

# THE IPA NEWSLETTER

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

Spring 2021

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## TOWN MANAGER MARK ELLS TO BE ANNUAL MEETING GUEST SPEAKER



We are privileged to announce that Mark Ells, Barnstable Town Manager, will be the guest speaker at the 63rd annual meeting of the Indian Ponds Association (IPA) to be held Sunday, July 11. Mr. Ells will talk about matters relating to monitoring and management plans for the Town's freshwater lakes and ponds, particularly those pertaining to the Indian Ponds, and will field questions on these and other issues of interest to meeting participants.

Because of the pandemic, last year's annual meeting was canceled. However, with the number of COVID-19 cases on the Cape steadily dropping, the percentage being vaccinated continuing to increase (expected to be about 80% for the entire state by June 1), Governor Baker having authorized increased participation in gatherings at public settings, and coupled with expectations that conditions will have improved further by July, the Board of Directors feels confident that it will be safe to again hold an annual meeting. As before, the meeting will be outdoors, with seating arranged to ensure social distancing. Based on current CDC guidelines, vaccinated individuals may be together with other people in outdoor settings such as our annual meeting without masks as long as conditions are not crowded, but non-vaccinated individuals should continue to be masked. Assuming improved conditions by the beginning of July, we will provide more precise guidance via the postcard announcement of the meeting sent to IPA members and invited guests.

As in recent years, the meeting will be held outdoors from 4:00 to 6:00 pm at the home of John and Deirdre Kayajan at 32 Heath Row in Marstons Mills. The business meeting will include approval of the minutes of the 2019 annual meeting and the current treasurer's report, election of directors, brief president's report, presentation of this year's Schwarm Scholarship recipients, and address by our guest speaker. Whether we will have our traditional social hour after the meeting will depend on conditions at the time and the Governor's latest directive on gatherings and the sharing of food/beverages.

*Emory D. Anderson, PhD*

## DUES REMINDER

Past members who have not yet renewed their memberships for 2021 or others who wish to become members are asked to use either the remittance envelope which was included with the winter issue of this newsletter sent out in early March, or to log onto the IPA website (<https://www.indianponds.org/>) and clicking "MEMBERSHIP" at the top of the home page, which will take you to "HOW TO JOIN" where instructions are given for joining and paying dues/contributions via PayPal or credit card. It is a very easy and simple process for anyone who wishes to do it all electronically. Dues are \$25 per household and additional contributions are greatly appreciated for either the Pond Restoration Fund or the Schwarm Scholarship Fund. Both the membership dues and any additional donations are tax-deductible as the IPA is a 501(c)(3) organization.

## IPA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2020-2021

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## MARSTONS MILLS RIVER HERRING COUNT SPRING 2021

After the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown led to the cancellation of volunteer herring count programs across Massachusetts in 2020, Barnstable Clean Water Coalition (BCWC) was delighted to finally share some good news in early March. The 2021 Marstons Mills River herring monitoring program was on!

Working with other herring count coordinators from across the state, BCWC made changes to our existing herring count program protocols to ensure that volunteers could safely monitor river herring this spring. We switched to using online data submission forms and remote data loggers to collect water temperatures; in that way, volunteers would not have to share notebooks, thermometers, and other equipment.

After two ZOOM training webinars in March, over 70 eager volunteers were ready to begin counting herring on April 1 – the official start day of herring run monitoring programs across the state that ends on June 1. And the fish did not disappoint, as herring were seen at both the Mill Pond and Middle Pond fish ladders on the very first day.

In mid-April, we saw the highest numbers for herring counted during a 10-minute period at both fish ladders, with 186 fish at Mill Pond and 95 fish at Middle Pond. The numbers of herring counted continued to vary daily throughout the month of April as water temperatures fluctuated from 9 to 13°C. Steady numbers of herring heading upriver from Mill Pond to Middle Pond and Mystic Lake continued throughout the first week in May.

As this article was written in mid-May, over 800 counts of herring had been done by over 70 dedicated volunteers with approximately 5,600 herring counted at the Mill Pond fish ladder and 1,900 herring counted at the Middle Pond fish ladder. The disparity between these counts is most likely due to predation while the herring traverse the Marstons Mills River between the two ladders and also that many herring probably pass through the Middle Pond ladder at night when counting is not done. BCWC is encouraged by these raw data numbers, and we are looking forward to receiving the estimated run sizes for the 2021 Marstons Mills River fish ladders from the state fisheries scientists later this summer.

Heather Rockwell  
Barnstable Clean Water Coalition

## THREATS TO PONDS FROM SEPTIC SYSTEMS AND RUNOFF

The IPA's publication *A Resident's Guide to the Indian Ponds, 3rd edition, 2015*, contains a section on threats to ponds and how residents can help to reduce those threats. We think it would be useful to include a summary of that information here as a reminder to our readers.

**All septic systems, even new Title V systems, leach phosphorus and nitrogen into the groundwater.** This **phosphorus** moves very slowly in the groundwater, about three feet a year, because it is attracted to iron particles in the soil. The **nitrogen**, however, moves rapidly in groundwater, about one foot per day. Phosphorus fuels the growth of algae in freshwater and has been responsible for degraded water quality in all three Indian Ponds. It should be pointed out, however, that the main source of phosphorus in Mystic Lake and Hamblin Pond was long-ago agricultural practices: a commercial duck farm on Hamblin Pond and a large dairy farm adjacent to Mystic Lake. Alum treatments in 1995 and 2015 for Hamblin Pond and in 2010 for Mystic Lake were done to inactivate much of that resident phosphorus. Nitrogen, on

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## TWO 2021 SCHWARM SCHOLARSHIPS TO BE AWARDED

The Indian Ponds Association Scholarship Committee is pleased once again to announce that we are awarding two scholarships this year. Every year, we receive several very deserving applications; this year, two stood out from the rest. Our winners are selected on the basis of their academic achievements, extracurricular activities, and community service. The Schwarm Memorial Scholarship was established in memory of Edward Schwarm, a former IPA Director and Officer. Many thanks to the generous donors who have contributed to make these scholarships possible. We applaud the students' ability to remain flexible and involved under difficult pandemic Covid restrictions.



Audrey Sawyer

Audrey Sawyer is graduating from Barnstable High School and will be attending the University of Vermont in the fall. Audrey, the daughter of Jason and Jennifer Sawyer, has had a life-long interest in the natural world of ecosystems, animals, and climate change. In addition to her challenging school work and her part-time employment at several local business, Audrey has pursued an internship with Barnstable Clean Water Coalition. Her original responsibilities of water sampling and data collection were sidelined by the Covid restrictions, so she has continued her work with them in a research capacity. Audrey plans to use her interests and education to enter the field of environmental protection.

Michael Veres will be graduating from Sturgis Charter School. He is the son of Eric and Julie Veres and will be traveling across the country to attend the University of Southern California in the fall. Michael has maintained excellent grades in the International Baccalaureate program and has been an involved student at Sturgis West with the creation of the "Lets Go Green Club" to further the awareness of environmental concerns. He is an exceptional student in both history and Latin, and has been involved with the American Cancer Society's Fundraiser for Life, earning a spot as the top fundraiser in the youth division. Michael's letters of recommendation laud him for his compassion and empathy. He plans to use his further education to help people with their mental challenges and illnesses as a psychiatrist.



Michael Veres

Both recipients will receive their \$1,000 scholarship awards at the July annual meeting of the IPA.

*Betsey Godley  
Scholarship Committee Chair*

## THREATS TO PONDS FROM SEPTIC SYSTEMS AND RUNOFF

*(Continued from page 2)*

other hand, is harmful in saltwater bays and estuaries where it fertilizes and promotes the growth of algae and other undesirable plants. Nitrogen does not harm healthy freshwater ponds, as they have the ability to rid themselves of excess nitrogen by releasing nitrogen gas into the air through a natural process called denitrification. In addition to these two nutrients, septic systems also leach **harmful chemicals** from household products and drugs into the groundwater. There have been recent advances made in household septic systems that are designed primarily to reduce the amount of nitrogen entering the groundwater, and some of these are being implemented on the Cape. However, comparable technological advances to reduce the release of phosphorus from septic systems are not as well developed yet.

**Runoff during heavy rainstorms and snowmelt can quickly transport undesirable materials into ponds.** Such materials include animal droppings, petroleum products, salt from winter road deicing, tire residues from vehicles, lawn fertilizers, and pesticides. Some of these contain phosphorus, while others contain chemicals harmful to animal life, such as fish, in the ponds. There are many simple things that homeowners can do to prevent or minimize runoff from their property. Pathways to the water can be crooked rather than straight; plant buffer strips of vegetation to slow water movement, filter out debris and chemicals, and deter waterfowl; and pick up dog poop and resist feeding geese, ducks, and swans. Consider having a "Cape Cod lawn" that incorporates native grasses and other plants; reduce the size of your lawn by introducing attractive plantings of native greenery around the edges or by mulching certain areas; and use organic, slow-release lawn fertilizers.

*Emory D. Anderson*

## POND-RELATED ACTIVITIES

### ***Hydrilla* treatment approved by Town Council**

The Barnstable Town Council, at its March 4 meeting, approved an appropriation in the amount of \$92,945 to fund the treatment of the invasive weed *Hydrilla* in Long Pond (Centerville), Mystic Lake, and Middle Pond. As of this writing, it was expected that the treatment of Mystic and Middle would be done in mid-May by SOLitude Lake Management using the herbicide Sonar (fluridone). This would represent the seventh year of treatment for this invasive plant. In other locations in the country, treatments such as this repeated every year for ten years have been found to be effective in totally eliminating the *Hydrilla*. The IPA sent a letter to Town Councilors thanking them for approving the funding for this year and providing scientific information supporting the need for a consistent long-term treatment program for *Hydrilla*.

### **Pond testing to resume**

The routine bi-weekly testing of the three Indian Ponds for water clarity, temperature, and dissolved oxygen will resume in May and continue until late October. Anyone wishing to assist with the testing should contact Emory Anderson (emoryanderson@comcast.net). We especially welcome young people who wish to learn more about how this interesting and important work is done. This year, however, at the request of the Town, the IPA participated on April 20 in a spring PALS (Pond and Lake Stewardship) sampling of the three ponds. Emory and Geri Anderson did the sampling of Mystic Lake and Middle Pond, while Amber Unruh (Town DPW) and Lindsey Counsel sampled Hamblin Pond. As typically done during the regular late summer PALS sampling, in addition to the routine measurement of clarity and temperature and dissolved oxygen from surface to bottom, water samples were collected at various depths for analysis of nitrogen, phosphorus, alkalinity, chlorophyll *a*, and pH at the UMass Dartmouth's SMAST laboratory.

### **Meeting with Town Manager**

Several of the officers and members of the IPA Board of Directors met on April 13 with Town Manager Mark Ells to continue discussions about water quality problems in Mystic Lake and other Town pond-related issues. In particular, the IPA continued to argue for the possibility of another alum treatment to inactivate the significant amounts of phosphorus in the lake's bottom sediments that have, in recent years, demonstrated (by Dr. Ken Wagner's 2020 study—see article in fall 2020 newsletter) an increasing tendency to makes their way into the upper water column of the lake during the spring and fall turnover (late spring or mid-to-late September), which is when Mystic Lake has its highest levels of cyanobacteria. It was suggested that a moderate alum treatment costing perhaps in the neighborhood of \$100,000 would be appropriate in light of the inadequate treatment done in 2010. Mr. Ells appears to be supportive of a new alum treatment, but no decision has been made. He also indicated his interest in an educational seminar for Town Councilors to provide factual information on the full range of pond and lake issues; the IPA expressed a willingness to have some of its experts assist in providing scientific information in such a seminar.

### **Monitoring/management plan for Town ponds approved**

At its April 15 meeting, the Barnstable Town Council voted to appropriate \$165,000 for FY 2022 to fund a project to develop a water quality monitoring and management plan to understand sources that impair the Town's freshwater ponds and recommend solutions. The management plan will be developed in two phases. The first phase consists of monitoring all nutrient sources including in-pond water quality, sediment nutrient release, storm water inputs, ground-water input, dissolved oxygen, phytoplankton composition, and stream inputs. The second phase involves the development of a report that will be presented following the completion of monitoring recommending solutions and cost estimates for restoring pond water quality and mitigating algal blooms. It is envisioned that this would be a recurring project for developing pond and lake management plans which will ultimately be used to guide the Town in future management/implementation of solutions for its freshwater resource. The funds for FY 2022 are anticipated to be used to develop a Schubael Pond management plan report (Phase 2) and both phases of the Long Pond (Marstons Mills) monitoring and management plan development. Future funding through FY 2026 of an additional \$560,000 (overall total of \$725,000) is planned. The Town has retained SMAST to work on this project, particularly for Schubael Pond. The IPA would point out that much of the above-mentioned monitoring is already available for the three Indian Ponds, based on our extensive database of bi-weekly pond testing and past scientific studies performed, and that management decisions for our ponds could be made in large part based on available information.

### **Cyanobacteria monitoring**

For the previous two years, the IPA collaborated with the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) on a monitoring program for cyanobacteria for the three Indian Ponds. Sampling was done bi-weekly during May–October. However, this year, the IPA Board of Directors decided to discontinue this collaboration. In previous years, the Town, via Karen Malkus in the Health Department, had tested for cyanobacteria at our pond's public beaches and had issued e-mail and website alerts in the event of pond closures or pet advisories because of high cyanobacteria concentrations. We have just learned that Karen Malkus is retiring at the end of May and that the Town is working on alternative arrangements for this testing.

Emory D. Anderson

## MY FRIEND FLICKER

Several months ago, my laptop died. We had to buy a new one, and the salesperson assured me that they would transfer all the data from the old hard drive to the new one. Yeah, right. They only transferred about six months of my previous IPA reports, so I have no idea whether I have previously written about flickers or not, so if any of this sounds familiar, I apologize.

The flicker we all know and love here on the Cape is technically the northern or common flicker. It is native to most of North America, parts of Central America, Cuba, and the Cayman Islands. It is one of the few species of woodpeckers that migrate. Ten subspecies of northern flicker are recognized, of which one is now extinct. The subspecies were, at one time, considered to be subspecies of two separate species, the yellow-shafted flicker and the red-shafted flicker. Since the two species commonly interbreed where their two ranges overlap, they are now considered to be one species.

The yellow-shafted flicker is found from Alaska, through most of Canada and the Northeastern United States, and is what we see here on Cape Cod.

Adults are brown with black bars on the wings and back. They measure 11 to 14 inches in length and 17 to 21 inches in wing span. They weigh between 3.0 and 5.9 ounces. A black patch occurs on the upper breast, while the lower breast and belly are beige with black spots. Males can be identified by the red or black moustache at the base of the beak. The tail is dark on top, transitioning back to their white rump which is very obvious when one is flying away from the observer.

According to the Audubon Field Guides, "Flickers are the only woodpeckers that frequently feed on the ground". They probe with their beaks looking for insects. They may also catch insects in flight. While they eat fruits, berries, seeds, and nuts, their primary food is insects. Ants alone make up about 45% of their diet.

Flickers often break into underground ant colonies to get at the larvae there. Their tongues can dart out 2 inches beyond the end of their bill to catch prey. Flickers, like some other birds, use the formic acid from ants to preen. It is useful in keeping them free of parasites.

In studies, the oldest flickers have been observed to have lived at least 7 years; however, the oldest observed yellow-shafted northern flicker lived to be at least 9 years and 2 months old, while the oldest known red-shafted northern flicker lived to be at least 8 years and 9 months old.

They are cavity nesters which usually nest in trees, but they will also use posts and even birdhouses are sometimes acceptable. They will repair or recondition abandoned nests. Their abandoned nests are used by other cavity nesters, and sometimes they are driven from their nesting site by another cavity nester, the European starling.

They hang around our yard and we always enjoy watching them. We particularly enjoy hearing them rapping on the metal downspouts and the chimney cover, usually around dawn, as a sign of territoriality.



Yellow-shafted flicker

*Dave Reid*

## UPDATE ON MIDDLE POND HERRING RUN RECONSTRUCTION

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), in partnership with the Town, continues to investigate an alternative route through the bogs to determine if the existing route should be maintained/rebuilt, or if a route through the bogs should be considered, which would more closely replicate what is understood to be the historic migratory route prior to the construction of the existing run. Since last fall, the NRCS has completed a survey of the alternative fish way to determine if fish passage is feasible along this route. Survey results for the alternative route indicated that the elevations are conducive for fish passage. The next steps are to assess costs associated with any necessary improvements in culverts and where fish diversion structures might be required along the alternative route. This alternatives analysis is ongoing, with results anticipated this spring.

*Griffin Beaudoin, P.E.  
Town Engineer*

**TO SEE NEWSLETTER PHOTOS IN FULL COLOR  
GO TO THE IPA WEBSITE: [www.indianponds.org](http://www.indianponds.org)**

## RESPONSIBLE APPROACHES TO RODENT PEST CONTROL: A HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE

Recent distressing incidents of owls, eagles, and other birds of prey dying after ingesting rodenticide have brought the toxicity of rat baits into sharp focus, and underscore countless interconnections between human activity and the wildlife food chain. It's clear that different ways of addressing rodent infestation can have very different impacts. Fortunately, there are responsible and effective methods which minimize the risks to other wild animals, humans, and pets.

### An age-old vexation

Mice and rats are among Cape Cod's most common household pests. Although not native to North America (having hitched a ride on early European settler ships centuries ago), they've forged a place in our ecosystem and generally don't present a problem when they stay outdoors. Being intelligent and adaptable, however, just as they did with sailing vessels, they've worked out that human dwellings and outbuildings offer a cushy lifestyle: weathertight shelter, security from predators, and most importantly, food and water. Aside from being unsanitary—if you've ever had a mouse in your house, you'll know that smell—they're also destructive, carry parasites and disease, and multiply astonishingly quickly.

Peoples' quest for a better mousetrap dates back tens of thousands of years, spanning hunting, trapping, and poisoning. The 20<sup>th</sup> century saw the introduction of anticoagulant rodenticides (based on the human blood-thinning drug, Warfarin). In recent decades, more potent second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides, dubbed 'SGARs', were introduced after resistance to first-generation compounds was identified in the late 1950s. While both inhibit vitamin K, thereby preventing blood from clotting, SGARs build to higher concentrations in rodents that ingest them, yet they also kill more slowly: rats and mice will consume available baits well beyond the point they've eaten a lethal dose. That makes the rodents much more toxic to predators, scavengers, and pets. (Although dogs may eat carcasses, it's rare for a well-fed household cat to eat a mouse or rat—dead or alive. Dogs will devour rat bait if accessible to them.)

### Collateral damage

The risks are particularly acute in late spring, when the animals eating mice and rats—including coyotes, foxes, hawks, eagles, owls, and other birds of prey—are having babies, says Zak Mertz, Executive Director of New England Wildlife Centers' Cape Cod facility in Cummaquid. "When you use [rodent] traps, it affects an individual animal, but with poison, it can affect the predator as well as its young," Mertz advises.

New England Wildlife Centers are among the few local not-for-profit emergency wildlife veterinary facilities with a veterinary staff. 300 to 500 cases of rodenticide toxicity feature among the 5,000 or so animals they treat an-

nually, most frequently involving SGARs. "It has to do with exposure," Mertz says. "You can have different outcomes depending on how much [SGAR] is ingested: acute effects, lesser or chronic effects. If we could get people to stop using these [SGARs], it would help save the lives of thousands of wild animals."

When an affected animal can be helped, the hospital administers an artificial clotting factor, vitamin K, fluids, and antibiotics. In the worst cases, the animal needs to be euthanized—as was the fate of a bald eagle the center treated last year—or is found dead, like a great horned owl in Centerville in April (its baby survived thanks to New England Wildlife Center treatment; with hope it can recover and return to the wild).

Concern about misuse of SGARs has led the Environmental Protection Agency to restrict consumer access to them at retail outlets, though SGARs remain available online in extra-large sizes. Homeowners frequently over-administer the products, despite clear EPA-mandated labelling and application guidelines. In light of persistent misuse, *Bill HD.4206, An Act Relative to Pesticides* (<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD4206>) will be introduced to the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Based on a recent California law banning the sale of SGARs, which was passed after several years of debate and counter-lobbying from pesticide and pest control companies, it may face a protracted legislative journey here as well.

### To catch a mouse

Michael Parsons, Service Manager at pest control company Fowler & Sons, says, "We're aware of and do everything we can to not contribute to [SGAR] problems. Baits are at the very bottom of our tool box and a last resort." When administered, responsible rodenticide application is vital, but Parsons often gets called out to homes where consumers have over-applied it.

"The consumer may read the label and see one block per bait station and think 'if I double it up, it will speed up the process'. That's not the case, it just makes the poison more available and increases the odds of something else getting into it," he says.

The fact that SGARs are sold online in large quantities exacerbates the problem. "The bait blocks that we use used to sell in 8-lb buckets. Now they are 18 lbs," Parsons explains. "Six mice can consume one block. A pregnant female rat will eat that in one sitting, and take as much as she can back to store at the nest so she doesn't need to leave her babies to get more food. And if the family dies before all the baits stored are gone, a mole, chipmunk, or squirrel can ingest it."

Massachusetts is a strict label law state. Licensed contractors have to abide by the law to the letter: any deviation could and does lead to fines, or loss of license.

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## RESPONSIBLE APPROACHES TO RODENT PEST CONTROL: A HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE

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"We're obligated to limit the number of baits within a container based on the rodent targeted, we put bait stations on posts (so they can't be knocked off or dislodge the contents), and any exterior bait station must be placed within 100 feet of a structure," he notes.

Parsons adds that Fowlers' approach to rodent control has changed over the past decade. "In the past, if we knew there were mice in the house, we would start by putting baits inside. Now we start by finding out why they are there. What's the food source—chickens, a koi pond, birdfeeder?—and working with the customer to remove the problem. Take the birdfeeder away, two weeks later the rats may be gone. Call us back if that didn't fix it."

If it didn't, the next step is to set numerous snap traps to find out where they're coming in—a technique that homeowners can also use, as mice usually nest within 20 feet of an entry point or food source. "If it was my house and I found a dead mouse, or there's a smell, and I didn't want to use poisons, the first thing I would do is put snap traps on the sills," Parsons advises. "Depending on where you catch them, it will point you towards the holes and the entry point. Bear in mind they only need a hole the size of your pinky. You'll find the mouse, you'll find the hole, and you can address it, and you won't have to trap further."

Sometimes, for older homes with porous foundations that are impossible to fully seal up, baits are needed as a maintenance and control mechanism, but ideally only after the population has been cut down considerably by repeatedly setting and clearing traps over a number of weeks. Parsons says Fowler uses first-generation anticoagulants where essential, as well as smoke machines and continual trapping.

### Deterrence: the ideal mousetrap

"The best way to avoid having to get rid of animal pests is to not let them in your home in the first place," advises Jeff Miele, owner of Integrity Home Inspection. He notes securing the ground perimeter is key.

"The majority of mice infestation starts down low," Miele observes. "It's rare that an infestation starts high: that's more squirrels, flying squirrels, raccoons—things that can get off the trees. I can't remember in 22 years of doing [home inspections] that it's bad in the attic and nothing in the basement."

(An exception is the white-footed mouse, which will climb the exterior of a structure and enter via gable vents or another gap in the roof line, such as dormers or cupolas.)

The best approach is to go around the entire foundation of your home, sealing every crack, gap or hole around

pipes. Also, "know that garage doors and basement bulkhead doors are highways for mice, but they still will find a way in things like air conditioners, gas line pipes. In that case, you need to decide how to deal with them: a snap trap, or other device that they die inside the container (which is a little more discrete and easier to stomach) to try to avoid using poisons."

Telltale evidence that mice have got inside include black stains and little droppings in the corners of the garage and, especially, basement insulation. They leave grease from their skin on wiring and floor joists up on the foundation area in the basement (ceiling height). The smell is obvious.

Early action is vital, Miele adds. "As a home inspector, I often find mice so infested in a home that the seller has to spend up to \$8,000 cleaning it out, or, because of the smell and how it looks, the property sells for less than it would. Buyers have walked away because of it."

Another practical reason to avoid using poison is the likelihood that the animal will die in an inaccessible place inside the home, with the inevitable highly unpleasant results. Rodenticides cause lethargy and thirst, and affected animals don't always return outside to their usual water sources. "Maybe 30 percent of the time, they'll find a water source inside—a sweating pipe, dripping faucet—and that's where they die," Miele says. "And if you're lucky, you can see them."

### Safer approaches to rodent control

- Deterrence.** Survey your property carefully and block all access holes. Don't feed pets outside or leave food scraps around. Some people report cayenne pepper or mint leaves are good natural rodent repellents.
- Containment.** Use snap traps to find the source of ingress: plug access holes to prevent reentry.
- Ongoing management.** For persistent infestations requiring supplemental use of baits to back up to snap traps and other deterrents: look for first generation anticoagulants, scrupulously read and adhere to EPA application guidelines for rodenticides, or work with a reputable pest control company.

### References:

**EPA guidelines:** <https://www.epa.gov/rodenticides/restrictions-rodenticide-products>

**Massachusetts Bill HD.4206, An Act Relative to Pesticides** (<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD4206>)

### New England Wildlife Centers:

If you see wildlife that's injured or looks to be poisoned, contact New England Wildlife Centers:

Website: <https://capewildlifecenter.com>

Wildlife Hotline at: 508-362-0111

After Hours Number: 617-835-6845

Donations are always needed and appreciated.

Maggie Fearn

*"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*

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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

