



FRIENDS NEWSLETTER: ELLISVILLE MARSH RESTORATION PROJECT JUNE 1ST, 2010

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.

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE FRIENDS' 2010 ANNUAL MEETING

The 2010 Annual Meeting of the Friends of Ellisville Marsh, Inc. will be held on Saturday, July 10th, at 10:00 am in the Community Room of the Cedarville Fire Station. Members of the board of directors will provide highlights of the past year's activities and accomplishments. Coffee and donuts will be available. Come hear what your organization is doing to bring Ellisville Marsh back to its former, healthy state and how you can become more involved in its comeback!

First Ellisville Bird Walk

Sunday, May 2nd, was a glorious day at Ellisville marsh and beach for the more than fifty people who turned out for the Friends' first-ever Ellisville Bird Walk. Groups led by Becky Harris and Wayne Petersen of Mass Audubon saw a wide variety of birds, both migrants and residents, in marsh, beach, meadow and woodlands habitats. Participants included Friends members, members of the 'Bird Brains' group at the Pinehills, and birding enthusiasts.



Bird enthusiasts gather for the Friends' first annual Ellisville Bird Walk on May 2nd. (Photo courtesy of Marie Pelletier)

The weather was marvelous. The birds were obliging. During the walk, Ellisville's first Piping Plover nest was discovered with two eggs on Ellisville beach and the marsh's recently arrived Osprey pair watched over their eggs on the platform that was placed in the marsh in late 2008. Belted kingfishers circled over the back marsh and a recently

returned Baltimore Oriole made its colorful appearance on Salt Marsh Lane. Participants learned that Ellisville marsh and Ellisville beach are considered significant bird habitats by Mass Audubon, with several Piping Plover pairs (designated a 'threatened' species by both US and Massachusetts) nesting on the beach each spring

and the marsh and harbor officially designated a Massachusetts *Important Bird Area*.

Special thanks go to Mass Audubon's Coastal Waterbird and Important Bird Areas Programs, headed by Becky and Wayne respectively, for sharing their extensive knowledge at this inaugural event. Thanks also to Marie Pelletier for her expert photography work in capturing the essence of the day's experience. We hope to see all of you again next year!



Marveling at Ellisville's first Piping Plover nest of 2010.
(Photo courtesy of Dan Reddy)

Where the Wild Things Are

Ever wondered why some of the harbor seals that lounge on the rocks at low tide off Ellisville beach throughout the winter and spring have a reddish brown head? (According to a NOAA marine biologist the coloration is likely due to high concentrations of iron in the bottom sediments they probe). Did you know that an immature Bald Eagle



One of the mysterious brown-headed seals – April 2010.
(Photo courtesy of Claire Goldthwaite)

was sighted at Ellisville Marsh in early May? That black snakes (probably Black Racers) four to five feet long have been spotted in the grassy area between the harbor and beach? That skates glide in the marsh inlet channel? That a striped bass weighing over 63 lbs. was caught by a local resident off Ellisville beach in 1983? If you observe something interesting in Ellisville marsh, on the beach or

inshore, please let us know by sending an email with photos (if avail), to Info@EllisvilleMarsh.org.

Permitting Update

We continue to close in on the two state permits needed to relocate the Ellisville inlet to its historical position prior to 1991. The good news is that our 401 Water Quality Certification has been issued. It will be modified slightly when the other DEP permit is issued. Negotiations over details of our proposed environmental monitoring plans, which will become conditions to the Chapter 91 waterways license, the other required state permit, have dragged on longer than expected. However, we remain optimistic that both permits will be finalized within a matter of weeks. The US Army Corps of Engineers has been notified that we will be applying for our federal dredging discharge permit and they have already assigned a lead person to our case.

To Contact the Friends' Board or Share Your Ideas:

Please email us at Board@EllisvilleMarsh.org . We welcome your ideas and inputs.



www.EllisvilleMarsh.org

The Mission of the Friends of Ellisville Marsh, Inc. is to work with the Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, and local, state and federal agencies to restore, preserve and maintain the Ellisville Marsh ecosystem.