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## FRIENDS NEWSLETTER: ELLISVILLE MARSH RESTORATION PROJECT FEBRUARY, 2013

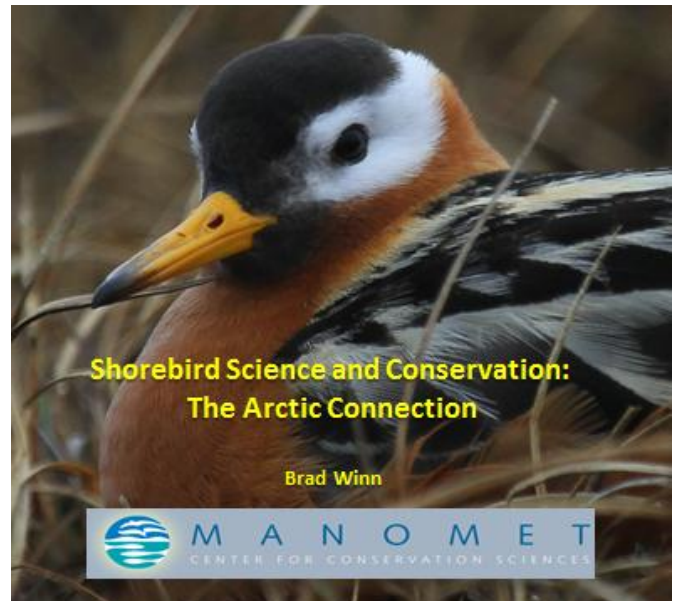
*This newsletter is produced on a periodic basis to keep members of the Friends of Ellisville Marsh, Inc., apprised of developments and opportunities to become involved.*

### Matching Gift Opportunity for 2013

Two families who are deeply committed to the restoration of Ellisville Marsh have stepped forward with a generous matching gift challenge for 2013. Each family has offered to match fifty cents of every dollar donated beyond the price of basic membership, for a combined match of \$1 for each \$1 given. The match will apply to the first \$500 of each eligible donation. So if you are able to give \$1000, the Friends will receive \$1500. Donations to either our regular operating fund or the long-term endowment fund are eligible for these matches. Total potential value to the Friends of these matching gifts could ultimately exceed \$10,000. Please consider renewing your membership for 2012-13, increasing your membership level, or making a gift to the endowment fund if you haven't already so we can take fullest possible advantage of this very attractive opportunity. We are now within \$30,000 of our endowment fund goal. Donating to the Friends is easier than ever -- just go to our web site at [www.EllisvilleMarsh.org](http://www.EllisvilleMarsh.org). You can donate on-line or download the mail-in donation form. *Thank you for helping to make the restoration and preservation of Ellisville Marsh sustainable!*

### Where Our Birds Go—Brad Winn's Midwinter Talk is a Smash!

Nearly 100 enthusiastic bird lovers opted to skip watching the NFC division championship game on January 20<sup>th</sup> to hear Brad Winn, Friends' director and Conservation Specialist with the Shorebird Recovery Project of the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences (<http://www.manomet.org/srp>), deliver a fascinating talk on his many Arctic expeditions and the Center's work. Many of the migratory birds that visit Ellisville beach and marsh during early and late summer are midway through annual journeys of truly heroic proportions. According to Brad, some of these birds, including the Semipalmated Sandpiper, fly as many as 3,000 miles nonstop over the ocean from the coast of Massachusetts to South America, after their refueling stops at Ellisville beach and other east coast sites. During these stopovers lasting several weeks, they can double their body



weight to store the massive amount of fat energy they'll expend during their flight. The work of Brad's team involves researching the global migration paths of key species to understand what factors influence population sustainability and what protection may be needed at every stop along the way.



Friends'  
director  
Brad Winn

## Savery Pond Water Quality Monitoring Report Available

Last summer's water quality assessment project at Savery Pond, ½ mile upstream from Ellisville Marsh, is complete and the final report is available. If you are interested in obtaining a copy, please email Friends' director Paula Marcoux at [Paula@EllisvilleMarsh.org](mailto:Paula@EllisvilleMarsh.org). A teleconference is also planned in the next month. If you are interested in hearing highlights and Q&A, you are welcome to participate. Just let Paula know.

## Successful Christmas Bird Count at Ellisville Marsh

December 19th was a cloudy, gusty day in Ellisville. But the weather didn't deter Stew Sanders and Steve van der Veen (of the Pinehills Bird Brains), Patty O'Neill, and Evan Lipton from counting 31 separate bird species between 9 am and 1 pm as part of the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count. No wonder Ellisville Harbor is designated a Massachusetts Important Bird Area!

3 Common Loon	1 Iceland Gull (1 <sup>st</sup> year)	4 American Robin
3 Horned Grebe	5 Great Black-backed Gull	1 Gray Catbird
1 Great Blue Heron	1 Red-bellied Woodpecker	3 Northern Cardinal
14 Common Eider	1 Hairy Woodpecker	15 Song Sparrow
4 Common Goldeneye	2 Downy Woodpecker	2 White-throated Sparrow
3 Bufflehead	4 Blue Jay	10 Dark-eyed Junco
5 Red-breasted Merganser	3 American Crow	11 House Finch
1 Black-bellied Plover	15 Black-capped Chickadee	30 Common Redpoll
3 Sanderling	3 Tufted Titmouse	2 American Goldfinch
10 Ring-billed Gull	1 White-breasted Nuthatch	
6 Herring Gull	2 Carolina Wren	

## Inlet Maintenance Completed in Early January

Thanks to the November nor'easter that visited Ellisville right after Hurricane Sandy, a barrier spit formed at the mouth of the Ellisville inlet. The rock groin on the state park side of the inlet plays an integral role in spit formation, which leads to blockage of the inlet and restriction of tidal flows. The Friends again contracted with George R. Richmond, Inc. to perform minor maintenance and clear the inlet. Brian Richmond and his sons completed the necessary work in two and a half days. Friends' directors Jack Scambos, Frank Doyle and Diane Fletcher supervised the work and insured that all permit compliance requirements were met.



## Five Years On - Planning for Permit Renewal

It is hard to believe the Friends are now almost five years into our Ellisville Marsh restoration program as measured by the term of our regulatory permits. We filed all required 2012 environmental monitoring data prior to December 31<sup>st</sup> and conducted inlet maintenance again in January. What has been learned to date? What should the plan be going forward? Several key issues will be discussed by the board at our February meeting and further research will be undertaken prior to our application for permit renewal before the Plymouth Conservation Commission in September. Among key issues to be considered are the following:

- We are interested in learning whether the Commonwealth has taken steps in the intervening five years to uphold its end of the bargain. Two former Secretaries of Environmental Affairs have gone on record saying that the state owns responsibility for developing and financing a long-term, sustainable solution to the problem of blockage of the Ellisville inlet.
- Is there a scientific basis for restricting the window for inlet maintenance to September 15<sup>th</sup> through January 31<sup>st</sup>? Will the Division of Marine Fisheries reconsider its stand on shellfish that currently precludes us from working between February 1<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup> when the Piping Plovers begin to return?
- Are there low-impact, "soft engineering" approaches to maintaining the inlet that do not require an excavator and loader to be brought in?

Comments and input from Friends' members are welcomed by the board.

Email us at: [Board@EllisvilleMarsh.org](mailto:Board@EllisvilleMarsh.org) .

## Recent Operating Fund Donations and Long-Term Endowment Fund

### Donations to Regular Operating Fund (July 1st through December 31st, 2012)

Wayne Brasco  
Sal & Marilyn Calbo  
Mike & Andrea Carey  
Sam and Caroline Chapin  
Marc Colburn  
Margaret Dolan  
Daniel Ellis  
Diane Fletcher & Brian Jordan  
Susan Frawley & Herb Luther  
Carl & Susan Foley  
Claire Goldthwaite  
James & Susan Hamilton  
Becky Harris  
Peter Hruby  
Jenith and Daniel Kailher  
Denis LeBlanc  
Karl Lekburg & Ginny Davis  
James M. Litton  
James & Sarah Ann Mahoney  
Paula Marcoux & Preston Woodburn  
Don & Priscilla Maricle  
Debbie and Jack Murphy  
Kelley O'neel & Mary Ellen Mastrotrilli  
Robert & Pamela Palmer  
Roger A. Perry  
Eleanor Peterson-Allen  
Leslie Plimpton  
Tom Russell  
Pat and Dave Sampson  
John & Donna Burbank Scambos  
Amy Schwartzman  
Robert and Elisabeth Schwartzman  
Martha Stearns  
J. Paul & Sheila Valicenti  
Brad Winn  
IOBY

### Endowment Fund Gifts \* denotes a gift of \$1,000 or more

Ted Bradford  
Wayne Brasco  
Sue & Steve Brown

### Endowment Fund Gifts (continued)

Mike and Andrea Carey  
Ralph & Lynne Casale \*  
Eric and Christine Cody \*  
Barry and Elizabeth David \*  
Frank Doyle  
Kristina Engstrom  
Diane Fletcher & Brian Jordan  
David Foster  
Becky Harris  
Peter Hruby  
Roger Janson  
Kimberly and Skip Kaplan  
Rose and Greg Lano \*  
Denis LeBlanc  
Annette & Bob Leckie \*  
James Litton  
Donna Mager \*  
Jim and Sarah Ann Mahoney \*  
Paula Marcoux  
David Marsh  
Vicki McMenemy  
Sheila McNulty  
Kelley O'Neel and Mary Ellen Mastrotrilli \*  
Lydia Pastuszek and Brian Monahan  
Tony and Sally Pini  
Duncan and Andrea Prier  
Don & Judy Quinn \*  
Jenna Scambos  
Ellen Russell and Peter Foley  
Caryl Scambos \*  
Jack and Donna Burbank Scambos \*  
Tom Scambos \*  
Jed & Caitlin Smith  
Paul Soulliere  
Kim Tower  
Entergy \*  
Lookout Point Improvement Association \*  
UNUM Corporation

If you haven't already renewed your membership for 2012-13 yet, now's the time to double the impact of your gift! You can donate on-line or download the mail-in form at [www.EllisvilleMarsh.org](http://www.EllisvilleMarsh.org)