

THE IPA NEWSLETTER

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

Winter 2018

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HYDRILLA MANAGEMENT PROGRAM REPORT

The end-of-year report on *Hydrilla* management in the Town of Barnstable submitted by SŌLitude Lake Management is now available on the IPA's website (<http://www.indianponds.org/>). The report summarizes work done on Long Pond, Mystic Lake, and Middle Pond in monitoring and treating the *Hydrilla* problem in all three waterbodies. Of interest to the IPA is that no *Hydrilla* plants or tubers were found in either Mystic Lake or Middle Pond in 2017. However, the report recommended continued monitoring and treatment as the tubers can remain dormant for 5+ years before sprouting.

UPDATE ON MIDDLE POND HERRING RUN RECONSTRUCTION

In the summer issue of this newsletter, we reported on plans by the Town to rebuild the 1,100-foot man-made herring run that extends from the Marstons Mills River to Middle Pond and that a grant proposal had been submitted to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to obtain about \$365K to supplement existing Town funds to enable the \$765K project to be fully funded.

In the fall issue of this newsletter, we reported that the proposal to NOAA had been unsuccessful, but that the US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) had awarded \$10 million to the Cape Cod Water Resources Restoration Project to be used to plan, design, and construct 16 priority coastal restoration projects on the Cape. One of those 16 projects was the Middle Pond herring run.

We have now learned that funding (\$400K) will be provided from the NRCS award to fully fund the reconstruction of the run and that construction on the two-year project will tentatively begin in autumn 2018. We will keep readers informed of progress on this project in subsequent issues of this newsletter.

-Emory D. 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 approximately 700, 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.

CALLING ALL COLLEGE BOUND SENIORS

The Indian Ponds Association (IPA) is pleased to announce that it will offer a \$1,000.00 scholarship this spring to a graduating senior from Marstons Mills. The Schwarm Memorial Scholarship was established in 2005 in memory of Edward Schwarm, a former IPA director and officer. It is in his memory and the goals of the IPA to select a student who will balance his/her professional career with a continuing effort to preserve our environment.

The scholarship is available to any graduating senior residing in Marstons Mills and attending either public or private high school. Applications are available at the Barnstable High School Guidance Office, Sturgis Charter School, or on the IPA website at www.indianponds.org. Deadline for submission is April 1st. We encourage our seniors to apply early.

-Roberta Gough

HERRING COUNTING TIME JUST AROUND THE CORNER

It will soon be that time of the year when the river herring again begin running up the rivers and streams of New England to spawn in freshwater ponds and lakes. Here on the Cape, there are a number of herring runs, and right here in Marstons Mills, we look forward to again seeing alewives and blueback herring in the Marstons Mills River. They begin to appear when the water temperature reaches about 51°F, which is usually in late March or early April, depending on weather conditions.

Once again, there is a need for volunteers to help count herring at the Mill Pond ladder and the Middle Pond ladder. The counting program is being coordinated by staff of the Barnstable Clean Water Coalition (formerly Three Bays Preservation) and the Town Natural Resources Program. You can learn more by attending an informational and training session that will be held Saturday March 3 from 1–3 pm at Liberty Hall in Marstons Mills (see announcement). If you are an experienced counter, simply sign up by contacting BCWC at info@bcleanwater.org or 508-420-0780. Counting is easy, and you gain the satisfaction of knowing that you are doing a public service by assisting the Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries in monitoring the abundance of this important fish species. **(See Public Announcement on Page 6)**

-Emory D. Anderson

IPA BESTOWS ORDER OF TURTLE AWARD ON EVELYN STEELE

Evelyn Steele, a long-time supporter of the IPA, was recently given the IPA's highest honor, the Order of the Turtle. The award was presented to her by IPA President Emory Anderson during a celebration of her 92nd birthday held on February 1 at the JML Care Center in Falmouth, where Evelyn is currently a patient.

Evelyn and her late husband John Steele, former president and director of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Woods Hole, played an important role in the IPA for a number of years. This came about as a result of their friendship with Emory and Geri Anderson that began when the Andersons lived in Copenhagen,

Denmark and Emory served as General Secretary of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and John was one of the two US Delegates to ICES and was also a Vice President of ICES. When the IPA was getting re-energized in the early 2000s, Evelyn had offered Geri considerable advice which the IPA Board of Directors accepted, such as obtaining 501(c)(3) status, registering with the state as a corporation, and starting a newsletter (which Geri edited for 10 years). Evelyn's advice stemmed from her earlier experience with the establishment and work of the Oyster Pond Environmental Trust in Falmouth from the early 1980s as well as other civic-minded endeavors in the Woods Hole community. Until John's death in late 2013, she and John had been generous in their financial support of the IPA. Their annual donation of usually \$100 came with a 5:1 match from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, of which John was a member of their Board of Trustees.

In recognition of her important contributions to the work of the IPA, the Board of Directors agreed that Evelyn was a worthy recipient of this prestigious award, which was established in 2007 to recognize individuals for their distinguished support of the mission of the IPA. Previous recipients of this award include Rob Gatewood, John Klimm, Ed Eichner, Tim Simmons, and Ken Wagner.

-Emory D. Anderson



**TO SEE NEWSLETTER PHOTOS IN FULL COLOR
GO TO THE IPA WEBSITE: www.indianponds.org**

TALKING TURKEY

When I was young, my father was in the Army. When I was 3 years old, he thought he had had enough and got out. We moved from San Antonio, Texas back to the family home-
stead in Saxonville, up near Boston. At that time, my grandmother was still living in the house, so we moved in with her. After a year or two of civilian life, he changed his mind, rejoined, and spent the next 25 years on active service.

A small part of the family land in Saxonville was rented out to a neighbor who constructed several turkey houses and raised domestic turkeys for sale. For a long while, I only knew two things about turkeys: (1) they smelled unbelievably bad and (2) they were white.

The turkey is a native bird to North America. It is found in Europe only because some of the early visitors from both Spain and northern Europe took some back across when they re-



turned. The result of this is that, in New England, we have the Rio Grande subspecies. Spanish explorers sent back the Rio Grande type of bird from Mexico that was eventually carried to New England.

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PROPOSED CHANGE TO IPA MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

According to the IPA by-laws, there are two categories of membership: (i) resident members and (ii) friends of the IPA (FIPA). Since its establishment, resident membership in the IPA has been restricted to households that hold title to property within the bounding roads (see figure) encompassing the three Indian Ponds (referred to as the IPA area), which include Race Lane, Old Mill Road, Bog Road, River

Road, Lovell's Lane, and Cotuit Road (Route 149), as well as property not to exceed one lot in depth across the bounding roads from the area circumscribed by the bounding roads. Resident members may vote at IPA annual meetings and may hold office.

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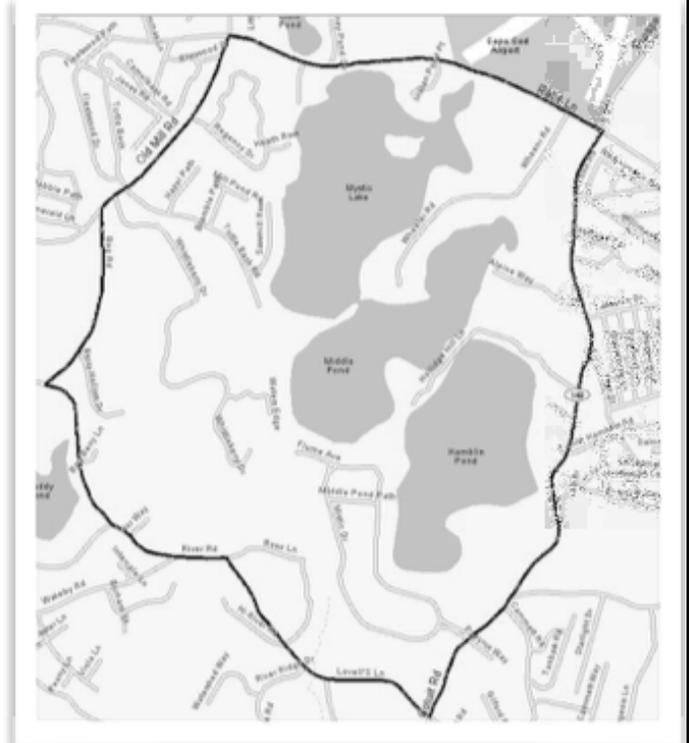
PROPOSED CHANGE TO IPA MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

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Membership in the FIPA category is open to households anywhere outside of the IPA area. FIPA members may attend IPA annual meetings, but may not vote or hold office.

There has been recent discussion by the IPA Board of Directors concerning the above-stated limitation on resident membership and the ability to be elected to the Board of Directors. Quite frankly, it has been difficult in recent years to find individuals among the resident members who are willing to be candidates to serve on the Board. Many are only part-time residents who live in Florida or elsewhere for portions of the year, thus making it difficult for them to participate in Board meetings or other activities. Others simply decline to be involved. As a result, the Board has considered expanding the area within which resident members, and hence prospective Board members, may reside.

The IPA's area of concern, i.e. the three Indian Ponds and their surrounding parcels of land and watershed, will always remain constant. Interested individuals living both within and outside the IPA area who have a desire to participate in the work of the IPA will always be welcome. Because we are aware of dedicated individuals living outside the IPA area who have expressed an interest in being actively involved, we believe it is time to change the by-laws to accommodate such interest. We are also aware that some property owners who are either members of neighborhood associations that have waterfront or beach privileges or who have deeded access to the ponds are presently not qualified to be resident members by virtue of living outside the present IPA area. These individuals too should



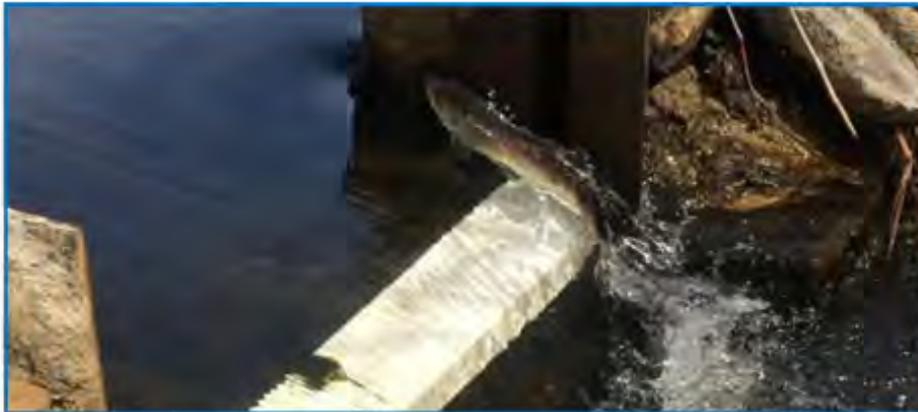
have the right to be voting members and hold office.

Accordingly, the Board is proposing that resident membership be expanded to include households holding title to property in the village of Marstons Mills. Since this is only a proposal, the Board welcomes feedback from readers. A vote would be required at the next Annual Meeting to facilitate such a change to the by-laws. If you have comments, please contact any of the Board members or contact the President at emoryanderson@com-cast.net.

-Emory Anderson



Wanted: A Few Good Herring Counters



Barnstable Clean Water Coalition and the Town of Barnstable's Natural Resources Program are looking for volunteers to count herring at the Mill Pond and Middle Pond fish ladders in Marstons Mills this Spring.

Please join us for an informational meeting and training on:

Saturday, March 3rd from 1:00 to 3:00p.m.

Liberty Hall, 2150 Main Street, Marstons Mills

Contact us at info@bcleanwater.org or 508-420-0780 for further information and to learn more about getting involved.

BCleanWater.org

TALKING TURKEY

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The white or domesticated turkey is the same species as the wild turkey. There have been several domestication events in the turkey history. It was originally thought to have begun in central Mesoamerica at least 2,000 years ago. Recent research has shown a second domestication event between 200 BC and AD 500.

Domestic turkey is a popular form of poultry, and it is raised throughout temperate parts of the world. Industrialization has made it very cheap for the amount of meat that it produces. The majority of domestic turkeys are bred to have white feathers, because their pin feathers are less visible when the carcass is dressed. Brown and bronze varieties are also raised.

A wild turkey, in a sprint, can outrun a horse. They can fly distances of more than a mile at speeds of up to 55 miles per hour. The domestic turkey, on the other hand, has had all of that stuff bred out of it. It's heavy, broad breast means that it cannot, for the most part, fly at all. It also has shorter legs than a wild turkey which means it can't run as well.

By the 1930s, wild turkeys had almost disappeared in the United States. With resettlement programs that were wildly successful, Alaska is now the only state without wild turkeys. Wild turkeys require a habitat known as open woodland, that is, a hardwood forest with occasional openings. They use the open areas for feeding and mating, the fringe areas for nesting, and the forest areas as roosts for the



night. The Cape, with its oak forests, provides the perfect habitat for the wild turkey. We used to eat regularly at Mayflower Place in Yarmouth and learned that the head chef there was among a group of people primarily responsible for bringing the wild turkey to Cape Cod.

There is a lot more that could be said about turkeys, but, in my estimation, the best that can be said by me about turkey is, "Yes, thank you. I'll have some."

-Dave Reid

“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

