

# Association for the Preservation of Long Pond

83 Dunaskin Rd., Centerville, MA 02632

August 2, 2003

Dear Members:

This is to bring you an up-date on a number of issues pertaining to Long Pond and to announce the date and location of our Annual Meeting for 2003

In our last letter back in February, we indicated that we had a good year in 2002. Not only did we succeed in our efforts to get funding and approval to treat the Pond with Sonar, the results were almost miraculous.

But recall, we also advised the membership that we could not proclaim total victory nor rest our oars just yet. Testing last fall indicated that 100% of hydrilla growth had been eliminated and approximately 90% of the tubers in the bottom of Long Pond had been eradicated. And we indicated that we would have to continue to worry about the 10% of the original tubers that remained.

We began working with the Town's Conservation Division right after our February meeting at the Fire House; and once again Rob Gatewood provided outstanding guidance to the Association's Steering Committee. Rob asked for a \$25,000 line item in the Town budget for Fiscal 2004 to use *if* Long Pond needed to be treated with Sonar again in 2003. Our Town Manager, John Klimm, and our Town Councilor, Roy Richardson, supported the proposal and the Town Council approved the budget item at a meeting in April. Rob also brought the issue to the Conservation Commission in May and asked for and received the Commission's approval to treat *if* the Conservation Division, the Mass. DEM, and Aquatic Control Technology (our contractor) unanimously agreed that a follow up treatment was required.

After several surveys in early summer it was clear to all parties that Long Pond should be treated again. The initial 2003 treatment was completed on July 17. Once again the licensed contractor will be maintaining a prescribed low level of Sonar over a 90-day period using one or more bump-up applications during the summer. This guarantees that hydrilla will not be a problem this summer. It also takes us one step closer to the ultimate, but elusive, goal of total eradication which will undoubtedly take several more years to achieve.

On July 25<sup>th</sup> we were privileged to have Dr. Bill Haller from the University of Florida visit us and tour the Pond. Dr. Haller is a renowned expert on hydrilla and we consulted with him via e-mails in 2002 when we were seeking advice from as many experts as possible. We were extremely fortunate to have him visit Long Pond and provide us with his personal on-site input. The State of Florida now spends \$20 million per year trying to control hydrilla and Dr. Haller wants to help us avoid the mistakes Florida made early on. He commended all of the parties involved in the Long Pond hydrilla control/eradication program and encouraged us to stay committed and aggressive. He also stated

unequivocally that we were right on target and that we have a good chance of reaching our ultimate goal of eradication.

**Other Notes:**

**Annual Meeting**

The 2003 Annual Meeting will be held on August 19 in the Parish Hall at Our Lady of Victory Church on South Main Street in Centerville. Meeting will begin at 7 PM and will last for perhaps one hour. Refreshments will be served at the end of the meeting providing attendees a chance to socialize with their fellow members. Please plan to attend to show your support for our organization. If you need transportation please call any member of the Steering Committee.

**Dues and Donations**

Our current finances still appear to be adequate to get us through the rest of this year but it is likely that we will need to reinstitute dues for 2004. A number of members and supporters have sent unsolicited donations to the Association. We thank all who have done this and we once again encourage others to consider doing the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerry Gilmore". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Jerry Gilmore, APLP Chairman  
and

The APLP Steering Committee:

Dick Teel      Barbara Enos

Bob Enos      Kallie Garoufes

Tony Antin    Ron Sirch

David Elmer, MD

Ted Schilling, Esq.