



Friends of Ellisville Marsh

Fall 2020 Newsletter

An Opportunity to Reconnect with Nature

The worldwide COVID-19 pandemic has forced many of us to think about what's important. Family. Friends. Our own well-being. It has made us painfully aware that life is short and that what we do and how we invest ourselves day-to-day really matters. This is a time to step into Nature and breathe deeply. There is no better place on earth for a peaceful walk than along the edge of Ellisville Marsh, its protective barrier beach and the ocean that brings constant change to our shores.



Fall at Ellisville Marsh. Photo courtesy of Judy Quinn.

End of an Era Albert Marsh, 1928–2020

Albert B. Marsh, age 92, of Sagamore Beach, formerly of Plymouth, passed away September 5, 2020. Al grew up in the Ellisville Village of South Plymouth. While attending Plymouth Schools, he began lobster fishing out of Ellisville Harbor. After graduating, he attended Worcester Polytechnic Institute for

two years under a Navy program. Following that, he trained in Pensacola, FL, to become a Navy anti-submarine pilot. He went on to be stationed at Quonset Point, RI, and flew aboard small aircraft carriers. Al later spent two years instructing first-year Navy pilots at Whiting Field Naval Base in Milton, FL. He resigned his regular commission in 1956 to return home to Ellisville to raise his family and follow in the footsteps of his father and grandfather as a commercial fisherman. The remainder of his twenty two-year Naval career was with the Reserves at the South Weymouth Naval Air Station, where he became Commanding Officer of his Squadron, retiring in 1971 with the rank of Captain. Al's career as a commercial lobster fisherman spanned more than forty years. Albert was loved and respected by many. His presence and vibrant spirit will be greatly missed.

The Friends of Ellisville Marsh owe a special debt of gratitude to Al and his family, who gifted much of the Ellisville Marsh property to the Wildlands Trust in 2003. Beyond this however, Al represented one of our last, and most enduring, connections to this special place. We will always associate his name with the work our organization does at Ellisville Marsh, with heartfelt appreciation.

We hope to provide excerpts from Al's writing about his life working out of Ellisville Marsh in an upcoming, special Friends' newsletter.



Straight and narrow. The Ellisville Marsh Inlet is currently behaving itself.
Bird's-eye view of Ellisville Marsh and inlet at high tide - October 22, 2020.
Photo courtesy of Mike Brennan.

Membership Renewals Have Been Slow We Need Your Help!

The Friends' current membership year runs from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. As of October 1st, renewals are running behind last year's level, perhaps due in part to COVID-related impacts. If you haven't already done so, please consider renewing your membership support for the current year now! Remember, we receive no taxpayer support and the kind of grants we have received in the past are in short supply due to the pandemic.

[CLICK HERE TO RENEW YOUR FRIENDS' MEMBERSHIP](#)

Regulatory Update

It was reported in the Friends' July 2020 Annual Report that we had begun pursuing an extension of our current regulatory permit from the Plymouth Conservation Commission as it was scheduled to expire in September. We are delighted to report that our efforts were successful. The Commission acted in July to extend this permit until September, 2025. This extension, on the heels of a similar extension of our federal permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers in February, marks the beginning of a multiyear breather from regulatory work. All of the permits we need to continue maintaining the Ellisville Marsh inlet are now in effect for several more years and we can focus our attention and energy on programs to insure the long-term sustainability of Ellisville Marsh.



Ellisville Eel Grass Bed, mapped on August 4, 2019.
Start time 0827. End time 0912. Low tide occurred at 0844 (-1.6 MLW).



Ellisville Eel Grass Bed, mapped on August 7, 2020.
Start time 0837. End time 0916. Low tide occurred at 0850 (+0.5 MLW).

Comparison of 2019 and 2020 Ellisville Eel Grass Bed based on GPS-data

Summer Field Work Wrapped Up

Summer of 2020 has come and gone. The Friends' field work to collect annual environmental monitoring data has been successfully completed. Our experienced environmental assistant Abby Foley has moved north to start her new job at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, NH.

Our programs include:

- Measuring tidal elevations in the marsh with submerged HOBO pressure gauge data loggers.
- Developing a population count of the various types of vegetation within 50 monitoring plots laid out across the marsh.
- Collecting water samples to measure changes in salinity.
- GPS-mapping the offshore eel grass bed.
- Documenting inlet and marsh conditions through photographs taken at dead-low tide.
- Monitoring threatened shorebird nesting and reporting daily on status of nesting pairs, nests, unfledged chicks and fledglings.

As required under regulatory permits that authorize us to periodically maintain the Ellisville Marsh inlet, we will be assembling the datasets for electronic submission to local, state and federal regulatory agencies prior to December 31.

Your comments, questions and suggestions are always welcomed.

Contact us any time at: Board@EllisvilleMarsh.org

Visit us at: www.EllisvilleMarsh.org

Friends of Ellisville Marsh, Inc.

PO Box 1728, Sagamore Beach
MA 02562 United States

You received this email because you signed up on our website or made a purchase from us.



[Unsubscribe](#)

