



ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FRIENDS OF ELLISVILLE MARSH 2013-2014

CONSOLIDATING GAINS & POSITIONING FOR THE FUTURE

FINANCIAL STABILITY

With the success of the fundraising effort to create a long-term endowment fund and continued, tight control over current spending, the Friends remain in a strong financial condition. We were able to defer inlet maintenance for a year thanks to less powerful storms during the winter of 2013-14 and the board has not had to touch the endowment fund. In addition, the entire cost of this summer's environmental monitoring intern and associated costs are being covered by a generous grant from Entergy Corporation, owner of Pligrim Station, which we pursued proactively early in the year.

REGULATORY NEGOTIATIONS

A great deal of effort during the last twelve months has gone into maintaining our MassDEP permits and creating a less burdensome set of regulatory requirements for the next several years. Two of our permits have been automatically extended for four years as a result of recent laws and we will begin permit renewal on two others in early 2015. President Jack Scambos and director Eric Cody met with leaders of key Massachusetts agencies at the state house this Spring to discuss reducing permit requirements. We are awaiting a permit amendment and are optimistic that several of the less fruitful monitoring requirements will be reduced in scope.

FIRST SUMMER INTERNSHIP

We were delighted this Spring to have the opportunity to create our first-ever summer internship. With Ellen Russell about to complete her doctoral program in Plant, Soil and Insect Science at UMass-Amherst, the Friends knew we had to transition to a new resource model to continue the environmental data collection Ellen has been doing at Ellisville Marsh for the past several seasons. She has handled wetlands vegetation, tidal hydrology and water quality sampling, three of the nine programs we conduct every year, for which we are very grateful. Fortunately, Entergy Corporation

came through with the aforementioned grant to fund an internship for this purpose. Sarah Cowles, a rising senior at the University of New England, was by far the best candidate who applied. Sarah has arrived and has begun her training with a high level of enthusiasm. Those of you attended the Friends' Annual Meeting hopefully had the chance to introduce yourselves and get to know Sarah.

SAVERY POND UPDATE

The Friends have expressed interest in participating with the Town of Plymouth in water quality sampling and other analysis at Savery Pond, one of a number of Plymouth ponds to be targeted under a stewardship grant from the Massachusetts Environmental Trust. Our baseline water quality study in 2012 puts us in a good position to use additional data to determine changes in the pond's ecosystem. We are awaiting the outcome of the Town's grant application.



Ellisville Fencing Team—(from left) Kat Peterson, Chris Foley, Bobbi Martino and _____, who helped take down threatened shorebird protective fencing that was no longer needed prior to the 4th of July.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW

Our membership year runs from July 1st to June 30th so now's that 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! Donations are tax-exempt to the fullest extent of the law.