



Friends of Ellisville Marsh Newsletter

Fall 2017

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.

In this issue:

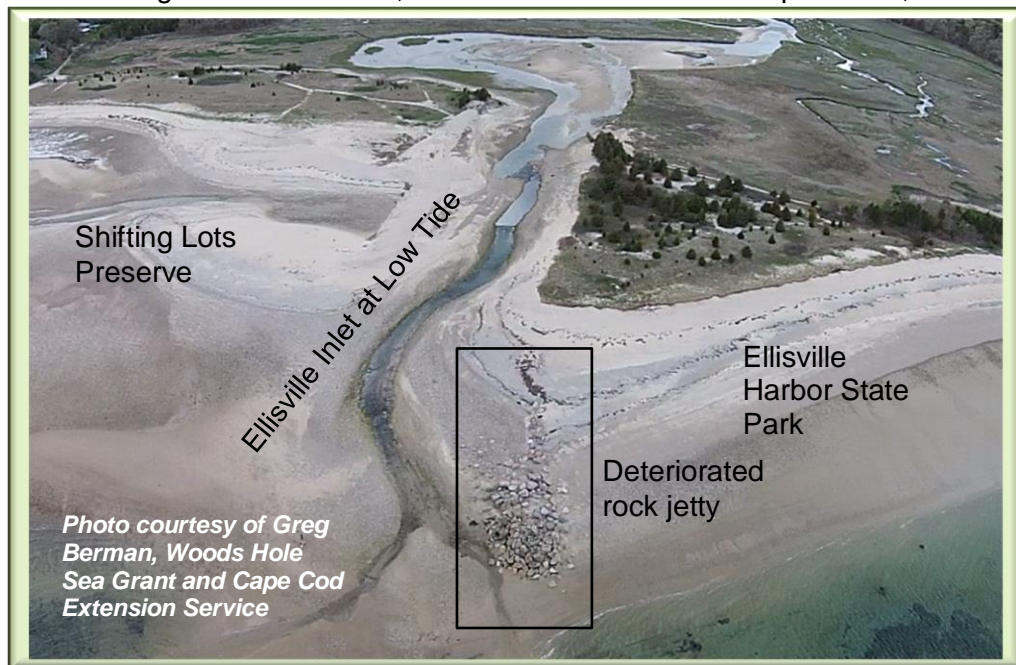
- Ellisville Inlet study is a wrap – what next?
- Clam dragging threatens eel grass - persistence pays
- Savery Pond Restoration gains momentum
- Uncommon visitors
- Summer reflections by Abby Foley
- Conservation Commission permit gets extended

Renew Your Membership and Consider a Year-end Gift Now! It's tax-deductible.

Visit EllisvilleMarsh.org and click on the "Donate" tab.

Ellisville Inlet Study is a Wrap - What's Next?

The Town's grant-funded, engineering evaluation of alternatives to prevent further blockages of the Ellisville inlet has been completed. A copy of the final report can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/Ellisville-Study>. The report recommends that the badly damaged rock jetty bordering the inlet at the south end of Ellisville Harbor State Park be rebuilt. It further recommends that part of the jetty near the dune be elevated to stop sand from coming over during major storms and that dunes be constructed north of the jetty for erosion control. The findings reinforce our board's thinking for many years that the jetty contributes in a significant way to inlet blockage. Jack Scambos, Friends' director and former president,



is leading the effort to obtain preliminary cost estimates for the recommended work. Since the jetty lies in the state park, efforts are also underway to initiate a dialog with the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) about a joint project.

Surf Clam Dragers Threaten Ellisville Eel Grass - Temporary Seasonal Ban Imposed by Mass Fisheries

If you live in the Ellisville area, you may have noticed large fishing vessels operating close to shore during the past few years. These are surf clam dragers, 70-80 foot vessels pulling a heavy drag net astern to plough the



Surf clam dragger operating off Ellisville. Photo by Henry Riter.

bottom for clams. At times these vessels have operated illegally after dark and, we believe, in depths considerably less than the required 20 feet above mean low water for summer clamming. After repeated complaints to the Environmental Police over a period of years, the Friends and the Mass Lobstermen's Association were able to convince the Commonwealth to impose an immediate ban on surf clam dragging within about two miles of the Ellisville shoreline (the ban expired October 31st). We also submitted comments to Mass Fisheries arguing for the ban to be made permanent during summer months to avoid damaging the eel grass bed, which our regulatory permits require us to monitor and protect.

Friends' Work at Savery Pond Gains Momentum

At an August informational gathering at the pond, a lively and concerned group learned about recent findings on Savery's algal bloom dynamics and discussed the goal of reducing, and someday eliminating, potentially toxic algal blooms. Peter Schwartzman outlined the Friends' approach, including our strategy to address the one major data-collection challenge remaining, analysis of pond-sediment nutrient content which will require a significant financial investment. Toward that end, look for our Savery Pond Initiative 2017 fundraising campaign coming soon—the Friends need your help to fund critical science and to develop the plan to restore Savery Pond to health. Learn more about our current understanding of pond conditions and how you can help by clicking the "Savery Pond" tab our website (www.ellisvillemarsh.org). This fall, another piece of our data-collection program fell into place, as a group of members developed a methodology to accurately measure pond outflow – data that are crucial for calculating water and nutrient budgets for the pond. A big thank you to members Rose Cain, Bud Elliot & the Schwartzman Family for their financial and volunteer support, and to SonTek, which deeply discounted the price of their product for us. Lots going on at Savery Pond, so stay tuned and check out our new web content!



Distant view of a Harlequin Duck near the Ellisville Inlet. Photo by Marie Pelletier.

Uncommon Visitors

What do an American Avocet, a Sandhill Crane and a Harlequin Duck have in common? The answer is: they're *uncommon* in this part of Massachusetts. Yet all three have been seen in Ellisville Marsh or near the adjacent barrier beach in recent years, along with other rarely sighted species. The Harlequin Duck pictured below spent three days feeding in the rough surf at the mouth of the Ellisville inlet after Tropical Storm Jose passed through in October.



Abby Foley Reflects on Her Summer in the Marsh

Abby Foley has now completed her third summer gathering scientific monitoring data for the Friends. Here are her reflections on the experience: *“This past summer I again was tasked with deploying marsh, channel, and bay HOB0 loggers to monitor temperature and pressure. I also surveyed 50+ plots along transects in the marsh for vegetation percent cover. Twice over the summer, salinity measurements were taken at locations from the bay, throughout the channel, and into the marsh. UNH requires each student to*

complete a senior project in order to graduate, so I will be writing a lab report type paper about my work in Ellisville Marsh over the past few summers. Thank you to the Friends for once again giving me the opportunity to learn about the marsh habitat and help with the monitoring. The stuff I’m standing in in this photo is dried mats of mostly red filamentous algae that had washed up after a bad storm and then dried in the heat and sun. That’s a funny photo. Thanks, Mom!”

Plymouth Conservation Commission Grants Three-Year Permit Extension

We are pleased to report that the Order of Conditions (a permit) granted to the Ellisville Inlet Maintenance Project by the Plymouth Conservation Commission in 2008 has now been extended for three additional years. Its new expiration date is in September of 2020. All of our original permits have now been extended at least once, with minimal cost to the Friends. This is in sharp

contrast to our initial permit gathering process for which we needed to retain outside consultants. Virtually all of the permit renewal work has been handled “in house.”

How PayPal works

We recently fielded a question from a member as to why their donation was not credited with the full amount they authorized. The answer was simple—it was made through PayPal.

PayPal is a convenient way to donate but it works the same way as a credit card. When something is charged on a credit card the merchant has to pay a percentage to the card company for the transaction. PayPal works the same way. In this case The Friends is the merchant and therefore pays a transaction fee. If a \$100 donation is made to the Friends, the Friends receive \$97.50. It’s not much of a loss, but you can avoid it by sending a check instead.

Visit EllisvilleMarsh.org and click on the “Donate” tab or mail your check to us at
PO Box 1728,
Sagamore Beach, MA 02562

Please tell us how you want your donation applied—regular fund, endowment fund or Savery Pond Initiative.



Fall comes to Ellisville Marsh