

# THE IPA NEWSLETTER

Mystic Lake, Middle Pond and Hamblin Pond in Marstons Mills, MA

Summer 2022

A quarterly publication of the Indian Ponds Association, Inc. Vol. 22 No.3



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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE INDIAN PONDS ASSOCIATION'S 64TH ANNUAL MEETING

The meeting was held in a tent on the lawn of the home of Deirdre and John Kayajan on July 17<sup>th</sup>. It was well attended by about 65 dues paying members with near perfect weather. Emory moved the meeting through the normal parliamentary proceedings with little discussion. It was noted that during the last fiscal year we had spent \$600 less than the previous year and had taken in \$12,000 more than the previous year. Part of the reduction in expenses was from the fact that the previous year we had funded the 2020 Pond Study by Ken Wagner.

The nominating committee consisting of Kathy Bryan, Maggie Fearn, and Peter Atkinson recommended the following new members to the Board of Directors: John Chiniara, Richard Creeth, Tom Odjakjian, Robert Reynolds, and Carol Sim. Also, up for reelection for a second two-year term was Nicole Sturgis and for their third two-year terms were Bill Hearn and Maurice "Butch" Roberts. All nominees were elected by a voice vote.

Peter Atkinson announced that Emory Anderson is stepping down after 21 years in the IPA. He will still be available for consultation. Peter detailed a history of Emory and Geri Andersons' many contributions to the IPA through the years and on behalf of the Board awarded Emory and Geri "The Order of the Turtle". Peter also announced a new Emory and Geri Anderson scholarship award in an amount to be determined for educational pursuit and care of fresh water ecology, and environmental studies or related fields.

The IPA By-laws Section 2 of Article 6 states that "withdrawal in excess of \$500 will require the signature of the president and treasurer. Withdrawal of funds in excess of \$1,000 will require the approval of the board of directors." It was proposed that these amounts be increased to \$1,000 and \$1,500 respectively. Maggie Fearn moved to approve the change, which was seconded and unanimously approved



**Geri and Emory Anderson**

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## IPA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2022-2023

### President

Maurice (Butch) Roberts

### Vice President

Sandy Leo-Clark

### Treasurer

Greg Cronin

### Clerk

Wendy Bierwirth

### Directors

John Chiniara  
Richard Creeth  
Bill Hearn  
Tom Odjakian  
Robert (Bob) Reynolds  
Carol Sims  
Nicole Sturgis

### Database Manager

Richard Creeth

### Newsletter Editor

Kathy Bryan

### Webmaster

Wendy Bierwirth

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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 approximately 800, is a forum for the exchange of ideas on matters concerning the IPA's mission, and the views expressed by authors of articles do not necessarily represent official IPA policy.

## INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

We are very fortunate to this year to welcome five very well qualified volunteers to the IPA Board of Directors serving for their first two-year term. It is very exciting to be able to welcome new perspectives and energy to the Board of Directors, and I am confident they will be valuable assets to the Indian Ponds Association.



**John Chiniara** joined the IPA board as an Associate Director to continue its stewardship of the Indian Ponds' health, for the benefit and enjoyment of communities of swimmers, kayakers, birders, fishing, and nature lovers. John brings business and engineering experience in areas as diverse as water desalination, communication, energy, and service delivery. He holds a Masters in Nuclear Engineering from Ecole Polytechnique of Montreal and an MBA from The Yale School of Management. John and his wife have a home on Hamblin Pond.

**Richard Creeth** was born and educated in the UK where he began his career as a Chartered Accountant transferring to New York more than 40 years ago. Richard and his wife Margaret raised their three sons in Connecticut but visited the Cape often. Richard has invested many hours in community affairs serving on both the boards of selectman and finance in Wilton, Connecticut over a fifteen-year period. During this time, he also developed his interest in environmental issues and served on the Wilton Energy Commission. On retirement Richard and Margaret relocated to Marstons Mills and now live on Middle Pond.



Richard enjoys fishing and kayaking on Middle Pond



**Tom Odjakian** is currently the American Athletic Conference's Senior Associate Commissioner for broadcasting and digital content, having joined the Conference from ESPN in 1995. Tom has oversight of all external conference content, including its digital content, and is The American's primary liaison with the league's television partners, managing those relationships daily. Tom served in various executive roles at ESPN from 1981-94, including as the director of college sports, was the architect behind the creation of ESPN's basketball Championship Week and football Bowl Week and had a hand in the network's NFL, NBA, NHL and Olympic sports programming. Prior to joining ESPN, Tom also served as associate commissioner of the Eastern College Athletic Conference and assistant sports information director at Princeton University. Tom is a 1976 graduate of Lafayette with a bachelor's degree in economics and business. He played football and baseball as an undergraduate and was the recipient of George Wharton Pepper Prize, Lafayette's most prestigious honor. Tom and his wife Ani live on Middle Pond.

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## INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

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**Robert (Bob) Renolds** entered the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) after completing graduate work in Russian History. He served 35 years at the CIA, which included work focused on a variety of disciplines. He was an analyst and editor covering current events in the Soviet Union, the Middle East, China and North Korea. This included tours in four countries with his family. In a second phase, Bob was a contracting officer at the CIA, including some eight years as chief of Agency contracts. As a member of the Senior Intelligence Service, Bob then established and managed the first Federal Government program focused on counterintelligence threats emanating from the Intelligence Community's supply chain decisions.

After retiring from CIA, Bob worked for several think tanks on classified matters and served on the boards of directors of some nine companies doing extensive classified work for the Intelligence Community and DoD.

As a child, Bob spent summers sailing and racing on the Cape. Bob and Betsy moved to Marstons Mills 15 years ago, leaving two children and, eventually, two grandchildren in Northern Virginia. Time on the Cape has focused on playing clarinet in several groups, woodturning, pickleball, and support for Indian Ponds"

**Carol Sim**, (RN, MPH) retired in 2020 after a career as a registered nurse and hospital CEO. Carol served as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of multiple rehabilitation hospitals over the last 20 years, including Spaulding-Cape Cod in Sandwich and the Siskin Hospital in Chattanooga, the largest rehabilitation hospital in TN. Carol has served on numerous Cape boards and advisory councils including Cape Cod 5 cent, Cape Cod Symphony, Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce, and Leadership-Cape Cod. Carol holds both a Bachelor's degree in Nursing and a Master's degree in Health Policy and Management from Columbia University. Carol now lives on Mystic Lake.



**TO SEE NEWSLETTER PHOTOS IN FULL COLOR  
GO TO THE IPA WEBSITE: [www.indianponds.org](http://www.indianponds.org)**

## AVIAN ANOMALIES



When I sit down for a meal at our dining room table, I look out on our deck with two seed feeders, a suet feeder and a hummingbird feeder. This collection is usually surrounded by numerous birds all trying to acquire a free and easy meal. Since there are so many birds around, I get to see various anomalies in the birds that come to visit.

The first of these that I noticed was a pair of Cardinals. They were both bald. Since I had never seen this before it kicked me in the eyes and I began to look for one or both of them to show up every day. Sure enough, they both showed up regularly. The male showed up first in early summer, and was around for about a month before the female joined him.

I noticed the male almost immediately. The contrast between the red body and the black head was most striking. Eventually, I noticed a female too. The contrast between her coloring and her head was not as glaring as the male's but was definitely there. The female also had two small, red feathers sticking straight up out of her black head.

At that point, I began to research the condition. I found that the cause was really evident, if one took the time to think it through. In the summer, after the nesting season, most birds molt. During the molting process, they shed their feathers and grow new ones. Occasionally, a bird loses all of the feathers on its head at the same time. This produces a "bald" bird until the head feathers regrow. The process of regrowth seems to take longer than the growth of feathers on the rest of the body. The result of this time difference is that you see a bald-headed adult bird for considerably longer. The missing feathers do eventually grow in and suddenly you cannot see a "bald" bird any longer. Until the correct color head feathers regrow, you have one very strange looking bird.

While researching this anomaly, I found that the same condition can affect Blue Jays. I have a number of Blue Jays that frequent my feeders but I had never noticed the condition until recently. Let me tell you, these are some strange looking birds. Of course, they have a much larger body than the Cardinal and a much longer neck. When the Blue Jay fails to grow head feathers it also fails to grow neck feathers. You can imagine a full grown, adult Blue Jay with this long, bald neck in your feeders. He is truly comical. Kind of like a circus clown.



This condition can happen later in Blue Jays than in Cardinals. I noticed my first bald Blue Jay yesterday, in the middle of August. I suppose that the growth rate for Cardinals and Blue Jays may differ, but even the internet has a quote that says "If the Blue Jays are bald, it must be August."

Anyway, anomalies are fun.

*Dave Reid*

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 64TH ANNUAL MEETING

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In his President's report, Emory summarized some of the IPA's recent activities:

- Last year Emory and Bill Hearn gave a 3-hour course in limnology- the study of the physical and biological nature of freshwater ponds.
- A successful Lake Cleanup was held to remove benthic barriers that had been placed on the bottom in various locations to suppress the growth of Hydrilla, as well as a large number of automobile tires on Middle Pond.
- Water clarity was reported at 6 meters on Hamblin Pond, 5 meters on Middle Pond, and 3 meters on Mystic Lake and was cited as a prime indicator of the health of the ponds with Mystic Lake being the "Problem Child".
- The town and APCC websites regularly post the status of Cape Cod ponds. Mystic had 2-3 pet advisories in June. The APCC monitoring map shows the status of Mystic and Hamblin as having "potential for concern" but the town of Barnstable website does not. The annual Hydrilla treatment for Mystic Lake and a bit of Middle Pond was supposed to occur this week, but the treatment was delayed due to contractual problems. It is the 8th year that the town has provided treatment. Ten consecutive years of treatment are needed to eliminate hydrilla.
- The IPA's opposed the proposed construction of a 72-foot permanent dock on Middle Pond. Three meetings were held with the Conservation Commission to discuss the issue. The Conservation Commission approved a shorter seasonal dock and the installation of helical piles (permanent posts that stick up 18" from the lake bottom) which I.P.A. also opposed. The matter has been appealed to MASS DEP. As of today, no decision has been rendered.
- In June Emory and several other IPA members attended the first Cape Cod Ponds Network Meeting sponsored by APCC and Cape Cod Commission. Emory discussed with the members that Phosphorus causes the problems in the ponds, not nitrogen, which affects estuaries. Pointing out that the current Nitrogen reducing efforts will not help the Ponds on the Cape. The meeting via Zoom was well attended.
- This is the 2nd year the IPA has requested alum treatment from the Town. Two years ago, a study by Ken Wagner recommended moderate additional treatment. However, the town has not agreed to fund the treatment. Currently the initial treatment is 12 years old and was not the full recommended treatment. If it had been done, the full treatment would have been expected to last 15 to 20 years. Emory recommended that the new board keep hammering at the town to provide the treatment and that we should consider a full treatment rather than the partial treatment that was proposed two years ago.

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## THOUGHTS FROM YOUR NEW PRESIDENT

I am honored to assume this role and I thank you for your support. We have five new energized members and six well-seasoned current members. This year there are three issues facing the Indian Ponds on which we will focus. First is the Alum treatment for Mystic Lake. Our 2020 Pond study clearly indicated the need for the treatment, however, to date we have been unable to obtain Town support for this treatment. Secondly, we need to address the Barnstable Conservation Commission's and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's approval of the installation of helical piles as a foundation for a proposed temporary dock. These will represent a significant hazard to swimmers, kayakers, and paddleboard users during the six months or more in which the seasonal dock is removed. We will be circulating a petition to permanently prevent the installation of this type of safety hazard in our ponds. And third, we need to increase our visibility and involvement with the many likeminded organizations on the Cape, both within and outside of the Indian Ponds Association's footprint. History has proven that there is power in numbers, and we need their support.



**Maurice (Butch) Roberts**

Our 2020 study indicates that the Mystic Lake ecology is approaching conditions that will support a cyanobacteria bloom. The Town of Barnstable is facing significant increased pressure to address the condition of all its ponds, several of which are in much worse shape than ours. They have completed an in-depth pond study of Shubael Pond and are awaiting the results of a similar pond study of Long Pond. Compared to these two ponds and Lovell's Pond (which they have not addressed) our ponds are in great shape. There is much pressure on the Town to utilize their limited funds on other ponds. In the next few months, we will be investigating alternative funding sources as well as working in multiple directions to obtain the Town's support for the necessary financial funding for the Mystic Lake Alum treatment.

Barnstable Conservation Commission, the Massachusetts Bureau of Water Resources and the Massachusetts National Heritage & Endangered Species Program have granted approval for the installation of a seasonal dock in Middle Pond to be supported with helical piles. They are large screws that are drilled into the bottom of the lake and leave a protrusion up to 24" above the bottom of the lake. These protrusions can be extremely hazardous to swimmers, paddleboarders and unsuspecting kayakers. We are preparing a petition to block the installation of such implements for temporary or seasonal structures in the three Indian Ponds through the creation of an ordinance. This will require lobbying to gain support from the Town Council and the Conservations Commission where this ordinance would be enacted. We are circulating a petition to reinforce our request and to demonstrate widespread active support. Please check our website for details on how to participate.

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## THOUGHTS FROM YOUR NEW PRESIDENT

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Both projects need support both from within the Indian Ponds Association footprint and from those outside of our footprint. We have joined the County Commissioner's network of pond associations. There are, however, several homeowner's associations within our footprint and several non-profit organizations outside of our footprint focused on water quality issues. We need to partner with these organizations. We need strength in numbers for our mission to succeed.

I am very open to your suggestions and input so please feel free to email me at [broberts2591@gmail.com](mailto:broberts2591@gmail.com)

*Butch Roberts*

## NEW BARN FOR CHANGING TIMES AT FULLER FARM

The post and beam barn being built at the Fuller Farm in Marstons Mills will serve a variety of functions for the Barnstable Land Trust. The Barnstable Land Trust's Fuller Farm property on Route 149 in Marstons Mills is being updated to reflect changing times. A barn went up on the site recently, built in just three days by post and beam experts Riehl Builders of Lancaster, Penn. "The idea was to make it fit into the landscape and that's the reason for building it into the hillside," said Janet Milkman, the BLT's executive director, as construction proceeded at a hectic pace. The barn will house a maintenance garage for the land trust's equipment as well as space for education and workshops. The new

barn is the result of donations from people who share the BLT's vision of preserving land in Barnstable and elsewhere. "It comes from very generous people who believe in the mission of bringing this property back to agricultural use and making it again a part of the community as it was for 150 years," Milkman said of the more than \$350,000 project of which the barn cost \$120,000. The Fuller Farm was a dairy farm for a hundred years, then a farm with a kitchen garden. The BLT has owned the site since 2012. "When we had an opportunity to bring it back for conservation, the owner, Barbara Fuller, never wanted to see it developed so she was very happy to sell it to the land trust. She said to us, 'people don't know where their food comes from any more,' so we're trying to bring back her vision," Milkman said. The Barnstable Land Trust has a permaculture garden on the site and a partnership with an organization called Resilient Roots, which will conduct workshops and education programs at the farm. The BLT also has a partnership with a goat company and has a pollinator field on the farm as well as a 10-acre hiking trail. The barn will be a center for sharing information about



**Fuller's Farm Barn Raising**

all of those features. And, its construction is in keeping with the BLT's mission. "We're trying to walk the talk," Milkman said. "We put in an alternative septic system which will remove almost all the nutrients coming from the one bathroom. That's important to protect the ponds down here. And we're also putting solar panels on the roof which will power not only this building but our office which is down the road on Route 6A."

"Our aim was to disrupt the site as little as possible. We had to remove some trees for the solar panels, but we will re-plant the site with native species to replace some of the invasive species that were here," Milkman said. Once indoor work is complete, the new barn should be operational in mid-October.

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 64th ANNUAL MEETING

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**Nina Barrett**

Betsey Godley presented the Edward Schwarm Memorial Scholarship to Nina Barrett, a graduate from Cape Cod Regional Technical School's Environmental Technology program. She has interned with Sandwich's DNR, volunteered with AmeriCorps, and worked at Envirtch Labs. She is currently enrolled at UMass Amherst studying for a career in environmental science and conservation.

Emory introduced Leslie Jonas, Vice-Chairwoman, Native Land Conservancy to the audience. Her presentation focused on the importance of water in our lives, calling it a living entity, and cautioning that its health will affect the next seven generations. Leslie shared a video

that featured three Wampanoag environmentalists including NLC's Founder Ramona Peters. Ms. Peters cautioned that the Cape's seasonal population has no commitment to the water and that it is clear we will not give up our comforts even to save the planet, so we need

to make those comforts healthier, for example by planting native plants and going back to sustainable living. Another environmentalist said the Wampanoag are trying to find the springs in the rivers to find clear water



**John Kayajan**

As the date was also John Kayajan's birthday, a cake was presented in his honor.

After the meeting adjourned, the new Board of Directors met and elected the following officers: President: Butch Roberts; Vice-President: Sandy Leo-Clark; Treasurer: Greg Cronin; Clerk: Wendy Bierwirth. Richard Creeth agreed to assume the role of Database Manager. This

picture shows the changing of the President's role from Emory Anderson to Butch Roberts.

*Butch Roberts*



**Leslie Jonas**



**Emory Anderson and Butch Roberts**



## A TRIBUTE TO EMORY AND GERI ANDERSON

At this year's Annual Meeting on July 17<sup>th</sup>, Emory Anderson was awarded the "Order of the Turtle" and informed that a Scholarship program will be set up in Emory and Geri's name. The "Order of the Turtle" is awarded to individuals who have made remarkable contributions to the mission of the Indian Ponds Association. Both Emory and Geri have spent decades working on educating the residents around the ponds about the science behind the water quality of our three ponds. It seems only fitting that the Indian Ponds Association acknowledge this contribution by establishing a scholarship in their name.

Emory and Geri purchased their home on Mystic Lake in 1993. By July of 2001, Emory was leading the charge to stop the proposed dropping of the level of the inlet for the Middle Pond Herring Run from Middle Pond by 1.6 feet. This opposition and his participation on a panel regarding this issue prompted a motion from the floor to appoint him to the Board of Directors.

Geri had already taken on the role of editor for the Indian Pond Newsletter, Vol. 1 No. 1 which she continued for another 10 years. Please note that this issue is Vol. 22 No. 3!



Emory was elected Vice President in 2002 and President in 2004. He continued in that role until 2008 when he reached his term limit. In 2016, he was re-elected to the Board and resumed his role as President, which he served until reaching his term limit a second time.

During that time, both Emory and Geri were active advocates and participants in many lake and pond projects. Including a three-year collaborative study of the three Indian Ponds with the Cape Cod Commission and the Town of Barnstable, the first Alum treatment in Mystic Lake, and a concerted effort to remove the invasive species, loosestrife and gray willow. In the last couple of years, Emory has authored extensive and informative letters and testified in hearings with the Town Council and Conservation Commission regarding both the need for an Alum treatment on Mystic Lake and the IPA's concerns over the dangers of Helical piles as a foundation for temporary docks.

In 2018, Emory took on the responsibility of testing the water in Mystic Lake and Middle Pond as shown in the photograph. This testing happens every two weeks from May to October and will continue, in Emory's words: "As long as I am able". The accumulation of this data is critical to the understanding of the current conditions of the ponds and highlighting any significant changes in those conditions.

The current good health of the three Indian Ponds and the fine reputation and strength of the Indian Ponds Association are in part the results of the dedication and hard work of Emory and Geri An-

derson. For that we give you both a sincere and heartfelt thank you.

*Peter Atkinson & Butch Roberts*

*“To preserve and protect the natural environment and ecological systems of the Indian Ponds and surrounding parcels of land and watershed and to participate in studies and work with other agencies, individuals, and groups to educate the public, serve the community, and promote and preserve the Indian Ponds and surrounding areas.” IPA Mission Statement*

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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

