Herring Ponds Watershed Newsletter** is created by Herring Ponds Watershed Association's all volunteer staff.