

# THREE BAYS PRESERVATION, INC.

## Monitor

Vol. 33 Summer 2009

A Publication of Three Bays Preservation, Inc.



Mr. Hampson holding a crab

### Our 3rd Annual Eco-Adventure Tour of the Three Bays

On June 20th, Three Bays Preservation held its 3rd Annual Eco-Adventure Boat Tour out of Cotuit Bay. While it had rained almost every day during the preceding weeks, the skies cleared and the sun shone down upon us for a fun-filled and informative day. On board with us was George Hampson, Professor Emeritus from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Before the trip even began, Mr. Hampson took our guests to the dock and showed them evidence of poor water quality by pointing out an invasive species that has been moving into our waters, specifically a seaweed called codium. Codium thrives in poor water conditions. Once the boat was underway, it moved up into North Bay, traveled under the bridge at Little Island, down through West Bay and along the Seapuit River. Mr. Hampson informed the almost sold-out crowd about the necessity for all of us to be stewards of our bays. While conducting live demonstrations of water quality testing and pulling a seine net behind the boat, Mr. Hampson informed the participants why our waters have become so fouled and what we can do to help improve the situation. We had borrowed some crab pots from the Town of Barnstable's Natural Resources Dept. and were fortunate enough to have on board some examples of native wildlife from the area, including a lobster, numerous crabs and even a flounder. The trip included narration of some history of the area, and vistas of Dead Neck/Sampson's Island. This event has become so popular that we intend to make it a yearly event and hopefully we can do it more than once a year!

### Growing Oysters

In a joint effort, and with money we received from a grant from the Horizon Foundation, Three Bays Preservation and the Town of Barnstable are growing oysters in the Prince's Cove area of the Three Bays. On a cold, rainy and very windy June day, we traveled to Dennis to the Aquacultural Research Corp. to pick up 350,000 oyster seeds. With the help of BARS (Barnstable Association of Recreational Shell Fishermen), the seed was placed into oyster bags and set out along the shores of the Marstons



Tom Marcotti & the oysters



BARS at work

Mills River that connects Prince's Cove and North Bay. It is hoped that we can use these oysters as sort of guinea pigs to determine if these shellfish can help improve the water quality in the northern reaches of our watershed. While our recent water testing has shown that the water quality in Prince's and Warren's Coves has improved, there has been a large algae bloom of Ulva (sea lettuce) that has covered almost every square inch of these waters. To us it seems to be an indicator of a large nitrogen source.

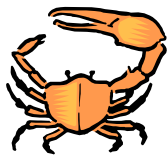
Three Bays Preservation, Inc.  
864 Main Street  
P.O. Box 215  
Osterville, MA 02655

NON-PROFIT  
PRSRST STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
SO. YARMOUTH, MA  
02664  
PERMIT 30

### 2009 Annual Members Meeting Tentatively Planned

We have tentatively scheduled our 2009 Annual Members Meeting for Saturday, September 12, 2009 at the Wianno Yacht Club. We will be doing a mailing later on in the summer when the plans have been finalized. If you have any questions, please call us at: **508-420-0780**.

### Explore the Shore with Mass Audubon



Three Bays Preservation and the Mass Audubon Society would like to invite all of our members and their children to join Mass Audubon on Saturday mornings to explore the shore and see what wonderful creatures make Dead Neck/Sampson's Island their home. You'll have a chance to use a seine net to capture fish, shrimp and crabs. This is a free event!!

**THREE BAYS**  
PRESERVATION, INC.

- Dig down into the sand and learn what lives beneath the surface.
- Learn how to identify different birds that nest in the area or just like to come to find something delicious to eat.
- Hunt for baby horseshoe crabs that live in Pirate's Cove.

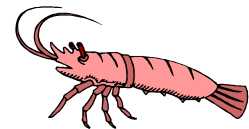
**Dates:** Saturdays: July 18, August 1, and August 15, 2009.

If it rains, we will use the next day, Sunday, as a rain-date.

**Time:** 11:00 am

**Meet:** At the entrance to Pirate's Cove on Sampson's Island.

**Bring:** Towels, bathing suits, water shoes and a healthy curiosity.



 **Mass Audubon**  
*Protecting the Nature of Massachusetts*

### Nantucket Soundkeepers Has a New Home With Three Bays...Sort of

Nantucket Soundkeepers, once affiliated with the Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound, has found a new home. Recently, the Cape Cod Hook Fishermen's Association was awarded the license to serve as Nantucket Soundkeeper, the official steward of Nantucket Sound by the Waterkeepers Alliance. This designation confers the responsibility to act as protector and advocate for the marine waters bounded by Cape Cod, Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard. And while the Cape Cod Hook Fisherman's Association is located in Chatham, Heather Rockwell, the Program Director for the Soundkeepers wanted to have some exposure on this end of the Cape also. So, she is borrowing desk space in our office and we are collaborating on several projects with her. One such project is conducting invasive species monitoring for the Office of Coastal Zone Management for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. We will be looking for any marine species that has moved into our area and is squeezing out the native stock. We are very pleased to have her join us.



**NANTUCKET**  
**SOUNDKEEPER®**



### Tid-Bits

If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to help us save on printing and mailing costs by signing up for our E-version newsletter, please contact us at:

#### Three Bays Preservation Staff:

Lindsey B. Counsell, Executive Director  
Judy Heller, Program Manager  
864 Main Street  
PO Box 215  
Osterville, MA 02655-0215  
Phone: 508-420-0780 Fax: 508-420-4489  
email: [info@3bays.org](mailto:info@3bays.org)  
[www.3bays.org](http://www.3bays.org)