



The Three Bays Monitor

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Estuaries Project 2005

We are continuing our work on the Massachusetts Estuaries Project (MEP) this summer. The MEP is the \$16 million State and Federally funded project to set the Total Maximum Daily Load of nitrogen for 89 coastal embayments in Southeastern Massachusetts.

With the abundant spring rains we have seen a dramatic increase in macro algae blooms and low oxygen levels. The rains cause an increased flushing of nutrient rich groundwater into the upper embayments. These nutrients cause the algae blooms which in turn use up available oxygen.

Our work with the MEP is focusing on several critical areas to improve the water quality of the bays. With MEP scientists and engineers we will be developing computer models this summer to tell us how much polluting nitro-

gen would be removed by optimizing the flushing ability of the bays by maximizing channel depth and width. Particular attention will be paid to the Cotuit Entrance Channel. Secondly, a scenario will be



The Mill Pond in Marston Mills

developed that quantifies the nutrient removal capacity of the Mill Pond in Marston Mills. That model will study the effect of restoring the nutrient removal capability of the pond by removing organic sediments and weeds that are choking the pond. Lastly, a

model will be developed that will show how much nitrogen would be removed from the bays by sewerage a portion of downtown Osterville.

These computer modeling efforts are based on the costs and effectiveness of each type of action. Dredging is the most cost effective and can be done right away. Pond restoration & freshwater mitigation is relatively cost effective and should be maximized to the full extent possible. Sewering is most effective and very costly, but will ultimately be required in some areas. This will address not only nitrogen pollution problems, but health issues as well. In several different village areas, homes, condos and businesses have no more land available for Title V septic system repairs, replacement or expansion. Sewering solves this twofold problem.

Mill Pond Saved

The citizens of the C-O-MM Fire District demonstrated their civic fortitude and were successful in getting the \$375,000 appropriation for the Archibald parcels approved at the Annual Meeting. The Article passed 203 to 54 and easily met the 2/3 majority that was required.

This is a critical first step in the preservation and rehabilitation of the Mill Pond and gives the Mill Pond Preservation Committee the

momentum it needs to move onto the next phases.

The Mill Pond Preservation Committee thanks all of the voters who gave up their personal time to get us past this very important milestone. We are also indebted to all of those who worked with the Committee to get the word out.

A very big THANK YOU to all of you!!

New Web Site

Three Bays Preservation is pleased to announce the launching of its revamped web site. Thanks to the assistance of Paula Hersey of *Penguin Digital Design*, the site has a completely new look and structure. *Penguin Digital Design* is a full service web design and development company specializing in the Not for Profit and very small business sectors.

Visit us at:
www.3bays.org

Dead Neck

Our first season of ownership and fulltime management of Dead Neck Island is well underway. We are manning the island daily, with membership checks, trash pickup and monitoring of the bird area fencing among our top priorities.

There have been new signs posted that list some simple and commonsense rules for the island. (See the side panel).

Please help us to see that everyone is adhering to these rules so that we can keep as much of the island open to member use as possible.

If you have any questions or problems about Dead Neck, please talk to our staff on the island, or contact us at the office:

508-420-0780
info@3bays.org

Mass Audubon Report



*Plover Chick on Dead Neck
June, 2005*

As of July 11, eighteen nesting pairs of Piping Plovers have hatched 52 new chicks this season on Dead Neck, making this the most productive Plover nesting area in the state. Keep your eyes open on the south side of the island and you will see these little birds running around. The island also has well over 180 hatched Least Tern chicks, mostly at the Sampson's end, but watch out for dive bombing Terns on the east end of the island as they are nesting there as well.

Rules for the Island

Dead Neck/ Sampson's Island is a private wildlife sanctuary owned and maintained by Three Bays Preservation and Mass Audubon. Members of either organization are welcomed to visit, but must present their membership card if asked.

To help protect the island from erosion:

- Do not disturb the vegetation.
- Do not jump off the dunes.
- Stay on marked trails.

To help protect nesting birds:

- Dogs are discouraged, but if present they must be leashed.
- No kite flying is allowed, as they look like hawks, and they may fall where they shouldn't.
- Stay out of the nesting areas, defined by the symbolic string fencing.

Swimming:

- Never swim alone. No lifeguards are present, and you swim at your own risk.

Camping:

- No overnight camping is permitted.

*If you pack it in, pack it out.
Take only pictures, leave only
footprints.*