

The Long Pond Sentinel

On Guard and Working to Save and Preserve Our Pond

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Hydrilla Gets First Two Treatments; Now Being Closely Monitored. We Have Come a Long Way

On June 6, some of you surely saw those yellow balloon markers set down the middle of the Pond; and that air-propeller-driven boat skimming back and forth. The driver was using a GPS system to tell exactly where they were at all times, to assure the application of sonar was scientifically even and total throughout the Pond.

Those who watched cheered the culmination of a long and many-step campaign to start controlling the until-then-unchecked and rapidly spreading infestation of that awful weed. (Note the word "controlling," as opposed to "eradicating," for this treatment, while critically important, was only the start of that for which we have worked so hard.)

You, by joining and supporting the CPLP, brought about this so-welcomed start. For when members of the Steering Committee spoke at official decision-making meetings, nothing gave their words more weight than being able to say they spoke for 215 concerned people living in proximity to the Pond.

And yes, indeed, we have come a long way, as this bulleted summary reveals.

September, 2001:

- Unusual and unsightly plant growth noted in the eastern (more shallow) part of the Pond.

October 2001:

- In response to our call to the Town's Health Division, Dale Saad, Ph. D., comes and takes first sample of the growth.

- We FedEx samples to Lee Lyman, (Lycott Environmental Co.), and (for free) he tests; advises us, then warns State officials they have the first infestation of hydrilla in Massachusetts.

- Ron Sirch and Tony Antin revive the

then dormant Committee for the Preservation of Long Pond; and enlist others living in proximity to the Lake as a Steering Committee. Jerry Gilmore accepts chairmanship. (See below for other members of the Steering Committee.)

- We call Rob Gatewood, Head of the Town's Conservation Division, to the Pond; and his personal examination brings a reassessment of first opinions that we might not get anything done until 2003 or '04. The words now are **ASAP!**

November 2001:

- Steering Committee members attend a "Pond's in Peril" conference; bring Gerry Smith, top aquatic biologist, to Pond; he takes both samples and underwater video pictures. E-mails his State contacts that action is imperative pronto!

- Membership mailing to list provided by Town brings 215 members! Most significant because, for State funds, we knew that, "priority [would be] given to those proposals which actively involve...lake associations." (State Program offers \$25,000 toward cost of treatment of infested lakes.)

- State people come, take samples.

December 2001:

- We bring to Pond to "see-for-yourselfes" Pres. of Town Council, other Council members; our state Senator and Representative; Town Manager.

- CPLP and Town co-file application for \$25,000 State grant.

January 2001:

- CPLP continues to e-mail, snail-mail, fax and bring to Pond everyone who will have a say in go-no-go decision.

February 2001:

- Steering Committee members speak before Town Council, debating allocation of \$60,000 for Pond treatment. Tabled.

- Steering Committee members speak before second Town Council Meeting. Council allocates \$60,000.

- Council awards contract to bid and treatment plan of Gerry Smith's company, Aquatic Control Technology.

February/March/April 2002:

- CPLP summarizes case for treatment in letter to Conservation Commission; speaks at Commission meeting. CC approves

Town's plans. Any opposition has until May 9 to appeal.

May 9, 2002:

• Appeal period over. (At Town Council and Conservation Commission meetings, there was some opposition to application of sonar; but now no appeals are made.)

During May 2002:

We keep in continuous touch with all who have positions and influence to affect the project one way or the other..

June 2002:

- Aquatic Control Technologies makes first application of sonar.
- Starts monitoring sonar level; must maintain certain level for 90 days. (4-8 parts sonar per billion gallons water. FYI, EPA rates 150 parts per billion drinkable.)
- Hydrilla shows first signs of being controlled. Tops of plants turn white.

July 2002:

- Continuous monitoring show stronger and stronger signs of hydrilla control. This spring's growth only inches high, weak and receding.
- Sonar works against both plant and roots (tubers). Expert opinion is sonar will get 90-95% of tubers. Effect of remaining tubers buried in bottom sand still unknown.
- July 11: Aquatic Control Technology applies bump-up application of sonar to bring it back to upper level of range needed for 90 days.
- **POND LOOKS AS LOVELY AS IT DID BEFORE INFESTATION.**

Where Do We Go From Here to Continue Preserving Long Pond?

As Jerry Gilmore urges elsewhere in this issue, one thing we should all do continuously is keep a sharp and protective eye on the Pond; report signs of anything you think spells trouble.

- Call Health Dept. (862-4644) or Conservation Dept. (862-4093) if you see anyone doing anything you think detrimental to the Pond.
- If you see a boat being launched from off the Pond, call police (775-0387, press option 0, main desk, ext. 321).
- We know kids love to "feed the ducks," and we hate to lose the lovely look on their faces when they do it. BUT cruel facts: it's illegal AND bad for the ducks (and geese),

both in terms of diet and in regard them migrating away when they should to search for their nature-provided food. And bad for the Pond to have too many of them here too long; putting all their "nitrogen" into the Pond.

• **For an adult to feed wild fowl is unthinking and unconscionable (and, as already noted, unlawful, \$25 fine).** If you see a neighbor doing it, perhaps a few friendly educational words will stop him or her. **If not, hard as it may be to do, you should call the Health Dept.**

- If you have lawn that goes to the shore best not to fertilize near it, because whatever you apply can wash into the lake. If you feel you must fertilize, do so carefully and use a no or low phosphate fertilizer.
- Septic tanks, especially pond-side should be pumped out every two years, preferably every year.
- Putting new sand on a beach requires Town approval; wise to use washed beach sand only.
- Don't throw anything but a fishing lure or anchor into the Pond.
- ENJOY the Pond; swim, fish, boat – and love and protect it for the wonderful pleasure it gives you, your children and grandchildren. (Don't you just love to see them up to their necks, laughing and splashing, or boating or so hopefully fishing?)

About By-Laws, Dues and Annual Meeting

We have been careful to organize properly (and thanks go to our fellow member and free legal counsel, Ted Schilling); if you want a copy of the by-laws, call our co-secretaries Bob & Barbara Enos, 775-2254..

When you get the treasurer's report at the Annual Meeting, you will see that we have husbanded Committee funds, saving them for any unforeseen "threat to the Pond" which might require hiring experts, travel by one or more officers, an unusually expensive mailing of materials, etc. (We are now a member of the Massachusetts Congress of Lake and Pond Associations; and, in January, Steering Committee members Bob and Barbara Enos attended its Annual Workshop in Worcester.)

In fact, we have used our funds so carefully that, at the Annual Meeting, we *could* vote not to have any dues for 2002. (Any new members, of course, will be asked to pay the same \$25 you did.)

During the Annual Meeting, (we're shooting for late August, place to be announced) in addition to deciding that and hearing the treasurer's report, we will vote on Steering Committee members; vote on a proposal to change our name to Association for the Preservation of Long Pond; and discuss/decide anything else any member wants to bring up. Current Steering Committee members are: chairman: Jerry Gilmore; vice-Chairmen: Ron Sirch and Dick Teel; co-secretaries: Bob and Barbara Enos; treasurer: Kallie Garoufes; newsletter: Tony Antin; members-at-large: David Elmer, M.D. and Ted Schilling, Esq.

About the Herring Run

Because the abundance of "big" fish depends, of course, on an abundance of "little fish," those of us who fish (and all who want a healthy, life-filled Pond) are very conscious of the fact that both the herring run between the Pond and the salt water and between Wequaquet and Long Pond have been closed for some time. The problem: low water level. Opening them will depend upon water level rising.

Incidentally, while we still get good water clarity readings, you may have noted it's not as clear as early last spring. That's not because of the sonar. Mainly it's the result of those closed runs causing less-than-normal water circulation, of all that hydrilla absorbing oxygen as it died this past winter and limited rain this summer.

A Note From the Chair

(Jerry Gilmore, Chairman, CPLP)

"As we rode across Long Pond last Wednesday, I was struck by the reality of how far we had come in such a relatively short time. You will read elsewhere in this issue the details of our journey, and of the many, many folks who helped us along the way. First, and foremost, thanks to all of you who so promptly and effectively joined in to

support the effort. What you will not read about in this or any issue of our newsletter, but what I feel compelled to single out is the near-seven days a week efforts of Ron Sirch – pulling samples, giving testimony, making and staying in touch with influential contacts, making himself an expert on hydrilla – none of us can thank you enough, Ron.

Also as noted elsewhere, what we have achieved thus far is only the beginning. True success in enjoying and preserving the opportunity for us and our children to enjoy Long Pond will come only as a result of our collective and continuing diligence. I know you agree the reward is well worth the effort."

Thank You! Thank You!

With our Pond coming back to health and beauty, the many people in elected offices, Town and State agencies who helped us in many ways make a Long Pond Honor Roll of Appreciation:

Numerous officials from the Town of Barnstable collectively showed us Town government at it's best. Although we are grateful to all who lent their support, we want to and do give special recognition and appreciation to three Town officials for their leadership;

Rob Gatewood, Conservation Head
Roy Richardson, Our Town Councillor
John Klimm, Town Manager

The supporting cast also was super:

Gary Blazis, Gary Brown, Bob Jones, Jan Joakim, Carl Reidell and Richard Clark, Town Councillors.

Bob Lancaster, Conservation Commission Chairman.

Tom Geiler, Town Regulatory Dept. Head.

Dale Saad, Ph.D., Town Health Div.
State Senator Rob O'Leary.

State Rep. Dimitrius Atsalis

Jim Straub, Mass. Dept. of Environmental Management.

Myron Gildesgame, Mass. DEM

Steven Asen, Mass. Dept. of Environmental Protection (Grants)

Dr. William Haller, Univ. of Florida

Lee Lyman, Lycott Environmental

Gerry Smith, Aquatic Control Technology.