

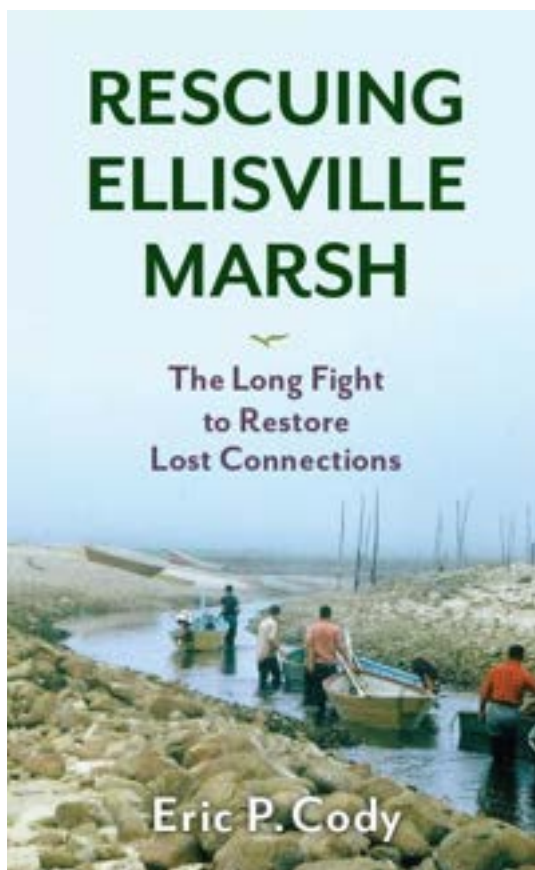


Friends of Ellisville Marsh

Fall 2022 Newsletter

Exciting News!

It's been an amazing journey since our founding in mid-2007, and there's no obvious end in sight. Over the years, many of us have learned a great deal about this special natural place. And about ourselves. As we reported during the Friends' annual meeting in July, this journey is chronicled in Friends' president Eric Cody's soon-to-be-released book, *Rescuing Ellisville Marsh: the Long Fight to Restore Lost Connections* (University of Massachusetts Press, 232 pages). It offers a firsthand look at how your generous support pays forward one of the most successful salt marsh restoration and protection projects in the Commonwealth. Several options for obtaining copies will be available to Friends' members. Details will be provided prior to the book's release date in January. The book can now be pre-ordered online at UMass Press (<https://www.umasspress.com/978...>), Barnes and Noble, Walmart and other booksellers. (Note: on Amazon the price is significantly marked up!)



Available January 27, 2023

This is Our Story

"Cody offers an intimate portrait of this place, its history and people, and the natural life in and around the marsh. The side stories of the community near Ellisville Marsh, the joys of monitoring work on the marsh, and the battles to win permits and keep the inlet open, are compelling."

—Tim Traver,
author of *Sippewissett: Or, Life on a Salt Marsh*

Cover photo by the late Karin Engstrom. All rights reserved.

In Her Own Words: Anna Bishop Reflects on Her Summer Experience

This was Anna Bishop's second summer working as an environmental intern with the Friends. Anna is a 2022 graduate of the University of Maine Orono with a major in Zoology and a Spanish Minor (Honors College). Here's what she had to say about her summer experience:

"It has been marvelous to work with Ellen and the Friends of Ellisville Marsh again to better understand this habitat we all love and cherish. This summer was another rewarding experience in which Ellen continued to share her immense knowledge of this complex ecosystem with me, a privilege that has allowed me to grow as a researcher and scientist. It is a joy to venture into the muddy heart of this dynamic habitat and witness firsthand how the earth and its inhabitants adapt to constant changes. Seeing all my neighbors (human and otherwise) relishing in the safety, beauty, leisure, and sustenance provided by this marsh is enormously rewarding and reaffirms my sense of purpose in this work. I am humbled to thank all of the Friends for entrusting me with this task again. Your dedication to protecting and understanding the state of the marsh is an invaluable investment in this ecosystem's future."



Anna Bishop collecting water quality data in Ellisville Marsh, September 2022. Photo courtesy of Dr. Ellen Russell.

Birds of Ellisville

Did you know that the Ellisville Harbor

Important Bird Area (IBA) counts at least 241 species among its residents and visitors?

Photos courtesy of Diane Jordan (c) 2022.

All rights reserved.

For more stunning photos of Ellisville Marsh, pan through our online photo gallery at:

<https://ellisvillemarsh.org/me...>

Thanks to Nick Frascarella for his help setting this up!



A Green Heron waits patiently for dinner



A Baltimore Oriole pair poses for a portrait

Looming Threat to the Bay?

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) reported in mid-September that data collected by DMF, working with cooperating commercial lobster fishers and the Center for Coastal Studies, indicate that dissolved oxygen (DO) levels were decreasing at some locations in the southern half of Cape Cod Bay. Most recent data show levels near the seabed of <math><4.0\text{ mg/L}</math> in several locations; values less than 4.0 mg/L are considered mildly hypoxic, and values less than 2.0 mg/L are considered severely hypoxic and could result in mortalities of fish and shellfish that are unable to migrate from the low-oxygen areas. What can be done? Take steps to reduce nutrient flows like sewage and lawn fertilizers into the bay. Reduce our carbon footprint to mitigate global warming. Protect sea grasses that convert carbon dioxide to oxygen. Spread the word.



Behind-the-Scenes

What Must Happen Before Year-end

Spring and summer are the most active seasons of the year for the Friends--inlet maintenance in late March (when needed), tax and regulatory filings in April, and environmental monitoring programs from April to September. But we do not get time off in the fall. We must file our annual report with the MA Secretary of State, submit bulk environmental data to regulatory bodies, begin negotiations with our trusted contractor, and proactively request a time-of-year waiver that will enable us to reopen the marsh inlet up until April 1, if necessary. Members of the Friends' board handle these requirements.

Photo courtesy of Judy Quinn. (c) 2022 All rights reserved.

Re-permitting Being Pursued by the Friends and Town of Plymouth

Since the Commonwealth's multi-year project to restore the rock jetty on Ellisville Harbor State Park as part of a plan to stabilize the Ellisville Marsh inlet wound down earlier this year, the Friends have been in discussions with the Town of Plymouth to find a new way forward. The

jetty project, as previous Friends' newsletters have reported, carried a price tag that exceeded \$6 million and construction vehicles would have significantly impacted the delicate barrier beach. Parties to the project generally agreed that the inlet maintenance approach that has been taken by the Friends for the past decade, while not a permanent solution, is by far the lowest cost with the lowest environmental impact. Accordingly, the Friends' board, Town managers, and senior officials from the Commonwealth are brainstorming creative approaches to cover the cost of re-permitting so that inlet maintenance can continue uninterrupted. We hope to have positive news to report soon.

If You Haven't Already – Renew Your Membership or 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

Friends of Ellisville Marsh, Inc.

PO Box 1728, Sagamore Beach
MA 02562 United States

You received this email because you signed up on our website or made a purchase from us.



[Unsubscribe](#)

