

# The Three Bays Monitor

Vol. 7 - June 2001

## **Kelley Foundation Awards \$12,500 Matching Grant for Water Monitoring**

Thanks to a generous grant from the Kelley Foundation, the Volunteer Monitoring Program of Nutrient Related Health of the Three Bays System will continue to thrive. Begun in May of 1999, the program has been the backbone of Three Bays Preservation's scientific work, providing the data for the most comprehensive analysis of the estuarine system ever undertaken. The \$12,500 matching grant will help pay for vital testing equipment and lab analysis.

In the past two years, more than two dozen trained volunteers have participated in the program, which is a partnership between Three Bays Preservation, Inc. and the Coastal Systems Program at SMAST. The resulting studies will provide the necessary foundational knowledge that our community needs to determine the best ways to solve the nutrient overload problems in our bays.

## **Beach Walks Are a Go!**

Get out your sandals, unpack your binoculars, and get ready for a little seaside bird watching. The Massachusetts Audubon Society's Coastal Waterbird Program, in conjunction with Three Bays Preservation, Inc., is hosting a series of beach walks on Dead Neck/Sampson's Island. Get up close and personal with the island's plovers and terns and see how these spunky birds manage to raise their chicks in the face of numerous challenges. And just as important, you will get to see first-hand the magnificent results of the dredging that, in recent years, has improved bird habitat on the island and stabilized an important barrier beach.

The first outing will be on Tuesday, June 26, and the second will be on Tuesday, July 24. A third trip may be scheduled, depending on the level of interest. Space is limited, so be sure to sign up as soon as you can. Audubon and Three Bays will be offering boat transportation to the island for these trips. We will depart from Loop Beach in Cotuit at approximately 4:30 pm on the day of the scheduled walk. We look forward to seeing you.

## **Scientific Reports are Available**

For those with an interest in how particular parts of the Three Bays estuarine system are faring in the face of pollution threats, the 2000 Water Quality report is available at the Three Bays office. The report, rightly celebrated in the community for its comprehensiveness, describes not only what contaminants are in the water, but makes specific recommendations on how to minimize their impact. Also available is our fascinating, and sometimes disturbing, DNA analysis of fecal coliforms in the water.

## **Hats off to the Anglers**

While most Cape Codders slept through a recent wee hour thunderstorm, 22 salty folks had a dramatically different experience, braving rough waters and lightning strikes to participate in the Osterville Anglers' Club Fly Fishing Tournament within the Three Bays estuarine system. The May 27 catch and release tournament, which was co-sponsored by Three Bays Preservation, Inc. and organized by Jack Keeley, underscored the vital relationship between the work Three Bays Preservation, Inc. is doing, the integrity of animal habitat in our bays, and the people who love to spend time in and on the water.

## **A Message to Our Volunteer Water Samplers:**

In the future, when your kids or grandkids ask what you did to improve the environment, you probably won't mention that you collected water samples to measure fecal coliform levels. But you can put it another way. You collected the data that helped us better understand pollution in our estuarine system. You gave us the information we needed to turn our beloved bays in the right direction. And for that, we're all grateful. Thank you!

## **It's Spring! Let's Meet!**

As summer approaches, and as thoughts turn to the water, Three Bays Preservation, Inc. members may be wondering what the latest news is regarding pollution problems in the estuarine system and our progress in combating them. To that end, we are hosting a presentation Saturday, June 16, 8:30 am to noon, at Cape Cod Academy in Osterville, to review the findings of our pathbreaking water quality report.

Speakers will include Dr. Brian Howes from SMAST; George Hampson, Professor Emeritus from the Woods Hole Group; John Jacobson, Special Project Manager, Town of Barnstable; and Lindsey Counsell and Don Schwinn from Three Bays. It will be a great opportunity to ask questions and learn about what's in the water and our organization's efforts to protect the environmental integrity of the entire estuarine system.

Admission is free and breakfast pastry will be served. Interested people should call the Three Bays office at 508-420-0780 to make a reservation.



*It's no day at the beach. Volunteers collect water samples*

