

# *Association for the Preservation of Long Pond*

67 Long Pond Circle, Centerville, MA 02632

July 11, 2009

Dear Members:

As you have witnessed, we've had an awfully slow start to the summer season. Nevertheless, Long Pond looks absolutely beautiful with clarity of 10 to 12 feet as we start the season. This is in stark contrast to Santuit Lake in Mashpee where readings have dropped to some two feet and less. Other lakes throughout the State have similar problems. Our concern continues to be hydrilla but it is a manageable concern as we continue to strive toward our ultimate goal of total eradication. With the help of a supportive membership, we've come a long way from the dark days of 2001.

## **Hydrilla Update**

Aquatic Control Technology has completed three surveys of Long Pond over the last several weeks. In the first two surveys, there was no active hydrilla growth to be found. They did find a scattering of tubers – the 'seeds' from which hydrilla grows. The third survey was completed on Monday July 6 utilizing snorkel equipment. During this survey, they found widely scattered hydrilla plants about 4 to 6 inches tall in a number of locations. In consultation with Rob Gatewood from Conservation, it was agreed that Sonar treatments should be resumed on Monday July 13. As in previous years, several additional bump-up treatments will be completed over the summer. Thanks to Rob's good planning we had already gained Town Council and Conservation Commission approval to proceed with Sonar treatments should they be deemed necessary for this year.

As we have stated before, the decision to treat with Sonar is an easy decision - even when hydrilla plants are small and widely scattered. If we don't treat, the aggressive growing and expansion cycle of hydrilla will start anew. Without these treatments, each year will bring new tubers and more plants. Larger plants will emerge as time goes by and in a few years we would once again face a serious problem. Every year that we do treat, however, the number of hydrilla-growing tubers is reduced and our chances for total eradication are enhanced. Total eradication still remains an extremely difficult task, however, and is probably still a number of years away from becoming a reality.

## **Thanks Again to Our Town and State Officials**

Once again we would like to extend our thanks to our Town officials for their continuing help in restoring and maintaining this beautiful Barnstable lake. It should also be noted once again that their actions have also served to help prevent the spread of hydrilla to other lakes in Barnstable, Cape Cod and New England. Were it not for help from the Town Council, Town Manager John Klimm, our Conservation Commission and Conservation Division (Rob Gatewood), and the Massachusetts Lakes and Ponds Program (Jim Straub), we would we not have been able to achieve the goal of restoring this beautiful lake.

## **Thanks to Jerry Gilmore**

We indeed owe a debt of gratitude to Jerry Gilmore for stepping up to the plate and assuming the Chairmanship of the Association when it was formed in 2001. At that time, Long Pond was literally under siege. Over the course of the next seven years, Jerry helped guide us through difficult days and close votes before the Town Council and the Conservation Commission. He also presided over seven Annual Meetings during his Chairmanship. At the 2008 meeting Jerry passed the torch to me and I will try my very best to live up to his high standards.

### And Thanks to You Our Members

When the Massachusetts Lakes and Ponds Department responded to the report of hydrilla in Long Pond, they were very interested in working with the Town and the Lake Association. Only one problem: we didn't have a Lake Association. Back in the seventies, there had been an organization called the Committee for the Preservation of Long Pond that was started by a local resident, Admiral John Schmidt. He passed away in 1981 after achieving a number of noteworthy goals, including the banning of water skiing and motors over 9.9 horsepower on Long Pond. When the current Steering Committee considered a name for a new organization it was easy because we knew we needed to help Preserve Long Pond -- once again. But we needed members for it to mean anything. That's where you came in. So we wanted to say thanks to each and every one of our members. You make such a difference. Without you we would not have an effective Association. Thanks again!

### Sewer Project

It seems clear that sewerage would be a beneficial step forward for Long Pond over the long term but because of the extremely high costs involved, and disagreements about how those costs should be distributed, your Association took a neutral stance on the funding issue. Although the Town Council voted down the proposed funding, the issue will re-emerge at some point in the future. In the meantime, we should all remember that it is important to properly maintain our existing septic systems and have them pumped out every two or three years. Also please be careful with any use of lawn and plant fertilizers, especially in areas directly abutting the lake. We should also continue our practice of not feeding the ducks and the geese.

### Annual Meeting

The 2009 Annual Meeting will be held on **Tuesday September 1** in the Parish Hall at Our Lady of Victory Church on South Main Street in Centerville. This is the first Annual Meeting we've had before Labor Day and we hope this will enable more of our members to attend. The meeting will begin at 7:30 PM and will last for perhaps an hour. Refreshments will be served at the end of the meeting providing attendees with a chance to socialize or informally discuss issues of interest. We keep the meetings as casual as possible and hope you will plan to attend to show your support for your Association and perhaps, as well, to show your desire to win the free drawing for a 2009 or 2010 champagne cruise on Long Pond.

Sincerely,



Ron Sirch, APLP Chairman

and

The APLP Steering Committee:

Dick Teel	Barbara Enos	Walt Jebens
Bob Enos	Kallie Garoufes	David Elmer, MD
Tony Antin	Jerry Gilmore	Ted Schilling, Esq.