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## Winter Events and February ENews

1 message

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**Six Ponds** <info@worldbamboo.net>  
Reply-To: info@worldbamboo.net  
To: "susannelucas@gmail.com" <susannelucas@gmail.com>

Sun, Feb 1, 2026 at 7:00 AM

Chili Potluck a great success!

No images? [Click here](#)



February 1, 2026

# SIX PONDS SCRAMBLE DINNER



**SIGN UP by Feb 15** to share a meal with a small group of Six Ponders in someone's home. The Six Ponds Activity Committee will create groups of 6-7 people and let you know with whom you will be sharing a meal. From there it is up to your group to select a date, plan the menu, and get together.

SCAN TO REGISTER



Questions? Email  
[sixpondsactivities@gmail.com](mailto:sixpondsactivities@gmail.com)

## [Six Ponds Scramble Dinner](#)

Interested in getting to know your neighbors better? Join us for the **Six Ponds Scramble Dinner** - [sign up](#) to share a meal with a small group of Six Ponders in someone's home. We will do our best to create diverse groups and maximize the opportunity to get to know new people. From there it is up to

your group to select a date, plan the menu and get together. The general expectation is to have your event by the end of March.

**Here is how it works:**

1. Sign up by Feb 15th. Please indicate if you are willing to host the dinner.
2. The Six Ponds Activities committees will create small groups of 6-8 people and let you know who you will be sharing a meal with by Feb 22nd.
3. The host will work with the group to find a suitable date for your small group.
4. The host will provide an entree, and coordinate with the other guests to bring sides, dessert, or beverages.



*Happy Valentine's Day from the Six Ponds. Photo by K. Warren*

**Chili Cook-off and Stories was a great success**

Over 45 neighbors shared a fun evening on January 24 at the Wildlands Trust barn, sharing 9 different chili dishes, with complete accoutrements and an array of desserts. This yummy extravaganza was followed by short storytelling by 6 neighbors who told of learning experiences and intrigue found around the ponds.

The winners of the chili competition were Margi Delafield's vegetarian chili and Judy Savage's turkey version. Congratulations to the chefs!

**Enjoy Margi Delafield's vegetarian chili recipe:**

# Easy Weeknight Chili

Serves 6 generously, Time: 45-60 min

2 T oil                      2 onions, chopped fine  
2 red peppers, ½" pieces      salt and pepper  
4 garlic cloves, minced              1 T chili powder  
1 ½" t cumin                      ½ T coriander

1 **teaspoon** minced, chipotle Chile in adobo sauce  
2 cans kidney beans, rinsed  
1 28oz can whole peeled tomatoes, coarsely chopped  
1 15oz can tomato sauce  
(12 oz veggie protein crumbles in small pieces, optional)  
1 cup vegetable broth

1 medium zucchini, ½" pieces  
1 medium yellow summer squash, ½" pieces

1. Heat oil in Dutch oven over med-high heat until V shimmering. Add onions, peppers and 1teaspoon salt. Cook until vegetables are soften and lightly browned, 6-8 minutes. Stir in Garlic, chili powder, cumin coriander, chipotle and ½ teaspoon pepper. Cook about 30 seconds.

2. Stir in beans, tomatoes, tomato sauce, (protein crumbles), broth, zucchini and squash. Bring to. Boil. Reduce heat to low and simmer until squash is tender and chili is slightly thickened, 35-40 minutes. Season with salt and pepper.

NOTES: The flavors always bloom over night.  
We like things spicy and add extra spices.  
Muir Glen tomatoes work well.

Condiments: Feta, avocado, minced cilantro, sour cream.

Source: America's Test Kitchen, Everyday Vegetarian



The array of chili warm and ready for the Six Ponds Chili Cookoff and Story-telling on January 24. Pic by Sarah Geer.



Thank you to the Six Ponds storytellers on January 24th. Peggy Conant, Meg Chapin, Anna Chapin, Ed Russell, Jody Schechter, and Chris Jacobs! The stories were wonderful. Special thanks to emcee Sarah Geer and the Activities Committee for coordinating the event. Photo by Caroline Chapin

## **Proposed changes to our State Hunting Laws; Request for public feedback**

**MassWildlife** is gathering public input on Sunday hunting, hunting with crossbows, and setback limits for hunting. If you have feelings about these issues, please use the form [here](#) to submit your feedback by 5 p.m. on February 6, 2026.

**Background:** Regulated hunting is an important tool for managing wildlife populations, connecting people with nature, and providing food for thousands of families across Massachusetts. While MassWildlife has been working to

improve access and opportunity for hunting, there are several statutes which would require legislative action to change, including Sunday hunting, hunting with crossbows, and minimum discharge setback distances for hunting.

[For more information, please see here on the MassWildlife website.](#)

## **SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE**

Reported by Love Albrecht Howard

On a clear, crisp morning in January, Six Ponds Vice President Bruce Howard and I went to the Mashpee Pine Barrens to join a MassWildlife team for a tour to see current Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) infestations in Pitch Pines.

Though native to the Eastern U.S., SPB are recent arrivals to New England. Warmer winter temperatures and lengthening growing seasons due to our climate crisis have allowed the beetle to expand its range from the Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic regions. No larger than a grain of rice, the Southern Pine Beetle is a killer of mature trees – for the past ten years the beetle has caused widespread tree deaths across the Pine Barrens of New York, as well as in the New Jersey Pine Barrens for the last twenty years.

Their favorite host tree is our beloved Pitch Pine (*Pinus rigida*). Several spotty populations that made it to Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard exploded in 2023. Mass Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has been monitoring Myles Standish State Forest for the SPB since 2015. It is only a matter of time before we have the SPB here in Plymouth.

Unfortunately, when the SPB attacks in large numbers, they overwhelm a tree's defenses and can kill a mature tree in three months. The infection begins with a female beetle boring into the trunk of a Pitch Pine. One beetle would stand little chance against a healthy tree, however, SPBs can sense stress in trees and are drawn to attack the most vulnerable. The strength of the beetles lies in their ability to communicate and congregate using pheromones to attract reinforcements. Once a female has found a tree to target, she bores into the trunk and releases pheromones that call others to join the attack. As females create galleries within the tree's living tissue, they also inoculate the tree with fungi that will speed its demise as well as provide food for their offspring. At this point, death of the tree is imminent.

Our forests here have suffered several traumatic outbreaks the past several decades. The massive deaths of plantation planted Red Pines (*Pinus resinosa*) was about 20 years ago. Beech Bark Disease struck our glorious American Beeches (*Fagus grandifolia*) 10+ years ago, and about 5 years ago our Beeches were again infected, this time with the deadly Beech Leaf Disease.

The current management protocol for Southern Pine Beetle involves identifying infected trees and removing the infected tree and all susceptible trees within a 100' radius. Forest thinning and firebreak construction is being adapted to include removal of infested trees and creating a buffer to suppress the spread of SPB. This is a dramatic solution, very expensive on larger tracts of land, and only slows the infestations. It is not a cure.

Several state and local agencies are on this, including MassWildlife, DCR, Nantucket Conservation Foundation (NCF), Mass Audubon, the Massachusetts Army National Guard, the National Park Service, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. As we receive more information we will share updates. MassWildlife assures us that this is not all bad news. The arrival of SPB is shining a light on the health of one our most important ecosystems. Pine Barrens have long been neglected and their health has degraded. This crisis presents an opportunity to demand long overdue action. This threat might be the catalyst needed to restore one of our most treasured landscapes.



*Southern Pine Beetle – actual size, about the same a grain of rice:*



*Southern Pine Beetle damage in the New Jersey Pine Barrens*



*Infected Pitch Pines, Mashpee, MA.*

### **BUT THERE IS HOPE; it is too early to despair!**

**This study shows there are predators on southern pine beetle (SPB) population dynamics, such as the clerid beetle (*Thanasimus dubius*).** There is evidence that suggests that predators and other natural enemies generate significant Southern Pine Beetle mortality that contributes to collapse of the SPB population. The predators that seem most likely to significantly feed upon SPB are the clerid beetle, the *dolichopodid fly* (*Medetera bistrata*), and **several woodpecker species**. It is recommended that trees killed by SPB be left standing intact because these often contain immature clerid beetles for one to two years after the SPB attack, and also provide foraging and nesting opportunities for woodpeckers. Current research is exploring methods for mass-rearing the clerid beetle using an artificial diet, for potential use as a control tactic.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**February 7 / 2:30-6:30pm** - Winterfest at North River Wildlife Sanctuary, Marshfield.

February 8 / 4pm - **Six Ponds Board of Directors Meeting at the Barbour residence, 125 Halfway Pond Rd. All are welcome.\***

**February 15** - Deadline for **Six Ponds Scramble Dinner [sign up CLICK HERE](#)**

**March** - throughout the month: [Six Ponds Scramble Dinner](#)

**March 8 / 4pm** - Six Ponds Board of Directors Meeting at the Carchedi residence, [16 Cornish Field Rd.](#) All are welcome.\*

**March 25 / 7pm** - Precinct 16 Caucus at Plymouth South Middle School Auditorium  
[488 Long Pond Rd.](#) This meeting will be a hybrid meeting with Zoom invitation to be posted in March.

Agenda: Welcome & Introduction of Members & Guests/ Approval of Fall Caucus Notes / Discussion/ Proposed Town Meeting Warrants / Schedule for presentations at our March 31st Caucus Meeting / Discussion/ Issues affecting Precinct 16 / Old Business / New Business / Public Comment / Adjourn .

**March 31 / 7pm** - Precinct 16 Caucus at Plymouth South Middle School Auditorium  
[488 Long Pond Rd.](#) This meeting will be a hybrid meeting with Zoom invitation to be posted in March. Agenda: Welcome & Introduction of Members & Guests Approval of First Spring Caucus Notes / Update Town meeting proposed Warrants / Warrant Presentations / Schedule for discussions and presentations at our next, April 7th Caucus Meeting/ Discussion/ Issues affecting Precinct 16 / Old Business / New Business / Public Comment/ Adjourn.

**April 7 / 7pm** - Final Precinct 16 Caucus at Plymouth South Middle School Auditorium, [488 Long Pond Rd.](#) This last meeting will be cancelled if felt the process has been completed in the first 2 meetings. This meeting will be a hybrid meeting with Zoom invitation to be posted in March. Agenda: Welcome & Introduction of Members & Guests / Approval of March 31st

Caucus Notes / Presentation & Discussion of Spring Town Meeting Warrants / Discussion/ Issues affecting Precinct 16 / Old Business / New Business / Public Comment / Adjourn.

**April 11/ 8am - Town Meeting.** Click [here](#) for more info.

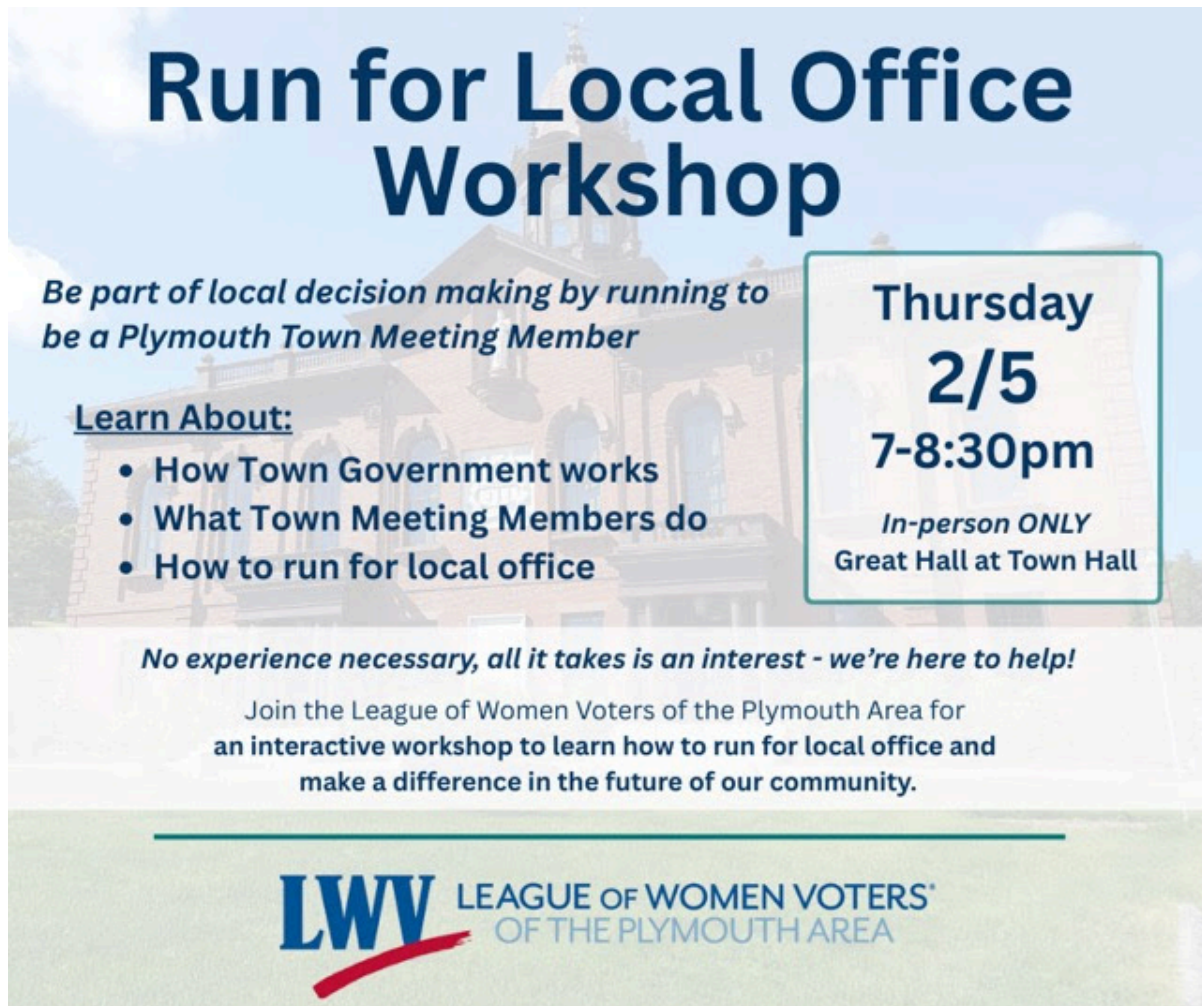
\*Members are welcome to attend the monthly Board of Directors meetings. Call President Bill Abbott for more details, 508-224-6629.

Please use this login info for Six Ponds Board of Directors meetings.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85468293506?pwd=PSNtVRaeETrZ4gN0PfdMPo7F0Ynl4.1>

Meeting ID: 854 6829 3506

Passcode: 617781

A promotional poster for a 'Run for Local Office Workshop'. The background features a large, ornate building, likely the Plymouth Town Hall, under a blue sky with light clouds. The text is arranged in a clear, organized manner. At the top, the title 'Run for Local Office Workshop' is written in a large, bold, dark blue font. Below the title, a subtitle reads 'Be part of local decision making by running to be a Plymouth Town Meeting Member'. To the left, under the heading 'Learn About:', there is a bulleted list of three topics: 'How Town Government works', 'What Town Meeting Members do', and 'How to run for local office'. To the right, a white box with a green border contains the date and time: 'Thursday 2/5 7-8:30pm', followed by the text 'In-person ONLY' and 'Great Hall at Town Hall'. At the bottom of the poster, a white banner contains the text 'No experience necessary, all it takes is an interest - we're here to help!' and 'Join the League of Women Voters of the Plymouth Area for an interactive workshop to learn how to run for local office and make a difference in the future of our community.' The logo for the League of Women Voters of the Plymouth Area (LWV) is at the bottom, featuring the letters 'LWV' in a bold, blue font with a red swoosh underneath, followed by the text 'LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE PLYMOUTH AREA' in a smaller, blue font.

# Run for Local Office Workshop

*Be part of local decision making by running to be a Plymouth Town Meeting Member*

**Learn About:**

- How Town Government works
- What Town Meeting Members do
- How to run for local office

**Thursday  
2/5  
7-8:30pm**

*In-person ONLY*  
Great Hall at Town Hall

*No experience necessary, all it takes is an interest - we're here to help!*

Join the League of Women Voters of the Plymouth Area for an interactive workshop to learn how to run for local office and make a difference in the future of our community.

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE PLYMOUTH AREA

2025 -2026 Six Ponds Board of Directors

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Six Ponds Improvement Association

Thank you for supporting the Six Ponds Improvement Association.

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