



# ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS 2016-17

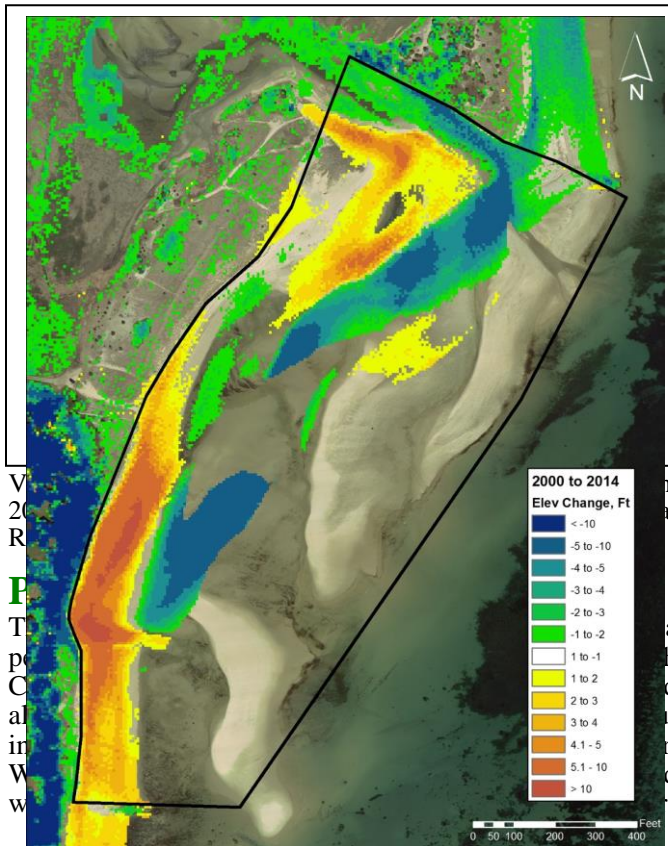
## TEN YEARS, STEADY PROGRESS

### FRIENDS REACH 10-YEAR MILESTONE

What's one week younger than the iPhone? We are! On July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007, five concerned residents came together and incorporated the Friends of Ellisville Marsh, Inc. What followed was a long string of successes—some hard-fought. To the best of our knowledge we were the first local 501(c)(3) nonprofit in the Commonwealth ever to obtain all the town, state and federal permits to maintain a salt marsh inlet. This was accomplished without the help of public money or paid staff. Much more has since been accomplished. **Highlights of the first decade will be presented at our Annual Meeting on Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup> (10:00 at Wildlands Trust, 675 Long Pond Road).**

### INLET STUDY WRAPPING UP

Work is nearing completion on a major study of the Ellisville Inlet, funded by a \$111,000 grant from the Commonwealth's Coastal Resilience Grant Program, \$32,000 from the Town and a \$5,000 contribution from the Friends. Board members Jack Scambos, Ellen Russell and Eric Cody have been participating in the six-month project. The goal is to identify a long-term, sustainable solution to the problem of inlet blockage. The final report will be available to Friends members when ready.



2016-2017 Friends Annual Report

extension will be submitted in July and we are optimistic it will be approved. We do not currently anticipate the need for an outside consultant. Next up—our MassDEP Chapter 91 Waterways permit, which is set to expire in mid 2019.

### SAVERY POND WATER QUALITY

The health of Savery Pond, which lies ½ mile upstream from Ellisville Marsh, continues to be an important focus of our attention. Board member Peter Schwartzman is leading the project and working closely with the Town of Plymouth to address nutrient and algal bloom issues. In October 2016, Plymouth Town Meeting approved the purchase of the 11.5 acre cranberry bog connected to Savery Pond, taking it out of commercial operation to aid recovery of water quality at Savery Pond. Since then, the Friends have assembled the “Savery Pond - 2016 Cumulative Data Report,” which contains available water-quality and hydrologic data for the pond. The report identifies data gaps we need to fill in order to develop a nutrient budget and pond management plan (the report will be available to members shortly). The Friends are working toward procuring grant and other funding toward this end.

### FAREWELL TO TWO PILLARS

Many of us met Bobbi and Paul Martino through their work furthering the revitalization of Ellisville Marsh. Paul did the historical research in 2002 that the Friends still rely upon during discussions with regulatory agencies. And Bobbi spent most of the last ten years on our threatened species monitoring team. It's no wonder Bobbi has been so active—she's an Ellis by birth. The Martino grandchildren even came to clean-up day for several years and each appeared to carry out his or her own body weight in debris. We wish Paul and Bobbi well in their new home and expect them to remain in touch.

### CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP

After four years at the helm of the Friends, Jack Scambos has decided to step down due to the extremely heavy demands of his business. Jack has brought a strategic point of view to the organization and demonstrated a high level of commitment at every turn. He will thankfully remain on the board. Eric Cody has been nominated to resume the president's role for the 2017-18 year. Frank Doyle and Kelley O'Neel will continue as treasurer and secretary, respectively, insuring continuity as we move forward.

### RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

Our membership year runs from July 1st to June 30th so now's the time to renew. We accept online payments via PayPal, a secure and (for us) cost-efficient means of accepting payments. Or you can mail a check to Friends of Ellisville Marsh, Inc., PO Box 1728, Sagamore Beach, MA 02562. All methods of payment are described at [www.EllisvilleMarsh.org](http://www.EllisvilleMarsh.org)! Donations are tax-exempt to the fullest extent of the law.