

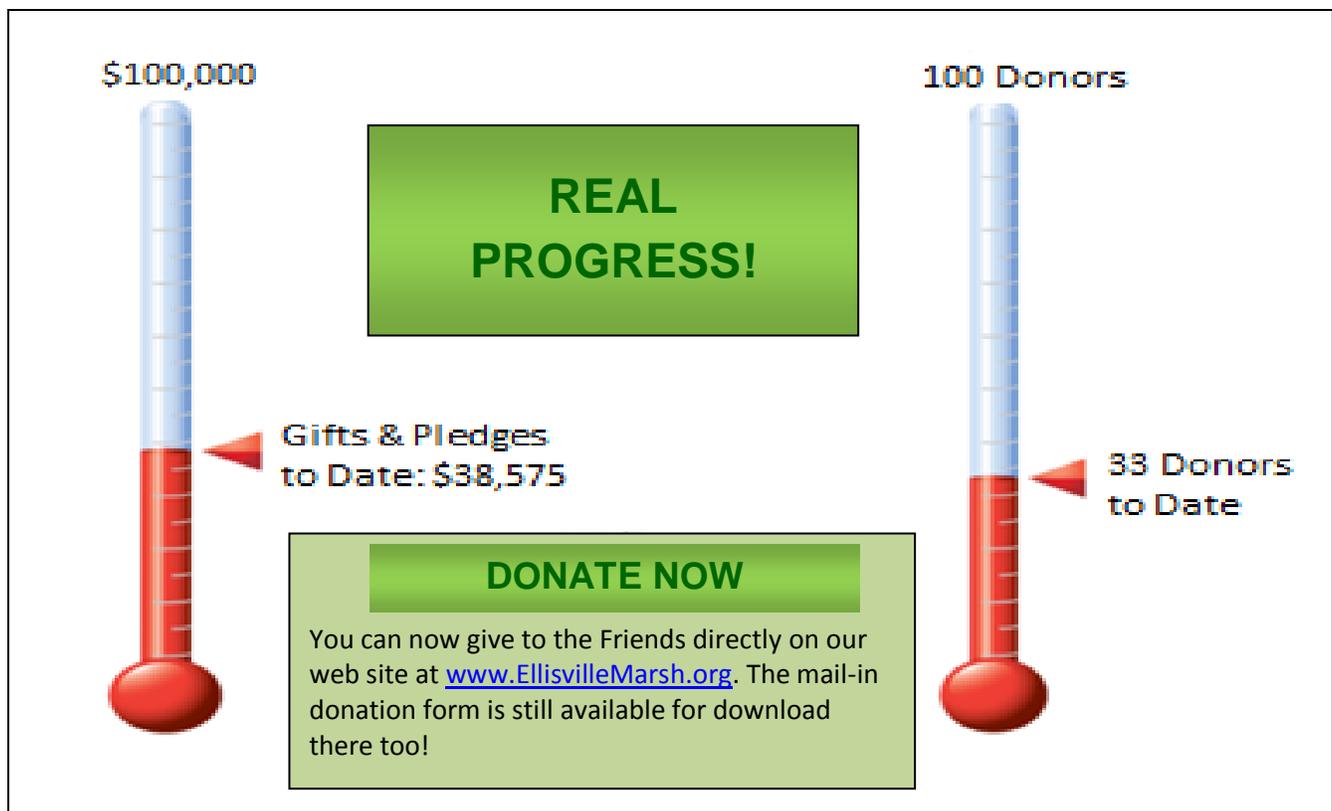


## FRIENDS NEWSLETTER: ELLISVILLE MARSH RESTORATION PROJECT FEBRUARY, 2012

*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. In this issue: Fundraising, Inlet Maintenance and 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Welcome Spring! Bird Walk.*

### Long-Term Endowment Fund Update

Good progress has been made since last November toward reaching the Friends' target of raising \$100,000 from 100 donors for the much-needed Long-Term Endowment Fund. This fund will insure that ongoing inlet maintenance and our nine environmental monitoring programs can continue over the years it will take to complete the marsh restoration. While results to date are encouraging, more donors and a few large gifts will be essential if we are to fully secure the future. If you haven't given yet, please consider making a multi-year pledge to this worthy, local cause. And remember, all gifts to the Friends are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.



### In the Dead of Winter: Routine Inlet Maintenance Completed

Thanks to the efficient, high quality work of Brian Richmond and his sons (again, as in 2011) and the capable supervision of Friends directors Jack Scambos, Paula Marcoux, Diane Fletcher and Frank Doyle, we successfully completed our 2012 round of inlet maintenance on schedule and within budget in mid-January. Completing this work was essential as tidal flows over the past few months had

breached the channel wall, making blockage of the inlet much more likely to occur in 2012 if left unaddressed. Jack was again our overall strategist/tidal engineer, applying his understanding of the natural forces at work at the inlet and how to use them, rather than fight them. Overall, this year's maintenance exercise was successful because it was a closely coordinated team effort. Thanks to everyone who pitched in!

The only hitches were a frozen fuel line on the diesel excavator Monday morning (when, as Frank, Jack, Brian and Eric can testify, it was a brisk 7 degrees!) and a flat tire on the loader Wednesday morning, both of which were fixed within an hour or two (Brian lets half the air out of his loader's tires to work more effectively in the sand so it was not unusual for this to happen).



*“Did I really agree to this? “*

Director Diane Fletcher sits patiently in a light rain while overseeing the inlet maintenance work.

Richmond and Sons repair and rebuild the channel berm where it had been breached.

Photo courtesy of Frank Doyle.



All local, state and federal advance notifications required under our four permits were sent in December and notices of work completion were submitted to agencies in January. The project lead person from Mass DEP in Lakeville complimented the Friends on our attention to compliance details.

Final grading of the channel berm after closing the breach.

Photo courtesy of Diane Fletcher.



What if we had deferred inlet maintenance until the next available permit window that begins in mid-September? Tidal forces might in the meantime have reopened the pre-2011 channel path (currently a small, stagnant pond that is gradually filling in as the old barrier spit merges with the main beach). The likely result of this would have been for flows in and out of the marsh to again become restricted. Maintaining tidal flows is our key approach to helping indigenous vegetation critical to the marsh's overall health rebound over time. The time to act was now.

## Welcome Spring! Ellisville Bird Walk is Coming Up –Save the Date



2011 Ellisville Bird Walk. Director Becky Harris is the one with the camouflage scope. Photo courtesy of Dan Reddy.

The Friends' third annual Ellisville Bird Walk will be held on Sunday, May 6, 2012, weather permitting. This year's group leaders will be Becky Harris, Friends' Director and former head of Mass Audubon's Coastal Waterbird Program, and Brad Winn, Conservation Specialist, Shorebird Recovery Project of the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences.

Please send RSVP and number expected to attend to [Birds@EllisvilleMarsh.org](mailto:Birds@EllisvilleMarsh.org)