



FRIENDS NEWSLETTER: ELLISVILLE MARSH RESTORATION PROJECT JUNE, 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.

Two Ellisville Inlet Permits Receive Automatic Extensions

Good news! Two of the Friends' four regulatory permits that allow periodic maintenance of the Ellisville inlet have received automatic, four-year extensions, thanks to the Massachusetts Permit Extension Act of 2010 and 2012. As a result, our Order of Conditions from the Plymouth Conservation Commission now expires in September of 2017. The Chapter 91 Waterways Permit we received from the Mass DEP is extended until June of 2019. We will still need to pursue extensions of our Section 401 Water Quality permit from the Mass DEP and Discharge Permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers in 2015 in order to continue maintaining the inlet and enabling tidal flows into and out of the marsh.

Heidi Sanders' Photo Featured on US Fish & Wildlife Web Site

Ellisville Beach is, as many local wildlife photographers know, a great place to capture enduring images of nature. One memorable photo taken in 2012 by Friends' member Heidi Sanders is featured this month on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department's *Conserving the Nature of the Northeast* web site. Congratulations, Heidi, for capturing the essence of Mother's Day in Ellisville! To see the entire portfolio of images, visit US Fish & Wildlife:



Piping Plover and chicks. Photo courtesy of Heidi Sanders © 2012.

<http://usfwsnortheast.wordpress.com/2013/05/11/happy-mothers-day/>.

Vandalism at Ellisville Beach

Since May 4th, repeated incidents of vandalism have been reported on Ellisville Beach. Someone has ripped out entire areas of fencing placed by Mass Audubon and the Friends to protect the nesting areas of shorebirds on the federal and state threatened and endangered species lists. The MA Environmental Police and state agencies have been notified by Mass Audubon. If you see suspicious activity on the beach please notify us immediately by calling (508) 341-3813 or emailing us at Board@EllisvilleMarsh.org.

Bluebirds on the Beach in February? Really?

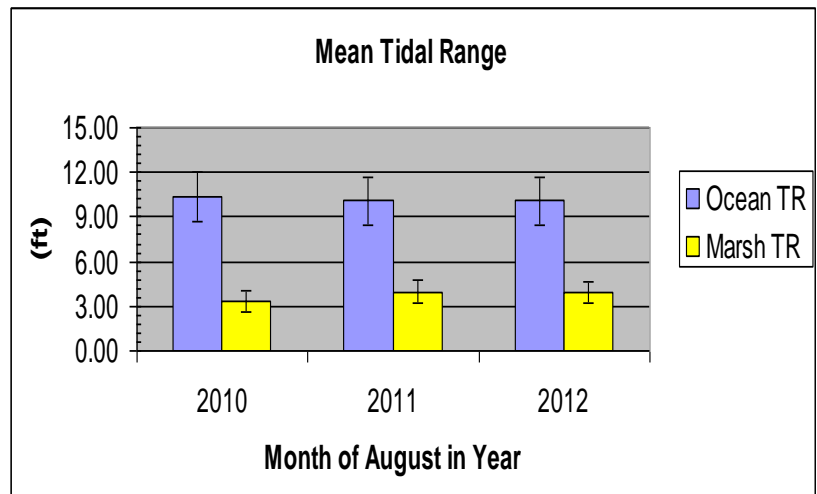


Diane Fletcher, Friends' director and avid observer of natural occurrences on Ellisville Beach throughout the year, was stunned to see a small flock of Bluebirds congregating on Ellisville Beach in mid February. Usually seen inland, the birds may have been there to forage for food when their regular food supplies were buried by snow by the Blizzard of 2013, according to several knowledgeable sources.

If you have your own photos of Nature's wonder in the vicinity of Ellisville Marsh, please share them with us by email to: photos@EllisvilleMarsh.org.

Tidal Conditions in Marsh Improved in 2011-12 vs. 2010

Detailed analysis of the tidal range (difference between low and high water levels) in Ellisville Marsh indicates that it was significantly improved in 2011 and 2012, compared to pre-dredge conditions in 2010. Ellen Russell, Ellisville's resident wetland scientist who is currently pursuing her doctorate at UMass-Amherst, has analyzed the data we collected on our pressure loggers over the past three summers and determined that Mean Tidal Range in the marsh has increased by approximately 200 millimeters since summer of 2010. Increasing the tidal range was our primary objective when we pursued regulatory permits to reopen the blocked Ellisville inlet.



Welcome Spring!

The Fourth Annual *Welcome Spring!* Ellisville Bird Walk on May 18th was attended by some 25 enthusiastic birders, many from the Friends of Myles Standish State Forest (who kindly allowed us to promote the event on their Meetup.com web site). Thanks to Friends' director Paula Marcoux, who coordinated the event, and Brad Winn who led the birding group. Photo © 2013 Friends of Ellisville Marsh, Inc.

Comments and inputs always welcomed. Email us at: Board@EllisvilleMarsh.org