



# ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FRIENDS OF ELLISVILLE MARSH 2010-2011

## PHASE 1 COMPLETED: TIDAL FLOWS RESTORED!

### ELLISVILLE INLET FINALLY REOPENED

The Friends completed the first stage of our project to restore Ellisville Marsh in January when the inlet to Cape Cod Bay was reopened. Dredged material from the blocked inlet was used to create additional nesting habitat for threatened shorebirds. This milestone was reached after several years of arduous and costly permitting work. The Friends now hold all local, state and federal permits necessary to maintain the inlet over the next four years should it again become blocked by storms. To our knowledge, no other Massachusetts nonprofit has obtained these permits, and we are proud to have done it without using taxpayer dollars. The immediate result of straightening the inlet channel was to restore the full tidal range to the marsh – the marsh now floods fully with salt water and drains with much greater efficiency. This is known to enhance vegetation, fisheries and wildlife habitat.

### ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING IS IN FULL SWING

Another feature that defines the Friends is our organization's serious commitment to proving that maintaining the inlet is key to sustaining Ellisville Marsh. Nine monitoring programs are in place to do just that and most began collecting data several years prior to the inlet reopening so there would be a baseline for comparison. What's unique about the extent of this monitoring? We have to include the barrier beach and inshore areas in the scientific study scope to confirm that there are no negative environmental impacts associated with breaching the barrier beach. Salt marsh monitoring programs on Cape Cod, on the other hand, focus on four main areas since researchers there are interested in what happens after a manmade tidal restriction (such as a road or dike) partway into the marsh is removed. Those studies use the outer (unrestricted) marsh as a reference for comparison with changing conditions

in the inner (previously restricted) marsh. We don't have the luxury of a reference marsh in Ellisville and this determines much of the design of our programs. Volunteer opportunities are available this summer for interested members—come out and experience Ellisville Marsh close-up! To volunteer, please email to [volunteer@EllisvilleMarsh.org](mailto:volunteer@EllisvilleMarsh.org).



Photo courtesy of Diane Fletcher

### CHANGES IN THE BOARD 2011-2012

We are pleased to announce two new members have joined the Friends' board: William Grey and Becky Harris. William is an Ellisville resident and avid supporter of the Friends' work. Becky is former director of Mass Audubon's Coastal Waterbird Program, a Friends' partner since 2007. Retiring from active board membership are Bob Goldthwaite, a founding director, and Henry Riter. Both Bob and Henry have made significant contributions during their years of board service. Both plan to remain active in the organization.

Please renew your membership for 2011-12 now. By popular demand, Friends' caps are back! For a contribution of \$100, you get one!  
<http://ellisvillemarsh.org/FEMcontent/membershipapplication.pdf>