

# Red Lily Pond Project

## Craigville Village, Cape Cod, Massachusetts 02632 Newsletter - March 2012

### **RLPP Hosts Mid-Cape Coalition-Building Meeting Think Regionally, Act Locally!!**

On February 9<sup>th</sup>, we hosted a networking meeting of Centerville area water preservation groups. In attendance were Tom Kirk, Jim Lane and Steve and Alice Brown from RLPP; Holly Hobart of the Indian Ponds Association; and Ron Sirch of the Committee for the Preservation of Long Pond. Other interested local groups that were unable to attend, but were in touch electronically for this initial meeting, included Gail Maguire of the Lake Wequaquet Preservation Committee and Lindsey Counsell of the Three Bays Coalition.

The purpose of our gathering was to begin a discussion of shared opportunities and concerns relative to all of our waterways. Included were community education, collaborative fundraising, improved fishing and wildlife habitat, fragmentation of protection efforts (known as "silos"), and last, but not least, "emerging contaminants". Additionally, the agenda addressed a joint attempt to approach groups such as the Association for the Preservation

of Cape Cod (APCC), for assistance with further networking/training/etc., as well as possible establishment of a regional chapter of the Massachusetts Coalition of Lakes and Ponds (MA-COLAP), and contact with the Massachusetts Estuaries Project.

The RLPP Board is drafting the co-signed letter to APCC to "get the ball rolling" as our first joint attempt. All involved left the meeting with renewed vigor for our individual and combined protectionist efforts. More to come later this spring and summer.

-Tom Kirk

### **Hydro-Raking Red Lily Pond and Lake Elizabeth**

On October 3, 2011 Aquatic Control Technology (ACT), from Sutton, MA began mechanical hydro-raking in the Red Lily Pond. The project was funded by the Town of Barnstable with part of the remains of a state grant that was earmarked for the Red Lily Pond Project in 1999. Red Lily Pond Project co-founder, Doreen Spillane, had obtained a \$250,000 matching state grant through intense lobbying with

former State Senator Henri Rauschenbach. Over \$200,000 had remained in the town's capital account from these grants after the conclusion of the Reverse Re-layering Project in Lake Elizabeth in 2003.

Red Lily Pond Project Association President Steve Brown pushed for over 8 years with the town's Department of Public Works to fund another pond restoration project. Steve's perseverance included frequent visits to the DPW's Engineering Department. The project became a reality when the DPW finally turned over their authority to fund a hydro-raking project to Rob Gatewood of the Town's Conservation Division. After a bidding process, wildlife habitat evaluation, and a Conservation Commission hearing, the project was approved at last.

ACT completed hydro-raking the north and middle portions of Red Lily Pond on October 11, 2011 and moved across the causeway to the Lake Elizabeth side of the pond. A total of 120 truckloads of weeds (600 cubic yards) were removed from the north and middle bays of Red Lily Pond, and in Lake Elizabeth, 92 loads (460 cubic yards) were trucked away. The Order of Conditions from the Conservation Commission specified that only a portion of the water lilies could be removed because they are considered a native plant.

To our advantage, ACT's foreman and operator of their unique weed-raking machine was

a very thorough and conscientious worker. The ponds have never looked so good! Special attention was given to the ponds' edges and exceptionally large lily pad and water chestnut clusters. RLPP Board member Tom Kirk was our on-site inspector and developed a good relationship with ACT and truckers from Joyce Landscaping. The hydro-raking project cost a total of \$137,000, leaving over \$63,000 remaining for future hydro-raking maintenance or other Red Lily Pond restoration projects.

-Jim Lane

## Water Quality and the Political Process

On February 15<sup>th</sup>, four members of the Red Lily Pond Project Board of Directors (Alice Brown, Steve Brown, Tom Kirk, and Jim Lane), together with Craigville neighbors, made the familiar trek to the hearing room at Barnstable Town Hall, loaded our PowerPoint presentation into the computer and projector, and presented our case to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection for protecting and preserving the legal status of Lake Elizabeth/Red Lily Pond as a "Great Pond."

We included in our presentation maps and documents from 1852 to 2009, and tracing the life of the pond and its use as a resource freely accessible to the public for fishing,

boating, ice skating in the winter, and public recreation, which in recent years has included artists, bird watchers, and for many neighbors, the simple peaceful act of sitting and gazing at its blue-green splendor to relieve the stresses of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

We reminded the D.E.P. of the state's own definition of a "Great Pond" (A great pond is defined as "any pond or lake that contained more than 10 acres in its natural state") and distributed the latest GIS surveys and maps, documenting that the pond, originally more than 13 acres, was still 11.6 acres. We answered questions pertaining to the original pond, which was called "Pink Lilly Lake" and how it came to be known as both Lake Elizabeth and Red Lily Pond after the construction of the causeway around 1900.

Steve, Alice, Tom and Jim all added facts, researched from the archives of the project, to buttress the case. The state has 30 days to make a recommendation. We hope to publish their final determination in "The Lily Pad" in May. While it seemed obvious to everyone in the room that day that the pond is - and always has been, and always will be - a "Great Pond", we remember that in the world of politics, even the most obvious facts are always debated, so eternal vigilance is the rule of the day. Stay tuned!

-Steve Brown

## Red Lily Pond Fundraisers On the Horizon

Mark your calendars for two Red Lily Pond fundraisers this summer. A House and Garden Tour will take place on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, a Sunday afternoon, featuring six Craigville homes. The Annual Dinner and Auction will be held on August 11<sup>th</sup>, a Saturday evening, at the Craigville Inn dining room. More news will follow in future publications of the *Craigville Chronicle* and *The Lily Pad*. If anyone is interested in being on the house tour or in donating items for the silent or live auctions, please let me know fairly soon. My email address is: [capesunsetgirl@yahoo.com](mailto:capesunsetgirl@yahoo.com)

See you in the summer!

-Valerie Lane

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Membership in the Red Lily Pond Project Association, Inc., a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, is open to all and contributions are tax-deductible. Annual dues are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children, and may be sent to Valerie Lane, Treasurer, 86 Summerbell Ave., Centerville, MA 02632. We promote responsible stewardship of all freshwater resources everywhere.

### Board of Directors, RLPP:

Steve Brown (President)  
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