



FRIENDS NEWSLETTER: ELLISVILLE MARSH RESTORATION PROJECT MAY 1, 2008

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.

BREAKING NEWS

ELLISVILLE MARSH RESTORATION PROJECT WINS TWO GRANTS

The Friends recently received word that the Ellisville Marsh Restoration Project has won two grants! Sincere thanks go to the Makepeace Neighborhood Fund and Entergy's Environmental Stewardship program for demonstrating their commitment to wetlands restoration and preservation. A press release may be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

Combined with the results of our fund raising from all of you since last summer, especially the generous Leadership Gifts a number of you have made, we now have sufficient resources to initiate the regulatory permitting process toward reopening the inlet channel. We will continue to look for the additional \$30,000 in funding we estimate will be necessary to complete the project.

Remember, the Friends of Ellisville Marsh, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation so all donations are fully tax-exempt to the extent allowed by law and regulations.

1. SAVE THE DATE!

FIRST ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 12TH

The FIRST annual meeting of members of the Friends of Ellisville Marsh, Inc. will be held on Saturday, July 12th, from 10:00 to 12:00 at the Community Room of the Cedarville Fire Station. Your board of directors hopes that all of you will be able to attend and provide your input and feedback to the Friends' plans going forward.

2. UPDATED SURVEY PLAN CREATED

On April 1st, the Friends delivered to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in Lakeville updated survey plans showing conditions at the inlet channel and adjacent barrier beach. These plans are a necessary prerequisite for our permitting applications and were created by the survey firm Land Management Systems, Inc., from high resolution aerial photographs of the marsh taken by Col-East, whom we have also retained. Further enhancements will be made to the survey plans as we finalize our permitting applications.

3. ACTION IS NEEDED NOW TO REVERSE THE ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE



Photo of back marsh by Bob Goldthwaite (February, 2008)

4. MEMBERSHIP CONTINUES TO BLOSSOM

To date, the Friends have received a total of 111 donations. We have 56 Founding Members, 43 Basic Members, and have received 12 Leadership Gifts. This is exceptional given that we were only incorporated last July. We hope all of you will encourage your family members, friends, neighbors and colleagues to visit our web site (www.EllisvilleMarsh.org) and join up!

5. PIPING PLOVER MONITORING ENTERS SECOND YEAR

Volunteers from the Friends who assisted Mass Audubon with monitoring of Piping Plover nests on Ellisville Beach last summer are back in the swing (Paula Marcoux, Bobbi Martino and Eric Cody). New Friends' volunteers joining the team include Henry Riter, Rita and Paul Sullivan, Ellie Peterson-Allen, Kelley O'Neel, Marilyn Calbo and Bob Goldthwaite. The knowledge we gained about plover nesting patterns on Ellisville Beach last summer will be invaluable during the upcoming channel permitting process.



Getting Ready to Nest on Ellisville Beach - Photos by Henry Riter (April, 2008)

6. **REGULATORY PERMITTING PROCESS TO LAUNCH SOON**

We are gearing up to initiate the permitting process to relocate and reopen the inlet channel soon. Several permits are required from different federal and state agencies including the Plymouth Conservation Commission, Massachusetts DEP, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. We expect the overall process to take 6-9 months to complete so the sooner we file our applications the better our chances of being allowed to do the necessary site work in early 2009 before the Piping Plovers return and all work on the beach is banned (April 1st to October 1st).

7. **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & UPCOMING EVENTS**

For those of you have expressed interest in helping organize or participating in future events:

- Ellen Russell is looking for volunteers to help measure changes in beach elevations four times a year and will provide the one hour of training needed. You can contact Ellen by email at ekrussell@charter.net .
- We are also looking for members to help organize a fishing event at Ellisville Marsh and Ellisville Beach to raise awareness of this aspect of the marsh restoration project. If you are interested, please email Mark Anderson at maanderson@gn.com or Henry Riter at hpcape@rcn.com .
- If you would like to spend part of a day birding at Ellisville Marsh with Wayne Peterson, Director of Mass Audubon's Important Bird Area (IBA) program later this summer, please email Eric Cody at Eric@EllisvilleMarsh.org. Ellisville Marsh is a designated IBA.