

PROTECT & PRESERVE

HERRING PONDS WATERSHED NEWSLETTER



HERRING PONDS
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

HerringPondsWatershed.org



GREAT HERRING POND
JULY 4TH 2021 · SUMMER EDITION

FROM THE PRESIDENT OF HPWA

CYANOBACTERIA IS BACK

In Great Herring Pond for the summer of 2021. I had held out hope that we would not be shut down again this year but, unfortunately, we reached a tipping point and prudence dictated that the safety of our watershed residents be the priority for the town of Plymouth.

What happened? As with the non-bloom years of 2017, 2018 and 2019, an early appearance of cyanobacteria in our more sheltered coves was observed and verified by sending Geri's photos to our EPA cyanobacteria expert, Hilary Snook. When cyanobacteria were observed in additional pond locations, the closure decision was made by Plymouth DMEA and Board of Health. This means no swimming, no contact with the water especially for dogs and children and catch and release fishing.

After the pond clears, it is customary to wait 2 weeks before reopening to ensure that there is no remaining toxin. Meanwhile, please be vigilant and warn neighbors who may not have heard. Be safe to protect loved ones and pets.

The HPWA PROTECT & PRESERVE newsletter is produced by several of our all volunteers at no expense to our members and donors.

We cannot be certain what caused this cyanobacteria bloom. We can infer that there is still enough phosphorus pollutant to fuel its growth. We know from recent tests that there is lower dissolved oxygen levels in deeper water that allows release of more phosphorus from pond sediments. Recently, we've had some torrential rainstorms that could have provided phosphorus pollutant via runoff. We have observed increasing numbers of pond front residents who clear cut down to the pond encouraging more runoff. We know that a week ago the water temperature was over 80 degrees F, ideal conditions for cyanobacteria growth.

The bottom line, however, is that we do not know what caused this second consecutive cyanobacteria outbreak. Certainly, it was influenced by weather conditions. Since these are beyond our control, we should focus on controlling the pollutants (phosphorus) that are necessary for cyanobacteria growth. To do so, we must know more about the source(s) of these pollutants before we can take effective action. This will be better known when the all-important

Water Quality Plan study is completed next spring. Some solutions are expensive, potentially dangerous to pond flora and fauna and do not necessarily permanently solve the problem. **But we can each make a difference see the tips on page 3.**

At this writing, there is some good news. The cyanobacteria have not spread as quickly as they did last year when the whole pond was populated with blooms. There is hope that the current bloom will dissipate more quickly and that we will be able to reopen much sooner than last year. Your Herring Ponds Watershed Association Board of Directors is working hard to monitor the situation and to provide you with the latest information. We and Plymouth have placed warning signs at the local swimming areas. Check out the Herring Ponds Watershed Association Facebook for updates.

Meanwhile, check your septic system frequently, do not clear cut and do not dump yard waste into the pond. Thanks for your support!

Don Williams

President, Herring Ponds Watershed Association
Donald_r_williams2003@yahoo.com



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Having the **Blues** Over the **Green** {Blue Green Algae}

CYANOBACTERIA

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW AND WHAT TO DO

BY DON WILLIAMS

WE WILL ALL CERTAINLY REMEMBER the Great Herring Pond being shut down last summer from July 11 to September 11. The culprits, cyanobacteria, have been around since the early days of earth's pre-history. They are unique organisms, a type of bacteria that also behaves like a plant. Thus, cyanobacteria are capable of photosynthesis, the process that allows plants to convert carbon dioxide to oxygen. So far, the news is good – cyanobacteria remove carbon dioxide, a waste product that causes global warming, from the atmosphere and replaces it with oxygen, a necessity for higher life forms. In fact, cyanobacteria were responsible for providing most of the oxygen for the early earth's atmosphere.

CYANOBACTERIA: These organisms can produce toxins that are known to cause poisoning in dogs, cats, livestock, wildlife, birds, fish and even humans.



There are many different types of cyanobacteria and many of these produce toxins powerful enough to kill animals and small children and sicken adults when ingested. Even contact with these toxins can cause severe allergic reactions in some humans and animals. So much for the good news!

It is unlikely that we will ever eliminate cyanobacteria – they have been around for billions of years. Cyanobacteria have always existed in our pond and in all lakes, ponds, streams and oceans. So, what happened to us last summer? What caused the “bloom” that shut us down?

It is useful to think of last summer as a “perfect storm” of conditions favoring cyanobacteria rapid growth. In a “normal” year, there are downpours in the spring months that cause runoff of soil, fertilizer, pesticides, and animal wastes into the pond. In the spring, the water is relatively cool, and the nutrients/pollutants usually fuel a “bloom” of algae. The green algae are rather harmless and are, compared to cyanobacteria, a mere inconvenience. They are neither toxic, nor produce allergic reactions in humans or animals.

In 2020, however, there were no such spring downpours. The pond was very clear. But because of the lack of ice cover over the winter, it started off warmer than usual. Since there were no runoff nutrients/pollutants in the pond from spring downpours, no algae blooms formed, and we were able to enjoy boating, fishing, swimming, and water skiing. The beginning of July saw warm, sunny weather and the water temperature climbed to around 80 F. We also experienced two downpour rainstorms. On July 11, the first sighting of cyanobacteria was reported.

Why didn't algae grow instead of cyanobacteria? The unfortunate fact is that at higher July water temperatures, the cyanobacteria can better compete for the limited nutrients/pollutants than the algae. It didn't take long for the cyanobacteria to infest all of Great Herring Pond.

The Board of Directors vowed to do all that was possible to prevent future cyanobacteria “blooms.”

With your financial help, the Herring Ponds Watershed Association was able to raise enough money (\$10,000) to encourage Town Meeting to approve funding an \$81,024 study that will lead to a Water Quality Plan.

This Water Quality Plan will provide two important pieces of information:

- 1) a breakdown of the sources and relative amounts of nutrients/pollutants coming into the pond from septic, sediment and runoff; and**
- 2) how to reduce/eliminate the nutrients/pollutants.**



WHAT WE CAN DO

There are steps that can be taken by each of us to help ensure that watershed water quality improves. It behooves us to follow these guidelines in order to maintain our quality of life and property values.

- 1 To prevent harmful runoff**, please do not clear-cut pond front property. Trees and shrubs absorb water before it can wash soil and other contaminants into the pond.
- 2 Remember to pump your septic tank or cesspool every 3 – 5 years** to ensure proper septic function and to avoid expensive repairs.
- 3 Fertilizer contains nutrients/pollutants** so don't fertilize your lawn within 100 feet of a pond. Herbicides and pesticides used within 100 feet of a pond will find their way into that pond and kill flora and fauna.
- 4 When yard waste and leaves are dumped** into a pond, oxygen dissolved in the pond's water is required to decompose the yard waste and leaves, depriving fish and other pond fauna of life-giving oxygen.

We rely on your vigilance to help keep our ponds safe.

- 5 If you see cyanobacteria** (a blue green or yellow green film floating on the surface, not green algae), please alert the Herring Ponds Watershed Association (Don Williams at 508 833-4355) and call the Plymouth Department of Marine and Environmental Affairs at 508 747-1620, ext. 10198. Take a picture with your phone and send it along. We can all make a difference if we understand how our ponds work. 

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

LANDS OF THE HERRING PONDS WAMPANOAG

Thursday, July 15th, 7 pm

Little Red School House, Long Pond Rd
Melissa Ferretti, Chairlady of the Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe, will discuss the historic lands of her tribe and their special relationship to and guardianship of the land within the Herring Ponds Watershed. The original reservation of the Herring Ponds Wampanoag Tribe encompassed much of the land along the east side of Great Herring Pond and to the north of it. We will learn about their early homes and way of life and how it was lost or taken from them, as well as how they continue the traditions of living with the land and caring for it.

HPWA ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, August 16th, 7 pm

Pondville Wampanoag
Meeting House

128 Herring Pond Rd

Please attend our Annual Meeting for the election of officers and updates on what HPWA is doing to preserve and protect our beautiful watershed. Geri Williams will give a short program with pictures of her gardens. She will share information on what works in our specific ecosystem and how to recognize and remove some of the pesky invasive plants we have. Afterward, we will share snacks and socialize.

8TH ANNUAL HPWA PICNIC ON THE POND

Saturday, August 7th, 3-6 pm (rain date,
August 8th)

Weston's Ponds Property,
173 Herring Pond Rd

Join us for an afternoon of fun, food and friendship. Perhaps you will meet new neighbors. HPWA will provide a grill with hotdogs, hamburgers, rolls and non-alcoholic drinks, plates and cups on a sandy beach with a

dock (you can arrive by boat), swimming, and some tables under shade trees. Bring a chair and some food to share. If you would prefer, you can bring your own picnic dinner. Bring your children and grandchildren, friends or new neighbor.

For more information, contact Phil Angell 781-775-5132 or angell_phil@yahoo.com.

CONSERVING OUR WATER NOW FOR OUR CHILDREN AND THE ECOSYSTEM

Thursday, September 23rd, 7 pm

Little Red School House, Long Pond Rd

Eric Cody, Chair of the recently formed Plymouth Water Conservation Committee, will present some of the work the Committee has done and their recommendations for ways we can save water daily to preserve our aquifer and ensure there will be adequate water for our children and grandchildren. He will also address the challenge of changing the town's mindset of only considering new wells when water demand is projected to exceed supply. All Plymouth residents share the same source for their water - the Plymouth Carver Sole Source Aquifer. Whether we are on Town water or our own wells, the water comes from the aquifer beneath our feet and is limited and threatened. We must learn to do our part to conserve it, and learn how to become part of the solution.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

Our membership year runs from June 1 - May 31. Dues solicitation letters were sent out in May. So far we have received a very encouraging response. If you have not yet sent in your dues, please remit by sending in the envelope attached to our brochure or online on our website,

TheHerringPondsWatershed.org/membership
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.

WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE:

The Committee members have been assisting the SMAST researchers with collecting samples for the Water Quality Plan Study and will continue through October. The first water samples tested for E.coli at major swimming sites in GHP were taken June 24th, all results were well below the harmful limits. Samples will be taken for E.coli testing later in July and August to monitor safety for swimming.

INVASIVE PLANT COMMITTEE:

Jerry Levine, Committee chair, reminds all to check your property for invasive species and to try to control and eliminate them. There is a very informative website at Mass Audubon www.massaudubon.org/learn/nature-wildlife/invasive-plants that helps you identify invasive species with tips for eradication. If you need more information on invasives, you can contact Jerry at jersail123@gmail.com.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE:

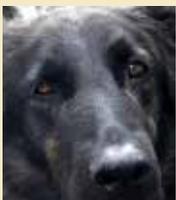
Beth Sobloff reports that the committee has been working on keeping a steady stream of communication going with members and friends of HPWA via social media and email. To stay informed about what's going on in the watershed, please follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/HerringPondWatershedAssociation.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

It has been almost a year since we voted in our revised HPWA by-laws. Under our new by-laws the Membership will be electing the Directors of the Association, and the Directors will be appointing our four officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer). The revised by-laws call for half of the directors to be elected on odd-numbered years (Class A Directors), and half on even-numbered years (Class B Directors).

The Nominating Committee (Brian Harrington, Jack Kedian and Linda White) is charged with nominating candidates for "Class A" directors of our Herring Ponds Watershed Association to serve for two years. The Committee recommends the following slate: **Melissa Ferretti, Member-at-Large; Paul Denoncourt, Member-at-Large; Jerry Levine, Chair of the Invasive Species Committee; Tom O'Brien, Chair of the Water Safety Committee; Beth Sobloff, Chair of the Communications Committee; and Geri Williams, Chair of the Outreach Committee.** The remaining current ("Class B") Directors would continue to serve until our annual elections in 2022. Elections will take place at the Annual Meeting in August.

Additional nominations may be made from the floor by Members at that time, so long as they are seconded by another Member.



**DOG
WATER
SAFETY
PAGE 8**



**FIND THE
HIDDEN
DOG BONE
INSIDE**

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ChrisLewisCreative.com

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SOMETHING'S FISHY

With an abundance of herring living in Great Herring Pond, there are many species that depend on them for food. GHP is a favorite hot spot for anglers.

Can you identify the fish below?

(Answers at the bottom)



- 1 Yellow Perch,
- 2 White Perch,
- 3 Brown Bullhead,
- 4 White Sucker,
- 5 Smallmouth Bass,
- 6 Largemouth Bass,
- 7 Pumpkinseed,
- 8 Chain Pickerel,
- 9 Banded Killifish,
- 10 American Eel,
- 11 Tessellated Darter

Photo Illustration by HPWA Member/Volunteer Chris Lewis

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Photography by HPWA board member and editor Geri Williams of her own glorious gardens!

In Your Backyard

Some tips for summer gardens



“Summertime and the livin’ is easy”. Hopefully we will all be spending time in the coming months barbecuing and enjoying the company of friends and family in

our backyards. Picking tasty fresh tomatoes, beans and squash that we’ve managed to keep from the critters. Daylilies, phlox, roses and daisies add jubilant colors, while sweet pepper bush and swamp azaleas around the ponds perfume the air.

By Geri Williams

Behind all this bounty and beauty is a talented stage manager – you – planting, watering, deadheading, weeding and mowing. Here are some tips to help you get the most out of your gardens:

- **Pinch most of the suckers** off from the leaf joints of your tomatoes. This will produce larger fruits and give better air circulation to reduce disease.
- **Similarly, cut chrysanthemums** and large sedums back by one third to encourage bushier plants and more blooms. Don’t be afraid to remove buds, more will grow.
- **When tomatoes, peppers and eggplants** start to set fruit, give them some additional organic fertilizer, or better yet top dress with compost. This will also retain moisture and keep weeds down.
- **To help prevent powdery mildew**, thin crowded plants, especially garden phlox, water only in the morning and aim water at the roots not leaves.
- **Pick green beans daily**, and summer squashes when they are 5-6 inches long. The more you pick these vegetables the more they will produce.

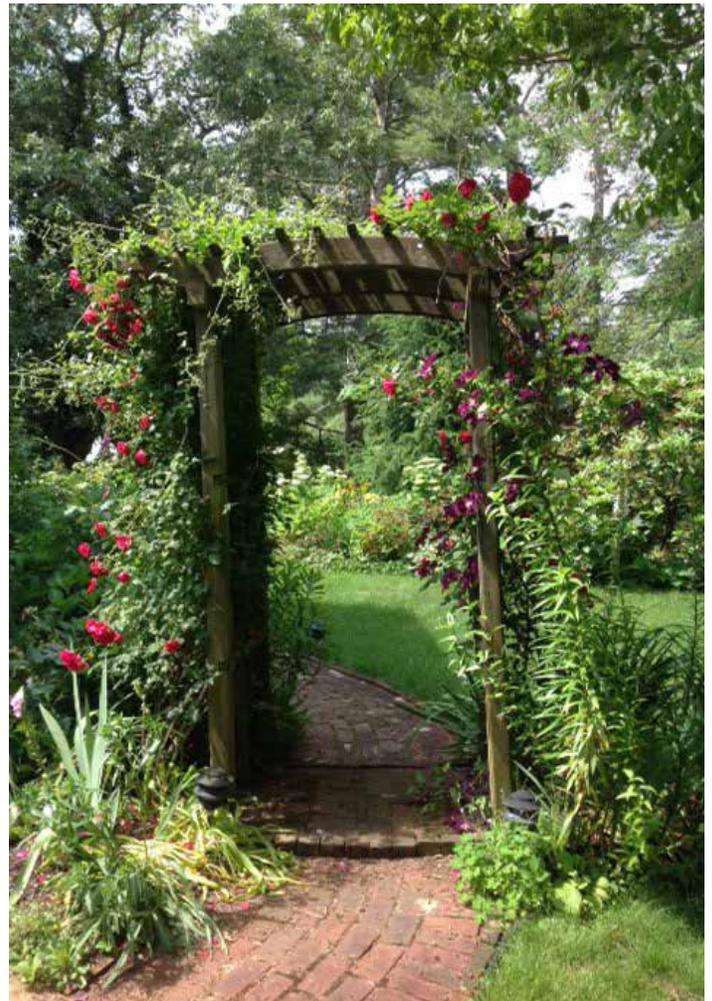
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- **Water your lawn only in the morning.** Less frequent deep irrigation is much better than frequent sprinkles. You really only need to water your lawn when footprints remain for a few minutes after you walk on it.
- **Keep your lawn mower blade sharp** and never cut more than 1/3 of the grass height at one time.

- **Don't spread fertilizer within 100 ft. of the pond edge** or streams, and not before a rainstorm is predicted. Some of the fertilizer may run off into the pond.
- **Finally, pick some of those beautiful flowers** in the morning, so they'll last longer in the vase. Bring them into your home and enjoy! 



- **I use long- lasting, slow- release fertilizer (Osmacote)** when planting annuals in planters and in borders, but if you didn't, fertilize them every other week when watering to keep the blooms coming.
- **Deadhead daisies, catmint, daylilies, and other perennials** to keep them looking neat and encourage more blooms. Works for zinnias, cosmos and other annuals as well.
- **Remove the side shoots from dahlias' main stems** to force the energy into producing larger blooms.
- **If you find empty spots in your flower gardens** where the rabbits and/or deer nibbled or spring ephemerals have disappeared, you can usually find some annuals to add some color at Dutchy's on Rt. 3, or Morrisons.
- **As you harvest lettuce, peas,** and other early season crops, you can sow broccoli, radish, lettuce and spinach seeds in the empty space for fall crops.
- **Drain and clean your birdbaths,** and replenish with clean water at least twice a week. Better for the birds and keeps mosquito larvae from hatching.
- **Remember to keep watering newly planted trees** and shrubs; they should get 1 ½ inch of water/week until well established.

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wickedlocal.com



David Gould, Head of Plymouth's Dept. of Marine and Environmental Affairs, has reported that there have been quite a few calls about different types of violations in the watershed this spring. These calls have ranged from tree cutting on town land, clearing and tree cutting in violation of the Wetlands Protection Act and the illegal placement of boards blocking a herring run at the outlet of Little Herring.

Please remember that you need to get permission from the Conservation Committee before doing work within 100' of wetlands, ponds, streams, etc. Alterations of town land is not allowed, and moorings require Harbormaster approval. If you see someone cutting trees, call the Plymouth Department of Marine and Environmental Affairs at 508 747-1620, ext. 10127. Take a picture with your phone and send it along. 

Is the Doggy Paddle for Everyone?

Photos by HPWA member/volunteer Chris Lewis



SMOKEY BEAR
Rockin' the
Skinny Jeans
at Great
Herring Pond



Sometimes We Call
Him "SANDY"

Many people mistakenly think that all dogs can naturally swim. **This isn't true.** Though most dogs will attempt a doggy paddle if they find themselves in the water, not all dogs are good swimmers or are able to stay afloat. In the latter camp you'll often find brachycephalic (aka short-muzzled) dogs who can tire easily or have respiration problems in the water, "top heavy" dogs with deep chests and smaller hindquarters, or dogs with short legs.

Dogs usually fall into one of three categories:

- 1** Dogs that LOVE the water. These dogs usually have thick, waterproof coats and webbed feet. Think the Portuguese Water Dog or the Labrador Retriever.
- 2** Dogs that are reluctant swimmers but can be taught.
- 3** Dogs that have trouble staying afloat for physiological reasons, such as brachycephalic breeds like the Bulldog, top-heavy breeds (again, the Bulldog) or short-legged breeds like the Dachshund and the Basset Hound. Additionally, hairless or finely coated dogs often don't care for the water as they get easily chilled. Though of course, there are exceptions to every rule.

Teach Your Dog to Swim

If your dog is able-bodied but hesitant to swim, get into the water with him. Go slow and start out in the shallows, praising as you gradually move deeper. Try a lifejacket designed for dogs and create positive association—coax your dog into the water by throwing a fetch toy or treats (which will often float for a minute before sinking). Be sure to avoid anywhere with waves that could swamp and scare your dog. By keeping it fun and positive, many nervous dogs will soon come to love swimming, which is wonderful as it's great exercise while being easy on joints. Just respect that some dogs are happier on the shore, and there's nothing wrong with that! —*Modern Dog Magazine* 



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DID YOU KNOW?

GROVER CLEVELAND WAS HERE



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA SMITH AND FAMILY – FIFTH GENERATION GREAT HERRING POND RESIDENTS

GROVER CLEVELAND (CENTER), 22nd & 24th PRESIDENT

PHOTO TAKEN AT A FAMILY FISHING CAMP ON GREAT HERRING POND ROAD | CIRCA.1890



Grover Cleveland, well known for his enjoyment of the outdoors, good food and beverages spent his summers duck hunting and fishing while staying at the Idlewild Hotel in Manomet Bluffs. He fished many of the 365 ponds in Plymouth including **Great Herring Pond**. In 1884, he began his first term as the 22nd President of the United States. While serving this term, then in his fifties, he caused quite a stir by marrying **Frances Folson**, age 21 (shown far left). He lost his re-election bid to Benjamin Harrison in part through the efforts of the Prohibition League that campaigned against his life style. He later returned to office, becoming the only President to be elected for non-consecutive terms.





The Hummingbird of the East

By Martha Sheldon | HPWA Communications Committee



Adult male
Ruby-throated
Hummingbird

The Ruby-throated Hummingbird is the only hummingbird species that nests east of the Mississippi River. During the spring and summer, Ruby-throats may be found from southern Canada across the central and eastern states to the Gulf Coast. These tiny birds winter in the tropics, from Mexico south to northern Panama, with a few along the U.S. Gulf Coast.



Backyard birders look forward to the return of these diminutive dynamos. The dazzling flash or the red throat of the male, the iridescent green of the female, and the agility in flight is one of nature's small spectacles. During our April birding trip to SE Arizona, where hummingbirds are plentiful, we picked up tips on how to maintain feeders.

What size feeder works here in New

England? Because we have only the one hummingbird species here, a simple saucer-type feeder works well, or a 16-oz. bottle feeder. You don't need a larger bottle. It's better to make fresh nectar every couple of days, especially in hot weather. We use Dr. JB's Clean Feeder 16 oz capacity, which is easy to take apart and clean.

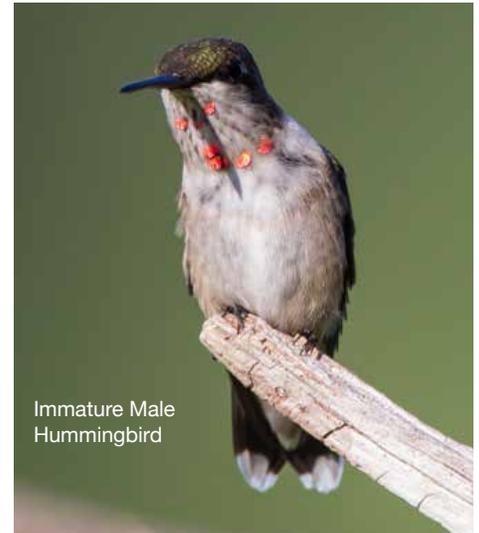
What about ant problems? One of the best ways to keep ants out of hummingbird feeders is to install an ant moat (Droll Yankee Ant Moat), or buy a feeder with ant moat installed (Ultra Hummzinger). You can also hang your feeder on fishing line. Ants can't navigate thin fishing line. I use an ant guard which deters ants with permethrin (Perky Pet Ant Guard).

Bees also pose problems with nectar feeders. Bees don't harm the hum-



Young hummingbirds
in cup-shaped nest

mingbirds—but they can obstruct your view of the birds and deliver painful stings. During our Arizona trip, we noticed that feeders had few or no bees around them, so I was interested to learn their tricks. Here is how they control bees: **1)** For saucer-type feeders, lower the level in the feeder to below the ports so the bees can't reach it but the hummingbirds, with their long beaks and tongues, can. **2)** Aim for ti-



Immature Male
Hummingbird

diness: when you fill your feeder make sure to wipe any spilled sugar water from the top. And while you're at it change the sugar water twice a week to prevent mold.

Make the nectar with a solution of 2 cups water to 1/2 cup refined sugar. Don't add coloring. Aim to clean your feeders periodically. I take the whole thing apart, including the plastic flowers, handwash it and let it air dry while making a new solution of nectar.

Hummers are pollen feeders, and look for a way to clean their feathers. A fountain that splashes or a shallow bird bath is sometimes used by hummers for this purpose. Spraying your flowers with a garden hose will often tempt a nearby hummer to enjoy the spray.

A final thought, hummingbirds will naturally seek out flower blossoms, especially on natives such as bee balm, honeysuckle or cardinal flower. Enjoy the show while it is here! 

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Today, the Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribal community continues the work of our ancestors: protecting land and water for our youth, and for future generations. To us, land, water, and all the wildlife with whom we co-exist are alive and sacred.

The land doesn't belong to us—we belong to it.

– Melissa (Harding) Ferretti, Chairlady Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe

Tackling Invasive Plants on your Property

By Geri Williams—HPWA Newsletter Editor

Some non-native plants species become ‘over-achievers’, thriving in their new habitat without the insects and diseases that would normally control their growth. Once established, they out-compete native species and become a major threat to native habitats.

Know them-don’t grow them. None of these plants can be legally purchased in MA.

Purchase and grow only non-invasive plants. Work to eliminate non-native invasive plants on your property. Share this knowledge with your neighbors so these nasty plants don’t re-infest your yard.

Some of the most prevalent and difficult to control invasive species in our watershed are Japanese knotweed, Oriental bittersweet, multiflora rose and Russian olive.

Means for controlling Japanese Knotweed were discussed in our Spring 2020 Newsletter which can be found on our website, TheHerringPondsWatershed.org.

Russian Olive and Autumn Olive are similar invasive shrubs that can grow to 12 ft. or more. Branches often bear thorns. The leaves are covered with silvery white to rusty colored scales. Flowering occurs in April to May with small yellow or creamy white fragrant flowers. It thrives in a variety of soil and moisture conditions and is frequently found along roadsides and in disturbed areas. When cut the trunk resprouts abundantly, making it exceedingly difficult to control.

Infestations of small plants can be pulled, dug, cut, or mowed fairly easily. Pulling or digging of small plants is most effective if done following a rain. Every effort must be made to remove all roots. Cutting and mowing should be done in early summer and repeated during the growing season to deplete the plant’s food stores.

To control medium- to large-size shrubs, simply cutting the shrub off at the base will cause prolific sprouting and increase the number of stems. An effective strategy for controlling autumn and Russian olive is to kill both the above ground portion and the root system with an herbicide.

Cut the trunk as close to the ground as possible and immediately paint the stump with 20 percent Roundup, paying particular attention to the outer edges where the living tissue is. All stumps must be treated within 10 minutes of cutting.

Oriental Bittersweet is a fast-growing, sprawling, climbing vine that can grow up to 60 feet long and 6 inches in diameter. It can smother shrubs and even strangle and topple large trees. It is very hard to eradicate as it spreads from root sprouts as well as seeds. The vines produce vast amounts of colorful red berries covered with yellow capsules that are quite attractive and loved by birds who spread their seeds.

It can also be identified by its orange roots. This vine is very prolific in our watershed.

Pulling up the vines and digging out the roots can be effective with smaller vines and infestations. However, it is difficult to get all the roots and you should keep checking the area and remove any new growth. For larger vines, cut as much as you can reach from the trees and apply undiluted triclopyr containing herbicide or Roundup with a foam paintbrush to the vine stumps cut close to the ground. Any vines remaining in the trees after being cut from their roots will die and eventually drop down.

Foliage spraying for either of these invasive plants is not recommended as this is not as effective and the spray can damage other plants and get into our water. 



Multiflora Rose



Autumn Olive



Russian Olive



Japanese Knotweed



Oriental Bittersweet

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Enjoying the Water Safely on Our Ponds

By Geri Williams—HPWA Newsletter Editor

Sailing, swimming, kayaking, fishing, are all fun ways to relax and enjoy warm summer days on many of the ponds in our watershed. Riding fast on a jet ski, waterskiing and tubing, are favorites on Great Herring pond. Both young and old share the water fun, they love being in and on the water. That's why we choose to live or vacation here!

As a safety measure HPWA will monitor E.coli levels and water quality all summer. To better enjoy our water sport activities, with so much activity on the ponds we should be aware of the impact of our actions on all the others also enjoying the water. Be courteous, be safe.



Recently the Plymouth Harbor Master, Chad Hunter, spoke at a HPWA meeting held on the lawn of Camp Bournedale. He urged all to wear a life jacket while on the water boating. It is often too late to put one on when an accident happens. Already this year there have been several drownings on the South Shore. Even if you are a good swimmer, you can find yourself in trouble thrown from a jet ski or boat, or overturned sailboat or kayak. Chad also stressed maintaining a safe distance from other boats and individuals in the water. In the coves of Great Herring Pond it is especially important to reduce motorboat speed and be careful of swimmers. Many families with children live and play around these coves.

Paddling can be relaxing, rejuvenating and even exhilarating. However, both canoes and kayaks have less stability than



other small crafts. Always wear a life jacket. – most paddling fatalities could have been prevented if life jackets had been worn. Check the weather conditions before you go; storms, lightning, high winds and sudden temperature changes can cause disasters. Stay with your canoe or kayak if it overturns or you fall out – it floats. Paddle with a buddy or tell someone where you plan to go. Enjoy the natural beauty of our watershed peacefully and safely.

Wardens from the Harbor Masters Office plan to patrol Great Herring Pond more often this summer to remind boaters of safety regulations.

Here are some of important boating safety rules to follow:

- All children under 13 years are required to wear a life jacket at all times while out on the water.
- Boats are required to have life jackets for every person on board.
- Everyone must wear a life jacket when riding a jet ski.
- Absolutely no towing behind a jet ski.
- Motorized boats and jet skis must operate 150 feet from shores and all other crafts and swimmers.
- Between sunset or 7:30 pm (whichever comes first) and 9 am all boats must not exceed headway speed, 6 mph.
- Maximum speed is 45 mph
- Operating a vessel while intoxicated is a MA and federal offense. 

VOLUNTEERS AT THEIR BEST



Introducing Board Member Beth Sobilloff

Beth Sobilloff joined the Board of HPWA in February of 2019. She has served as the Webmaster and recently became Chair of the newly formed Communications Committee. When HPWA member Chris Lewis created the new logo, newsletter and website design for HPWA, Beth developed the new website. She has also mentored two of our interns from Rising Tide. As Communications Committee Chair, Beth helps coordinate all social media, press releases, emails, newsletters and mail from HPWA.

Beth is the owner of Birchwood Web Design, in business since 2002. She is also the Clerk on the Board of Trustees of the National Marine Life Center in Buzzards Bay, where they rehabilitate and release sick and injured seals and sea turtles.

A resident of Plymouth for the past five years along with her husband Roger Jones, Beth grew up in Ohio, but has lived in Massachusetts for almost 50 years. She graduated from Smith College with an economics degree. She has three children and six grandchildren.

Beth also has a show on PAC TV called "Two Grannies on the Road". She and the other granny, Debbie Thelen, have a goal of visiting every city and town in Massachusetts. They try to capture the culture, history, beauty and food scene of each location. They like to say that they're eating their way across Massachusetts!

"Living on a pond in Plymouth has given me an even deeper appreciation for the natural beauty here, and a healthy respect for the delicate nature of our land and water resources", she stated. 

PROTECT & PRESERVE
Explore | Experience | Enjoy



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 Carter Guertin



Photo By Bill Pearson



Photo By Kara Solimini Stanford



Photo By Donna Raymond-Prada



Photo By Caitlin Rosario



Photo By Kara Solimini Stanford

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

Donate

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.

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



- Newsletters, emails and social media postings to keep residents informed of what's happening in the Herring Ponds Watershed

- Volunteer herring count in partnership with the Town of Plymouth at the Herring River outflow from Great Herring Pond

- Annual Members' Picnic
- Bird walks
- Educational programs

HPWA Accomplishments

- During the pandemic produced a zoom educational program nearly every month
- 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)

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





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.