



# Friends of Ellisville Marsh

Spring 2021 Newsletter

## Winter Inlet Maintenance Deferred

The world has taken a break from normal life. But for the Ellisville Marsh Revitalization Project life goes on. All of the Friends' regulatory permits remain in good standing and we received a time-of-year waiver from the MassDEP that would have enabled us to conduct maintenance work on the Ellisville Marsh inlet until March 31st. However, the three nor'easters we experienced so far this winter failed to block the inlet. While a sandbar has formed and may eventually become a blocking spit over time, the Friends' board elected in mid-February to defer inlet maintenance until early 2022. That is the latest the decision can be made, given all the advance planning and regulatory notifications that are required.



A stunning February sunrise over Ellisville Marsh. Photo courtesy of Judy Quinn.

# A Trio of Winter Nor'easters

This past winter has seen a typical pattern of powerful storms. Three separate nor'easters hit the Massachusetts coastline between December and February. The first, big storm on December 4 brought 6 to 8 foot waves and winds gusting as high as 73 mph on Cape Cod. The rock jetty on Ellisville Harbor State Park on the north side of the salt marsh inlet was still submerged two hours after high tide. Two weeks later, on December 17, another storm rolled in bringing wind gusts over 50 mph and high surf. Record amounts of snow fell in inland areas. A third storm arrived on February 1. This was a classic nor'easter with winds reaching 60-70 mph, again approaching hurricane force. The first two storms pushed large volumes of sand over the jetty and into the inlet but the natural hydraulics of the outgoing tide were able to scour it out of the channel. We were not so lucky with the February storm. A low spit remained in its aftermath but there is hope it will migrate back to the north. Otherwise, the Friends will need to address it next winter. It's wait-and-see.

Ernest Clifton Ellis's "*Reminiscences of Ellisville*"  
is being made available online!

Friends' board member Peter Hruby is loading this intriguing historical account section by section. It can be found on the Friends' website or by clicking below.

[Read the first installment of "Reminiscences of Ellisville"](#)

## Inlet Stabilization Project-Phase 2 Delay

The second phase of the Commonwealth's Ellisville Inlet Stabilization Project which kicked off in October 2019 appears to have hit a snag. The Friends have received no word on the project status since early summer of 2020 despite repeated requests to the Commonwealth's project manager and the project consultant for an update. With substantial assistance from Greg Lano, the Friends' unsung political and legislative liaison, we recently drafted and delivered to the MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs a request that the Secretary herself intervene so that the status of this important project toward a long-term solution might be determined. Yet another case of "stay tuned" with state officials.



## **Over Ellisville: Meet Pilot Mike Brennan**

You've seen his aerial photographs of Ellisville Marsh in Friends' newsletters for years. Sometimes it appears he is hanging out of the cockpit to catch the right light and angle. Is he supporting himself by grabbing the wing strut? Does our liability insurance cover this? Mike flies his plane out of New Bedford. He is our best friend in the sky. If you click on the link below, you'll get to know Mike. The views of Ellisville come in starting around the six-minute mark. Enjoy! And thanks again for sharing your unique perspective, Mike.

[\*\*Click Here to View Mike's Latest Video\*\*](#)

### 2021 Spring Cleanup Deferred

Our Annual Cleanup Day being, in theory at least, a socially distanced and well-ventilated activity, we were tempted to resume it this April. But we decided that our enthusiasm was just a little premature. Fortunately our members' decades of deep cleaning have paid off, with fewer and fewer long-buried tires and lobster traps emerging from the sand and mud each year. We know that many of you routinely pick up plastic and other trash on every beach visit. The board, along with the whales, turtles, and birds, thanks you for your kindness and dedication.

**Make a Gift to the Friends**

Your comments, questions and suggestions are always welcomed.

Contact us any time at: [Board@EllisvilleMarsh.org](mailto:Board@EllisvilleMarsh.org)

Visit us at: [www.EllisvilleMarsh.org](http://www.EllisvilleMarsh.org)

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