

Six Ponds News

July, 2012

(www.sixponds.org)

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

Update on Davis-Douglas Farm

The Wildlands Trust is making progress on plans for the Davis-Douglas Farm on Long Pond Road and Morgan Road. The Trust has hosted some informational Open Houses to allow neighbors and friends to start to get to know the place, and plans more of these events. An architectural firm has been engaged to work on renovations of the main house to convert it into offices for the Trust staff, and to design an “Event Barn” that will be a meeting place for the Trust and be available to other local organizations. The design of the “Event Barn” harkens back to the old barn that used to sit on the stone foundation on the property.

This spring Plymouth Town Meeting voted to contribute \$175,000 of Community Preservation Act funds to the Wildlands Trust for the Davis-Douglas Farm project. This generous donation, however, does not complete the fund-raising necessary for completion of the conversion of the old farm into the new Headquarters of the Wildlands Trust. Fund raising is continuing on both a large and small scale, with every little contribution helping the cause. If you can be a part of preserving the Davis-Douglas Farm and having the Wildlands Trust move its headquarters back near its birthplace, please contact Sam Chapin at sgchapin@comcast.net or visit <http://www.wildlandstrust.org/> and click on “A New Home for the Wildlands Trust”.



The old Davis-Douglas Farm barn in the process of collapsing in the the 1980s.



The new Davis-Douglas “Barn”

Pilgrim Coalition?

The Six Ponds Improvement Association was recently asked to become a member organization of the Pilgrim Coalition. The Pilgrim Coalition is “A network of citizens and organizations dedicated to raising awareness of – and reducing – the significant risks to public safety and the environment arising from the continued operation of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station located in Plymouth, Massachusetts”. A sample of member organizations include: Jones River Watershed Association, Massachusetts Sierra Club, Pilgrim Watch, Clean Water Action, and Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group.

As the Six Ponds executive committee will be discussing the possibility of joining Pilgrim Coalition at future meetings, we would like to hear how you feel about this. Please feel free to forward your comments to info@sixponds.org. You can also learn more about Pilgrim Coalition by visiting their website at www.pilgrimcoalition.org.

Waverly Oaks Update

With the likelihood of a movie studio project at Waverly Oaks all but gone, the owner has turned his attention over the past year to the possibility of developing a residential housing development.

The proposal, which has been presented to the Plymouth planning board, is a cluster style of approximately 2,000 square foot homes that could exceed one-hundred in number and would be situated on a 31 acre parcel of land that abuts Long Pond Road. Access to the

development would also be via Long Pond Road.

Earlier this year the owner notified the Town of Plymouth that he has a buyer for the parcel of land and triggered a 120 day right of first refusal option held by the Town. The Town chose not to exercise its right and the property is now available to be purchased by the interested buyer for development.

We will update you on further developments in future editions of our newsletter.

Neighborhood Clean-up



Many many thanks to all of our Six Ponds neighbors who spent a beautiful sunny Saturday in late May picking up litter from around our ponds, beaches, roadways and conservation lands. The trash bags full of every imaginable kind of trash (and some unimaginable) were piled high to be later picked up by the DPW.

This cleanup initiative, which started right here at Six Ponds many decades ago, has grown into an event involving 54 groups and individuals from all over town that are doing what they can to keep their own neighborhoods clean.

Six Ponds Executive Committee 2011-2012

Joe DeSilva (President)	Roger Monks
Sherm Geller (Vice President)	Les Plimpton
Love Howard (Secretary)	Leighton Price
Doug Post (Treasurer)	Craig Richards
Sam Chapin	Larry Rosenblum
Barry Meltzer	Judy Savage
Walter Morrison	

Contributors to this issue:

Sam Chapin, Joe DeSilva, Love Albrecht Howard, Doug Post, Charlotte Russell

Shining Light on Sunscreens... for us and our ponds

The best sunscreen is a hat and a shirt. No chemicals for the skin to absorb or to wash off in to our ponds, no questions about whether the product works, no bogus claims like "sunblock" or "sweat-proof" or "waterproof." That's why the FDA is phasing out this terminology.

The Environmental Working Group recently released their exhaustive annual review of sunscreens for 2012. They found that only 25% of the 800 sunscreens tested are effective at protecting your skin without using potentially harmful chemicals, ingredients that could be carcinogenic or act as endocrine disruptors.

56% of sunscreens tested contain the chemical oxybenzone. Oxybenzone is linked to hormone disruption and potentially to cell damage that can lead to skin cancer. It also penetrates the skin and enters the bloodstream.

Sadly, oxybenzone may be negatively affecting the ecology of our ponds, too. Oxybenzone is known to trigger outbreaks of viral infection in coral reefs, and it can prompt feminization of male fish. The percentage of hermaphroditic fish is on the rise thanks to hormones and hormone-disrupting chemicals that have become ubiquitous in our waterways.

The EWG also warns consumers to avoid retinyl palmitate. Government-funded studies have found this particular chemical may increase the risk of skin cancer when used on, paradoxically, sun-exposed skin.

Sunscreens with SPF (Sun Protection Factor) greater than 50 offer no additional benefit than lower SPF ratings. Sunscreen with SPF 15 can block about 93% of incoming UVB rays. SPF 30 blocks 97%, and SPF 50 blocks 98%. And 'SPF' only blocks UVB rays, not UVA.

Ironically, though sunscreens do help prevent sunburn, there is still no consensus that the use of sunscreens reduces the incidences of skin cancer, including its deadliest form melanoma.

If you do choose to use sunscreens, look for products that are labeled "broad spectrum" as this means the sunscreen protects against both UVB rays that cause sunburns, and also against UVA radiation that causes premature skin damage and aging.

For more information, check out the 2012 Sunscreen Guide from the Environmental Working Group:

<http://breakingnews.ewg.org/2012sunscreens/>

In case you haven't had a chance yet....

(cut here)

An invitation to join or renew your membership in the Six Ponds Association 2012

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:
\$ _____

Six Ponds Annual Meeting and Pot-Luck Supper

The Six Ponds annual meeting and pot-luck supper will be Saturday, August 25th at 6 PM at the Wind-in-the-Pines Girl Scout Center.

We will have our usual business meeting and elect officers and Executive Committee members.

Families with last names beginning with A thru M should bring a main dish. Those with last names beginning with N thru Z should bring a salad or dessert. Ice water, hot coffee and tea will be provided.

Please note that in accordance with Girl Scout policy alcoholic beverages will be prohibited. We hope to see you there!

