

THE IPA NEWSLETTER

Mystic Lake, Middle Pond, and Hamblin Pond

Spring 2009

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IPA ANNUAL MEETING AND PARTY A NOT-TO-BE-MISSED EVENT

Circle Sunday, July 19 on your calendar. Jot down "4:00 PM". This is the date and time of the IPA's Annual Meeting and Party, one of summer's pleasant occasions. Again, it will be held on the lawn at the lovely waterfront home of IPA Director Jon and Debby Halpert, 360 Turtleback Road, overlooking both Mystic Lake and Middle Pond. The meeting will consist of a briefing on the IPA's activities by President Holly Hobart, presentation of the Edward Schwarm Scholarship to an outstanding high school senior, and election of new Directors. The guest speaker will be Tim Simmons, a restoration ecologist with the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. Tim is a longtime friend of the IPA and one of the two scientists who confirmed the presence of invasive gray willows on the shores of the Indian Ponds. Following the business meeting, we will gather under the trees for wine, tasty things to eat, and conversation with our neighbors. Free copies of *Resident's Guides* will be available, and IPA caps will be for sale. We look forward to seeing you there!

To find Jon and Debby's house, look for the "IPA" signs and balloons at the corner of Old Mill Road and Turtleback Road in Marstons Mills. Follow the signs to the parking area at the end of Turtleback. In case of rain, we will meet indoors at the home of IPA Director Lewis and Nancy Solomon at 28 Heath Row in Marstons Mills.

ALUM TREATMENT: A GLIMMER OF HOPE

On May 5, Holly Hobart, IPA President, Carl Thut, IPA Vice President (PhD chemist), and Emory Anderson, IPA Past President (PhD fisheries scientist), traveled to Westborough, MA, to meet with the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP). This is the regulatory organization which had denied the Town of Barnstable's application for a permit to treat Mystic Lake with alum. The alum treatment was designed to reduce the amount of phosphorus that is being regenerated from the sediments of Mystic Lake and is promoting the growth of excessive algae. Rob Gatewood, Director of the Town's Conservation Division, also attended the meeting, as did Tim Simmons, a restoration ecologist with NHESP. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss NHESP's decision and to present the case that the lake's condition was degraded and getting worse, and that a dying lake would eventually kill the mussels they were trying to protect.

Two of the NHESP scientists responsible for NHESP's decision, Misty-Anne Marold, an endangered species review biologist, and Marea Gabriel, an aquatic ecologist, hosted the meeting. Ms Marold reviewed the regulatory environment within which NHESP functions. NHESP reviews all applications for construction or other activity within areas identified as habitat for "listed" species, meaning species that are listed as endangered, threatened, or of "special concern" under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA). Their denials are based on the possibility of either a "take", i.e., immediate death of individuals of a protected species, or "adverse effect", which might involve long-term effects to populations or damage to habitat. Of the 3,000 applications reviewed by NHESP each year, only about 30 result in permits being issued.

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DERELICT BOAT AND DEBRIS CLEANUP of Mystic Lake and Middle Pond on Saturday May 23 (rain date: Saturday May 30). Anyone wishing to participate in the cleanup should meet at 9:00 AM at IPA Director Bob Kohl's dock at the north end of Mystic Lake (1153 Race Lane). If you have a boat with motor, please come with that together with rope, rubber boots, and any other items of equipment that might assist in gathering and towing debris.

IPA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS: 2008–2009

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This newsletter, with a circulation of over 650, 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.

MORE GRAY WILLOW REMOVAL IN JUNE

Bartlett Tree Experts will again be cutting and treating invasive gray willow trees on the shores on all three Indian Ponds this summer, continuing the eradication project begun last year. As reported in the previous newsletter, part of this effort will be the removal of the largest gray willows from the 23 acres of Town property along the northeast shore of Mystic Lake (former Danforth property), thanks to a grant from the Barnstable County Land Management Grant Program and matching funds from the Town's Conservation Division. The other part will be the removal of willows from private properties. As last year, the IPA prepared the paperwork and obtained the permit from the Conservation Commission. Bartlett provides cost estimates to interested land owners and contracts with them to do the work. **If you didn't have your gray willows removed last year, we urge you to call Bartlett Tree Experts at 508-428-2397 right away to get an estimate.**

To refresh your memory, the European gray willow (*Salix atrocinerea*), also known, less-descriptively, as rusty willow, is a shrub-like tree with gray-green foliage. On the banks of the ponds, these trees look like giant gray-green shrubby balls. They eat up pond shore space, shade out our native plants, and offer little hospitality to birds and other wildlife. They spread by seeds and also in a far more sinister way. As the tree ages, the trunk tends to break apart so that the branches touch the water. Wherever the tip of a branch touches the water's surface, the tree sends out roots and starts a new plant. In this way, the trees invade the water space and eventually may take over shallow ponds completely, covering them from shore to shore. The oldest gray willow trees living on the shores of the Indian Ponds today have been growing for at least 70 years. That has given them plenty of time to proliferate until they now nearly encircle all three ponds.

The fact that gray willows closely resemble certain species of native pussy willows means that identification needs to be done by an expert. To properly treat the cut stumps so the trees won't re-sprout requires a licensed pesticide operator. Also, the cuttings must be disposed of properly to prevent making the problem worse. For these reasons, a licensed operator such as Bartlett must do this work, and **it is illegal for property owners to remove gray willows themselves.**

The actual eradication work will be done in early June. Bartlett will work from the water as they did last year, cutting the stump to the recommended height and carefully painting it with Rodeo (glyphosate), an herbicide that is safe to use near water, but which requires a licensed operator. Bartlett uses vegetable oil in their chainsaws to prevent polluting the ponds, and removes all of the brush by barge to a chipper, then hauls the chippings away for proper disposal.

As of May 15, 10 property owners had signed up to have their willows removed. Signups will continue to be taken up to the time the work is actually started, during the first two weeks in June, but the sooner you sign up, the better. Help us rid our ponds of these pernicious trees!

JULY 4th BOAT PARADE



A boat parade around Mystic Lake and Middle Pond on the afternoon of July 4 is being organized again for this year. Anyone with a pontoon boat, regular boat, canoe, or kayak is welcome to join in the fun to help celebrate the holiday and also to continue a tradition begun some years ago by former IPA member and Director Ted Elliott who died in August 2007. Ted would travel around the two ponds on the 4th with his pontoon boat, stopping at all public and private beaches to present small US flags to all children.

The plan is for participating boats to assemble at 3:00 PM on July 4 in the northwest corner of Mystic Lake. The parade

will proceed counter-clockwise around Mystic Lake, stopping at each beach to present flags, and then continue through the cut into Middle Pond to do the same. All boat owners are encouraged to decorate their boats with bunting, flags, ribbons, balloons, etc. Use your imagination! Don and Judith Houghton (508-420-3095) have again agreed to coordinate the parade. Anyone needing further information should contact them. In case of rain, the parade will be on July 5.

This event is not sponsored by the IPA nor can the IPA be held liable for any accidents to participants. Individuals will be responsible for their own safety.

RECIPIENT OF SCHWARM MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



Ariel Walcott

The IPA is pleased to announce that this year's recipient of the Edward Schwarm Memorial Scholarship is Ariel Walcott, daughter of Mark and Roberta Walcott of 173 Evergreen Drive, Marstons Mills. Ariel was selected by the IPA Scholarship Committee based on her academic achievements, extracurricular activities, and community service related to the mission of the IPA. She will receive a \$1000 check at the IPA Annual Meeting on Sunday, July 19.

Contributions from IPA members and the Schwarm family, the award has increased from \$500 to \$1000.

Ariel is a graduating senior at Barnstable High School and is a member of the National Honor Society as well as the French National Honor Society. She has participated in her school's sailing team for 4 years and the cross country team for 3 years. She has performed in 15 of her school's Drama Club productions. This year, Ariel was nominated as a *Cape Cod Times* Rising Star Nominee, and won a Silver Key from the *Boston Globe* Scholastic Art Awards. Ariel is also very active with the Cape Cod Synagogue working, volunteering, recycling, and leading her local youth group as its vice president. Next year, Ariel will be attending UMass Amherst, majoring in Natural Resource Studies. Her goal is to be active after college in a career in the growing Green Movement.

The Schwarm Memorial Scholarship was established in 2005 in memory of Edward Schwarm, a former IPA Director and officer who died in May 2005. Due to the generosity of con-

We wish Ariel great success in college and in her career pursuit.

Gay Rhue

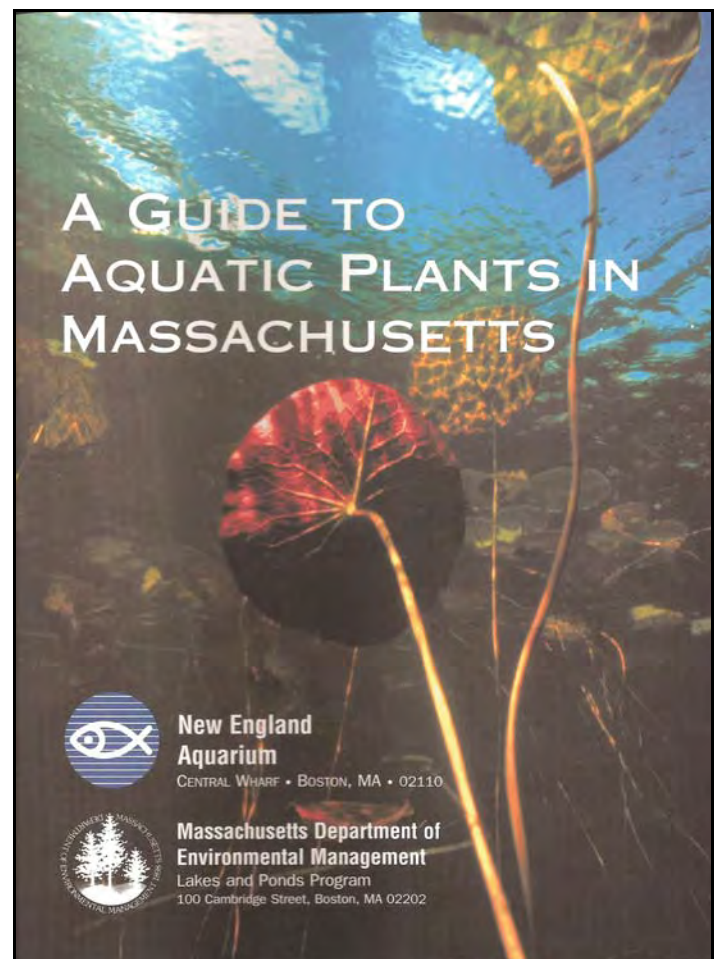
FRESHWATER AQUATIC PLANT CLASS

The IPA has made arrangements with Jim Straub from the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, Lakes and Ponds Program to come to Marstons Mills and present a class on the identification of freshwater aquatic plants. He and his assistants will hold the class at Burgess House on Route 149 the afternoon of Thursday, July 23 from 3:00 to 6:00 PM.

Participants will be asked to bring samples of aquatic plants in a small plastic bag with a little pond water from Mystic Lake, Middle Pond, or Hamblin Pond. Class members will be taught to use the taxonomic key: *A Guide to Aquatic Plants in Massachusetts* by Wanda Kelly, and will receive a free copy.

This class is being offered *gratis* to adult IPA members. Space is limited, so be sure to sign up as soon as possible to insure your place in the class. To sign up for the class, send an email to info@indianponds.org, drop a note to IPA, P.O. Box 383, Marstons Mills, MA 02648, or sign up at the Annual Meeting on July 19.

**IF YOU WISH TO JOIN THE IPA
OR HAVEN'T RENEWED YOUR
MEMBERSHIP THIS YEAR,
PLEASE FILL OUT AND SEND
THE ENCLOSED REMITTANCE
ENVELOPE TODAY**



A NEWCOMER'S EXPERIENCE WITH TROUT IN HAMBLIN POND

The first fish I ever caught was in a hatchery in the Poconos. It was a few years ago, and my husband and I went there for a long weekend. We passed a sign that told us we could bring our rods and fish in the hatchery pond, and I couldn't resist. After coming home empty-handed from the Cape Cod Canal a couple of times, I wanted to go somewhere with better odds.

My husband was dubious. "You can't fish at a hatchery," he said. "It isn't sporting."

The idea of trout for dinner brought him around, though, and in we went. Within moments, I caught my very first fish. And then my second, and my third.

"This isn't fishing," said Kevin. "This is shopping."

Nevertheless, that was the sum total of my fishing experience when we bought our house on Hamblin Pond last year. When we moved in, we didn't know that it was one of the best trout ponds on the Cape. As soon as we found out, we were out there with lures, flies, and shiners, trying to bag the big one.

After a couple of fruitless attempts, I at last landed my first wild fish, a beautiful 2-pound rainbow. I took it home in triumph, and within the hour it was a frittata.

The fish tasted so good that I was only a little disappointed to find out it wasn't a wild fish after all. It turns out that every single trout in the pond begins its life at the Sandwich Hatchery.

Hamblin Pond is stocked twice a year, spring and fall, with a combination of brown, rainbow, brook, and tiger trout, and if the trout weren't put there every year, we'd be bass fishing.

"The trout don't reproduce in the pond," explains Sandwich Hatchery manager Craig Lodowsky, "They'd need moving water and a gravel bed for that."

Although the fish don't breed in the pond, the conditions are such that the stocked trout thrive and grow. Lodowsky explains that Hamblin has "trout water," an oxygenated layer of water that trout need to survive, which is necessary, but not sufficient, for the State to include the pond in its stocking program. "The most important factor in deciding where we stock is public access. If we stock a pond, the public has to be able to fish in it."

Hamblin is one of only five stocked ponds in the Town of Barnstable, and attracts the fishing public from around the world – well, around the region, anyway. We're getting to know all the pond regulars, and there are definitely a few from New Jersey.

This spring, the pond got some 2500 brown, tiger, and rainbow trout, delivered over the course of a few weeks in trucks that can handle about 1000 fish per load. When they go into the pond, each fish weighs about a pound. While there's no size limit on trout (there's a creel limit of three), most of the anglers we've talked to throw back the fish under about a pound or a pound and a half. We'd all much prefer to catch them again when they're bigger.



A 1-pound rainbow trout dropping into Hamblin Pond from the stocking truck.

Maybe even a lot bigger. The Cape is hospitable to its trout, and there are stories of real behemoths coming out of the stocked ponds. For many years, the State trout record of almost 14 pounds was held by a trout out of Johns Pond in Mashpee, and Lodowsky has heard tell of a brown trout that tipped the scales at almost 20. "Hamblin's a great trout pond," he says. "I'm sure it's got some that big."

You can't catch *those* at a hatchery.

Tamar Haspel

Editor's Note: Tamar Haspel is a recent transplant to Cape Cod, from Manhattan. She and her husband bought their house on Hamblin Pond last year, and Tamar, a food writer by trade, started a project that requires her to eat one item each day that's hunted or fished, gathered or grown. To that end, she's trying her hand at everything from ice fishing to gardening, clamming to wine making – and writing about it.

Things don't always go smoothly ("The spirit is willing, but the skill set is weak," she explains), but both successes and failures make for a good read. Her website is [Starving off the Land: Bumbling toward self-sufficiency in the wilds of Cape Cod](http://www.starvingofftheland.com) (www.starvingofftheland.com).



Two interested fishermen watching trout being dumped into Hamblin Pond from a State Hatchery truck.

ALUM TREATMENT: A GLIMMER OF HOPE *(Continued from page 1)*

They occasionally issue permits allowing a “take” if some “mitigation” or benefit to the species as a whole is part of the plan. They can also issue collection permits of some specified number of a listed species for research purposes.

The IPA representatives explained that Mystic Lake is degraded by phosphorus regenerated from the sediments under conditions of little or no oxygen in the bottom 15-18 feet of the lake during the summer months. Using the 2006 Pond Study Report (http://www.indianponds.org/pond_study_results.htm), we pointed out data that supported this contention. We told NHESP about the dairy farm, the pig farm, and the superphosphated hayfields that appear to have created the problem.

NHESP questioned the Pond Study Report and our claim that the pond was degraded. They said that even if the lake were dying, they were still obligated, by law, to protect the endangered mussels. They asserted that the evidence we presented wasn't good enough for them to find that a “benefit” to the species would come about if the lake were treated. They said they believed it would take a long time for the lake's condition to become detrimental to mussels.

The NHESP presented arguments on the issue of mussel nutrition, although all agreed that not enough is known about this subject. They maintained that the mere presence of such an abundance of mussels is evidence that nutrition is good and shouldn't be tampered with in any way. The trouble with this argument is that actions that might be taken to improve water quality, including aeration, could never be permitted, which puts the lake under a death sentence. The IPA representatives suggested that the mussels may already be suffering the effects of the lake's impaired conditions. Successful reproduction of mussels is dependent on an adequate number of host fish, the abundance of which may be impacted by the substantial “dead zone” (no oxygen) created each summer in the deep portion of the lake by the presence of the regenerated phosphorus. Fishermen have reported reduced abundance of some fish species, and the number of fish nests has been observed to be reduced in recent years.

After listening quietly for a long time, Rob Gatewood pointed out that it appeared that NHESP had “raised the bar so high” that the Town would never be allowed to do anything to rehabilitate the lake. That remark seemed to open the door a crack. Ms Marold indicated that NHESP might consider a redesigned and phased treatment program for the lake based on multi-year “small-footprint treatments combined with mussel monitoring”.

It was on this note that the meeting ended. Since then, a subsequent meeting between IPA representatives and Gatewood has resulted in a reaffirmed determination to proceed with a plan to design a remediation project that NHESP might be willing to approve.

ANOTHER RAINY RIVER DAY

For the second consecutive year, Marstons Mills River Day was plagued with rainy weather and subsequent low attendance. This year's annual event, hosted by the Marstons Mills Village Association, Cape Cod Conservation District, and Liberty Hall Club, was held Sunday May 3 at Burgess Park off Route 149. In spite of the adverse weather, the usual faithful attendees came to see the various exhibits and sample the tasty food prepared by the Liberty Hall Club. Activities included a catch-and-release fishing derby, kayaking on Hamblin Pond, educational exhibits under a big tent, a 50/50 scholarship raffle, various field presentations on different topics guided by local experts, a recycling puppet show, and the always fascinating fly tying demonstration by members of Trout Unlimited.

The Indian Ponds Association was one of a dozen organizations to have an informational/educational display under the shelter of a big tent. The IPA display was staffed during the day by Holly Hobart, Jane Smith, Gay Rhue, and Bob and Gail Derderian. A big thank you to everyone who stopped by to chat. All who attended and participated in River Day owe a huge “THANK YOU” to Donna Lawson (MMVA), Lynne Dowdall (CCCD), and Kris Clark (Town of Barnstable Natural



IPA Director Bob Derderian, Gayle Derderian, Ken Creighton, IPA President Holly Hobart, and Nancy Fortnam in front of the IPA display at River Day.

Resources Division) for their tireless efforts each year to organize and coordinate this event.

NEWLY FORMED GROUP TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT RIVER

The Marstons Mills River Watershed Association has been formed with the objective of preserving and protecting the resources of the river. This organization is actually the merger of several small *ad hoc* groups that have worked on various aspects of the river, such as land preservation, the herring counting project, the dredging of Mill Pond, herring run maintenance, and others.

While these groups were effective in their specific focus, there was some overlap of effort, and other aspects of protecting the watershed's resources were not addressed at all. We plan to work closely with the Indian Ponds Association and Three Bays Preservation, as these groups have similar goals albeit with a geographically oriented focus.

An immediate priority of the Watershed Association will be the dredging of Mill Pond, which is a project that has been in the works for almost 10 years. The goal is to remove up to 100,000 cubic yards of mud that has washed down the river and settled there. This project is currently under State review, checking for the possible presence of the bridge shiner, an endangered minnow-sized fish.



Rotting boards causing the collapse of portions of the Middle Pond herring run.

fall of 2006, 140 ft of the sluiceway immediately downstream from the concrete ladder (behind Flume Avenue) was rebuilt, replacing the sections of FastDitch, a patented, plastic ditch-lining product installed during the summer of 2005. The remainder of the sluiceway had been rebuilt in the early 1990s at a time when pressure-treated wood was not allowed. Many of the wooden boards that line the sluiceway are rotting causing the sides to collapse and filling the channel with sand. Emergency repairs were made in March, but this 1,100-ft structure's days are numbered and immediate action must be taken.

We are also running the Herring Counting Project right now [the fourth year] and it's going smoothly, thanks to the help from our 35 counters! See the link at www.MarstonsMills.org for the Herring Counting Project and you can monitor the progress on the blog established for it.

You'll be hearing more from the Marstons Mills River Watershed Association as we get more organized. We welcome your comments and suggestions. You can reach me at Kevin@MMRWA.org or 508-420-0075.

*Kevin Galvin
Executive Director*



Close-up view showing rotting boards that line the sluiceway of the Middle Pond herring run.

Another project is the restoration of the herring run between the river and Middle Pond, which is in critical condition. In the



MYSTIC LAKE MONSTERS

Can you identify the two rarely seen animals (furry one in the water on the left and large feathery one on the ice on the right) captured on film this past winter and spring?



PHARMACEUTICALS AND PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS THEIR EFFECTS ON THE CAPE COD AQUIFER

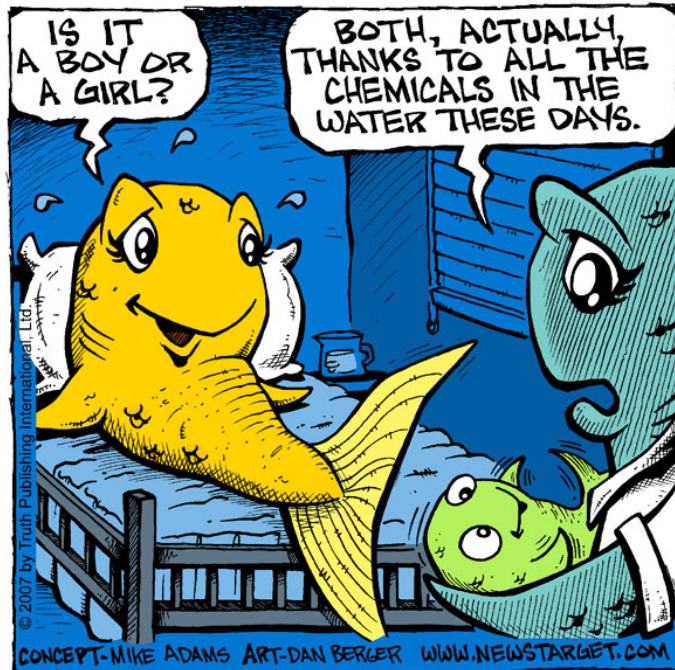
The Cape Cod aquifer is an exciting laboratory where global cutting-edge issues in hydrogeology are brought home through real life examples. The sources, fate and transport of Emerging Compounds of Concern and how Cape Cod may be required to deal with them in the future is an issue that is now receiving national attention. Emerging Compounds of Concern include Pharmaceutical and Personal Care Products (PPCP) that include items like hand sanitizers, crèmes, lotions, and most over-the-counter or prescribed drugs. What's the connection? Many of these compounds are excreted into your toilet or flushed away through the toilet. Like nitrogen, once they have entered the wastewater system, many of these compounds find their way into groundwater.

Early research on the impact of the discharge into rivers of effluents containing natural estrogen and estrogen from birth control drugs documented that down-gradient fish populations exhibited mutations. Female fish numbers increased, and the sex organs of male fish developed female characteristics. Fish populations are sensitive to extremely low concentrations—in the low parts-per-trillion concentration or nanogram per liter. That's the rub, for although laboratories can now detect these chemicals at lower concentrations, there is no data from which to calculate human health impacts.

Typical PPCPs that are not easily broken down by treatment processes and that are found in groundwater and surface waters include coffee (caffeine), headache and pain medications (acetaminophen), birth control medications (ethynyl-estradiol), and anti-convulsants (Crabamazepine)—to name a few. At the low concentrations that these compounds are being found in water supplies, the general feeling is that the probability of human health impact is low. What's the relative dose effect if you are drinking water containing these compounds? Using a concentration of caffeine typically found in water, one would have to drink 900,000 gallons of water to approach the amount in a typical cup of coffee, or two million gallons to approach a single dose of acetaminophen. Several reconnaissance level studies on the occurrence of PPCPs have been conducted on Cape Cod. The studies have moni-

tored wells in wastewater plumes, septic systems, private wells, and freshwater ponds in proximity to residential development septic systems in an effort to see if these chemicals are present in wastewater. These assessments detected various concentrations of PPCPs. Surprisingly, groundwater from several public supply wells located in high-density developed areas had the lowest number of detections.

COUNTERTHINK



**FACT: PHARMACEUTICALS DESTROY
AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS.**

Despite the paucity of data, there is reason to be optimistic. For over 30 years, Cape Codders have employed public drinking water protection strategies ranging from residential density restrictions, prohibition of hazardous materials, and the purchasing of open space. It's hard to tell how good a job we have done because there has been little comprehensive monitoring for the presence of these chemicals in public supplies to date. The reasons given for not sampling range from funding issues, to uncertainty about what potential detections mean, and nearly equal uncertainty about what to tell the public. The presence of these compounds has recently resulted in proposals for stricter state regulations when locating new wastewater discharges in Zone IIs (drinking water supply re-

charge areas). While the merit and cost of preventive regulations is being debated, there are a number of ways that the public can participate.

First, do not discard any chemical or pharmaceutical into the toilet. Second, some pharmacies have drug take-back programs. Call your pharmacy to see if they have one and if not, ask that they do. It turns out that developing a take-back procedure for restricted drugs is not necessarily a simple task. Three, if you need to dispose of PPCPs, treat them like latex paint—crush and mix them in kitty litter and dispose of in the trash.

Tom Cambareri
Water Resources Program Manager, Cape Cod Commission

Data sources: EPA, PPCP website: <http://www.epa.gov/ppcp/>
USGS: <http://toxics.usgs.gov/regional/emc/>
Silent Spring: <http://www.silentspring.org>

Editor's Note: This article was initially published in the Orleans Pond Coalition newsletter Ponderings (Vol. VI, No. 1, Spring 2009) and is reproduced here with permission of the author and the editors of Ponderings.

OWLS ON CAPE COD



Great horned owl

We just returned from a birding trip to Chincoteague Island in Virginia where we saw almost a hundred species and saw five new birds to add to our list. It was a good week. Upon my return, I found a request to write this article about owls on Cape Cod.

I have a confession to make. With the exception of the birds in various zoos, I have seen only one owl in the wild and that was a huge snowy owl which flew along beside us one night when we were returning to Runacraig after dinner in Stirling, Scotland. I rely more heavily than usual

on outside sources and books.



Barn owl

Cape Cod has only one owl that is here in quantity and all year round. That is the **great horned owl** and is the one we all hear at night around this part of the Cape. The common **barn owl** is occasionally seen during the fall, winter, and spring, but almost never in the summer. The **eastern screech owl** would be seen in mixed pine/oak woodlands, but is very local and not at all widespread on the Cape, although the numbers and sightings are increasing. My friend, the **snowy owl**, if

seen at all, is very irregular and not seen every year. The **long-eared**, **short-eared**, and **northern saw-whet** are all



Eastern screech owl

seen regularly, but not in any numbers. The great horned owl, on the other hand, is common on the Cape, fairly easily found on an "owl prowls", is here all year round and breeds here.

The great horned is a brute. It is the only animal that will regularly kill and eat skunks. It is a major predator of

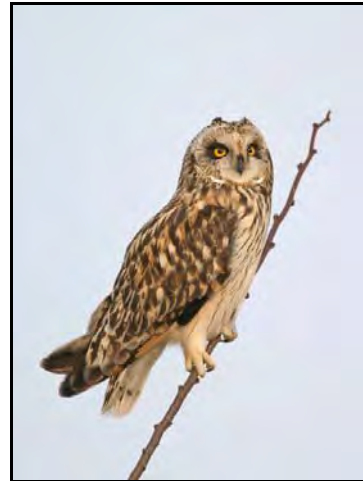
other owls and, on Cape Cod, is a major predator of ospreys. All owls are carnivorous, picking mostly on small mammals and the occasional song bird, and most would not refuse a large insect.

With the exception of the short-eared, they all nest in trees, sometimes in cavities in trees, and almost always in nests built by other species of birds, probably ones they had for lunch. The short-eared nests on the ground, usually in



Long-eared owl

grasslands or marshes, in nests that are just depressions in the ground lined with grass.



Short-eared owl

How to see these elusive animals? You have several choices and none of them is real great. If you hear one, you can get a really big flashlight and try to follow the sound. I have to warn you that owls' voices carry over great distances on a quiet evening, so he may sound like he's right next door when he's actually a mile away. Your

second choice would be to find someone who knows where one lives and is willing to take you there. Your best chance is to watch the local newspapers and "what to do" inserts in the Sunday paper. The Cape Cod Bird Club and other organizations occasionally run "owl prowls", which are led by birders who know where owls live. The Wellfleet Audubon Center sometimes runs one. Join a group and trek out in search.

Good luck.

Dave Reid



Northern saw-whet owl