



“The Lily Pad”

Newsletter of the Red Lily Pond Project Association, Inc. – Craigville, MA 02632
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AmeriCorps Volunteers in Craigville



Dick Delaney oversees loosestrife removal work on Middle Bay of Red Lily Pond

TEAMWORK TO TAME PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

With Board Members Dick “Eagle Eye” Delaney at quarterback, Tom “Tech Guru” Kirk scripting the screenplay, and Steve “Archivist” Brown connecting the pieces, thirteen Cape Cod AmeriCorps volunteers waded into Lake Elizabeth early in the morning on November 18th to begin “Phase One” of the arduous, meticulous task of removing the invasive weed purple loosestrife from Lake Elizabeth. The Craigville Inn dining room welcomed them for a hearty lunch, and by 4:00 PM they had cleared two truckloads of the weed from the ponds.

Audubon’s magazine “Sanctuary” termed this weed “little stalks of horror” because of its ability to march across ponds in a few short years, transforming healthy, diverse fish and waterfowl habitat to a purple carpet that sucks oxygen out of the water and chokes out healthy habitat like lily pads (in the water) and beach plums (on the embankment).

The work was meticulous, because the volunteers needed to carefully clip the seed pods from each spindly spine of the weed, and bag them for the dump before they dropped thousands of seeds into the water. It was arduous because the slender spines were anchored beneath the surface of the pond to roots like slippery, slimy bowling balls.

Local 16-year-old Joshua Goudey filmed the process, and will work with Tom to develop a video for education and publicity within both the Craigville community and the many watersheds of Cape Cod, where this invasive weed is stealing the future health of ponds.

During the winter, the RLPP Board members will carefully research next steps in the effort to eradicate this weed. We're fortunate to have attracted the interest of Bernd Blossey, professor in the Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Department of Natural Resources. We are hopeful that the College will help the Red Lily Pond Project team answer Dr. Blossey's three core questions, as presented on his website, <http://dnr.cornell.edu/people/faculty.cfm?netId=bb22>:

- (1) How do plant invasions and their management affect native ecosystems?
- (2) How can we achieve improvements in the success of biological weed control?
- (3) What determines the increased competitive ability of invasive plants?

Watch for "Phase Two" of this process in the spring of 2014!

-Steve Brown

GROUP EFFORT HELPED FISH NAVIGATE THE CHANNEL

Reflections on Lake Elizabeth and Red Lily Pond are often spectacular. As we move through the middle of the autumn season, the trees that were a short time ago ablaze in oranges, reds, and yellows have mostly dropped their foliage and settled into various states of dormancy. The reflections were truly brilliant during this past early fall. Now our winter is coming, and when the wind doesn't blow, the pond mirrors bare deciduous branches along with the muted green of the evergreens. Another season is coming, and the pond offers a beautiful window through which many of us witness these passings. We are absolutely fortunate to be here in Craigville and able to enjoy its natural beauty. Now, a quick reflection from our recent spring and summer.

There are, as many know, close to a thousand ponds on Cape Cod. Many of these have surface connections with our ocean and, therefore, harbor and support species that reside in both of these aquatic habitats. As stewards of our natural resources we look for problems that need addressing, and often find them in what we thought were the best options for protecting and recovering ecosystems. Such was the case with the outlet and water-control bulkhead at the lower end of Lake Elizabeth. All of the best intentions to ensure that we could regulate water levels and allow for the migration of fish up and down the creek between our ponds and ocean were proving to be challenges. Challenges, not just for us as concerned citizens, but also for our fish species that rely on the freshwater ecosystems for part of their lives. Quite frankly, our best-intended stewardship was not working. Water was high, yet the outlets were dry. Fish were obstructed from their habitat. So we rolled up our sleeves, put on our boots, collected some rocks, blocks and gravel, and set to work. We had help. In fact we had six fine college students, including one recent graduate, from places as diverse as San Diego, California and Amherst, Massachusetts lending their thoughts and strength as we built, dismantled and rebuilt our outlet structure. The students were on loan from the annual Family Camp group, and they brought not only their enthusiasm but also some fresh perspectives. It was fun to have them alongside of us. Of course, I would be remiss if I didn't also recognize those of us that work on the pond all year. We had our Board members, along with several of their family members and friends in the water, working together to provide access for fish and flow of water.

The outcome for the outflow project appears to be successful for now. Water moves where intended and all pathways for fish migrations are unobstructed. We will remain diligent. We will continue our monitoring and make adjustments when we recognize that something isn't working as intended. We hope that other groups and individuals who live near ponds, connected to oceans or not, take note of our approaches and work to restore and conserve resources in their neighborhoods. We remain open to help others, and hopeful that they will share their successes and stumbles with us. Perhaps, together we can rebuild the habitat puzzle, piece by piece if needed, and help maintain and restore populations of our native fish and wildlife for all to enjoy in perpetuity.



-Tom Hoppensteadt

The Herring Run needs ongoing attention and invasive plant removal.

WILL YOUR HOUSE STAY ABOVE THE WATER?

We are all now familiar with the term “sea level rise”. While warnings were published 35 years ago by John H Mercer, it has been well over a decade that scientists have been very publicly sounding the alarm about the consequences of a change in sea level. It was the storms Katrina and Sandy that changed the audience for this information from *Nature* to the front page of major coastal newspapers. So, we now understand that certain atmospheric changes have resulted in an expanded volume of water in the oceans (warm water expands); and the melting of glaciers also increases sea level. Currently, scientists do not know how fast the water will rise, but they do know that it is rising and will continue to rise. Even if we finally, aggressively, slow the rate of emissions that may contribute to this rise, we will still experience a several foot rise in sea level. Estimates suggest an increase of three to seven feet by the end of the century. However, the rise could be much greater with the collapse of the ice sheet in Greenland or Antarctica, or if there is no change in our emissions. Coastal areas are obviously most prone to the direct consequences of this sea level rise, and for several reasons, the East Coast is more vulnerable.

FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency) has redone the flood plain maps based on the most conservative of these projections. Once we learned (thanks to the Red Lily Pond folks) that our Craigville property had been designated as being in the new flood plain area, we contacted FEMA in Boston to discuss how high we need to raise our house, for re-building or insurance purposes. We were not designated to be in the worst area (direct wave action), but we are in the AE flood zone, which means we do have to raise our house or face a real threat of flooding and the reality of much higher flood insurance. Congress has recently extended the time period for several years for the increase in flood insurance rates.

Having lived through an unexpected flooding in Ocean City, New Jersey in 1962 and having close relatives almost drown on the street in front of their Staten Island home during Sandy, I am familiar with the power of water. When Sandy rolled through Ocean

City, NJ, many of the homes had already been elevated and the damage was less severe than in other towns.

FEMA set the minimum elevation for houses to be 12 feet above sea level for our area. Our house presently measures 10.5 feet at the top of the foundation. The point measured to obtain a certificate of elevation needed for insurance purposes is the top of the foundation, not the first floor. However, after talking to the Federal insurance people for the Northeast region, we were cautioned that each foot above 12 feet would further reduce our insurance rates and that we should target 15 feet as the minimum height to which we should raise our house. The insurance rate is based on the lowest point on the structure to designate the elevation of a house. In many cases, a finished basement would be the lowest point. Also, the type of foundation is important, and having flood vents installed in the foundation is required. (Watch "THIS OLD HOUSE on the Jersey Shore" for pictures of these vents.)

There are many new additional regulations that a knowledgeable builder and the Town building inspector will know. If you have questions about your home, you should contact FEMA in Boston (Colleen Bailey's phone number is 617-626-1446) and the Federal insurance staff person is Bob Desaunder at 617-832-4760 for the Northeast. They are busy, but they will call you back. They have lots of information and have been extremely helpful to us.

-Kathleen Brady

FUNDRAISING FOR THE RED LILY POND PROJECT FOR 2013

On a balmy evening in August, we had our annual dinner and auction at the Craigville Inn, in the heart of Craigville Village on the Red Lily Pond. The cocktail hour was held on the Village Green along with the silent auction, which included an interesting array of 57 assorted items. Everyone enjoyed the evening, the delicious food, and the fun of strolling to the Green before the dinner and of mingling with their friends and neighbors. The live auction after dinner in the Inn dining room was a lot of fun, and our auctioneer Dick Delaney auctioned off 17 items and made it a great event. We made over \$8,500.00 that night between the ticket cost and the auctions after paying for the food, tips, and expenses, and then after donations from individuals and from CCOA and CCMA we topped \$11,000.00 in clear profit. Donations are still welcome and would be most appreciated to continue paying for the ongoing costs of maintaining the lake embankment and various expenses as they come up. We also keep a balance so that we can pay for large projects like our next one, a new culvert and footbridge on the path to the Forty Steps.



Included in a RLPP auction was this lovely painting by CPCC artist Alison Melavalin

In the summer of 2014 we will be holding a house tour on July 13th, and the annual dinner and auctions on August 9th. Please make a note on your 2014 calendar to save the dates for us!

-Valerie Lane

ADVOCATING AND CONNECTING FOR WATER QUALITY

The RLPPAI networks through many avenues. As neighbors, friends and loved ones, we communicate with the Craigville community through this publication and the *Craigville Chronicle*. However, our Board of Directors networks on a much wider plane.

Examples are as follows: our Association works closely with the Town of Barnstable; its Town Council, Conservation Commission, Division of Natural Resources, and, for the cluster septic system, its DPW. The cluster system is a hallmark for our community, and is one of the first such systems in the nation. The Town and the Cape Cod Commission view it as one viable path to the future for dealing with wastewater issues on Cape Cod.

Furthermore, we RLPPAI Board members attend meetings and conferences relative to our environmental/political concerns. Of late, we have been involved with the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) on a myriad issues. Whether speaking with members of the New England Fisheries Management Council (NEFMC) about river herring/shad bi-catch and monitoring, or developing a herring count monitoring program at our herring run, our group is on the forefront.

We are "pro-active": for example, our interaction with the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries has resulted in a two-year protocol that should eventually involve the stocking of many fish species in Red Lily Pond/Lake Elizabeth, with river herring at the top of the list.

Our latest contacts involve membership in the Herring Alliance, which is funded, in part, by the Pew Charitable Trusts. On Monday, November 18th, 2013 we had the assistance of AmeriCorps for phragmites and purple loosestrife removal. We've also been in touch with Cornell University and its scientists regarding invasive plant species.

So, you see, we're "happening"; we're "on the map". These efforts were begun in 1972 by visionaries like Doreen Spillane, my late father, Nevin M. Kirk, and other like-minded individuals/activists in the Village of Craigville. To quote them, "Keep the Faith"; "Support the Red Lily Pond Project"! It's good for all of us and everything about our community, and the wider world around us.

-Tom Kirk



Steve Brown and Dick Delaney identify purple loosestrife for removal.



Craigville Cottage Owners Assoc. President Lee Williams dedicates bench to longtime RLPP Board member Davis Plunkett opposite his Lake Elizabeth home.

REPORT: REGIONAL WASTEWATER AND THE TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE

The year 1928 was a landmark one for both the economy and the culture, as the stock market reached new highs and nightclubs danced to the new song penned by Cole Porter, "Let's do it." His lyrics included these famous verses:

*Romantic sponges, they say, do it
Oysters down in Oyster Bay do it
Let's do it, let's fall in love*

*Cold Cape Cod clams, 'gainst their wish, do it
Even lazy jellyfish, do it
Let's do it, let's fall in love*

*Electric eels I might add do it
Though it shocks 'em I know
Why ask if shad do it - Waiter bring me shad roe*

Fast-forward to 2013. Alas, falling in love is not the only thing that all living creatures on Cape Cod still do, and Cape Cod faces a serious wastewater crisis.

To address local and regional wastewater issues, the Cape Cod Commission is hosting and facilitating three watershed-based stakeholder working group meetings in each of ten watersheds. The Commission's website provides the rationale for these meetings: *"About 85 percent of the wastewater flows from homes and businesses on the Cape that use individual on-site septic systems that drain into the groundwater, running underground through watersheds to our coastal areas. In many watersheds, coastal water quality has become impaired. Through the development of a Regional Wastewater Management Plan (RWMP) and an update to the Section 208 Area-wide Water Quality Management Plan, the Cape Cod Commission is introducing residents and policy makers to the science, the challenges, and the potential solutions for managing wastewater in an efficient and cost-effective way."* (<http://www.capecodcommission.org/index.php?id=690>).

I represent the Red Lily Pond Project Association on the "Three Bays and Centerville River" working group. Homeowners and businesses in this watershed discharge 2.95 million gallons of wastewater into the watershed each day. Our working group has met twice and will meet again in December. Our task is to learn as much as we can about our watershed and recommend "triple bottom line" solutions to the pollution of the Centerville River and the Three Bays.

The "triple bottom line" approach seeks solutions that equally benefit the environment, the economy, and the community. Our group includes scientists, economists, businesspeople, and community representatives, such as elected officials, policy-makers and citizen activists. The conversations are spirited and challenging. I speak up for the community leg of this triple bottom line, encouraging decisions that will build community and engage as many stakeholders as possible.

Water is essential to life. Our water is at risk. Protecting it will have a financial cost. Business as usual is not an option.

With these four facts in mind, my goal is to bring the intangibles of a healthy community to the conversation, including factors such as faith, hope, and love, which I believe sustain community.

I would welcome input from everyone in the Red Lily Pond Project Association: e-mail me at commonwealthsolutions1@gmail.com. You can also follow our work at this

website: <http://watersheds.capecodcommission.org/index.php/watersheds/mid-cape/three-bays-centerville-river>

-Steve Brown



Painting by Alison Melavalin

CAPTURING THE BEAUTY OF THE PONDS

When the lake, pond, river, and herring run, stream and bogs surrounding Craigville Village were visibly changing and needing care to be healthy as a complete ecosystem, some year-round residents and longtime summer visitors were inspired, three years ago, to focus their creative talents on recording beloved special places and “Craigville Painters Painting Craigville” was started.

During the six scheduled painting dates each summer, the Canada Geese have reared their families and migrated south, the mallards of several varieties have circled the plentiful water lilies for their food, and occasionally a snapping turtle is seen crossing the Causeway Beach. This cultivated beach is now a special place for family picnics, hikers’ pauses, fishing enthusiasts to launch their boats, kayakers to oversee the thicket growth at Turtle Cove, and dog walkers to pick-up a plastic waste bag at the specially provided container.

As more people show interest in enjoying and protecting the waterways in Craigville, the Craigville painters can record their views of the improvements sponsored by the members of the Red Lily Pond Project. Many of these paintings are donated to the RLPP summer auction to further the work they do to reclaim and protect these vital ecosystems year-round!

The “Craigville Painters Painting Craigville” are participating as creative witnesses by responding to the call to action of Wayne Petersen, Director of the Important Bird Areas Program for the Mass. Audubon Society in their journal “Sanctuary”, who notes that, “When it comes to maintaining water quality and wetland integrity, no efforts should be spared in the future to keep these extraordinarily rich, productive, and aesthetically attractive systems healthy, contamination free, and ecologically intact.” (Summer 2013, Vol. 51 Number 3, page 6).

-CPPC Co-coordinators: Avis Strong Parke and Alison Melavalin

THE RED LILY POND PROJECT AND THE PEOPLE OF THE VILLAGE

We have reason to take pride in what the RLPP has been able to accomplish since the days when Doreen Spillane and Nevin Kirk and numerous other Craigville community members, plus some from across the pond, determined that action was necessary to ensure that we would have open waters in our ponds today, in 2013. Since that time, nearly every family in the Village has come to realize that the eutrophication – the big word that is so important in any discussion of freshwater bodies in this century – that was particularly notable in Lake Elizabeth was accelerated by the profusion of washing machines, dishwashers, and general water usage in nearby homes. Since Lake Elizabeth is the lowest point in the water table, the “nutrients” in the groundwater have accumulated there. Lake Elizabeth was in danger of becoming “Swamp Elizabeth” in the late 1980’s, pre the cluster septic system installation.

In the past 30-odd years, the hours of time and the amount of money that have been devoted to the refreshment and preservation of our beautiful ponds is, well, “priceless”.

In Barnstable Town politics, “that Canadian woman” still commands respect; and Nevin Kirk deserved the “most tactful and tolerant human being” award for making the team a success. But there are so many others who have been instrumental in the progress of the RLPP over the years and are deserving of tremendous appreciation. A good start would be with Dave and Julie Gavitt, and her brother, Abel Garraghan; and an amazing benefit presentation, years ago, of “Love Letters”, by Paddy and Ellen Cardarelli!

Four people in particular have devoted their time to guiding the organization and their efforts deserve tremendous appreciation. As past presidents, only they know how much time and energy they have devoted to this cause in which they, obviously, truly believed. Concie Danforth, Henry DiPrete, John Troy and, more recently, Jim Lane, have all been part of the heart and soul of the Red Lily Pond Project, and this thriving organization would not be nearly so successful today without their involvement, through thick and through thin: through design reviews, and hearings, and weed-rakings, and so much more. We can never thank you enough. And without the faithful support of neighbors such as Bill and Alice Gifford, Mark Elliott, Davis Plunkett, Tippy Cusick, and Doris Schumacher, etc., - the list goes on – the RLPP would not have endured as it has.

The RLPP has been pleased to involve whole families in Craigville, too, as no other community organization is able to do. Concie Danforth and her family, particularly Pamela, who has hosted lovely art shows to benefit the pond, and arranges the community “Tidy Town Days” that include cleaning-up the embankment, and the Underwood daughters, who wait tables at the annual dinner and auctions, devote their time to RLPP events. Gabe and Dot Fackre are longtime, loyal supporters of all the pond efforts, and their Gibson grandchildren assist at the annual dinner and auctions. Henry and Anne DiPrete and their family, the Hortons, contributed countless hours and were responsible for the annual dinner over many years. The Schultz/Robin families have been there whenever a pond event was held. Over the years, more individuals and families continue to become involved as they learn more about water quality and the need to act to maintain all freshwater bodies, including ones “in our own backyard”.

Finally, but of utmost importance, current Board members, often also their families, are actively engaged with RLPP activities, and with promoting awareness of issues that concern our ponds, as well as with wider community and Cape-wide water challenges.

We are truly blessed to have so many loyal, devoted, well-educated neighbors in our midst, who understand the importance of environmental stewardship and recognize the value of taking care of our precious ponds lest we lose them. What a beautiful legacy to leave for our children and to have Craigville known for in the future.

-Alice Brown

SEND A NOTE ON LOVELY CRAIGVILLE CARDS

I am still offering my handmade photo cards of Craigville Village’s unique buildings and gardens, and Lake Elizabeth and Red Lily Pond. If anyone is interested in buying them, they make good gifts, in packages of 5 for \$15.00 tied with colorful ribbons and bows. I will bring them to the annual Christmas party at the Lodge and will also be happy to take orders over the phone: 508-778-0507, or email at capecodwoman43@gmail.com.

-Valerie Lane

Red Lily Pond Project Board of Directors:

Steve Brown (President), Kathleen Brady (Vice President),

Alice Brown (Secretary), Valerie Lane (Treasurer), Peter Buffington, Dick Delaney,

Clark Gates, George Gingold, Tom Hoppensteadt, Tom Kirk, Dale Oates, Avis Strong Parke