

**PEMBROKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
2009-2010 ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS**

May 20, 2010



*President
Ray Holman*

I'd like to thank all of our members as well as the Board of Directors and Executive Committee for their continued dedication to PWA. We will persevere in our efforts to try and eliminate some of the problems with our ponds in the months to come.

Unfortunately, it has taken longer than we expected to establish a maintenance program for Oldham Pond due to the Easternpond Mussel. Aquatic Technology, the company hired for this job, has been trying to find a chemical that Natural Heritage will approve. PWA funded this mussel study by Biodrawversity in the amount of \$4800 thanks to our member's dues, plus fundraisers.

Comprehensive Environmental, Inc. should have the Furnace Pond Hydrology study completed this summer as long as the water table recedes enough to check the water and land wells. The results of this study will determine how deep the pond can be dredged, at some point, without digging into the aquifer.

A 604(b) grant in the amount of \$47,150 will establish a long term watershed restoration plan on both Oldham and Furnace Ponds. The study will determine the pollutant source, phosphorus, and estimate how much needs to be removed as well as to develop engineering designs for the top three to five structural BMP's recommended in the plan.

A second 604(b) has been submitted to the Mass DEP which will provide a watershed management plan for Little Sandy Bottom, Stetson and Hobomock Ponds as well as for additional monitoring activities in the upper reaches of the Oldham Pond watershed.

PWA will be funding algae treatments for Furnace Pond this summer in the amount of \$8,160. We're not sure of the dates as yet, samples will have to be taken to establish a count, and when it is high enough, the first treatment will begin.

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Because the DPW is short of funds and manpower to run the harvester in Furnace Pond this spring, I have offered to be trained in its operation so that the lily pads can be eliminated as much as possible. I will then train one or two more PWA members.

PWA can do everything within its power to get our ponds cleaned up, but it will be useless if those of us who live around and near the ponds don't hold up their end of the bargain. I doubt if the Town of Pembroke will have the money each year for the maintenance of our ponds, so we all need to step up to the plate and do everything in our power to stop them from deteriorating any more than they already have.

Without a larger membership base, PWA's efforts will slow down substantially. We depend on member's dues and fundraising to continue our quest for pond preservation, our volunteers cannot do it alone.

We've come a long way in seven years, and of course would like to have accomplished everything we set out to do by now, but as we all know, it takes volunteers, time and money. So we thank you for your patience, and hopefully with your help, and believe me we need it, we'll continue to strive for clean and safe ponds in the upcoming months and years ahead.

Vice President
Fred Baker

At the 2009 Annual Meeting I accepted the position of Vice President.

POND CLEAN UP

I have been co-captain of the annual pond cleanup which includes organizing and advertising the event, notifying pond residents by passing out flyers, scheduling the activity for each pond and helping to clean the pond as well as removal of debris.

WEED WATCHERS

I have coordinated the weed watcher program for the past two years. This starts with membership training by the state. We then organized a team for each pond and scheduled the weed collection event. During our last weed collection, a highly invasive weed called hydrilla was discovered in Hobomock pond. This discovery led to MA state intervention. With their help, as well as that of Aquatic Technology, the hydrilla is being killed off. Hobomock will be open in 2010 for recreational use except for boating.

