



Friends of Ellisville Marsh

Year in Review

Memorable Sightings, Sounds, and Experiences

Plover Nesting Off to a Flying Start / Right Whales / Hunt for New Permits / Return to In-person Events / Illegal Hunting Closes Shifting Lots / Our Story

2023 ANNUAL MEETING

The Friends' 2023 Annual Meeting will be held in-person on Saturday, July 15th from 11 am to noon at the **Little Red School House**, 1144 Long Pond Road (at the corner of Herring Pond Road) Join us for reflections on an eventful year and a look forward at the year ahead. Your inputs, ideas, and feedback will again be welcomed. Coffee and donuts will be served. Please join us!

Our membership year begins July 1st. [Click here to renew!](#)

Plover Nesting Off to a Flying Start

The 2023 nesting season has gotten off to a great start - no less than three Piping Plover nests were already being incubated by May 8th! All three nests hatched and chicks are running around on the beach and cobbled areas of Shifting Lots Preserve. Three more nests are underway. Four killdeer chicks (the largest and most familiar of the "ringed" plovers) were also running around by the salt marsh. If luck holds, all the surviving plover chicks from nests 1 through 3 should have fledged by the 4th of July! We are pleased to report that

Annette Leckie has completed training and joined the monitoring team just in time for all the excitement!

Photos courtesy of Diane Jordan.



**Pair of Piping Plovers
Getting Ready to Nest**



**A Newborn Plover Chick
Steps Out**



Right Place at the Right Time for Right Whales

Tuesday, April 18th quickly became special for a few, lucky Friends' members. Around 8 a.m., Annette and Rob Leckie glanced offshore from their home at Harlow's Landing and began spotting endangered North Atlantic Right Whales. Fellow members and neighbors Sarah and Pete Dempsey also witnessed what soon became a spectacle. As many as fifty Right Whales spent the next hour or two feeding, breaching, and blowing close to shore. This gathering represented about

15% of the estimated 350 that remain in the species. Video courtesy of Pete Dempsey.

\$89,000 Grant Awarded to Town of Plymouth for New Ellisville Inlet Maintenance Permits

The Town of Plymouth and the Friends are partnering up to acquire a new set of local, state, and federal permits that will enable inlet maintenance to continue past 2024 and 2025 when the Friends' current permits expire. Survey work necessary for creation of an Existing Conditions Plan has been completed and permit applications are being prepared. The work is funded by a Best Value Grant awarded to the town by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Return to In-person Events

The Friends' annual Clean-up Day and Welcome Spring! Bird Walk (co-sponsored with the Wildlands Trust, Manomet, Inc., and the South Shore Bird Club) were well-attended events. Hardy volunteers from Wildlands Trust and the Friends also turned out in March to erect protective fencing for the nesting shorebirds, which returned weeks early again.



Friends / WLT "Fencing Party" in March



Our Youngest Volunteers on Clean-up Day in April

Illegal Hunting Closes Shifting Lots Preserve

The Wildlands Trust in February took the unprecedented step of closing its Shifting Lots Preserve in response to multiple

instances of illegal and out-of-season hunting, as well as an appalling episode in which unleashed dogs and their owner attacked and lethally maimed wildlife. The gate closure, which was lifted on March 15th, was a potent reminder that public access to this privately owned fragile habitat is a privilege. In preparation for shorebird nesting season, Wildlands Trust revised preserve signage for clarity and plans to post stewardship staff to the beach during times of heavy use. The Friends and Wildlands Trust work closely together to safeguard wildlife and protect the environment here.



Just published – The Friends' Story

Rescuing Ellisville Marsh: the Long Fight to Restore Lost Connections

A portion of any royalties from book sales will go to the Friends.

Get the Book at a 30% Discount with Code "MAS068"

2023–24 Board of Directors

We are pleased to report that the Friends' board of directors will remain unchanged for the 2023–24 membership year that runs from July 1st through June 30th. The board includes Eric Cody, president; Susan Pleadwell, secretary/treasurer; Frank Doyle; Jack Scambos; Ellen Russell; Linda Frascarella; Diane Jordan; Paula Marcoux; and Adela Hruby. Who would have thought that co-founders Cody, Scambos, and Russell would still be serving on the board seventeen years later?

Visit us at: www.EllisvilleMarsh.org

Friends of Ellisville Marsh, Inc.

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