



Friends of Ellisville Marsh

Spring 2023 Newsletter

Time Capsule: Karin Engstrom's Flowering Plants List



Seabeach Sandwort in May

Photo courtesy of Irina Kadis and Alexey Zinovjev. All rights reserved.

Friends' member Kristina Engstrom, a former Ellisville resident who now lives in Amherst, MA, recently sent us a wonderful list of flowering plants her late mother Karin Engstrom had compiled over several years in the late eighties. Her "Flowers of Ellisville" covers some twenty-six typed pages, from *Achillea millefolium* (common name: yarrow) to *Viola pedata* (more commonly known as birdfoot violet) and includes personal observations about many of the plants. This list serves as a comparison point for the plant inventory prepared for the Friends by Irina Kadis and Alexey Zinovjev ten years ago. Karin's 1988 Introduction states, "This is a beginning only and maybe in twenty years someone

else will take over." Thank you for your keen foresight, Karin. Indeed, someone has.



The Ellisville inlet in mid-January. Photo courtesy of Mike Brennan. (c) 2023. All rights reserved.

Inlet Maintenance Deferred

The Friends' board of directors has determined that inlet maintenance does not need to be performed this winter. As indicated in the aerial photo above, the tidal inlet has remained straight and narrow, with the result that tidal flows are unrestricted and the exchange of water between the salt marsh and Cape Cod Bay is hydraulically efficient. The inlet's current cooperation is no doubt due to the absence of powerful winter storms thus far this winter. Our trusted contractor George R. Richmond has been released from the dates we had reserved with him in late March. The Friends are proactively negotiating a preliminary contract with his company for work, if needed, in March of 2024.

Town and Friends Team Up to Acquire New Permits

The Town of Plymouth has been awarded an \$89,000 grant by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to acquire new local, state, and federal permits for the Ellisville Inlet Maintenance Project. The grant, which is intended to cover the costs of re-permitting, is thanks to the efforts of David Gould, Director of Plymouth's Department of Marine and Environmental Affairs. The Friends will be working closely with the town and its consultant, Sustainable Coastal Solutions, Inc. throughout the project, which is expected to last at least a year. The grant is strategic since avenues available to the Friends for further extending or renewing the permits have been exhausted. We have been told that the length of our current permit extensions is unprecedented in Massachusetts.

Shifting Lots Preserve closed by Wildlands Trust

The property was closed to visitors in February – see article below.



Flagrant Disregard of Posted Rules Forces Temporary Closure of Shifting Lots

The Wildlands Trust in February took the unprecedented step of closing Shifting Lots Preserve at Ellisville Beach. Multiple instances of illegal hunting on the property, as well as a horrific incident in which unleashed dogs (and at least one dog owner) were attacking and maiming wildlife, led to the closure. According to Karen Grey, president of the Wildlands Trust, *"The ongoing incidents at this coastal property include illegal hunting, illegal camping, illegal dumping, violation of property rules intended to protect endangered wildlife, assaultive behaviors against our staff and volunteers, and the destruction of property, such as gates, kiosks, signage, and fencing."* Volunteers from the the Friends have at times been the object of such brazen behavior. It is sad that a few individuals can ruin the experience of being in a special, natural place for everyone. The Friends fully endorse the action Wildlands Trust took. The gate to the property is to be reopened on March 15.

The full statement issued by the Wildlands Trust can be found here: <https://wildlandstrust.org/new...>

Upcoming Events -- Hold the Dates

Set up Protective Fencing for Threatened Shorebird Nesting: week of March 27. Volunteer opportunity – email us at Info@EllisvilleMarsh.org if you are interested!

Spring Cleanup Day: Saturday, April 22, 2023
@ 10 a.m. to noon (to be confirmed).

Welcome Spring Bird Walk: Saturday, May 20, 2023
@ 8 a.m. Rain date Sunday. This is a joint event with Wildlands Trust and Manomet.

Rescuing Ellisville Marsh – Book Talk:

Thursday, June 29th @ 6:30 p.m. Did you miss Eric Cody's talk on his new

book? If so, there's another chance to hear what he has to say. He'll be speaking at the Pilgrim Hall Museum in downtown Plymouth.

Details on these events to follow.

What They're Saying About the Book: *Rescuing Ellisville Marsh*

An ode to the power of working with nature

"Ellisville Marsh is the environmental gem of New England's oldest town," writes Eric P. Cody in his new book "Rescuing Ellisville Marsh: The Long Fight To Restore Lost Connections" (Bright Leaf). Spanning 70 shifting acres 10 miles south of the center of Plymouth, the marsh and its tidal inlet for centuries were maintained by locals who farmed and fished. That maintenance gave way as development increased and livelihoods changed; erosion and flooding tides rapidly shifted the complex and delicate ecosystem. As Cody explains, what began in the early 2000s as an effort to save private property evolved into a community crusade to "restore the vitality of fisheries and wildlife" in this salt marsh. Cody, in detailing the efforts and introducing us to the varied people who got involved — lawyers and botanists, sea mossers and lobstermen, a tribal chairperson, engineers, environmentalists, and a big dog named Veda — creates a moving and compelling ode, to a place, to a natural history, to people and the power that comes from focusing efforts and working with an environment. As Cody writes, the book is "a story about reaching into the past and delving deeply into the present to understand what defines a natural place, uncovering what truly matters, and learning how to live more closely with nature." Cody's deep and reverent attention to the natural world reminds us of its rewards, personally and environmentally."

--Nina MacLaughlin, *Boston Globe*

Copies of the book can be purchased from the publisher at: <https://www.umasspress.com/978...> Enter the Friends members' discount code "MAS068" to get 30% off the list price.

Support the Friends' Work – Make a Gift [HERE](#)

The membership year runs from July 1 through June 30.

The Friends of Ellisville Marsh, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Our federal tax ID is [77-0691727](#).

Your comments, questions, and suggestions are always welcomed.

Contact us any time at: Info@EllisvilleMarsh.org

Visit us at: www.EllisvilleMarsh.org

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