

February-March 2024



Pinewoods Camp Zoom Series

Don't miss this free lecture series "The Six Ponds Region- Past, Present, and Future". Tuesdays at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

February 27- Rooted in Resilience, the Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe

March 26 - The Ninth Great Lot and the Six Ponds

April 23 - The Biodiversity and Conservation of the Six Ponds

More information and registration links [here](#)



Six Ponds Water Quality Update

In September 2023 a team of Six Ponders collected water samples from each of our ponds. Since 2014, the Town of Plymouth's Ponds and Lakes Stewardship Program (PALS) has provided

an umbrella under which our water quality data is managed. All Six Ponds water quality data is now collected under this protocol.

Analysis of our water quality examines differences in results among our six ponds. The three things which have characterized differences among the ponds are the concentrations of phosphorus, nitrogen, and salts, and the chemical components of salts.

In addition to describing some of the main results for 2023, the summary linked below comments on similarities and differences between these results and those obtained between 2002 and 2022. Earlier summaries were written in 2011 and 2016, and these may be found on the water quality website that can be accessed from www.sixponds.org.

It appears that ending cranberry production on the Halfway Pond bogs has resulted in improvements in water quality in that pond. Little Long Pond continues to show some issues, some of which appear in Long Pond as well. Ponds with the most direct stormwater runoff from roadways continue to be impacted. In addition, the use of fertilizers and the presence of septic systems near our ponds, impact water quality, and Six Ponds urges people to attempt to minimize their negative impacts on our ponds.

[Read the latest water testing results summary here.](#)

What we can do?

- Stop using lawn fertilizers. 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 algae blooms to Kim Tower, Environmental Technician, Town of Plymouth Dept. of Marine & Environmental Affairs (508) 747-1620 x10198 or (508) 322-3368



Firewise USA

Six Ponds has been participating in this national education program and encourages you to help our neighborhood maintain our [Firewise recognition](#). On Clark Road a sign designates our neighborhood as being a **Firewise Community**, thanks to our efforts to keep our neighbors aware of the risks of wildfire. Six Ponds has hosted [Alex Belote](#) - the Fire Program Coordinator for the Mass Dept of Conservation and Recreation - at our neighborhood potluck dinners, as well as scheduling site inspections and holding "work parties" for residents to minimize excessive vegetation and flammable debris on their property.

We recognize that fire is an inherent part of our coastal pine barren ecosystem, so it is important to be aware and alert of the dangers of potential wildfire. Remember, there are no fire hydrants in our community! As frightening as this is, the first step to prevention is awareness of the risk.

What are the primary threats to homes during a wildfire?

Research around home destruction vs. home survival in wildfires point to embers and small flames as the main way that the majority of homes ignite in wildfires. Embers are burning pieces of airborne wood and/or vegetation that can be carried more than a mile through the wind and can cause spot fires and ignite homes, debris and other objects.

There are methods for homeowners to prepare their houses to withstand ember attacks and minimize the likelihood of flames or surface fire touching the home or any attachments. Experiments, models and post-fire studies have shown homes ignite due to the condition of the home and everything around it, up to 200' from the foundation. [Here's a brief video](#) on how to make your home and property safe.

Many of us are naturalists and prefer to "let the woods be", leaving dead trees standing for woodpeckers, downed logs for wildlife habitat and brush piles for all kinds of critters. However, keep in mind, within 200' from a structure these are also combustible (fuel for fire) and pose a risk. Again, simply be aware.

If you are interested in knowing more about what you can do to minimize the risk around your home, you can schedule a visit with [Alex](#) to assess your property. If interested, [please send him an email](#). Remember to mention that you live in the Six Ponds community of Plymouth.

On [our website](#), you can find some videos that tell more about the wildfire risks we all live with in our wooded community. An additional threat has been posed by the death of trees in our region

due to the [Southern Pine Beetle](#) and [Beech Leaf disease](#).

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](#). 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!

Mark your calendars

The annual spring cleanup will be held on *two* dates - **Friday & Saturday, May 17 & 18**- for added convenience and participation. Please help keep our Six Ponds roadsides clean. No need to sign up! Just pick your date and show up at the Clark Rd./Long Pond Rd. intersection and pick up your purple bags. Details to follow in May. Thank you!

TWO DAYS!
MAY 17 & 18
Rain or Shine!

2024
**PLYMOUTH
 HOMETOWN**

Cleanup

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Join an existing group, create your own, or go out solo to help clean up a neighborhood, park, or roadway that needs some attention.

- ✔ Sign up online at tinyurl.com/CleanUpPlymouth or visit Town Hall
- ✔ Pick up the required PURPLE BAGS at Town Hall
- ✔ Participate in the Plymouth Hometown Cleanup on May 17th and/or 18th
- ✔ Leave filled purple bags at your indicated drop location
- ✔ DPW will pick up bags from drop locations

QUESTIONS?
 CONTACT PATRICK FARAH (TOWN HALL)
 PFARAH@PLYMOUTH-MA.GOV
 (508) 322-3374

Sign up online!
 Scan QR code or visit
tinyurl.com/CleanUpPlymouth




Get Involved!

Are you interested in the care and preservation of our rural roads? The newly formed **Six Ponds Roads Committee** seeks new members. Many of our roads were foot paths prior to 1620, cart paths

for centuries, and are still ideal roadways. In other words, they are ancient ways.

Mast Road, Bloody Pond Road, Morgan Road, Herring Way, West Long Pond Road, Gallows Pond Road, and Cornish Field Road are all private roads with more or less public use. Part of the charm of the neighborhood is in our old roads and we need to be proactive to preserve them.

Please contact Six Ponds Board President Hampton Watkins at 617-510-4656 or hampton.watkins@gmail.com for more information. We welcome your participation.

2024 Six Ponds Executive Committee

PRESIDENT [Hampton Watkins](#) / Round Pond, Tel. 617-510-4656

VICE PRESIDENT [Ed Russell](#) / Long Pond, Tel. 508-224-2007

TREASURER [Sanford Leslie](#) / Round Pond SECRETARY Lois Post / Long Pond

[Al Baum](#) / Little Long Pond . [Peggy Briggs](#) / Halfway Pond. [Caroline Chapin](#) / Long Pond.

[Debbie D'Isabel](#) / Little Long Pond and Plymouth Estates . [Meg Harding](#) / Gallows Pond & Long Pond

[Larry Rosenblum](#) / Round Pond . [Kathy Marks](#) / Bloody Pond. [Leighton Price](#) / Halfway Pond



Winter on Bloody Pond- photo by Susanne Lucas



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