

Association for the Preservation of Long Pond

83 Dunaskin Rd., Centerville, MA 02632

October 10, 2006

Dear Members:

Our Association can now celebrate its fifth anniversary and we believe each of our members should be pleased and proud to know that they are part of an effort that is literally saving Long Pond. As you will recall, our effort started at a time when hydrilla had totally taken over the eastern basin and was spreading into the middle and western basins. The hydrilla growth was extremely dense and had grown to heights exceeding six feet. It was ugly to say the least. Even our Fire Department scuba divers found it impossible to swim in the jungle of hydrilla. We were well on our way to losing our beautiful pond. Thankfully, the very successful annual Sonar treatment program initiated in 2002 is serving to maintain Long Pond in its original beauty.

The Steering Committee would like to once again emphasize the importance of your support as members. Each year we have to appear before the Conservation Commission, the Conservation Staff and the Town Council. They have all been wonderfully responsive to our requests and we are indeed extremely grateful for their support. The importance of having Association support for these efforts should be obvious. As individuals, we have a voice. As an Association, we have a voice that is amplified many times over.

That leads us to an appeal for you to renew your membership once again by sending the enclosed form with your 2006 dues of \$10 per household to our Treasurer Kallie Garoufes. To our good neighbors and new residents who are not currently members, we respectfully request that you consider joining us in our ongoing efforts on behalf of the beautiful resource called Long Pond.

The Summer of 2006

As the summer began, we had high hopes that we would see continued progress in our efforts to eradicate hydrilla from Long Pond but knew we would still have work ahead of us. When the lake was surveyed in early June, hydrilla was extremely hard to find but, as expected, it was there. The plants were only found in the eastern basin. None elsewhere. And they were very small plants, about 2 to 4 inches high. They were widely scattered but somewhat more prevalent on the south side of the basin. A decision was made to treat the eastern basin using both liquid and pelletized sonar. This plan was agreed to, as required, by the Town, the State and Aquatic Control Technologies. Your Association also lent its support. As in previous years, the Sonar was to be maintained at an extremely low and very safe level of concentration by the highly qualified folks from Aquatic Control Technologies (ACT). As in 2005, the Sonar treatment was confined to the eastern basin by ACT installing a limno barrier across the end of the basin. All this was completed on June 29.

During the month of July we had a setback when ACT scuba divers patrolled the entire perimeter of the middle and western basins and found some widely scattered hydrilla plants emerging around the perimeter of both basins. Eradication had not been achieved. Great progress but the goal of total eradication there remains an unachieved goal.

The decision to re-treat those basins was not difficult to make and was agreed to by all of the parties. The treatment was completed, along with a required bump up for the eastern basin, on July 27.

We wrapped up the year's treatment activity with a final bump-up treatment on September 12. By this time the current crop of small and scattered hydrilla plants had turned white and were well along the way toward their final demise.

Another Extraordinary Visit with Dr. William Haller

We were pleased and fortunate to have Dr. Haller, the nationally recognized hydrilla expert from the University of Florida, with us once again this summer. He spent several hours on the lake with members of our Steering Committee, Rob Gatewood – Director of the Conservation Division, and Gerry Smith – President of Aquatic Control Technologies. Following that he met with the aforementioned group along with several more members of the Steering Committee, Conservation Vice Chairman Dennis Houle, Town Councilors Fred Cherigotis and Janet Joakim, and Cape Cod Commissioner Roy Richardson. Dr. Haller discussed his Long Pond findings and shared with us an interesting and informative powerpoint presentation with pictures depicting extensive and devastating hydrilla growth in Florida's lakes and waterways.

Dr. Haller strongly encouraged the leadership group assembled to stay the course. Even though total eradication will be difficult to achieve, we must not let up. If we do, the program could easily be set back 5 years and we would then once again risk the spread of hydrilla to other lakes and ponds on Cape Cod and other parts of Massachusetts and New England. This is what has happened in Florida and they are now spending well over \$20 million dollars a year trying to control hydrilla with very little hope of eradication. However, ongoing research efforts do give some hope that scientists may yet come up with improved methods that might assist us with our efforts at Long Pond.

Thanks Again!

Once again we need to extend our thanks to Town officials for their continuing help in restoring our beautiful lake. It should also be noted again that their actions have also served to prevent the spread of hydrilla to other Lakes in Barnstable, Cape Cod and New England. Were it not for help from Rob Gatewood, the Town Council, Town Manager John Klimm, our Conservation Commission, and the Mass. Lakes and Ponds Program, we would not be able to submit this positive progress report. We also need to once again thank Dr. Haller for his continued interest and expert advice.

Purple Loosestrife

Thanks to all those who worked at removing their shoreline Purple Loosestrife plants. We have made considerable progress but more work needs to be done lest this rapid-spreading invasive shoreline plant gets ahead of us and succeeds in crowding out our desirable native plants. If you need help please contact one of the members of the Steering Committee.

Our Duck Population

Ducks go where they are treated the best and if people on or near the pond feed them, too many of them will take up residency on our pond. You may recall that we noted that Hamblin's Pond turned green a number of years ago when someone decided it would be OK to have a small duck farm at the edge of the lake. It was eventually returned to normal after closing the duck farm and chemically treating the lake but there is a lesson there for us to contemplate. We really need everyone's compliance and help on this issue. Once again, **please** don't feed the ducks! Thank you!!

Annual Meeting

The 2006 Annual Meeting will be held on **Monday, October 30** in the Parish Hall at Our Lady of Victory Church on South Main Street in Centerville. The 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 or informally discuss issues of interest. Please plan to attend to show your support for your Association, or in the alternative, to show your desire to win the drawing for a 2007 champagne cruise on Long Pond. ☺

Hope everyone had a great summer. Look forward to seeing many of you on **October 30** at the Annual Meeting.

Sincerely,



Jerry Gilmore, APLP Chairman

and The APLP Steering Committee:

Dick Teel, Barbara Enos, Bob Enos, Kallie Garoufes,
Tony Antin, Ron Sirch, Walt Jebens,
David Elmer, MD and Ted Schilling, Esq.
