

Six Ponds News

July, 2017

(www.sixponds.org)

An Occasional Publication of the Six Ponds Improvement Association, Plymouth Mass.

Traffic Mitigation in the Six Ponds Area

We have re-established our connection with AD Makepeace relative to the plans for traffic mitigation in our neighborhood. We anticipate the Ship Pond Road - Long Pond Road intersection will be constructed this year, and the telephone poles that need to be moved have been staked. The first step is the utility will move the poles, then actual roadway realignment can begin.

We will keep our Six Ponds residents updated via email as we learn more.



Dorie Stolley, picking up roadside trash by bicycle, found way too many nip bottles.

NIP Bottles

“Nip” bottles are littering our Six Ponds roadsides (and everywhere else for that matter). They are one of the most highly littered items in Massachusetts.

State House Representative Randy Hunt of Sandwich has filed a Bill that would add a 5-cent deposit on the sale of “nips.” The Bill will give consumers an incentive to return the empty bottles rather than toss them onto the streets.

If you have an opinion about these bottles littering our landscape let your legislators know.

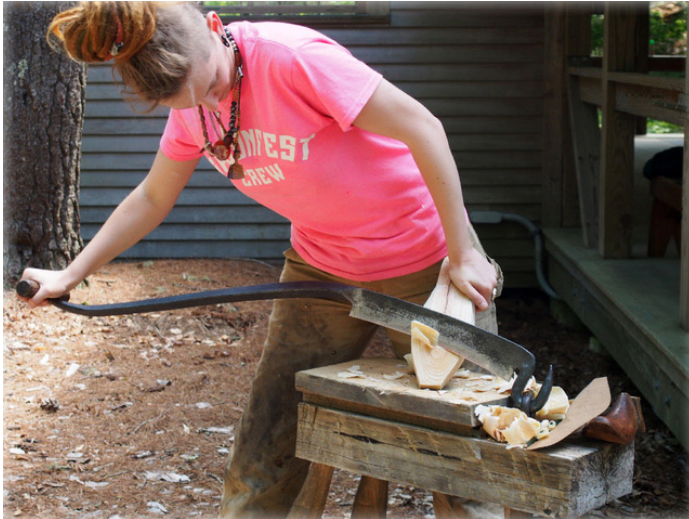
Summer Pond Clean Up

Let us know if you are interested in having a group ‘pond clean up’ effort. Suggestions were made to recruit folks that can use kayaks to go around the perimeter of each pond collecting detritus and trash, and identifying problem areas to address later (bad invasives, trees down, active erosion, wandering pieces of dock, etc.).

If you are interested in doing this (we may have some kayaks), send a note to sixpondspresident@comcast.net and we’ll work to set up a day with you and your pond neighbors to do this!

Greenwood Fest at Pinewoods Dance Camp

If you live on Long Pond you might have been wondering what all the strange noise emanating from Pinewoods Dance Camp in early June was about. Bag pipes and fiddle music you are used to, but frantic chopping and hammering? What's going on?



From June 6-11 140 wood workers from all over the country and abroad gathered here in our neighborhood for the second annual Greenwood Fest. The event is organized by Plymouth CRAFT (Center for Restoration Arts and Forgotten Trades), a wonderful organization that teaches classes in everything that is related to traditional crafts – textile and fiber arts, wood working, culinary arts, wood fired cooking and baking.

I could go on but check out their website <https://www.plymouthcraft.org/>. The pinnacle of the year for Plymouth CRAFT is the six day long Greenwood Fest. Green wood working (using wood that has been recently cut and has not had the opportunity to season) has seen a huge resurgence in recent years and there are two big festivals in Europe related to it. Spoonfest, in England, is entirely dedicated to carving spoons. Täljfest in Sweden takes a somewhat broader approach.

Plymouth CRAFT decided to host a similar event for all those wood crazed people on this side of the Atlantic for the first time last year – and it was a huge success. This year's fest sold out within a day. That's because the list of instructors is jaw-dropping if you are a woodworker.

Jögge Sundqvist from Sweden is the rock star of Scandinavian fine craft tradition. Barn Carder from the UK is a co-founder of Spoonfest and a celebrity in his own right. Jane Mickelborough teaches carving in France and is famed for her decorated hinged spoons from Brittany. From this side of the Atlantic, Peter Follensbee and Dave Fisher drew crowds as well as Roy Underhill whose PBS Show, *The Woodwright's Shop*, is the reason why many picked up a hatchet or chisel in the first place. And that's just a few. All in all 13 instructors demonstrated their skills and shared their knowledge.

Greenwood Fest started off with a 2 day pre-fest that featured classes like Turning Bowls on a Pole Lathe, Sharpening, Carving a Hinged Spoon or Swedish Slöjd Knives. At the Fest proper participants could either watch demonstrations like Hewing, Clogmaking, Turning Handled Cups or take a workshop and focus on one particular skill or topic. The Fest also boasted a Carving Forum, a spoon exhibition, talks, slideshows and a Hootenanny.

It is a fantastic show of talent, a tremendous gathering of wildly different people coming together for a hands-on experience that is unique in this country. And when the rain let off they were even able to enjoy the beautiful surroundings that we call home. If you would like to know more – or sign up next year – go to <https://www.greenwoodfest.org/>.



The Night Sky



In the Six Ponds area, we are truly fortunate that we can see star constellations and planets in our night skies; on truly clear nights we can still see hints of the Milky Way. Because we have the dark ocean to our East and equally dark Myles Standish State Forest directly West, we are one of the few areas in eastern Massachusetts who still have a view of the night sky that is not murky and brown. This is a rarity in the United States and, increasingly, the world. Our muddied night skies confuse and threaten wildlife, and there are studies that indicate a lack of dark skies is negatively affecting human health.

We need to actively protect our night skies.

Plymouth has a DarkSky Bylaw and though it does not apply to residential properties light pollution comes in many forms, and some of this is residential. No one is saying ‘Turn out all the lights,’ but to be stewards of our night sky, we need to monitor our own lighting use.

For optimal night time lighting at our homes:

- Use the least amount of light to accomplish the job.
- Choose shielded lighting fixtures, ones that control the direction of the light. No part of the bulb should be visible, and most of the light should shine down at 70 degrees or less. No light should show above 90 degrees.
- Use flood lights only with motion detectors or timers and aim away from neighboring homes.
- Do not shine flood lights on ponds.
- Avoid ‘blue’ toned lighting which is particularly bad for wildlife; choose warm or full-spectrum lamps.
- Use occupancy and motion sensors, time controls and dimmers wherever possible.
- Turn off lights! No home or property needs to be lit up all night.

Working together we can reduce wasted light, wasted energy, wasted dollars, and work to keep our glorious night skies!

For more information: <http://darksky.org/>

Meet Precinct 12's nine Town Meeting Reps. Precinct 12 includes all of the Six Ponds but Bloody Pond.

You are encouraged to call any one of them on any town issue. Even if it isn't an upcoming Town Meeting article they are all glad to explain Plymouth's form of government or put you in touch with whoever at Town Hall can help with issues you need addressed.

Recently elected in 2017

Cindy Balonis - Clark Road - 508-833-2456

Dorothy Price - Mast Road - 508-224-3441

Lawrence Delafield - Morgan Road, 508-224-7375

Up for reelection in 2018

Ed Russell - Long Pond Rd - 508-224-2007

William Abbott - Herring Way - 508-224-6629

Betsy Hall - West Long Pond Rd - 508-224-2443

Up for reelection in 2019

Liana Patton - Halfway Pond Rd - 508-846-5756

Steve Lydon - Leeward Way - 508-224-4089

Paul Hapgood - Lake View Blvd - 508-759-7354

CYANOBACTERIA TRAINING

If you ever have noticed a pond with a layer of green scum coating its surface or a slick green film resembling a paint spill, you likely have witnessed a Cyanobacteria bloom. Cyanobacteria, sometimes referred to as blue-green algae, are tiny organisms found naturally in aquatic ecosystems and numerous other environments. Typically these organisms are harmless, but under certain conditions cyanobacteria can form a dense mat or bloom that may produce harmful toxins. These blooms and associated toxins pose a significant threat to humans, animals, and the ecosystem. They can cause illnesses, skin irritations, or worse, and can threaten drinking water supplies and recreation.

As cyanobacteria bloom incidences continue to rise, the Department of Environmental Protection in Massachusetts is working to create and improve methods

for bloom prediction, monitoring, and management, and they are recruiting citizen scientists to help. A number of Six Ponds members have attended training in monitoring Cyanobacteria blooms.

If you suspect a bloom of cyanobacteria, BloomWatch is an app you can use. Using the app, you will be able to enter relevant information about the body of water, as well as submit pictures of the bloom. State authorities will review your submittal and if they suspect a Cyanobacteria bloom, they will come investigate.

To learn more:

<https://cyanos.org/>

<https://cyanos.org/bloomwatch/>

Six Ponds Executive Committee 2017-2018

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| President: | Love Albrecht Howard |
| Vice President: | Sam Chapin |
| Treasurer: | Doug Post |
| Secretary: | Dorie Stolley |

**Kirsten Atchison, Peter Briggs, Margi Delafield,
Kate Harvey, Sanford Leslie, Jean Loewenberg,
Susanne Lucas, David Maffini, Judy Savage**

Contributors to this issue:

Kirsten Atchison, Peter Briggs, Love Albrecht
Howard, Doug Post, Ed Russell, Dorie Stolley

Wetlands Restoration along the West Shore of Halfway Pond

You can't get to Halfway Pond without passing through or along the edge of conservation land. The pond is 232 acres. 3 miles of shoreline. 150 bird species. Ospreys and eagles diving for alewives that still swim up the Agawam each spring to spawn. Mink. Weasels. A fox den hidden in the woods nearby. A Brown Creeper nest behind the peeling bark of an old dead Pitch Pine. Otters fishing through holes in the late winter ice, bringing up a fish on every dive and then sprawling to hold the fish in their paws while enjoying a fresh, cold meal.

It's not untouched land of course, but nature has been given some space here and space is very important. The West Shore Preserve abuts 18 thousand acres of publicly owned open space, including Myles Standish State Forest and the Plymouth Town Forest. It's a remarkable assemblage of preserved land.

Mast Road hugs the west shore of the pond. In the winter of 2015 there was extensive damage done to the shoreline during a snow clearing operation. As The Wildlands Trust began detailed planning for wetlands restoration on their land, they realized that working cooperatively with neighboring landowners to restore the entire damaged section made sense. Discussions continue, and seem headed in a positive direction.

The planning phase of this project has taken longer than anticipated. But the high level goals remain unchanged: shoreline restoration and long-term protection of land and water; space for walkers, runners, cyclists, and others; and continued access for fishing and boating. The very good news is that we appear to be on a path that will result in an excellent solution for the ecosystem as well as its users.

JOIN US

Six Ponds is a neighborhood association. To work optimally for our neighborhood, Six Ponds need YOU – our neighbors – to join! The \$20 membership fee gives you regular updates on what is happening in your neighborhood, tips on how to optimally maintain properties in and around our ponds, and items related to Conservation, Planning, Zoning and other Town Departments.

Please. Take out your checkbook and update your membership TODAY :

(cut here)

An invitation to join or renew your membership in the Six Ponds Association 2017

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____

email _____

Dues: \$20/household per year

Mail to: Six Ponds Improvement Association
P.O.Box 1580
Plymouth, MA 02362

I/we wish to add
an additional
contribution of:
\$ _____

Annual Meeting

On Sunday, June 11, Six Ponders convened at Pinewoods Camp for the 2017 Annual Meeting and celebrated our 65th year with dinner, a presentation about Tidmarsh Farms, the Annual Business Meeting and country dancing. It was a great time for catching up with old friends not seen since last year and meeting new ones.

Right here in Plymouth, Tidmarsh Farms is the largest wetlands restoration ever attempted in New England. One of the highlights of the Tidmarsh presentation by Glorianna Davenport was the news that Mass Audubon is 95% to its \$3.6 million goal to acquire 479 acres of cranberry bogs and uplands to establish a new Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary not very far from our Six Ponds neighborhood. The town of Plymouth recently voted to protect an additional 139 acres for a total 618 acres conserved. To conserve this size parcel, right next to the ocean in southeast Massachusetts, one of the areas with the densest population in the state, is nothing short of incredible.

Glorianna explained the ongoing collaboration with the Living Observatory, a non-profit learning initiative that has roots in the MIT Media Lab. Educators, climate scientists, wildlife enthusiasts and people from around the world, will be able to track the dramatic changes happening in the Tidmarsh landscape.



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