

# THE IPA NEWSLETTER

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

Fall 2015

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## HAMBLIN POND'S WATER QUALITY SUCCESS STORY

As those of you who regularly read the IPA newsletters, or who live on Hamblin Pond, are aware the water quality of the pond was badly compromised in 2014. A cyanobacterial bloom reduced water clarity to no more than two meters from mid-July until mid-September. The fall 2014 newsletter archived on the IPA website gives complete details of last year's situation, including that the IPA funded a time-critical study of sediment samples by water resource management expert Dr. Ken Wagner.

Using the results of those samples the Town of Barnstable funded an alum treatment for the spring of 2015. Our spring newsletter details the application that started on June 10 of this year.

We are very pleased the treatment was a great success! According to Dr. Wagner "clarity [in Hamblin Pond] this summer was 25-27 feet, about as good as it gets anywhere in southern New England." Dr. Wagner came back to monitor Hamblin in June, July, August and September this past summer and will return next year as well. He checks surface and bottom nutrients plus profiles at 2 meter intervals for temperature, oxygen, pH, conductivity, and turbidity. He also takes a Secchi reading and collects phytoplankton and zooplankton samples. All this in addition to the regular sampling IPA has done for many years.

This cooperation between the Town, Aquatic Control Technologies who did the actual application, Dr. Wagner who provides the science, and IPA has provided a very satisfactory outcome for Hamblin Pond. The previous treatment lasted longer than anticipated and we hope the same for this one too. Certainly IPA intends to keep monitoring. Thank you to our members for your support!

*Alex Frazee*

## WATERFOWL HUNTING ON CAPE COD

Hunting of ducks and geese on Cape Cod and elsewhere in Massachusetts is regulated by both state and federal laws. Hunting is permitted on the Indian Ponds, but the discharge of firearms within 500 feet of a dwelling or other building in use, except with the consent of the owner or legal occupant, is illegal.

**The minimum age for hunting in Massachusetts is 12** but 12-14 year-olds may hunt only when accompanied by a licensed hunter 18 years or older, provided that a single bag limit is shared and a single firearm/bow is shared between the two people. A resident Massachusetts hunter must have a resident hunting license. Any waterfowl hunter 16 years or older must also carry a valid federal water-

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**IPA OFFICERS AND  
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Maggie Fearn**Newsletter Editor**  
Kathy Bryan**Webmaster**  
Tamar HaspelIPA, Inc., P. O. Box 383  
Marstons Mills, MA 02648<http://www.indianponds.org>  
[info@indianponds.org](mailto:info@indianponds.org)

Scan the above QR code with your smartphone to go to the IPA website.

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**HUMMINGBIRDS THAT WE KNOW AND LOVE**

I wrote an article on hummingbirds maybe five years ago, but do you think I could find it in my files? Obviously, NO!!!!!! So you get

fresh copy, not re-hashed stale stuff. The facts remain the same however.

Except by accident of nature such as storms or high winds, we only have one species of hummingbird on this side of the Mississippi River. If you have seen a hummingbird, you have seen a Ruby-Throated Hummingbird. West of the Mississippi they have 17 varieties and they can all be seen in one place like Green Valley in Arizona.

**Ruby Throated Hummingbird**

I have now seen 17 species but, it took traveling to California, Texas and Peru to get that many. Arizona is still on my bucket list. But then, they say travel broadens one's perspective so go ahead and plan some trips to find hummingbirds.

Hummingbirds are strictly New World birds. They are found from southern Alaska to southern South America. Each island in the Leeward and Windward chains have several breeds and Central America, and all the countries in South America, have many different species. In total there are about 350 different species, from the smallest bird in the world, the Bee Hummingbird that weighs less than a US penny, to the Giant Hummingbird in Peru, which is about the size of our Northern Cardinal and which my wife has seen but I have not.

Attracting and keeping hummingbirds in and around your yard is a matter of putting out a nectar feeder for them and stepping back five feet. The feeder will be noticed fairly quickly and if there are only a few hummers around your yard, they will be at your feeder as long as you continue to fill it. They are absolutely fearless little birds and very territorial. We have a female who owns our deck and an interloper who also wants to feed there. If the interloper happens by she will not even perch on one of the bars. She sips on

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## HUMMINGBIRDS

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the wing because as soon as the owner discovers her she will attack.

I found that it did little good to put out two feeders because if they are within sight of each other they both belong to the female who owns the deck. She is really quite cute: the first time she sees me in the spring when she returns for migration, she flies right up to my face and looks me in the eye. I don't know if she is saying, "I'm back, feed me," or "hello". If we are sitting at the table she will fly right up to check us out.

When there is a large number around, as at the camp we were staying in when we went to the Big Bend country in Texas, they are not quite so possessive and you can see 15 or 20 around a feeder at any one time. I supposed that there must be safety in numbers and they just can't decide who really owns the feeder.

So, what do you put in a feeder? The best nectar is created by bringing two cups of water and one half cup sugar almost to a boil, stirring until the sugar disappears and then letting it sit until the mixture cools. You should not add any coloring as that might be harmful, but most feeders have red plastic on them. Baltimore Orioles will also appreciate your nectar and you will find that you have attracted two kinds of birds for your efforts.

Good birding,

*Dave Reid*



**Bee Hummingbird**

## WATERFOWL RULES

**During the 2015–2016 hunting season, hunting hours are from half an hour before sunrise until sunset. For ducks, the season is October 16–24 and November 11–January 9; for geese, the season is October 16–24 and November 11–January 21. The daily bag limits are six ducks and three geese; possession limits are 18 ducks and nine geese. Baiting with corn or other food to lure or entice birds is prohibited. Live decoys are prohibited.**

## WATERFOWL REGULATIONS

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fowl stamp. Federal stamps are valid July 1 to June 30 and are available at all National Wildlife Refuges, selected US Post Offices, and at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com). Massachusetts state stamps are valid January 1 to December 31 and may be purchased online at [www.mass.gov/massfishhunt](http://www.mass.gov/massfishhunt) or wherever hunting licenses are sold. All migratory game bird hunters must register with the Harvest Information Program (HIP) each calendar year and must complete a HIP survey either on line at [www.mass.gov/massfishhunt](http://www.mass.gov/massfishhunt) or anywhere hunting licenses are sold. When purchasing a state waterfowl stamp, waterfowl hunters are automatically registered with HIP.

Waterfowl hunters must use non-toxic (i.e. no lead) shot. Migratory game birds may be hunted with shotguns no larger than 10 gauge, fired from the shoulder. Shotguns capable of holding more than three shells may not be used. No person may hunt from or by means of any motor boat or sailboat unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or sails furled and all progress has ceased. However, a hunter may pick up or

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## IPA'S NEW LENDING LIBRARY

*Holly Hobart has generously donated a wonderful collection of books and literature to the IPA. The books cover a variety of subjects, reflecting the depth and breadth of her interests in pond ecology and natural history. Books are available for loan to all IPA members. Email [info@ipa.org](mailto:info@ipa.org) if you are interested in borrowing.*

"Pond and Brook" by Michael J Caduto. 1985. A wonderful guide to nature in freshwater environments.

"Freshwater Mussels and the Connecticut River Watershed" by Ethan J Nedeau. 2008. Much of the valuable information in this book applies to our Indian Pond mussels.

"The Practical Guide to Lake Management in Massachusetts" by Kenneth Wagner. 2004. A companion guide to the "Final Generic Environmental Impact Report on Eutrophication and Aquatic Plant Management in Massachusetts," providing key information in a concise, user-friendly format. Written by Dr Ken Wagner who has previously consulted for IPA. Focuses on control of eutrophication and aquatic plants.

"Restoration and Management of Lakes and Reservoirs" by G. Dennis Cooke et al. 1993. Comprehensive guide to lake management. Includes seven chapters on algal biomass control and four chapters on macrophyte biomass control.

"Beyond Walden: The Hidden History of America's Kettle Lakes and Ponds" by Robert Thorson. 2009. Written by a geologist for the general reader, covers the geology, ecology and cultural history of kettle lakes in North America.

"Bogs of the Northeast" by Charles W Johnson. 1985. Guide to the natural history of regional peatlands.

"A Guide to Common Freshwater Invertebrates of North America" by J. Reese Voshell, Jr. 2002. An excellent identification and life history guide to the mussels, snails, crayfish and other assorted "water bugs" we routinely see in our ponds.

"A Guide to Aquatic Plants in Massachusetts" published by Mass DCR, Lakes and Parks Program.

"Maine Field Guide to Invasive Aquatic Plants and their common native lookalikes" published by Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants. 2007. Written for a general audience but especially to assist in Maine's "early detection" effort. More colorful and comprehensive than the MA guide, with most of the same plants.

"Cape Cod and the Islands: the Geologic Story" by Robert N. Oldale. 1992. Excellent overview for the general reader.

"Freshwater Ecology: Concepts and Environmental Applications of Limnology" by W. Dodds and M. Whiles. 2010. 800+ page college textbook, integrates basic science and applications in short chapters. Good reference and more.

"Freshwater Algae of North America: Ecology and Classification" by J.D. Wehr and R.G. Sheath. 2003. Comprehensive 900+ page volume, meant for students, scientists and phycologists.

"Massachusetts Wildlife vol. XLVIII." Published by MA. Fisheries and Wildlife. 1998. This volume is of special interest to the IPA because of the excellent article about freshwater mussels.

## MICROSCOPE DONATION

In addition to her book collection, Holly Hobart has donated to the IPA a PentaView Celestron digital microscope. This is a professional-level touchscreen LCD microscope with five objective lenses, providing a magnification range of 40 to 600X (2400X with digital zoom). It includes a built-in digital camera with a 4GB SD card. Holly purchased this instrument primarily to study the microorganisms (especially cyanobacteria) in our ponds. **It is available for loan to any interested IPA members.** Experience in using a digital microscope would be helpful but is certainly not required. A detailed instruction manual, a primer on using microscopes, slides and sample bottles are also available. Contact Greg Cronin at 774-238-8441 for additional information.



## IPA MEETING WITH DR. KEN WAGNER, WATER RESOURCES EXPERT

On September 22, IPA President Chip King and members of the IPA hosted a meeting with the expert Water Resources Manager, Kenneth Wagner, Ph.D., CLM., of Water Resource Services, Inc. to discuss the issues with *Hydrilla* and other water clarity concerns within the Indian Ponds. Dr. Wagner was generous with his time and spent several hours discussing the issues and the roadblocks to effective treatment in the Indian Ponds and answering questions. He has since followed up with a detailed letter to the IPA outlining the history and effectiveness of the various treatment options. A copy of his letter is available on the website at [www.ipa.org](http://www.ipa.org). The following is a summary of his discussion and recommendations.

Dr. Wagner presented a framework for lake management with three key components: science, economics and institutional acceptability. He noted that the science usually is not controversial: it's fairly obvious what's happening to the ponds and what the available options are. Economics come down to whether or how much money to spend, and is usually straightforward, too. Institutional acceptability, on the other hand, is more difficult to achieve. He noted that the responsibility for lake management is fragmented among several state agencies making it difficult to get required approvals and assistance.

Dr. Wagner said that putting down barriers and hand pulling have helped limit the spread of *Hydrilla*. However, the growth he saw on his inspection was too widespread for those measures alone. The best option now is chemical control. The preferred herbicide is "Sonar" (fluridone), a systemic herbicide that is absorbed by the leaves and roots and kills the entire plant. For a whole lake treatment, he would recommend an initial concentration of 8 parts per billion (ppb). He said the half life for the herbicide is about a month, so that after a month the concentration would drop to 4 ppb, and in two months it would be 2 ppb. This treatment must be sustained for as many years as the species has been in the lake--in our case, 5-6 years. He recommends a coordinated control effort among the state and local agencies, the cranberry growers using Mystic Lake water for irrigation and harvesting, and the IPA.

*Emily Wheeler*



## WHY I LOVE THE PONDS

We all love our three ponds. Middle Pond is the one I go to the most. My family has two kayaks for me and my sister. We love to paddle around and have races. My favorite thing to do is snorkel. My family knows where crayfish live and we like to catch them. Both my parents are involved in the Indian Ponds Association and are always getting out the *Hydrilla*. I love the ponds and I bet you do, too.

*Taya Robillard*  
10 years-old



**This swan, a patient at the Cape Wildlife Center, developed a deformity called "angel wing," a result of a diet high in bread or other "people foods." *Courtesy Deborah Millman/The HSUS***

**PLEASE DO NOT FEED ANY WATERFOWL!!**

People food isn't good for them  
It makes wild animals lose their natural fear of people  
Animals who depend on people for food can cause injuries or spread disease  
It brings more waterfowl waste to pollute the ponds

## **WATERFOWL REGULATIONS**

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retrieve dead or crippled birds from a craft under power and may shoot injured birds from powered craft in coastal waters seaward of the first upstream bridge. A person may have a loaded shotgun in his possession or under his control in a motor boat while such boat is beached, resting at anchor, or fastened within or tied immediately alongside any type of fixed hunting blind. Loaded shotguns may not be possessed in a motor boat at any other time.

Violations should be reported to the Mass. Environmental Police at 1-800-632-8075 at any hour of the day. For non-emergency wildlife violations, contact the Barnstable Natural Resources program during the day (8:30am to 4:15pm) at 508-790-6272 and after hours at 508-790-6272.

For further details or additional information, go to [www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/](http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/) and [www.townofbarnstable.us/naturalresources/FishingHunting/fishinghunting.asp](http://www.townofbarnstable.us/naturalresources/FishingHunting/fishinghunting.asp).

*Emory D. Anderson*

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



### **VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: HOLLY HOBART**

Holly has been a long-time supporter of the IPA, putting her many talents and endless energy to work to benefit all of us. Between 2006 and 2012 Holly served as IPA Vice President, and IPA President for four additional years, and returned as Vice President in 2013. She has edited the newsletter for many years and spent countless hours on the ponds taking samples, fixing boats, pulling *Hydrilla* and analyzing the data about the health of the ponds. Holly's work in charting the depths of Hamblin Pond, for example, saved the town significant money and allowed the alum treatment to be fast-tracked.

Holly is a graduate of Vassar College with a humanities degree. A deep interest in science and natural history led her to take several additional years of study in math, physics, chemistry and biology. She went on to a career in software development at two technology companies in northern California. Between 1987 and 1998 Holly and her husband, Ken, sailed full time in their 52-foot cutter, "Night Heron," logging more than 50,000 miles at sea in both eastern and western hemispheres. This September Holly and Ken moved to a live aboard a boat in the Seattle area. Holly remains on the IPA Board and will continue to be involved with the IPA, albeit remotely.

Thank you for all you've done and accomplished, Holly! You are indeed missed.

*Photo credits: Hummingbirds, Davie Reid; Page 5, Eric Robillard; page 7, Russ Price.*

*"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."*

INDIAN PONDS ASSOCIATION  
P. O. BOX 383  
MARSTONS MILLS, MA 02648

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

