

THE IPA NEWSLETTER

Mystic Lake, Middle Pond, and Hamblin Pond

Spring 2005

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SPRING ARRIVES IN MARSTONS MILLS

The herring are back thanks to warmer days and high tides. Al Baker, Chair of the Marstons Mills River Committee, is very optimistic that this year's run will be as strong as last year's excellent run. Cars and pickups have caused traffic jams at the Mill Pond herring run as people gather there to catch herring or just watch the action. For more information, read Al's article on page 4.



Netting herring at Mill Pond herring run.

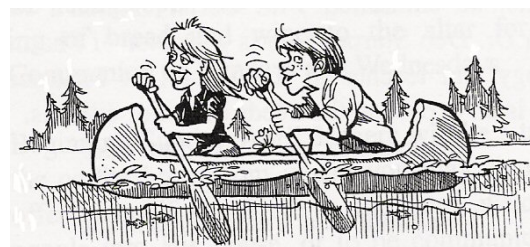
IPA ANNUAL MEETING JULY 10

The Annual Meeting of the Indian Ponds Association will be held Sunday July 10 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm at the home of Lewis and Nancy Solomon, 28 Heath Row (off Old Mill Road in Lynxholm) in Marstons Mills. The meeting will be from 4:00 to 5:00 pm, with a social hour to follow. The business portion of the meeting will include reports and the election of new members to the Board of Directors. A Nominating Committee comprised of James McGuire, John Hansen, and Bob Frazee has been appointed to develop a slate of candidates for the Board. The program portion will be a presentation of the final report of the IPA Pond Study by staff from the Cape Cod Commission Water Resources Office. This important study has been the IPA's principal activity since early 2004 and has been conducted in cooperation with the Commission and the Town of Barnstable. All members as well as others interested in the results of this study are strongly urged to attend to hear this presentation and any recommendations made concerning future actions and/or follow-up studies deemed necessary. Please circle July 10 at 4:00 pm on your calendar and plan to attend to hear firsthand about the work of the IPA.



Come join us . . . All IPA and FIPA members are welcome . . . It's not too late to join the IPA . . . Hear the results of our Pond Study . . . Meet new friends and old . . . Great refreshments . . . A fine way to spend a late Sunday afternoon overlooking beautiful Mystic Lake . . . We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting!

Date: Sunday, July 10
Time: 4:00 to 6:00 pm
Place: The home of Lewis & Nancy Solomon
28 Heath Row in Lynxholm
On beautiful Mystic Lake



Come by land or come by water . . .

IPA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS – 2004-2005

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Emory Anderson
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The IPA is a 501(c)(3) organization and a registered public charity. All dues and contributions are tax deductible.

This Newsletter, with a circulation of 450, is a forum for the exchange of ideas on matters germane to the IPA mission and, as such, the views expressed by authors of articles do not necessarily represent official IPA policy.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Emory Anderson

This being the last issue of *The IPA Newsletter* before our Annual Meeting on Sunday July 10, it is timely to again remind members and others interested in the Indian Ponds Association of the key role we play in the Marstons Mills community. Wrapping up the important Pond Study that began last year is our chief objective over the next month or two. We anxiously await the conclusions and recommendations of the Cape Cod Commission's Water Resources Office staff that will be presented at the Annual Meeting, which I strongly urge everyone to attend.

Growing our membership has commanded high priority. I am pleased to report that, as of this writing, our membership is well ahead of where we were at this time last year. I would like to think that the new approach we have taken with letters to members, receipts for payment of dues and donations, and envelope addressing, made possible with our new operational database, generously developed and improved by Director Paul Craig, has demonstrated a more professional image and resulted in a greater response to our membership drive. Thanks to all who have renewed their membership for 2005, to those new members who have recently joined our ranks, and a special thanks to those who have continued to provide extra donations for the pond study.

We continue to be involved with other associations and committees in Marstons Mills, such as the Marstons Mills Village Association, River Day Committee, Mill Pond Preservation Committee, and the Marstons Mills River Committee. Through such interactions, we strengthen bonds with like-minded groups while enhancing the positive reputation and mission of the IPA. The IPA will again have a table under the tent at River Day on Sunday May 15. Be sure to stop and talk with us. Jane Smith, one of our Directors, is the current IPA representative on the Marstons Mills River Committee. Recently, the Board of Directors has agreed to help the Mill Pond Preservation Committee in its quest to acquire and preserve land adjacent to Mill Pond as open space for conservation purposes. Mention is made in this issue about the need for registered voters in the COMM Fire/Water District to attend the May 17 meeting and vote to authorize a \$375,000 expenditure to help purchase the land in question (see article by Jan Barton and enclosed letter from the Preservation Committee).

Lastly, I want to pay tribute to our good friend Ed Schwarm, a faithful and hard-working member of the Board of Directors since 2001. Ed will be stepping down as a Director and recently was forced to relinquish the post of treasurer (graciously assumed by Nancy Wong) because of deteriorating health. Sadly, Ed's wife Erla passed away March 22, and Ed himself also has been diagnosed with terminal cancer. All of us in the IPA extend our very best wishes to Ed and thank him for the many things he has done for our organization.

Emory D. Anderson, PhD

ARE THERE BEARS IN THE WOODS?

How Marstons Mills has changed! When we first moved to Marstons Mills in 1977 (not all that long ago), there were very few streetlights and it was dark, very dark when one looked out one's windows in the evening. I remember one night going out to my car in the driveway and being frightened when something rather large moved in the dark corner of the yard and lumbered away — it was a neighbor's Great Dane! When my in-laws from Boston (the "city") came to visit, they wondered if we kept a shotgun in the house "just in case a bear came out of the woods". The Cash Market was the only place nearby, and if you wanted pizza, you went into Hyannis. Marstons Mills was considered "the sticks", way out there away from downtown Hyannis!

Fast forward to 2005 — a super-supermarket, pizza shops everywhere, homes everywhere, woodland vanishing, a golf

course, traffic zooming up/down Route 149 (now a major thoroughfare), a roundabout at the Race Lane/airport intersection. It's been exciting to see our village change from "the sticks" to one of the best places in town to live.

However, with the increase in residential and commercial growth and the accompanying advantages, we need to also be aware of the possible negative impact on our environment, particularly our ponds, lakes, and woodlands. What will become of our remaining woodlands? Will they become new residential subdivisions, recreational ball parks, conservation areas preserved for public enjoyment, or will they become commercial concerns? And what impact will those future uses have on our property values, but most importantly, our environment and our wildlife?

Nancy Wong



from our
TOWN COUNCILOR



“WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE...”

It seems that way to Town Councilors recently as water issues occupy an increasing percentage of legislative duties. First, the Council voted unanimously in favor of the purchase of the Barnstable Water Company from its parent company, the Connecticut Water Company. Foremost in Councilors' minds in this decision was the desire to protect the water supply for our largest village for generations to come. Although necessary and previously deferred capital improvements must be made to this system, Councilors share the conviction that this purchase will be a lasting benefit to the Village of Hyannis and to the Town.

Councilors have also been working on wastewater management with the County. The County Commission has proposed a regional wastewater collaborative to answer the growing need for a cooperative and cohesive approach to this situation. IPA members and many others who deal with water issues know that Cape Cod is perched on a sole source aquifer. As all 15 towns on the Cape are connected to this underground treasure, a unified, holistic approach to preventing its ruin makes sense. Ignoring or attempting to isolate this problem by town will not help the situation. Although it is still in its initial stages, this proposal is being carefully examined and evaluated by Councilors as it moves forward.

In the Village of Marstons Mills, water issues are of critical interest as well. Test wells on the former Danforth property south of Race Lane have shown positive results. This information will be useful to the committee that is being formed in the next few months to create a management plan for the portions of the property not under the provenance of the Cape Cod Airfield. Councilors Curtis, Farnham, and myself have begun preliminary work on background information for this committee, and have targeted IPA members who will be asked to serve on this committee.

Efforts to preserve and maintain the Marstons Mills River and its partial destination, Mill Pond, have been underway for some time now. Al Baker, vice president of the Marstons Mills Village Association, has been conducting cleanups of the River's banks with Liberty Hall Club members and concerned residents. The Mill Pond Preservation Committee was formed last year and is attempting to coordinate resources to purchase the land behind the pond near the Hayden Wellfields. The Committee has petitioned the Centerville-Oster-ville-Marstons Mills (COMM) Fire/Water District to assist in

the purchase of this land by allocating \$375,000 of District funds toward the purchase. For more information, please visit www.marstonsmills.org. Your support and attendance at the COMM Annual District Meeting on May 17, when this request will be voted on, would be greatly appreciated (see letter from the Committee enclosed with this newsletter). The Marstons Mills River flows through Mill Pond and into the Three Bays area and, as we all know, no body of water stands alone. If the River or Pond are adversely affected by any development or lack of protection of this area, the damage will flow to the ocean.

Speaking of our ponds, Round Pond will soon be added to the list of monitored water resources. Neighbors in the Liberty Lane area will soon be receiving water monitoring equipment from the Town. They will be trained by Dr. Dale Saad of the Town's Health Department and, with her assistance, will be keeping an eye on this pond. Later this spring, I hope to assemble all of the pond groups, together with students at the Horace Mann Grade 5-6 Charter School (located on Oster-ville-West Barnstable Road in Marstons Mills), so that groups can meet and further coordinate their pond-saving efforts. IPA's sterling example of cooperation and coordination in water monitoring and protection efforts sets an example for many to follow. I also plan to stay in touch with County water monitoring efforts to see if and where their resources can assist us.

The Town Council is now entering the budget season, and while we are aware of the critical nature of water protection, we are still constrained by available funds. Whatever can be done within these constraints to maintain water monitoring programs will be done. If you have any questions or would wish to receive more information, please contact me at JLBartonLetters@comcast.net and I will get back to you as soon as I am able (please remember budget season gets a little hectic for Councilors!). Thank you very much for your continued interest in water protection and preservation issues.

Enjoy River Day Sunday, May 15 at the Marstons House (the former Inn at the Mills) at the intersection of Routes 149 and 28 — it's a fun day for the whole family, and is all about WATER.

*Janice L. Barton
 Town Councilor, Precinct 10
 Marstons Mills*

MIDDLE POND HERRING RUN



Al Baker

Work on the herring run is progressing, but slowly for various reasons. We plan to have 140 feet of fast ditch installed in mid-July. This year's herring are now running and should continue to run until the middle of May. We hope to clean the river some time in early June. We will have an update at the Marstons Mills River Committee meeting on May 23 at the Marstons Mills Public Library at 7 pm. Anyone who wants to help with river cleaning is invited to

attend this meeting.

At the Route 149/Mill Pond herring run, herring may be taken on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays only during

the hours of 6 am to 7 pm. A Town Herring Permit or Town shellfish permit is required. **The taking of herring from the Middle Pond herring run is prohibited.** All permits are available at the Town's Natural Resources office at 1189 Phinney's Lane, Centerville, Monday – Friday 8:30 am to 4:15 pm. If you have any questions, call the office at 508-790-6272.

The River Committee and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ed Schwarm for all he has done as a Committee member and particularly for his effort in obtaining the grant to help fund the repairs to the run and for his knowledge and help with every facet of the ponds and river. We really appreciate his hard work.

*Al Baker, Chairperson
Marstons Mills River Committee*

TOWN OF BARNSTABLE HERRING AND ALEWIFE RULES AND REGULATIONS

1.8 Herring and Alewife Rules and Regulations

1.8.1 Resident and Real Estate Taxpayer Requirement: Residents and real estate taxpayers of the Town of Barnstable are required to have a Town of Barnstable Herring Permit, or Resident shellfish permit, to take Herring or Alewives. The fee for said Herring Permit shall be \$5.00. A Senior Citizen Permit shall be \$3.00. Said permit holders are entitled to **one pail containing not more than 15 Herring or Alewives** per calendar week, per household.

1.8.2 Non-Resident Requirement: Residents of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are required to have a Town of Barnstable Herring Permit, or Non-resident shellfish permit, to take Herring or Alewives. The fee for said Herring Permit shall be \$25.00. Said permit holders are entitled to **one pail containing not more than 15 Herring or Alewives** per calendar week, per household.

1.8.3 Unlawful Harvest: No person shall take or attempt to take Herring or Alewives from Town of Barnstable waters unless said person is a Town of Barnstable resident or real estate taxpayer, or holds a Town of Barnstable Herring Permit or Shellfish Permit.

1.8.4 Harvest Days: Herring and/or Alewives may be taken on **Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Hours: 6 A.M. to 7 P.M. ONLY.**

1.8.5 Harvest Method: Herring and Alewives shall be taken by dipnet or by hand only.

1.8.6 Harvest Containers: All Herring and Alewives taken from the water shall be placed in a suitable box, pail or basket and removed from the area. Paper and cardboard containers are **not** considered suitable.

1.8.7 Conservation: Throwing objects into the water and/or malicious destruction of the Herring and Alewives is prohibited.

1.8.8 Unauthorized Alteration of Herring Runs: No person shall tamper with, adjust or destroy any structure provided for the passage of Herring and Alewives unless authorized by the Supervisor of Natural Resources.

1.8.9 Designated Harvest Areas: Herring and Alewives shall be taken from designated areas **ONLY.** Herring and Alewives shall not be disturbed outside of designated harvest areas.

1.8.10 Restricted Areas: The Town of Barnstable Anadromous Fishways, the embankments of said fishways and the area within 100 feet of said embankments shall be considered **RESTRICTED AREAS.** All persons, with the exception of property owners or legal occupants of the property, are prohibited from entering these restricted areas. The taking of anadromous fish is prohibited within these areas.

KEEPING OUR MARINE WATERWAYS CLEAN

Editor's Note: Since the Marstons Mills River flows into Prince Cove and the Three Bays area, these two articles are included to inform our readers of what innovative methods the Town is using to help reduce nutrient levels in these and other marine areas.

SHELLFISH NURSERY AT PRINCE COVE MARINA

On March 1, 2005, the Town signed a 5-year lease with Aquacultural Research Corporation (ARC) to lease the building at the newly acquired Marina at Prince Cove. In addition to the usual boat slip rental activities, winter boat storage, and added parking at the Marina, the rental of the building will be a "breath of fresh air" to the waterways of the Three Bays area.

this type of "clean" business and activity can be part of the solution to reducing nitrogen loading that is destroying our waterways.

The building will be used as a nursery for marine shellfish seed (quahogs). A nursery is a protected site where hatchery seed at a size of 0.5–1 mm are placed and then grown to a size usually 2–8 mm in size. The seed are grown by means of "upwellers" contained within the building. Upwellers are screened containers in which shellfish seed are placed and through which seawater is passed at a prescribed rate. The seed shellfish filter the nutrients, in the form of phytoplankton, from the seawater and grow at a rate governed by the amount of nutrients contained in the seawater passing over them. ARC has operated such upweller systems successfully for more than 25 years. They presently have an upweller system similar to the one to be built at Prince Cove in operation on Stage Harbor in Chatham. This is an operation that ARC built and has operated for the last 9 years. The upweller nursery system is normally in operation from approximately April 1 through late December of any given year.

Also, for the past two summer seasons, the Town of Barnstable Shellfish Program, which is part of the Marine and Environmental Affairs Division, in conjunction with the Three Bays Preservation, Inc. has operated an "in-water upweller" in Prince Cove. This in-water upweller known as a "FLUPSY" (floating upweller system) has produced for harvest more than 2 million clams since 2003. There are future plans to install more in-water upwellers at the Marina as part of the float system.

With high nutrient levels detected in the embayments of Marstons Mills, Cotuit, Centerville, and Osterville, this type of "clean" business and activity can be part of the solution to reducing nitrogen loading that is destroying our waterways.

*Eric W. Shufelt
Marina Manager/Assistant Harbormaster
Town of Barnstable*

TOWN OF BARNSTABLE PUMP-OUT PROGRAM

The Town is also providing another means to help keep our marine waterways clean. Since acquisition in 1995, the Barnstable Pump-Out Boats continue to offer on-site, holding tank pump outs throughout the waters of Osterville, Cotuit, Centerville, Hyannisport, the Hyannis Inner Harbor, and part of Lewis Bay. Two pump-out boats are available during the summer season from Memorial Day weekend through Columbus Day. Both boats operate on an 8:30 am to 4:30 pm schedule, 7 days a week. The boats are a 21-foot, center console Alcar, and a 23-foot, center console Northcoast, respectively. Both are white with the word "Harbormaster" painted on both sides of the hull. The pump-out boats can be reached on VHF channels 16, 13, and 9.



Barnstable Pump-Out Boat

The Town also offers two shore-based pump-out stations. The south side facility is located at Bismore Park Marina in Hyannis, and the north side station is at Barnstable Harbor Marina. Pump outs can also be scheduled for upcoming days by calling the Harbormaster's office at (508) 790-6273.

*Jarod Smoller
Pumpout Boat Operator/Assistant Harbormaster
Town of Barnstable*

SMEDLEY

by Gordon Nelson



RIVER DAY 2005



Kevin Galvin

In what has become a rite of spring in Marstons Mills, River Day will be held Sunday May 15 this year at the William Marston House beside Mill Pond at the intersection of Routes 149 and 28 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

The day provides a unique blend of fun, learning, and food, with something for the entire family — from puppet shows, a fishing derby, kayaking on the pond, environmental awareness programs, to hamburgers and hot dogs.

In response to a high schooler who didn't know there was a river in Marstons Mills, River Day began nine years ago, and now we not only celebrate "our river", but have also moved ahead to develop plans to preserve its watershed and environs.

What is gaining the attention of a number of groups affiliated with River Day is the fragility of Mill Pond itself. While water quality issues have always been a major focus of River Day, there are increased concerns about the sediment and vegetation now overwhelming the pond. And to add to these woes, there is the looming threat of the land beside it being developed. The Mill Pond Preservation Committee was formed to specifically address these issues, and you can learn more about them "under the tent" on River Day.

We keep fine-tuning the day's program to help educate those who live in the Marstons Mills River watershed about the

cause and effect that their everyday life has on the river, and we try to combine that with some enjoyment as well. So, mark the calendar and join your neighbors for River Day!

Learn more about River Day www.marstonsmills.org and all about the Mill Pond Preservation Committee and its goals at www.savemillpond.org. If you don't have access to the Internet, call 508-420-0075 to receive this information by mail.

Kevin Galvin
River Day Committee



Photo courtesy of River Day website

PLEASE VOTE ON MAY 17 AT COMM ANNUAL MEETING

The IPA Board of Directors strongly encourages all Town of Barnstable registered voters living in the Centerville-Osterville-Marstons Mills (COMM) Fire/Water District to support a grass-roots initiative by the Mill Pond Preservation Committee, in collaboration with our Town Councilors, the Barnstable Land Trust, and Three Bays Preservation, Inc., to have the COMM purchase several parcels of land adjacent to Mill Pond near the Hayden Wellfield for preservation as open space. Much of the needed money has been pledged, but an additional \$375,000 needs to be provided by the

COMM. This expenditure must be approved by the registered voters. A vote on this will be taken at the COMM Annual Meeting to be held Tuesday, May 17 at 7:00 pm at the Marstons Mills East Elementary School on the Osterville-West Barnstable Road in Marstons Mills. Informational meetings on this issue will be held at the Burgess House on Route 149 in Marstons Mills at 7:00 pm on April 27, May 2, and May 9. For more information, please read the letter from the Mill Pond Preservation Committee included with this newsletter.

**Remember, it's not just enough to be "for this";
you must attend the meeting on May 17 and vote.**