



The Three Bays Monitor

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A New Era Begins for Dead Neck

For most people, this summer was gloriously like so many that came before: swimming, fishing, boating, the trips to Dead Neck and Sampson's Island.

Yet there was a significant difference, for this was the first year that Three Bays Preservation took over day-to-day management of Dead Neck. In the past, stewardship had been shared with Massachusetts Audubon, with whom we have worked closely over the years. Now, Three Bays would take the helm. And we are pleased to report that it was clear sailing all the way.

Our avian friends thrived. According to Judy Heller, Three Bays Project Manager, piping plover productivity was higher on Dead Neck than anywhere else in the state; 30 chicks hatched, and there was no mortality. Terns, too, enjoyed the summer, with common and least terns swarming in huge numbers, and roseates making a respectable showing.

People didn't fare too badly either. Boat trips to Dead Neck and Sampson's Island were at healthy levels, with the peak falling on July 24, when 200 vessels came ashore. And just as important, the visitors brought more than a picnic lunch. They brought a good attitude.



Dredge spoils are pumped through the pipe and deposited on the island

"People were very respectful," Judy says. "There was no trash, and folks kept their distance from the birds."

Still, there is work to do. Although most people have been good at keeping their dogs on leashes, Three Bays staff, starting next summer, will begin enforcing a "no pets" rule. We expect few problems, as all of us share a respect for the environmental sensitivity of Dead Neck and its wildlife.

The integrity of Dead Neck also continues to require attention. This winter the County Dredge *Codfish* will be working in the southern portion of West Bay channel, removing up to 18,000 cubic yards of sand to a maximum depth of nine feet and placing it on the east end of Dead Neck. The project is expected to take two weeks, weather permitting.

It was a great summer, and we are well-positioned for the future. Not bad for a rookie manager.

A Special Note of Thanks

None of us in the Three Bays office knew Robert L. Day personally. We learned about him – and, sadly, of his death October 18 – when his son walked through our doors recently.

He told us that his father, who lived in Wellesley and Osterville, had always loved to fish the bays and appreciated what Three Bays Preservation had done as their environmental steward.

To that end, the family had decided that donations to Three Bays would be an appropriate way to honor his father's life.

We are grateful to the Day family for this act of kindness and generosity, and honored to know that Mr. Day and his family felt strongly about our work.

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In Memory of Townie Hornor

If Townie Hornor ever had the time or inclination, he could have written an awesome resume: co-founder of the National Marine Life Center, board member of Three Bays Preservation, active involvement with the Cape Cod Hospital, Barnstable Land Trust, Cape Cod and Islands United Way. The list goes on. Not bad for a kid from New York City, whose family left the Big Apple when doctors recommended a change of scenery for his older brother, Dewitt, who suffered from hay fever.

The Hornors settled in Osterville, and for the next 70 years Townie made the village not only his home, but the operations base for his unrivaled community involvement, generosity, and philanthropy.

Townie passed away September 11, and Cape Cod is the poorer for his passing. But few people lived such rich lives, and few communities can point with such pride to the legacy of one citizen.

“He loved this place, and he loved the water,” says Three Bays Preservation Executive Director Lindsey Counsell. “But he did more than most people when it comes to promoting or defending the things he loved. He worked at this stuff more than just about anybody I’ve ever known.”

His love of the sea – fostered, in part, by his father – would ultimately lead to his involvement with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, the Naval War College Foundation, and

the Sea Education Association.

And, of course, it led him to Three Bays Preservation, whose mission is the ecological improvement of the waters that Townie loved to sail.

To many who knew him only by his civic leadership, it might appear that Townie operated only on the grand, heroic scale. But the little things mattered to him as well. Every morning, it was Townie who raised the flag in the village center. If friends needed to talk to him or send him a message, they would often tape a note to the flag pole.

No doubt, the flag pole is not large enough for all the notes of thanks that he is owed.

Annual Appeal Underway

Just a reminder that our Annual Appeal is underway. All of you should have received a letter from board president Bill Gahagan urging you to consider a gift to Three Bays Preservation this holiday season.

It’s hard to believe, given the organization’s significant accomplishments, that Three Bays Preservation is still in its infancy. Founded in 1997 by a few local homeowners concerned about the

deterioration of the bays, we have grown into a vibrant, professional environmental leader with more than 450 members.

We remain committed to educating the community about the threats to our beloved estuaries and undertaking the important infrastructure work of maintaining the integrity of Dead Neck and improving the channels’ flushing and navigability. We also continue to be outspoken advocates for the protection of our watersheds and drinking water.

The weather grows cold now. Swimsuits are put away, and boats rest on blocks. Our thoughts turn inland. But as you make out your holiday gift list, we respectfully ask that you remember past summers and look forward to those yet to come. After all, environmental protection is a year-round job.

Three Bays Preservation wishes you a joyous holiday season.