

Roadside Cleanup November 4



September 25, 2023

Six Ponds Water Quality

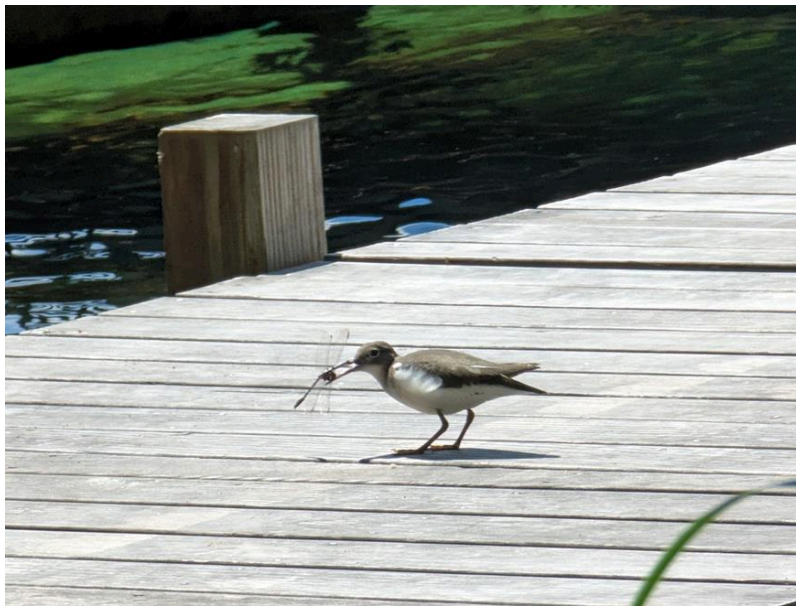
Water quality continues to be a key issue for the Six Ponds area. A recent outbreak of [cyanobacteria](#) in Long Pond is cause for concern and action. The good news is, as of today (9/25), it is no longer present.

Cyanobacteria, also referred to as blue-green algae, are microscopic bacteria that may occur as single cells, threads or as colonies.

Although naturally-occurring, the two most common causes are excessive phosphorous and nitrogen in water bodies, which can result from the nearby use of fertilizers, as well as from human and animal waste. Certain environmental conditions, such as warm weather, sunlight, excess nutrients, and slow-moving waters help the bacteria grow faster. Although not much can be done to eliminate a bloom, many things can be done to prevent blooms. These include proper maintenance of septic systems and storm drains, reducing the use of fertilizers, picking up after pets and not feeding ducks or geese.

What we can do now:

- Refrain from using fertilizers on our lawns. In fact, phosphorous is only needed when starting a new lawn. Choose an organic (or non-chemical) fertilizer, preferably one with no phosphorous.
- Have our septic systems pumped regularly.
- Report suspicious algae blooms to the Town of Plymouth,
attention Kim Tower, Environmental Technician, Department of Marine and Environmental Affairs
(508) 747-1620 x10198 or (508) 322-3368



Spotted Sandpiper with dragon fly. Photo by Bruce Howard.

September Potluck and Speaker Recap

This year's fall gathering was highlighted by guest speaker, Walter "Robby" Robinson, who is a key adviser to [The Plymouth Independent \(PI\)](#), Plymouth's new on-line newspaper. Robby is best known as the Boston Globe Spotlight Editor whose team received a Pulitzer for exposing the Catholic Church abuse scandal.

Robby reflected on “ghost papers” that have very little local content of value due to the internet robbing traditional newspapers of advertising revenue thus creating newspaper closures that, in turn, caused a nationwide news wasteland. The business model adopted by *PI* and many of the already successful independent news sources, is akin to NPR (nonprofit, free and virtual) which is supported by contributions, grants and sponsorships.

Mark Pothier, a Plymouth resident and until recently a senior editor at the Boston Globe, has just joined *PI* as the Editor-in-Chief and CEO. Robby pointed out that the *PI* founders have raised over \$220,000 but financial support will continue to be needed. “We have seen what a news desert looks like” said Robby, so we encourage support of [*The Plymouth Independent*](#).

Robby and his wife, Barbara Wojtklewicz, were great guests, helping us to clean up and close the Barn. We thank them for spending their evening with us. -- *Hampton Watkins and Ed Russell*



Guest Speaker Robby Robinson. Photo by Hampton Watkins

A Sense of Place

Pinewoods Camp, located between Long Pond and Round Pond, is home to many beautiful and unique species. Each year, campers conduct a week-long biodiversity study which showcases the amazing variety of flora and fauna in our neighborhood. Click [here](#) to see some of the mushrooms, mosses, trees and birds discovered by Pinewoods campers this past June. We are so fortunate to live in such a biodiverse region!

bi·o·di·ver·si·ty /,bīō,dīvərsədē/ *noun* 1.the variety of life in the world or in a particular habitat or ecosystem.



Luna moth, *Actias luna*. Photo by Kathie Brown of Pinewoods Camp

SAVE THE DATE- Saturday, November 4 - Clean Up Day

It's the annual neighborhood clean up day! Come one and all and pick up your free purple bag and fill it with roadside trash. It's a Six Ponds tradition!



Firewise Community Status

Please help the Six Ponds maintain our status with the nationally recognized [Firewise program](#)! No doubt you have done yard/woods cleanup to clear tree limbs, prune back excessive undergrowth, cleaned your house gutters, collected firewood on your property. Well, in doing so, you have cataloged hours of work that helps our Six Ponds maintain our designation as a Firewise Community! **Simply fill out the Worksheet** (as many as necessary) and send it to [Hampton hampton@alum.mit.edu](mailto:Hampton@alum.mit.edu), so we can meet the **November 17th deadline!** **PLEASE NOTE:** If you paid a contractor to do the work, great! That still counts and helps us to keep our wooded areas less vulnerable to wildfire. Thank you.

The Six Ponds was honored to be an Event Sponsor of the [Wildland Trust's](#) 50th Anniversary celebration on September 23, which attracted a large crowd on a wonderful rainy day at the Wildlands Trust headquarters on Long Pond Road. We wish the Trust another successful 50 years of protecting land in our region.



Six Ponds President Hampton Watkins with Six Ponds Newsletter Editor Susanne Lucas at the Wildlands Trust celebration.

2023 Six Ponds Executive Committee

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