

THE IPA NEWSLETTER

Mystic Lake, Middle Pond, and Hamblin Pond

Summer 2007

A quarterly publication of the Indian Ponds Association, Inc.

Vol. 7 No. 3

RECORD ATTENDANCE AT IPA ANNUAL MEETING



Despite the threat of potential thunderstorms, a record number of people attended the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Indian Ponds Association on Sunday, July 15. Nearly 80 people gathered under blue skies for the 50th Annual Meeting, which was held on the spacious lawn of the Halpert home at 470 Turtleback Road in Marstons Mills.

Following opening remarks by President Emory Anderson, a **short business meeting** was conducted, which included the election of three new Directors (Robert Derderian, Lewis Solomon, and Carl Thut) and the re-election of two incumbent Directors (James McGuire and Richard Wheeler), all to 2-year terms.

President Anderson gave a brief overview of major activities over the past year. While successfully advocating for an alum treatment for Mystic Lake (see article on page 6), the IPA's major focus has been the removal of invasive plant species: purple loosestrife, gray willow, and Phragmites. The IPA has also continued to participate in the deliberations of the Town's Danforth Property Subcommittee.



Senator Rob O'Leary delivering the main address at the IPA Annual Meeting.



President Emory Anderson at the podium for the IPA Annual Meeting.

expectations of over 170 by the end of the year.

The second annual derelict boat and debris clean-up, headed by Director Bob Kohl, was held Memorial Day weekend (see article on page 6). Anderson said that boats, docks, and rafts should be labeled so that the owners can be contacted when they drift away and are found in other parts of the ponds.

Anderson reported that the IPA is again participating in the ongoing pond sampling. This summer, however, only five sampling dates have been scheduled. He also noted that the Hamblin Pond Town beach had been closed because of the presence of high levels of fecal coliform bacteria (see article on this page).

Lastly, President Anderson was pleased to announce that IPA membership has continued to grow and set yet another record. At this time last year, there were 144 household memberships, and 153 by the end of 2006. This year, there were 164 household memberships, with

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HAMBLIN POND TOWN BEACH SWIMMING CLOSURES

People who use the Hamblin Pond Town beach are aware that it has been closed to swimming a number of days this summer. This is because of unhealthy levels of bacteria in the water which normally live in the lower intestines of animals and which enter rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds via direct discharge of waste from mammals and birds, from agricultural and storm runoff, and from untreated human sewage. The intestinal bacteria *Escherichia coli* is used as an indicator of fecal contamination at freshwater beaches. In Massachusetts, a single measurement of 235 cfu (colony forming units) of *E. coli* per 100 ml of water or a geometric mean of 126 cfu/100 ml for five consecutive measurements is the maximum level allowed before swimming is prohibited at freshwater beaches.

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The IPA is a 501(c)(3) organization and a registered public charity. All dues and contributions are tax deductible.

This newsletter, with a circulation of over 625, is a forum for the exchange of ideas on matters germane to the IPA mission and, as such, the views expressed by authors of articles do not necessarily represent official IPA policy.

RECORD ATTENDANCE AT IPA ANNUAL MEETING (Continued from page 1)

Dale Saad, Special Project Manager for the Town's Department of Public Works, explained briefly about the recent closures of the Hamblin Pond Town beach because of high bacterial levels (see article beginning on page 1). Director Jane Smith presented \$750 checks and certificates to Edward Schwarm Memorial Scholarship recipients Terri Anne Guarino and Katherine Patellos.

President Emory Anderson thanked John Klimm, Town Manager, and Rob Gatewood, Director of the Town's Conservation Division for their extraordinary support of the mission of the IPA over the past several years relative to the pond study, alum treatment for Mystic Lake, and control of invasive plant species. He announced that the Board of Directors had recently established an award, the **Order of the Turtle**, to recognize individuals such as Klimm and Gatewood.



Director Jane Smith (left) presents Edward Schwarm Memorial Scholarships to Terri Anne Guarino (center) and Katherine Patellos (right).

He read the following inscription at the bottom of the framed certificate explaining why the turtle was chosen to be emblematic of this honor: "***In Native American mythology, the turtle represents strength, perseverance, and a long, meaningful life. A user of land as well as water, it is viewed as a protector of both realms. Since the mission of the Indian Ponds Association includes the preservation and protection of the three Indian Ponds and their surrounding watershed, it is only fitting that the turtle should be symbolic of our efforts in this regard.***" Gatewood was presented his award and responded gratefully by recognizing that the IPA is constantly coming up with great ideas. Unfortunately, Klimm was not present at the Annual Meeting, but Anderson subsequently made the presentation to him at the July 19 meeting of the Barnstable Town Council.

Gatewood provided a brief update on the design and permitting process for the Mystic Lake alum treatment ([for more details, see article on page 6](#)). He also explained that

individual homeowners could apply for permits to remove the invasive gray willow from their waterfronts ([for more details, see article on page 8](#)).

In his main address, **Senator Rob O'Leary** spoke about two major issues of concern in a series of incisive comments and explanations as to projected and possible remedies.

Water Quality: With 85-90% of the homes on Cape Cod relying on septic systems and with Barnstable, Falmouth, and Chatham the only Cape Cod towns that have introduced or are about to introduce new water treatment plants, the challenge is enormous. O'Leary spoke about a bill he is about to file in the Massachusetts Senate to fund the building of wastewater treatment infrastructure that would use State Revolving Funds (\$120 million per year for 10 years) to cut in half the estimated \$2-3 billion cost of sewerage the Cape. Qualifying towns would be eligible for 0% interest loans; a 10-year sunset provision would encourage towns to act. Each town would prepare its own plan, but every plan must be certified by the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection.



President Emory Anderson presents IPA Order of the Turtle award to Rob Gatewood.

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RECORD ATTENDANCE AT IPA ANNUAL MEETING

(Continued from page 2)

The Town of Barnstable is well on its way in the planning process. Plans must include "checkerboard zoning" to prevent growth – smaller facilities placed here and there instead of centralized – and be growth-neutral, except for affordable housing and those areas where the public (at the town level) wants growth to occur. Lastly, there would be flexible local control for managing such plans. O'Leary clarified that not every residence would need to be sewered, that there are a lot of different solutions, and that the probable major source of funding would be a betterment assessment rather than a percentage of the Cape room and/or meals tax.

Homeowners Insurance: Senator O'Leary also addressed the increasing cost of homeowners' insurance being experienced by residents of the Cape. He said that insurance companies, and particularly reinsurance companies, are convinced that global warming is happening and that hurricanes are becoming more frequent and more severe. He said, "the reinsurance industry is taking us to the cleaners." The FAIR plan rates offered by the State are lower than private plans, but FAIR has no reinsurance and, given a widespread disaster, probably wouldn't pay out. O'Leary has filed legislation that would require the State to examine the forecasting models used by the insurance companies, to freeze the FAIR rates for two years, and to establish a reinsurance account, analogous to personal whole life insurance rather than term insurance, funded by a 5% premium increase in every auto and home insurance policy. These monies would accrue free of federal

taxes. The current estimated home damage payout for a huge storm in Massachusetts is about \$6 billion. This amount in the reinsurance account could be generated in 6-10 years, as long as a big storm did not happen during that time. The State could also float bonds to help secure such an account.

Noting that the Cape was now due for some major State support and being generally optimistic about both bills, he acknowledged some opposition from legislators in other parts of the State. In conclusion, he encouraged individuals to make their views known to Senate and House leaders.

Following adjournment, attendees enjoyed a **social hour** that featured fine wines donated by Cotuit Liquors and various snacks provided by Stop & Shop, Amandine Patisserie Cafe, and IPA members.

Special thanks to IPA Director Jon Halpert, his wife Debby, and his sister Janis Maloney for their warm hospitality, John and Deirdre Kayajan for the use of their chairs, Ernest Ryden for providing photography and a public address system, and all who assisted in any way with arrangements and logistics.

In a brief meeting following adjournment, the **new Board of Directors convened to elect officers.** Re-elected for another year were Emory Anderson (President), Holly Hobart (Vice President), Nancy Wong (Treasurer), and Richard Wheeler (Clerk).

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The IPA is fortunate to have acquired the services of three new Directors who were elected to the Board at the July 15 Annual Meeting. Robert Derderian, Lewis Solomon, and Carl Thut were elected to 2-year terms. In addition, James McGuire and Richard Wheeler, who had each previously served two 2-year terms, were re-elected to their third 2-year terms.



Robert Derderian

Robert Derderian, who lives with his wife Gail on Hollidge Hill Lane and in Waltham, is a graduate of Dartmouth College, and served as an officer in the Navy before being employed by a building materials distribution company, of which he eventually became president. Bob played a leading role in an 11-year effort that culminated in the alum treatment of Hamblin Pond in 1995. The IPA will benefit immensely from his past experience and current interest in pre-

serving the quality of the Indian Ponds.

Lewis Solomon and his wife Nancy, who have a home in Lynxholm on the west side of Mystic Lake, have lived here for 24 years while enjoying all the recreational opportunities offered by the lake. With degrees in electrical engineering and business administration, he owns and is now retired from a

consulting company that provides services to the electronics industry worldwide. Lew has served on the board of his neighborhood association, loves the Indian Ponds, and wants to help preserve them for future generations.

Carl Thut, a California native who lives on Wheeler Road with his wife Kathleen and two of his four children, has a Ph.D. in chemistry and worked for 34 years with Chevron Corporation in San Francisco in various technical and marketing management positions in the product part of the Corporation, the last being General Manager of Technology for Global Lubricants with laboratories in nine countries. Carl also serves as treasurer and board member of The Friends of Bridgeview School in Sagamore. He loves being on or near the water, as a teenager assisted his commercial fisherman father for five seasons, and believes the IPA provides needed stewardship for the care of the Indian Ponds.



Lewis Solomon



Carl Thut

PONDSIDE BUFFERS ENHANCE YOUR YARD AND PROTECT THE POND

Vegetated buffers, sometimes called “buffer strips”, are protective areas of plantings between wetlands and human activity. They act as “living filters”, capturing sediment, pollutants, and nutrients and preventing them from entering and degrading the water. A well-designed buffer of attractive plants can enhance your view and add value to your property, while protecting the pond.

Even the most careful and sensitive development increases the amount of phosphorus in groundwater, compared to undisturbed woodland. As we all know, phosphorus is the nutrient that is most damaging to freshwater lakes and ponds. But it isn't the only one. Consider all the possible sources of runoff from your property and the substances they might contain: pesticides and fertilizers from your lawn and gardens, pet droppings, oil from the driveway, subsurface flow from your septic tank, and sediment. The magic of vegetated buffers is that they have the power to substantially reduce these impacts by capturing these substances both above and below ground.

How do buffers work?

Stems and interlaced root systems in a planted buffer impede the velocity of runoff, permitting sediments to settle out. This gives the microorganisms in the soil time to break down chemicals so the root systems can absorb them.

What other benefits do buffers contribute?

Buffers can also provide food for wildlife, a corridor in which animals can travel, and shelter. This is especially important for animals that live on both water and land, such as turtles, frogs, toads, and salamanders. Buffers can attract songbirds to your yard, while forming a barrier that keeps geese off your lawn. They allow you to keep your lovely lawn while protecting the pond and enhancing both your view and the natural environment.

Objectives of buffer design

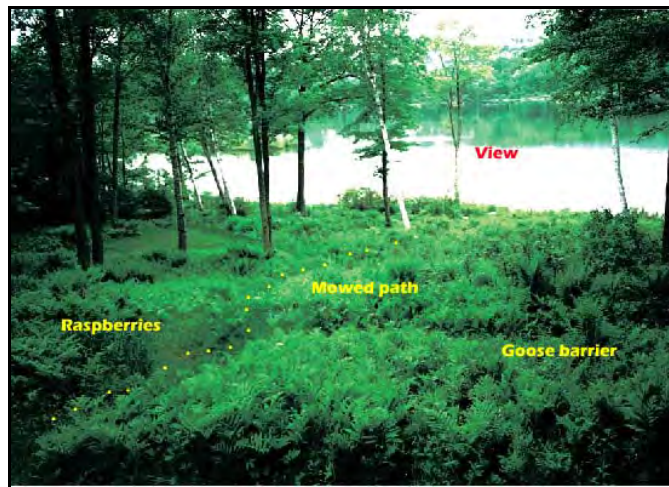
The three principal considerations are to maintain privacy, maintain your view, and provide easy access to the water. Secondary objectives might be to improve the aesthetics of your property and deter geese. Geese love lush grass, but don't like to walk through shrubbery or dense low plantings such as blue flag iris, ferns, or even tall grass. They like an unobstructed view, so shrubbery makes them nervous, especially when they have goslings to protect. Lastly, we all want to reduce the time we spend maintaining our yards.

Getting started

The simplest way to start a buffer is to stop mowing a 20-foot strip between your lawn and the pond, and see what comes up. Keep an eye out for invasives, especially gray willow, Phragmites, and purple loosestrife, and remove them as soon

as you see them. Don't use herbicides. Then begin adding selected plants such as low shrubs, vines, grasses, ground covers, ferns and water-tolerant perennials such as blue flag iris. A few well-placed trees can provide a lovely frame for your view, and they also help by shading and cooling the shallow water near the shore. You can add a few plants each year or every few years until your buffer looks like what you want.

If you stick to native plants, they'll grow happily with the least amount of attention. They will also support wildlife better than non-natives. Another reason for using natives is that they don't need fertilizer or pesticides. Remember that keeping these substances out of the pond was the reason for planting a buffer to begin with! Planting of native trees, shrubs, or ground covers is also considered an “exempt minor activity” under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (310 CMR 10.58(6)(b) and DEP (#99-1).



Think of fall and spring color, berries for the birds (and people, too), structural impact, and size. Avoid planting shrubs and trees that will require extensive pruning to keep them from blocking your view. Remember, a buffer is supposed to reduce, not increase, your workload!

Make a crooked path

Mow a meandering little path to the water through your buffer strip. The more meandering, the better. A crooked path is more fun to walk on, and protects the

pond from runoff far better. It also gives you a chance to enjoy your plantings at close range as you walk to the water.

Leave the leaves

Leaf litter acts as a blanket, holding in moisture and helping the soil microbes do their good work. It also helps impede runoff. So don't toil too hard at raking every last leaf out of your buffer each spring.

Finally, be proud of your work and enjoy the knowledge that you've done something good for your property and good for Mother Nature at the same time!

For more information

The Massachusetts Buffer Manual, prepared by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission for the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, 2003, is all you need. It covers every aspect of vegetated buffers, including an extensive chapter on design, lists of native plants, and an excellent bibliography. You can find this publication on the Internet at <http://berkshireplanning.org/4/1/#buf>. Scroll down to the middle of the page and download the manual by chapter.

IS YOUR LAWN CULTURED?

Do you have weeds? Is your lawn looking thin, lackluster? Do you need to do more and more work to get it to look good? If you feel you have been banging your proverbial head into the compaction of our soils, you needn't look too much further than the tools you have on hand to help you with the problem.

Lawns are a man-made concept, thought up in the mind of our Victorian ancestors, using lawns as art work and pathways. But in the real world of nature, the closest thing to this idea would be a prairie. And that would be a tough lawn to mow much less walk on. Mother Nature likes diversity and not monocultures. She will, inevitably win the battle, by bringing in crabgrass, sorrel, or any other number of weeds.

Can we battle this? Is there a way to have a lawn for our children to play on or families to gather? Yes! If we work with the cycle of life and get the science of soil correct, and if we have an adjustment of our perception of what a lawn looks like. Before the onset of herbicides, weeds in the lawn were part of its normal accepted make up. Remembering this will help put less pressure on yourself, and the environment.

First, get a laboratory grade soil test, one that will give you levels of organic matter, calcium to magnesium ratio, and pH, along with other macro- and micro-nutrients. These tests are easy to do and inexpensive. Consider it your road map; it tells you where you are so you can get to where you need to be.

When you get your test back, bring it into your local area garden center to help with the interpretation. In the meantime, a few basics of cultural turf practices will help:

Mowing: So many of us have been mowing our lawns at a height of 1-2". The problem with this is it can actually enhance weed seed germination. Mowing at 3" instead will do a tremendous amount by shading the soil and preventing weed seeds from germinating in the sun's warmth. This extra 1" can make a huge difference.

Mowing no more than 1/3 of the leaf blade will help to prevent stress of the plant. Think of the blade as a factory; it makes the food and chlorophyll that are supplied to it. If you cut off the factory, it is like laying off most of the workers, and the ones that are left behind have to work extra hard, creating a stressful environment.

Keeping your mower blades sharp will help to keep disease at bay too. If the blades are dull, it tends to tear the blade instead of cutting it. A torn grass blade has jagged edges with more surface area to allow infections to enter. Thousands of torn blades in your lawn will appear like a dull brown haze across it.

Aeration: Compaction – a weed's best friend. Weeds love it and grass hates it. Grass needs air as much as it needs the soil. Grass does not grow in the soil; it grows in the pockets of air in the soil. A lawn that is heavily used (do you have kid's?) needs to be aerated at least once or twice a year. Overseeding at this time is a perfect combination.

Watering: An established lawn needs 1" of water every 7-10 days. Deep and infrequent watering encourages deep root growth which, in turn, give your plants more health and vitality. This encourages deep root growth and, in turn, gives your turf more strength to live through drought. To help figure out how much 1" is, here is a little trick. Use an empty tuna can. Lay it in the sprinkler zone while running; however long it takes to fill, is roughly 1".

A newly planted lawn needs frequent and light watering to help seeds germinate. As the seeds sprout, cut back on the number of times and increase the length, eventually reaching your goal of watering as you would for an established lawn

Weed Control: This is not a cultural practice, but in a tough situation of a weed infested lawn, there is help. There are a few products out there that are effective alternatives to chemical applications. One is corn gluten. We have heard in recent years that "I used that corn gluten and it doesn't work!" Some exploration into the why is very useful.

Corn gluten needs to be used in a specific way in order to work. First, it needs to be put down between the time the forsythia bloom and the lilac bloom. Next, it needs to be watered in thoroughly. And most importantly is the drying time. It needs at least three days of being dry, so that it can encapsulate the weed seed and dry out the fibrous root hairs coming from it, thus killing it.

Corn gluten is only going to work well if it is followed with the preferred cultural practices. For example, if you are mowing too short and letting sun in to warm up the soil, it will only increase the ability to help weed seeds germinate. With proper mowing, watering, and aeration, and following it with a good quality organic fertilizer along with a good dose of organic matter, the products you use will work better.

Also, not enough could be said about using a monthly application of a good quality compost tea or other microbial inoculation. These products will increase the microbial population which is the base of all soil vitality. These little "bugs" help break down otherwise unavailable nutrients in the soil, to feed them to the plant. Without these guys, plants don't survive. Plants need microbes to break down the organic matter and fertilizer to a form that it can be taken up, and, in turn, the plants produce sugars to feed back to the microbes, creating a symbiotic relationship.

In short, a few cultural practices along with the right applications of organic fertilizer and compost tea will keep you from pulling your hair out. It will also help the cycle of life in your lawn and help it live sustainably; that is, using less harmful inputs and surviving more on it's own. This, in turn, will give you more peace of mind knowing that your friends and family are hanging out on a "cultured" and safe lawn that has little or no chemicals applications.

DERELICT BOAT AND DEBRIS CLEANUP

A group of nine volunteers, under the leadership of Director Bob Kohl, participated in the second annual derelict boat and debris cleanup of Mystic Lake and Middle Pond on Saturday, May 26. Those who helped were Carl and Patrick Thut, David Dawson, James McGuire, Holly Hobart, Ken Creighton, Emory and Geri Anderson, and Bob Kohl.

The amount of discarded and abandoned material collected was considerably less than last year, but still included many items, both large and small. As was the case last year, personnel from the Town's Highway Division removed the debris that had been gathered and deposited on the Mystic Lake Town beach. The IPA is very appreciative of the fine cooperation and assistance given by the Town on this project.

In the future, the IPA would welcome the participation of members who live on Hamblin Pond and have access to boats to be used to locate and retrieve derelict items.

Many items found both this year and last, such as floats or rafts, had no identification making it impossible to return them to their owners. The IPA strongly encourages people to label their boats, floats, and rafts so that the owners can be contacted when such items drift away. Equally important,

owners should exercise better care of such property by ensuring that they are properly secured or stored during the off-season months.

The IPA plans to create a lost-and-found "box" on its Internet website (www.indianponds.org) to list items of value that appear to be lost or abandoned with instructions on where and how to retrieve/reclaim them.



Volunteers assembled at Bob Kohl's dock to begin the cleanup.

UPDATE ON FIRST PHASE OF MYSTIC LAKE ALUM TREATMENT

Following approval on April 26 by the Town Council to fund the design and permitting phase of an alum treatment for Mystic Lake, progress has already been made on this first phase by Rob Gatewood of the Town's Conservation Division. Discussions have taken place between Gatewood and representatives of an environmental firm that would provide all the services needed for data review, supplemental data collection, development of the design for the eventual alum treatment, environmental permitting, public meetings, and report preparation. At the time this newsletter was going to press, the Town was preparing contract documents with the firm in question.

It is anticipated that further in-pond sampling and analytical work will commence in August. This would include the collection of additional water chemistry profiles at various sites throughout the lake, characterization of bottom sediments to evaluate the extent of resident phosphorus, and a survey to define the distribution and habitat of the rare and endangered species of freshwater mussels and damselflies. It is expected that IPA volunteers will assist in some of these activities.

If all activities associated with the design and permitting phase proceed as expected, phase two (the actual alum treatment) could be implemented sometime in 2008. This, of course, will be contingent on the necessary funding being recommended by the Town Manager and approved by the Town Council.

BROWN BULLHEADS IN INDIAN PONDS

Anyone who has fished the Indian Ponds has undoubtedly caught a brown bullhead (*Ameiurus nebulosus*). Generally not a favorite of most anglers, in part because of the sharp, saw-toothed spines at the base of its dorsal and pectoral fins, it is nevertheless an interesting fish. Especially fascinating is how it cares for its offspring.

Brown bullheads spawn in late spring or early summer and lay 2,000–10,000 eggs in an adhesive mass under some kind of cover such as a dock, float, or boat. Both parents guard the eggs which hatch in about 5-8 days. Larvae, which are jet black and resemble tadpoles, remain in a dense school under the care and protection of one or both adults for several weeks until attaining a length of 1-2 inches.

Consider yourself fortunate if you have been privileged to observe one of these dense schools of brown bullhead larvae under the watchful eye of their parents. My son-in-law (Eric Norgard) happened onto such a situation a few weeks ago in Mystic Lake and succeeded in recording the event on video in three clips each lasting 16-19 seconds. These short videos can be watched by accessing and downloading them from the IPA website (www.indianponds.org) and playing them on your computer (you will need software such as Windows Media Player).

Emory D. Anderson, Ph.D.

HAMBLIN POND TOWN BEACH SWIMMING CLOSURES

(Continued from page 1)

When routine testing in mid June detected high levels of bacteria at the Hamblin Pond Town beach sufficient to close it to swimming, Dale Saad from the Town's Department of Public Works (formerly with the Health Division) investigated the beach area to determine the source of the bacteria. She discovered fecal matter from ducks, geese, dogs, and humans on the beach. This material was subsequently removed, but later examinations of both the Town beach and nearby private beaches by IPA members revealed the continued presence of duck, goose and dog fecal matter.

In cooperation with the local public health departments on Cape Cod, the Barnstable County Department of Health and the Environment conducts a weekly surveillance of the water quality at over 250 public beaches on Cape Cod during the summer bathing season, including the three in the Indian Ponds. In the event of a beach closure, the beach in question is resampled daily thereafter until results permit re-opening. You can examine the weekly water quality of your favorite beach by accessing the following County Department of Health and the Environment website: <http://www.barnstablecountyhealth.org/bsbarnstable.htm>.

People who make use of any Town or private beach on either freshwater ponds or the ocean are reminded that the disposal of dog or human fecal matter is prohibited. **People who walk their dogs on or near pond or ocean beaches or**

shoreline (or anywhere, for that matter) are strongly urged to remove any fecal matter deposited by their pets. Such material can leach into the water and contaminate it with fecal bacteria.



Be sure to clean up after your dog.
Cartoon by Aiello.

Ducks and geese pose a serious problem for our ponds and lakes by virtue of the fecal matter they deposit in the water, on docks and floats, and on beaches. The presence of ducks and geese on beaches, particularly the Hamblin Pond Town beach, is frequently because people like to feed them. Knowing that they can obtain food is a strong stimulus for waterfowl to return frequently to these areas, and such habits are passed on to subsequent generations of these birds. Feeding them is unwise because it leads to the unwanted deposition of fecal matter on the beaches. **People are strongly requested to refrain from feeding wild ducks and geese.**

Although the water at public beaches is routinely tested, it is the responsibility of private individuals to test the water at their own beaches or neighborhood association beaches. Sampling instructions and sterile bottles can be obtained from the Barnstable County Department of Health and the Environment (508-375-6605) at the Superior Courthouse, 3195 Main Street, Barnstable. A fee of \$12 is charged for analyzing a sample, and results are generally available within 24 hours.

SMEDLEY

by Gordon Nelson



PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE REMOVAL – YEAR 2

A small group of volunteers participated in the second year of an effort to rid the shores of the Indian Ponds of the invasive purple loosestrife plant. On Friday, July 20, Joseph Arena, Ronald Palumbo, Holly Hobart, and Emory Anderson worked for several hours at the south end of Hamblin Pond on the Town beach and adjacent shoreline west of the beach pulling plants that were missed or only partially removed during last year's massive effort that involved 14 volunteers. This year, only 10 black plastic bags (55-gal size) were filled compared to 64 last year.

An additional two bags of purple loosestrife were removed from the shores of Middle Pond during the first week of this August by Don and Jane Smith and Emory and Geri Anderson. This compares with about 30 bags of plants pulled from Middle Pond in July 2006. Also, Susan Sawyer has removed several bags of purple loosestrife from the northern part of Hamblin Pond. Thanks to everyone for their help!

Clearly, these efforts by IPA volunteers, under the auspices of a 3-year permit issued by the Town's Conservation Commission, to remove purple loosestrife are having a measurable impact. It will be interesting to see how many plants reappear in 2008.



Joseph Arena (left) and Ronald Palumbo (right) take a breather while pulling purple loosestrife at Hamblin Pond Town beach.

GRAY WILLOW REMOVAL PERMITS

As reported in the 2007 Spring issue of the newsletter, there have been ongoing discussions between the IPA Board and Rob Gatewood of the Town's Conservation Division regarding obtaining permission to remove invasive gray willows from waterfront property on the Indian Ponds owned either by the Town or by private individuals. Recently, various IPA members have inquired about obtaining permits to remove gray willow from their property. At the Annual Meeting, Gatewood commented briefly on this and pointed out that the instructions and forms for filing for a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) can be obtained from the Conservation Division's Internet website.

Discussions with Gatewood since the Annual Meeting explored whether or not some type of group filing might be possible. Unfortunately, this will not be allowed, and it will be necessary for individual property owners to submit separate filings. Guidelines for submitting an RDA application can be obtained from the Conservation Division office or from (<http://www.town.barnstable.ma.us/Conservation/>). The RDA application (WPA Form 1) can be downloaded from <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/approvals/wpaform1.pdf>. Anyone lacking computer access or needing assistance should contact the Conservation Division office (508-862-4093) at 200 Main Street, Hyannis.

It is hoped that all waterfront property owners will seek a permit to remove the gray willows on their land. A submission as soon as possible is recommended. Gatewood has

acknowledged that the Conservation Commission could schedule multiple applications on the same night.

Subject to approval by the Conservation Commission, the preferred method of removal of the gray willows would be cutting (and subsequent removal or burning) followed by treating the stump with Rodeo, a systemic herbicide that kills roots, does not harm fish or other aquatic organisms, and is approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for use on or near the water.

IPA CAPS FOR SALE

Support and publicize the IPA!

Price: \$15

**To buy caps,
call Geri Anderson
(508-420-2303)**

