THE IPA NEWSLETTER

Mystic Lake, Middle Pond, and Hamblin Pond in Marstons Mills, MA

Spring 2025 **A quarterly publication of the Indian Ponds Association, Inc.** **Vol. 25 No. 2**

IPA ANNUAL MEETING

The 67th annual meeting of the Indian Ponds Asssociation will be held Sunday July 20 at the Barnstable Land Trust's Michael R. Kramer Center at Fuller Farm on Route 149 from 4 to 6 pm.

The business meeting beginning at 4 pm will include approval of the previous year's minutes and the current treasurer's report, presentation of scholarship awards, election of Directors, and brief report by the president. Guest speakers will be Daniel Santos, Director, and Amber Unrah, Senior Project Manager – Special Projects, both from the Town's Department of Public Works. Santos will address future requirements for homeowners to upgrade their private septic systems, and Unrah will speak about the Mystic Lake alum treatment. A social hour will conclude the meeting.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

A self-interest guide to supporting the IPA

Cape locals and visitors alike are pleasantly astonished at their first encounter with our three Indian Ponds. "I had no idea this area existed!", one long-time Cape Codder remarked to me recently. "This is Cape Cod's best-kept secret!" Our pristine natural environment and fragile ecological systems, alas, do not simply co-exist with modern human settlement. The perennial cadence of life in and around the Indian Ponds survives only with active preservation and protection efforts. Since 1958, the Indian Ponds Association has relentlessly focused on doing just that.

So, why should you support the IPA's continuing work? What's in it for you? Well, your modest $25 per household annual dues underpins a number of important facts.

IN THIS ISSUE

Your lifestyle. As IPA president Barry Schwartz wrote in the winter 2025 newsletter: "People who live anywhere near our ponds remark how beautiful they are, and how happy they are to be close enough to enjoy them. Many people swim, kayak, canoe, fish or just sit and watch the wildlife." Idyllic at any time of year, in summer the ponds really come into their own as a lifestyle attraction, with many a family vacation anchored in or around the clean and gentle pond waters. Even bald eagles want to be here!

Your property value. The health and vibrancy of our ponds enhances the desirability of our area, underpinning property values for homeowners on and off the water.

The tax base, which flows directly back to our area in municipal support. Think that's just puff? Consider the IPA's intensive lobbying of Town councilors and managers, which saw approximately $270,000 allocated to the recent alum treatment for Mystic Lake. Over a two-year campaign, the IPA convinced Town officials that a 'stitch in time' treatment would stave off disaster, thereby escalating the priority for Mystic Lake over others that officials had deemed in greater immediate threat of algal blooms.

Cape Cod's vital blue economy. The clean water-driven ecosystem on which Cape Cod survives and thrives hinges on responsible use, conservation and regeneration of our waterways. From drinking water to coastal ecosystems, the desirability of Cape Cod as a place to live, work, play, build a business, raise a family, or visit hinges on clean, accessible water.

Given the above (and it's not an exhaustive list), why wouldn't you support the IPA?

Find out more about becoming a member at the IPA website (https://www/indianponds.org/) and join us on the ponds!

Maggie Fearn

IPA, Inc., PO Box 383
Marstons Mills, MA 02648

https://www/indianponds.org/
info@indianponds.org

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Spring brings new life to the lakes and ponds on the Cape. The Indian Ponds continue to thrive thanks to a regular cohort of advocates like members of the Indian Ponds Association.

The advocacy efforts with the Town of Barnstable led to funding of last December's alum treatment of Mystic Lake to mitigate the excess phosphorus responsible for the production of cyanobacteria, a long-standing problem with many of the lakes and ponds on the Cape. Fortunately, our lakes show improvement, but our efforts need to continue. While the Town of Barnstable is beginning to install additional sewage lines in some areas, most homes in Marstons Mills near our ponds are not included in the sewer expansion, which means that the Indian Ponds will not benefit from this. For that reason, it is vitally important that homeowners have their septic systems cleaned out on a regular basis (perhaps every two years for most homes). When issues are detected, it is vital to address them quickly!

The Sandwich Fish Hatchery (located on Route 6A in Sandwich and operated by Mass-Wildlife's Division of Fisheries and Wildlife) stocked a variety of trout in Hamblin Pond in April. Volunteers from the IPA were on hand to observe this event. The fish hatchery is open to visitors at certain times of the year, and it is very interesting to see the various species of trout that are bred by size until they are ready to be used to stock our lakes and ponds. The various hatcheries throughout the state stock 450 lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams throughout 264 towns in Massachusetts.

Our IPA annual meeting will be held again at the Michael Kramer Center (formerly known as Fuller Farm) on Sunday July 20. This year we have invited Danial Santos and Amber Unruh from the Town's Department of Public Works as speakers. The time for the annual meeting will be 4–6 pm, with 30 minutes for socializing before and after the meeting. This is a great way to meet your neighbors!

At our last Board of Directors meeting, we welcomed a returning Director—Maggie Fearn—who previously served on the Board for the maximum of six consecutive years (2015–2021) and has been a regular volunteer at our annual meetings. Our Board meetings are "zoomed", so if you have an interest in becoming involved with the Board, please contact me at 508-264-1587 or bjoymm@comcast.net. We are still short one Director and are always in need of "new blood".

Barry Schwartz

REMINDER TO PAY YOUR DUES

If you haven't already done so, please take the time now to renew your membership in the IPA; or if you are not a member, please take this opportunity to join. A remittance envelope for this purpose was included in the winter issue of this newsletter, but you can also join or pay dues and contributions by logging onto our website (https://www.indianponds.org/) and clicking "MEMBERSHIP" at the top of the homepage where you will find instructions for joining, paying dues, and so on. Your membership and financial contributions are vital for the important work of this organization.

TO VIEW THIS NEWSLETTER IN FULL COLOR, GO TO THE IPA WEBSITE: www.indianponds.org

INDIAN PONDS ASSOCIATION AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

The Indian Ponds Association offers two scholarships. This year, applications were received from six quality students and were reviewed by the IPA Scholarship Committee comprised of Marty Roberts, Kelly Barber, David Gorrill, and Tom Odjakjian (chair). Winners were selected on the basis of their interest in environmental science, academic achievements, extracurricular activities, and community service. Two outstanding students were chosen to receive a scholarship: **Matthew Desruisseaux** from Cotuit and **William Penni** from Barnstable Village. Certificates and checks for $1,500 will be presented to each at the IPA's annual meeting on July 20. The Edward Schwarm Memorial Scholarship will be presented to Matt, a senior at Pope John Paul II High School, who plans to attend the University of Maine at Orono, while Will, a senior at Barnstable High School, earned the Emory and Geri Anderson Scholarship and will matriculate at UConn. Both Matt and Will earned high praise from their Environmental Science teachers. We thank the generous donors who have contributed to the scholarship fund.

Matthew Desruisseaux

At JPII, Matthew was a member of the National Honor Society, a member of the ice hockey team, volunteered with the Family Table Collaborative, and served as a leader of the Campus Ministry and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Matt is an avid outdoorsman who has enjoyed fishing in all three Indian Ponds. Having seen cyanobacteria first-hand at Lovell's Pond has been a motivation for him to protect the environment. He plans to study wildlife ecology and become a state or federal conservation officer in New England.

William Penni

At BHS, Will was a member of the National Honor Society, class treasurer, served on the Youth Climate Leadership Committee, and performed with the Jazz and Symphonic bands. He has a passion for the outdoors and has treasured his time at Mystic Lake, visiting his grandmother at her home nearby. He was an intern with the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce's Blue Economy Foundation and learned about cyanobacteria blooms from the APCC. Motivated to be in the environmental justice field, he would like to return to the Cape to combat improper and unsustainable land development and protect at-risk species.

IPA scholarships

The **Edward Schwarm Memorial Scholarship** was established in 2005 in memory of Edward Schwarm, a former IPA Director and officer who died in May 2005. The first scholarship was awarded in 2006. Joining the Board of Directors in 2000, Ed served as clerk and treasurer at different times, but more importantly played key roles in the Town's purchase of the former Danforth property, which includes the Cape Cod Airfield, in developing and agreeing on a management plan for the operation of the Middle Pond herring run with the MA Division of Marine Fisheries and the Town's Division of Natural Resources, and in securing a grant for repairing the run. In short, he exemplified dedicated service to the IPA, the community at large, and to the welfare of the Indian Ponds.

The **Emory and Geri Anderson Scholarship** was established in 2022 and was first awarded in 2024. Emory and Geri spent decades working on educating pond residents about the science behind the water quality of our three ponds. In 2001, Emory led the effort to stop the proposed lowering of the level of the Middle Pond herring run. Geri launched the IPA newsletter that same year and served as its editor until 2012. Emory served on the IPA Board for 12 years and as president for 10 of those years. Emory and Geri were active advocates and participants in many pond projects including the three-year collaborative study of the three Indian Ponds with the Cape Cod Commission and the Town of Barnstable, the first alum treatment in Mystic Lake, and removal of the invasive species purple loosestrife and gray willow. Emory has authored numerous letters and testified at hearings with the Town Council and Conservation Commission regarding both the need for an alum treatment on Mystic Lake and the IPA's concerns over the dangers of helical piles as a foundation for temporary docks. In 2018, Emory assumed the responsibility of testing Mystic Lake and Middle Pond for clarity, temperature, and dissolved oxygen. This testing is done every two weeks from May to October and will continue, in Emory's words, "As long as I am able." These data are critical to understanding current conditions of the ponds and highlights any significant changes in those conditions.

The important contributions by both Edward Schwarm and the Andersons to the mission of the Indian Ponds Association and dedication to the health of our three ponds have benefited all who live around the lakes. These scholarships serve to remind new generations that problems, no matter how difficult and daunting, can be solved in a cooperative, meaningful way. May the recipients of these awards live their lives as impactful as those of Edward Schwarm and Emory and Geri Anderson.

Tom Odjakjian

List of IPA scholarship recipients

Year	Name	High School	Scholarship
2025	William Penni	BHS	Anderson
2025	Matthew Desruisseaux	PJPII	Schwarm
2024	Carter Hickey	BHS	Anderson
2024	Hailey Fink	BHS	Schwarm
2023	Ryan Christiansen	BHS	Schwarm
2022	Nina Barrette	CC Tech	Schwarm
2021	Audrey Sawyer	BHS	Schwarm
2021	Michael Veres	Sturgis Charter	Schwarm
2020	Summer Stagman	BHS	Schwarm
2020	Ethan Weiter	BHS	Schwarm
2019	Christopher Bresnahan	PJPII	Schwarm
2019	Julia Wiseman	BHS	Schwarm
2018	Sophie Gibson	Sturgis Charter	Schwarm
2017	Mark Agostinelli	Sturgis Charter	Schwarm
2016	Matthew Catanzariti	BHS	Schwarm
2015	Ethan McPherson	Sturgis Charter	Schwarm
2014	Jack Reilly	BHS	Schwarm
2013	Jeffrey Clark	BHS	Schwarm
2013	Sara Pipe-Mazo	BHS	Schwarm
2012	Amanda Kennedy	BHS	Schwarm
2012	Carolyn Morin	BHS	Schwarm
2011	Jamie Neelon	BHS	Schwarm
2011	Sam Wollak	BHS	Schwarm
2010	Nicholas Atcheson	BHS	Schwarm
2009	Ariel Walcott	BHS	Schwarm
2008	Robyn Pitera	BHS	Schwarm
2008	Rebecca Cabral	BHS	Schwarm
2007	Terri Anne Guarino	BHS	Schwarm
2007	Katherine Patellos	BHS	Schwarm
2006	Michael Crowley	BHS	Schwarm

DAPHNIA IN THE INDIAN PONDS

Zooplankton are tiny aquatic animals (or the eggs and larvae of larger ones) that drift with water currents or weakly "swim" in some fashion. They and the phytoplankton (microalgae) together create a living soup that provides the foundation of all aquatic food chains, both freshwater and marine. One of the most important zooplankton species in the Indian Ponds is *Daphnia*. It is called a "water flea" because its hopping, leaping, somersaulting locomotion resembles that of a flea, but it is actually a planktonic crustacean of the class Branchiopoda, order Cladocera, family Daphniidae, and genus *Daphnia*.

Daphnia pulex

Although most *Daphnia* live in freshwater lakes, ponds, and swamps, a few species are adapted to live in hypersaline lakes or low-pH bogs, and another few species are marine. *Daphnia* date back to the Cretaceous Period, 145 million to 66 million years ago. There are more than 200 species of *Daphnia*, although distinguishing them one from another is made difficult by hybridization, introduced species, and a tendency for many *Daphnia* species to look a lot alike.

The animal is typically 1–5 mm long and segmented into a head and a body, but the segmentation is not immediately obvious. A transparent carapace made of chitin protects the body and shelters five or six pairs of "legs", depending on the species. In silhouette, the head is tilted forward so that the animal appears to be looking downward in an almost birdlike manner, and the "face", with its single enormous compound eye, ends in what looks like a small beak (the "rostrum"). Projecting from the head are two sets of "antennae", the larger of which aids in swimming while the other is involved with filtering food particles from a flowing stream of water which it creates with its lower pairs of "legs". A stiff little "tail" (the "apical spine") completes the overall birdlike impression. The several pairs of "legs", which attach to the body, have nothing to do with locomotion, but are part of the water-filtering apparatus by which the creature extracts its food. The entire animal is semi-transparent so that its interior organs and, in females, large round eggs, can readily be viewed under a low-power microscope.

Daphnia feed on phytoplankton, chiefly green algae and diatoms, and, in turn, are eaten by fish and shellfish, thus linking plants and animals into a single food chain. They are a vitally important food source for fish. Freshwater mussels may also consume *Daphnia*, depending on the relative sizes of the Daphnia and mussel species. The mussel species commonly found in the Indian Ponds do not actively target *Daphnia* as a food source, although they may be incidentally ingested.

Cyanobacteria typically do not provide a good food source for *Daphnia*. Many cyanobacteria, although not all, form long chains or clumps that are simply too large for *Daphnia* to ingest. Even the smaller forms tend not to be particularly nutritious and are often toxic. Reducing phosphates and, to some extent, nitrates in ponds controls cyanobacterial populations and promotes the growth of *Daphnia*.

In early spring, stratified pond and lake waters such as Mystic Lake and Hamblin Pond experience a seasonal thermal overturn which churns up nutrients from bottom sediments. These nutrients, largely nitrates and phosphates, support the explosive growth of algae, including cyanobacteria, which, in turn, feed zooplankton. Suddenly, in early spring, in the Indian Ponds, there is an algae bloom closely followed by a bloom of *Daphnia*, just in time to welcome the arrival of migratory herring, hungry after their strenuous journey up from the sea. The herring and their young-of-the-year rapidly deplete the *Daphnia*, and its populations remain low until late summer, when a second overturn and algae bloom may occur to nourish a second hatch. *Daphnia* have various strategies for through the winter, some spending the cold season in the water column, while others produce fertilized eggs that settle into the sediments and hatch in the spring.

DAPHNIA IN THE INDIAN PONDS (continued from page 4)

As primary grazers of algae and primary forage of fish, *Daphnia* play a central role in freshwater ecology and are considered a "keystone" species, one which plays a crucial role in maintaining the structure, stability, and diversity of its ecosystem. If a keystone species is removed, the entire ecosystem can undergo significant changes, often leading to a collapse in biodiversity or transformation into a completely different type of ecosystem. Sea otters, beavers, and wolves are other examples of keystone species in their various communities.

Daphnia are adaptable and efficient when it comes to reproduction. This can happen either sexually or asexually, depending on conditions in their environment. When conditions are favorable, such as in spring when food is abundant and the water is warm, female *Daphnia* pump out eggs as fast as possible, circumventing the complications of sex. The offspring are all female clones of the mother. This strategy promotes rapid population growth. But when the environment is less kind, temperatures are cooler, and food scarcer, *Daphnia* females start producing both males and haploid eggs that can be fertilized. These eggs can rest in the sediments until conditions improve.

Daphnia are widely considered to be bioindicators in freshwater ecosystems due to their sensitivity to environmental changes and pollutants. They are threatened by the presence of toxic substances such as heavy metals, pesticides, herbicides, pharmaceuticals, and industrial pollutants. They are harmed by oxygen depletion and pH changes such as from acid rain.

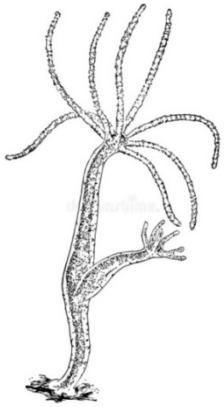
Daphnia are often used as model organisms in scientific studies. By reproducing clonally, they can create a large number of genetically identical test subjects in a short period of time. They are also semi-transparent, allowing scientists to observe, for example, the effects of a particular drug on their heart rate. *Daphnia pulex* is widely used for environmental and toxicity testing, with hundreds of papers about them being published each year.

Daphnia are an engaging group of tiny animals that are of immense importance to the life and health of the Indian Ponds.

Holly Hobart
Former IPA President

ARE *HYDRA* IMMORTAL?

You probably encountered a *Hydra* in high school biology. It is a small polyp, a transparent, tentacled creature that, while it can move about, prefers to attach itself to a fixed object and grab tiny prey out of the water with its stinging tentacles. It lives in freshwater and is only about 1/3" tall. It is classified as a Cnidarian, the same phylum as jellyfish. A few years ago, when I was examining Indian Ponds organisms under a microscope, I would occasionally run across a *Hydra*.



In ancient Greek mythology, the *Hydra* was a large, ferocious monster that lived on a rock in the sea, plucking passing sailors off their ships and devouring them. Fortunately there was only one, and there are no recent reports of it from mariners.

The freshwater *Hydra*, a genus with about 40 species, has recently generated scientific interest because it is composed of all or nearly all stem cells, the pluripotent (able to develop into many different types) fetal cells that, in higher animals, eventually differentiate during gestation into all the different types of tissue found in adults. With the exception of the tentacles, *Hydra* cells do not differentiate. No matter how you slice up a *Hydra*, its stem cells will regenerate whatever is necessary to make a completely new individual.

A *Hydra* can reproduce by budding off a new, identical individual from its stalk. Under certain conditions, it can release gametes into the water which can unite with gametes of another individual to produce a nymph, a genetically new *Hydra*. A few species of *Hydra* produce both male and female gametes. A few others regularly bud off medusae, which look like swimming jellyfish, that go on to reproduce sexually to produce new polyps. This is a versatile group of creatures that has survived successfully for about 500 million years.

Hydra suffers from being under-studied. About the only scholar in the US who concentrates on it is Daniel Martinez of Pomona College, Claremont, CA. He claims that *Hydra*, contrary to nearly all other animals, does not age. It does not die, but constantly rejuvenates its tissues by regeneration. Given unvarying environmental conditions, like the pond not drying up, *Hydras* apparently can live forever.

ARE HYDRA IMMORTAL? (continued from page 5)

Professor Martinez made his original assertion about *Hydra* immortality in an article in 1997, then moved on to other interests. A couple of years later, he was contacted by scientists from Germany's prestigious Max Planck Institute who wanted more data to support the astonishing claim. So, Martinez went back to studying *Hydra*. Since then, advances in genetics have focused scientific interest and improved Martinez's funding. His most recent results were published in 2015 in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. In that paper, he claims to have kept *Hydras* alive for as long as 41 years, an eternity for such a tiny organism. He continues to foster his elderly, but forever youthful, subjects, and his research has drawn much scientific curiosity.

Senescence and regeneration are hot topics in biology today. The new field of epigenetics is concerned with (among other things) the mechanism of how differentiated cells develop from pluripotent fetal cells. In nearly all higher animals, the gradient from pluripotency to differentiation runs only one way. Once our cells have differentiated into all the various tissues, they never revert to being stem cells again. But advances in molecular biology are making it possible to tailor genes that can produce cells with new capabilities. Might one of these be the ability to regenerate aging or lost limbs or organs? The simple freshwater *Hydra* from your high school science class (examples of which can be found in the Indian Ponds) is helping to provide answers.

Holly Hobart
Former IPA president

POND TESTING BEGINS

Testing of the three Indian Ponds began again in April and will continue throughout the year, with three separate, but related, types of testing being done.

The first is the spring PALS (Pond and Lake Stewardship) testing of all three ponds, with testing done over the deepest location in each pond. This includes measuring water clarity with a Secchi disk and temperature and dissolved oxygen at 1-meter intervals from surface to bottom. In addition, water samples are taken at 3–4 depths (depending on the depth of the pond): just below the surface, 3 meters down, 9 meters down, and 1 meter above bottom. The water samples are analyzed for phosphorus, nitrogen, and pH. The testing on Hamblin Pond was done April 14. Middle Pond and Mystic Lake were tested two weeks later on April 28. The fall PALS testing will be done in August–September. The PALS testing is done cooperatively with staff from the Town's Department of Public Works and IPA volunteers.

The second is the mandatory monthly testing of Mystic Lake to monitor the effect of the December alum treatment. This will be done each month during April–November at three different locations (one of which is over the deepest location) and includes the same measurements and data collection as in the PALS sampling mentioned above, but also includes specific water samples to be analyzed for the presence of aluminum. The first sampling was on April 28, with the second on May 21, and was done by staff of the Town's Department of Public Works, with boat assistance by Emory Anderson from the IPA.

The third type of testing is that done exclusively by IPA volunteers on all three ponds. This testing, done over the deepest location in each pond, includes the same measurements of water clarity, temperature, and dissolved oxygen as mentioned above for the PALS testing. This is done at roughly two-week intervals from May to October. The first was done May 7 for Middle Pond and Mystic Lake, and May 16 for Hamblin Pond. For a number of years, Bob Derderian has handled the Hamblin Pond testing, while Emory Anderson, with assistance from other IPA volunteers, has handled Middle Pond and Mystic Lake.

The data from these three types of testing collectively provide comprehensive monitoring of conditions in all three ponds. The vertical profiles of temperature and dissolved oxygen in all three of the Indian Ponds obtained from the initial testings in April and May have been typical of most years. Initially, water temperature and dissolved oxygen are almost constant from top to bottom, but then temperature begins to warm in upper layers in concert with rising air temperatures, while dissolved oxygen in the deepest portions of the ponds begins to decrease as bacterial action on accumulated organic material begins to deplete the oxygen.

Of particular interest is whether there is any clear evidence from the initial sampling of Mystic Lake that last December's alum treatment has had a positive influence on water quality. Results from the analysis of water samples collected on April 28 and May 21 are not yet available. Average water clarity measurements taken so far this year by Secchi disk are approximately the same as last year, but overcast and windy conditions during sampling times may have comprised the accuracy of readings. Therefore, no conclusions can yet be drawn from these early readings. As the season progresses, subsequent measurements will hopefully provide more conclusive evidence.

Emory D. Anderson

BARNSTABLE PONDS COALITION UPDATE

It's official! The Barnstable Ponds Coalition (BPC) is a real organization, incorporated in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Check out our new website at www.barnstableponds.org/. Our 501(c)(3) application has been submitted, and we are hopeful that there is still sufficient Internal Revenue Service staffing to process our request. In the meantime, the bylaws are out for legal review, and BPC has embarked on its first major project for this summer. The founding Board of Directors has been created and consists of Butch Roberts (President), John Thomas (Vice President), Scott Kania (Secretary), Steve Waller (Treasurer), Zee Crocker, and Tom Odjakjian.

In forming this organization, BPC has had representatives from the Indian Ponds Association, the Lake Wequaquet Protective Association, the Friends of Marstons Mills Long Pond, the Red Lilly Pond Project Association, the Association for the Preservation of Long Pond (Centerville), and the Barnstable Clean Water Coalition attend several planning sessions. The Barnstable Clean Water Coalition has been particularly helpful in offering meeting space, support staff, and guidance. There have been several conversations with local hydrologists regarding the establishment of a scientific advisory board.

As its first project, BPC will be expanding the number of ponds in Barnstable that are monitored for cyanobacteria blooms. The Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) has agreed to allot some of its Thursday lab time to the processing of our samples. The Town of Barnstable has agreed to review the results of the lab analysis of our samples and publish any required notices that may result from these samples. Between now and Memorial Day weekend, BPC will be acquiring the necessary test sampling kits, recruiting and training volunteers, and working out the logistics of which are the next twelve or so ponds for which we will take responsibility for this sampling. Scott Karni will lead this team. A big thank-you, Scott, for stepping up!

This project was chosen due to the potential risks that undetected cyanobacteria blooms pose for dogs and humans. The Town is limited in its testing to ponds that have public access. However, the Barnstable Ponds Coalition, not being a municipal organization, can obtain permission from nearby landowners to sample the windward corner of a pond, the area where cyanobacteria issues are likely first detected.

Volunteer teams of two will go out around 7:00 am each Thursday morning and take samples from two or three ponds. The coordinator for that day will collect the samples from the volunteer teams and deliver them to the APCC lab in Dennis. This process will run from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Volunteers simply need to be dressed in high boots or waders to venture a couple of meters offshore. BPC will provide the training and equipment. Interested in volunteering for this opportunity? Email us at barnstableponds@gmail.com.

This is the first of a long list of projects that are envisioned for BPC. We need volunteers with diverse skills for these projects. If you have some time and an interest in making a difference, BPC has an opportunity for you! We have a silent crisis brewing in the ponds in Barnstable as well as the rest of the Cape. With community involvement, we can make a difference. Join us in making our community a healthier place to live, work, and play.

Butch Roberts

REMEMBERING KEVIN KAVANAGH

Kevin Kavanagh, a former president and long-time member of the Indian Ponds Association (IPA) passed away on February 17, 2025 at the age of 80. When this writer first joined and became involved in the IPA in 2001, Kevin was the president; he served in that capacity until stepping down in 2002. Given that the IPA had been established in 1958, it is most likely that Kevin, being a homeowner on the south shore of Middle Pond, was a long-term participant in the work and activities of the organization. Although Kevin's career in the food industry kept him on the road much of the time, he still found time to assist in some of the IPA's activities. I specifically remember him participating in a large group of IPA volunteers pulling plants of invasive purple loosestrife found around the shoreline of the three Indian Ponds in July 2006. After stepping down from the Board of Directors in 2002, Kevin regularly attended the IPA annual meetings. Occasionally seeing him in the Marstons Mills Post Office, he always had a kind word of greeting and usually a compliment about my own work in the IPA. He will be remembered as a strong advocate for the IPA and a good friend.

Emory D. Anderson

"To preserve and protect the natural environment and ecological systems of the Indian Ponds and surrounding parcels of land and watershed and to participate in studies and work with other agencies, individuals, and groups to educate the public, serve the community, and promote and preserve the Indian Ponds and surrounding areas." IPA Mission Statement

INDIAN PONDS ASSOCIATION, INC.
PO BOX 383
MARSTONS MILLS, MA 02648

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED