

# *Association for the Preservation of Long Pond*

67 Long Pond Circle, Centerville, MA 02632

July 27, 2010

Dear Members:

Summer is well underway, and I'm happy to report that Long Pond is just about everything we hope for every year. The negative effects of the late winter storms and heavy rains are behind us. Early summer water clarity was excellent as we measured about 12 feet of clarity on our secchi dish. Hydrilla is pretty much under control, but we're still finding some small plants in the eastern basin. Native plants, which help to keep our lake healthy and clear, continue to do their job. In short, Long Pond remains a truly beautiful natural resource and so much better than when we started the Association in 2001.

## **Hydrilla Control Update**

Aquatic Control Technologies (ACT) performed their first Survey on June 18. This survey was conducted using two experienced biologist snorkel divers. Their initial report to Conservation Head Rob Gatewood was quite encouraging:

"As you know we performed the snorkel survey of Long Pond on 6/18. The conditions that we observed were encouraging. We found a healthy native plant assemblage throughout and only scattered occurrences of low density hydrilla growth in the eastern basin only (see attached GIS map of observed hydrilla locations). No hydrilla was found in the entire western basin, so based on this level of growth we are recommending that the hydrilla growth be managed through diver hand-pulling."

ACT returned on June 30 to undertake a second survey and begin hand-pulling in the eastern basin. Alas, they found "growth conditions much different from what we saw in our initial snorkel survey. A significant number of additional hydrilla plants had emerged, particularly in the southern section of the east basin". (No hydrilla plants were found in the western basins.) ACT's Senior Biologist Keith Gazaille recommended to Rob Gatewood the following: "Based on these hydrilla conditions we feel that it is in the best interest of the long-term control of the hydrilla that the eastern basin be treated with Sonar herbicide as soon as possible."

You may recall the lake was closed to swimming and boating on July 7<sup>th</sup> in order to perform the initial herbicide treatment in the eastern basin. The yellow flotation devices placed across the entrance to the eastern basin help maintain the concentration of herbicide in the area where it is needed, while the separation in the barrier allows boats to traverse in and out of the eastern basin.

As I stated last July, the decision to treat with Sonar herbicide is an easy decision – even when hydrilla plants are small and widely scattered. If we don't treat, the aggressive growing and expansion cycle will start anew. Every time we do treat, the number of hydrilla-growing tubers is reduced and our chances of total eradication are enhanced.

## **Town Council Meeting**

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, the Town Council considered an appropriation of \$65,000 for the purpose of treating Hydrilla in Long Pond and Fanwort in Lake Wequaquet (as recommended by the Town Manager). Approval of budget items in these difficult economic times is not a given. Every year we have to make our best case and hope for a positive outcome. We also need help from our Town leaders and representatives. This year an excellent positive case for approving our budget item was made by Rob Gatewood's boss, Tom Geiler. He had strong support from presentations made Dr. Gail McGuire, President of the Wequaquet Lake Association, as well as from me, as the representative of Long Pond. As a backdrop for my presentation, I used a slide of the picture of Dr. Dale Saad knee deep in hydrilla back in 2001. I thanked the Councilors for helping to restore our lake to its original beauty, and encouraged them to continue their good work. I believe the picture was quite helpful in bringing the new councilors up to speed. Much discussion and questioning by the Councilors followed. **Strong** support for the item was given by the Council President (and Centerville Councilor), Fred Chirigotis. For the first time ever, the vote went 12-0 for approval. Nice ending.

We are fortunate to have a Town Council that has the desire and fortitude to maintain the quality and beauty of the lakes in the Town of Barnstable. However, in times of tight budgets, every budget item gets closer scrutiny and that means we have to worry about being the victims of a budget cut. Thanks go to all of our Councilors for staying the course in the efforts that have saved Long Pond.

### **Conservation Commission Hearing re Fencing Project**

The Conservation Commission met on July 13 to hear a proposed project for dog fencing in a yard facing Long Pond. The Commission basically approved the proposed project but ruled that the fencing should not be an open-ended fence going all the way to the water's edge. The fencing will now be set back some 30 feet from the water's edge and will provide an area for the homeowner's dogs that will be closed in by fencing instead of open-ended into the water. The exact location of the closed-in fencing will be worked out with Conservation Division staff.

In the course of the hearing, a letter endorsed by 19 homeowners on Long Pond was presented to the Commission. The letter supported maintaining the natural beauty, the tranquility and the views of and from Long Pond we all enjoy. It recommended that fencing not be allowed in or near the water, that fencing where installed have a natural appearance to blend in with nature, and that dog yards be installed as far from the water as possible to reduce barking noise carried over the water. The Commission opined that their responsibility was to establish the location of proposed fencing in the 0-50 and 50-100 foot buffer zones of the Pond, and **not** to rule on the color, materials, views or noise related to such fencing projects.

In other words, it is up to each of us as individual homeowners to responsibly address those issues not under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission. Hopefully we can all do that. Bob Enos said it much better than I could with the following astute observations:

"We all share in the consequences of decisions made regarding changes in our individual properties. We are a 'pond community' therefore every family abutting the pond should think beyond their own ideas and needs and always take into consideration 'Long Pond' as an environmental and aesthetic entity which is shared by all."

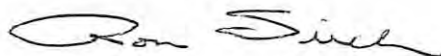
Nice.

### **Our Association's 2010 Annual Meeting**

The 2010 Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 24 in the Parish Hall at Our Lady of Victory Church on South Main Street in Centerville. As we did last year, the meeting date was set prior to Labor Day in hopes that more of our members will be able to attend. The meeting will begin at **7:15** and will last for perhaps an hour or a little more. I hope we will have Rob Gatewood and Fred Chirigotis as our honored guests. Light refreshments will be served after the meeting providing attendees a chance to socialize a bit with neighbors and friends. And yes, we will have a free drawing for a really nice door prize!

My thanks to our Steering Committee (The Esteemed SC) and to each and every one of our members. Your support and efforts are deeply valued and appreciated. As individuals we have a voice but as an Association we have a voice that is amplified many many times over.

Sincerely,



Ron Sirch, APLP Chairman

and

The APLP Steering Committee:

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