



FRIENDS NEWSLETTER: ELLISVILLE MARSH RESTORATION PROJECT DECEMBER 12, 2007

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.

1. CONTRIBUTIONS AFTER JULY 16, 2007 ARE FULLY TAX DEDUCTIBLE

The IRS approved our application for tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code on November 20th. This means that membership fees and donations made after our incorporation date are fully tax deductible. We are especially pleased to report that our application was completed without incurring any legal expense and approved on the first try, without the need for any follow-up discussions with the IRS.

2. MEMBERSHIP EXPANDING RAPIDLY

In the few short months since the Friends was incorporated our membership has expanded rapidly. Membership is up to 85 households, individuals, and businesses, mostly from the local area, but with some joining from as far away as California and Maine. Especially satisfying is the fact that more than 60% of us have joined as Founding Members. A number of the completed membership applications have contained poignant reflections on how vibrant Ellisville Marsh used to be, compared to today. The board of directors hears you and is working hard to bring Ellisville Marsh back to full health. The Friends' current membership list is provided on the back page..

3. SUPPORTIVE MEDIA COVERAGE

As you may know, the plight of Ellisville Marsh was featured in articles in the Boston Globe and Old Colony Memorial in August. In addition, a half-hour program on Ellisville Marsh and the Friends of Ellisville Marsh, Inc. appeared on PACTV/13 local cable for three weeks in October. Friends directors Bob Goldthwaite and Eric Cody were interviewed by the program's host and co-producer, Karen Buechs. The Friends were given a complimentary copy of the program on DVD by the producers with unlimited rights to distribute and share. We have provided copies of the program to Senate President Murray's Plymouth district office and to the Wildlands Trust, one of the marsh's property owners, and are considering making it available via our web site. Friends director Peter Hruby created the web site and has made enhancements that maximize the site's value for membership development, education and communication.

4. CONDITION OF THE MARSH CONTINUES TO DETERIORATE

Die-off of vegetation in Ellisville Marsh has left a pronounced scar in the back marsh. Although the exact cause or causes of the problem are not known with scientific certainty, the worsening problem of tidal flow restriction is strongly believed to be a contributing factor. Recent storms have caused the tidal inlet channel to migrate further south along Ellisville Beach with the result that water cannot fully drain from the marsh when the tide goes out. This causes marsh grass stems to remain submerged for longer

periods of time than the vegetation can tolerate. The Friends has initiated work toward obtaining the regulatory permits necessary to reopen the inlet channel and maintain it over the long term (see item 5 below).

5. PREPARATION OF UPDATED CONDITIONS SURVEY PLAN OF CHANNEL INLET AND BARRIER BEACH COMMENCES

Thanks to a number of Leadership Gifts from Friends members, we have recently been able to take a major step forward in the complex process to obtain regulatory permits to reopen the inlet channel into Ellisville Marsh. The Friends has retained Col-East, Inc. of North Adams, MA to prepare photogrammetric products using aerial photographs taken of Ellisville Marsh in Spring of this year. Col-East will also take new aerial photographs in Spring or early summer of 2008 using a color infrared camera to establish a superior quality baseline for measuring vegetation losses and gains over time. We have also retained Randy Parker of Land Management Systems, Inc. of Manomet to use the photogrammetric products to prepare survey plans of the channel inlet and adjacent beach area in preparation for our permit applications. Randy has a deep familiarity with, and understanding of, past changes in Ellisville Marsh. Both firms provided the Friends with especially attractive cost proposals that recognized our non-profit status. The updated survey plans are expected to be available prior to April 1, 2008. Friends directors Jack Scambos and Eric Cody have been overseeing this project.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PROGRAM SETUP UNDERWAY

Friends director Ellen Russell has been collaborating with Jason Burtner and Tim Smith of the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management to set up monitoring transects on Ellisville Beach (see figure below). These transects will enable the Friends to accurately and economically monitor changes in beach elevations that occur as a result of major storms and to track longer term changes that could affect the marsh. We express our sincere appreciation to Jason and Tim for the hours they have spent assisting Ellen in setting this up.



Aerial view of Ellisville Beach and Ellisville Marsh tidal inlet channel showing locations of transects that have been set up to enable low cost monitoring of barrier beach elevations on an ongoing basis.

Friends director Ellen Russell has received generous assistance and equipment from the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management for this program.

7. VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AND ASSIGNMENTS

A number of you have expressed interest in volunteering on Friends projects. Training will be offered for new volunteers in our piping plover monitoring program assisting Mass Audubon on Ellisville Beach (and potentially the adjacent beach at Ellisville Harbor State Park) next Spring. Friends Director Ellen Russell will be training new volunteers for the water quality sampling we do in support of the Massachusetts Estuaries Project which is conducted jointly by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the School for Marine Science and Technology (SMAST) at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. Ellen will also be training volunteers to help measure changes in beach elevations using the Emery Rod technique (see item 6 above). To be made aware of volunteer opportunities, please send an email to: Info@EllisvilleMarsh.org.

8. EMAIL ADDRESSES WANTED!

If you have email but received this Status Update in regular mail, please send an email message to us at Board@EllisvilleMarsh.org so we can keep the cost of communicating with you as low as possible. The Friends of Ellisville Marsh, Inc. does not share members' email addresses or other contact information with any outside organizations or individuals.

9. FEEDBACK ALWAYS WELCOMED

The Friends' board of directors welcomes your input and feedback at any time. Please send comments to us at Board@EllisvilleMarsh.org

*Best Wishes for the Holiday Season from the
Friends of Ellisville Marsh, Inc. !*

**FRIENDS OF ELLISVILLE MARSH, INC.
MEMBERS AS OF DECEMBER, 2007
(FOUNDING MEMBERS IN BLUE)**

MARK ANDERSON
RICHARD BAKER & FAMILY
ROY BAKER & FAMILY
PHILIP & BERNADETTE BENNETT
JOHN & BONNIE BLANEY
WAYNE BRASCO, SR.
CORNELIUS & KATHLEEN BULMAN
TERRANCE L. BURCH
HELEN BURGESS
SAL AND MARILYN CALBO
MIKE AND ANDREA CAREY
ALAN, ELISABETH AND DAVID CODY
ANN MARIE CODY
ERIC AND CHRISTINE CODY
MARC COLBURN
CHARLOTTE H. COLLINS
FRANCIS W. COLLINS
MARION S. CROCKER
MARJORIE CRONIN
BARRY AND ELIZABETH DAVID
RICHARD & MELENE DONOVAN
ROBERT & MARGARET DRUDE
DANIEL AND LYNN ELLIS
EMERALD EXCAVATING
KRISTINA ENGSTROM
MARYALICE FISCHER
DIANE FLETCHER & BRIAN JORDAN
CARL & SUSAN FOLEY
DAVID FOSTER
PETER & BEVERLY GODFREY
PETER HOBBS & MARSHA WHITE
KAREN AND MATTHEW GLYNN
BOB AND PHYLLIS GOLDTHWAITE
CLAIRE GOLDTHWAITE
JAMES AND SUSAN HAMILTON
WILLIAM HARRINGTON
SALOME HEYWARD & BARBARA
ROBERTS
PETER HRUBY
VLAD AND MARIE HRUBY
JASON JACOBS
ROGER JANSON
JOSEPH & MARGARET KEOHAN
CHERYL KISZLA & RONALD R. WHITE
LOIS KRASILOVSKY

ALISON AND DAVE KREAGER
WILLIAM & DEBORAH LABRECK
GREG & ROSE LANO
PAUL & BETHANY LEARY
P.D. LEARY BUILDER, INC.
JAMES M. LITTON
JAMES & DENISE MALLOZZI
DON AND PRISCILLA MARICLE
GRACE MARSH
ERNEST & PATRICIA MARSICO
PAUL AND BOBBI MARTINO
VICKI & SHAUN MCMENAMY
SHEILA MCNULTY
JOHN O'CONNOR
MARIE O'CONNOR
MARY O'DONNELL
KELLEY A. O'NEEL & MARY ELLEN
MASTRORILLI
ORDER OF ST. ANNE BETHANY
ROBERT AND PAMELA PALMER
DONALD & PATRICIA PARK
LYDIA PASTUSZEK
ELEANOR PETERSON-ALLEN
ANTHONY AND SALLY PINI
GRACE PLEADWELL
TERESE POOL
DONALD & JUDITH QUINN
PAULA AND HENRY RITER
ELLEN RUSSELL AND PETER FOLEY
MARY ROSA
TOM RUSSELL
BRADLEY AND HEIDI SANDERS
JOHN SCAMBOS AND DONNA BURBANK
SCAMBOS
CALLIE, TREVOR, & GREER SCAMBOS
TOM SCAMBOS
MARIAN K. SULC SCAMBOS
GIL AND KARYL SILVA
ANN SKELLY
PAUL & RITA SULLIVAN
HAROLD & MARY TINCHER
AMY AND JON TOWNSEND
J. PAUL & SCHEILA M. VALICENTI
RONALD & DESIREE WHITE
ROBERT & DIANE YAEGER