



Friends of Ellisville Marsh Newsletter

Spring 2019

This newsletter is produced on a periodic basis to keep members of the Friends of Ellisville Marsh, Inc., apprised of developments and opportunities to become involved.

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HOLD THE DATE

The Friends' 2019 Annual Meeting will take place at the Wildlands Trust barn at 10:00 am on Saturday, July 20th.

Please plan to join us for an update on the past year and future plans!

Details to follow

Ellisville Inlet Reopened for First Time Since 2015

One last scoop of sand by the excavator the morning of March 26th and the ten-foot-high barrier spit was breached. The dam burst and a torrent of water ripped its way through the cut into the bay.



Water rips through the Ellisville inlet immediately following breaching of the barrier spit. Photo courtesy of Diane Jordan. © 2019. All rights reserved.

Ellisville Marsh breathed a deep sigh of relief as long pent-up water quickly drained from throughout her 71-acre expanse. For the first time since March 2015, tidal flows into and out of the marsh were unimpeded and the tides came and went with renewed hydraulic efficiency. It's hard to estimate the tidal exchange volume with scientific accuracy since water depths vary across the marsh but we are talking many millions of gallons here! The two-and-a-half-day event went as planned and the weather cooperated. The only unusual aspect of it, as it happens, was the discovery of an old anchor buried in the channel floor.

<https://plymouth.wickedlocal.com/news/20190405/plymouth-dredging-operation-uncovered-maritime-link-in-ellisville>

The Friends again retained GR Richmond Excavating to conduct inlet maintenance. Brian Richmond and his sons tackled the challenge with their usual determination and skill, working effectively with the tides to insure that natural hydraulics did most of the work and silt would be flushed into the bay, not the marsh. This was the sixth time we have reopened the blocked inlet since early in 2011.

See also: <https://plymouth.wickedlocal.com/news/20190410/restored-channel-provides-healthier-flow-to-life-in-plymouths-ellisville-marsh>



NEW ENGLAND'S MIGRANT BIRDS IN A CHANGING HEMISPHERE

Presented by the
Manomet Center

Thursday, April 25, 2019
7:00—8:30PM

At the Duxbury Bay Maritime
School, 457 Washington
Street, Duxbury, Mass.

Birds are migrating up and
down the Western
Hemisphere...and many are
stopping here on their way
through. Why is our local
habitat important to these
amazing creatures?

Brad Winn, Director,
Shorebird Habitat
Management, Manomet

Trevor Lloyd-Evans, Director,
Landbird Conservation,
Manomet

Evan Dalton, Lead Instructor,
Landbird Conservation,
Manomet

Please register at
www.manomet.org/events

Say Hello to the New Savery Pond Conservancy!

The Friends' Savery Pond Project (SPP) is in the process of launching its own, independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit, called the Savery Pond Conservancy (<https://www.saverypond.org/>). The new nonprofit will focus exclusively on the health of Savery Pond, building on past accomplishments under the Friends of Ellisville Marsh. The Friends' SPP began monitoring the health of 28-acre Savery Pond with a baseline water quality assessment in 2012 and has conducted scientific sampling and analyses every year since then. This year the Town of Plymouth and the SPP are jointly funding sampling of lake sediments to determine the role of accumulated "legacy nutrients" in fueling algal blooms. The new nonprofit will maintain its good, working relationship with the Town and foster new links with established local and regional watershed associations. An immediate goal of the new organization is to secure funding to complete critical data collection and analysis and to develop a management plan for the pond. The press announcement covering the launch of the Savery Pond Conservancy was previously sent to Friends' members. Email us at board@EllisvilleMarsh.org if you did not receive it.

Vandals Damage Fencing for Threatened Shorebirds

Within a few days of the erection in late March of two small areas of fencing to protect likely Piping Plover nesting areas on Ellisville Beach within Shifting Lots Preserve, vandals had cut the twine in several places. As a condition of our regulatory permits for maintaining the marsh inlet, we must erect this "symbolic fencing" (meaning: not capable of excluding wildlife, only intended to signal to beachgoers that nesting is possible within the area) prior to April 1st of each year. Since our volunteer monitoring team knows exactly where past nests have been located we are able to make an educated guess as to where they might nest in the upcoming season and thus we can minimize the area of the beach that's off limits. Needless to say, we are disappointed by this behavior and urge members to report any suspicious activity to us at board@EllisvilleMarsh.org. No horses are allowed on the beach either!

Susan Pleadwell Elected to the Board

We are pleased to announce that Susan Pleadwell has been elected to the Friends' board of directors. Susan's family owned a home in Ellisville for nearly a century and she spent much of her childhood in the area. She has been an active supporter of our work for many years and lent a hand during the recent inlet maintenance work. It is anticipated that Susan will assume the responsibilities of Secretary in July when Kelley O'Neel retires from the board

Your feedback is always welcomed!

The board of directors values feedback and input from members. In fact, some of the organization's best ideas have come from informal conversations and email exchanges with you. You can reach us at any time on email at board@EllisvilleMarsh.org