



ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FRIENDS OF ELLISVILLE MARSH 2011-2012

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR ELLISVILLE MARSH

ROUTINE INLET MAINTENANCE

In mid-January, Richmond and Sons were back at the Ellisville inlet to complete relatively minor site work to maintain efficient tidal flows into and out of the marsh in accordance with our regulatory permits. During two and a half days of work, a breach in the channel berm was repaired and minor straightening of the inlet completed. We have been pleased by the relative stability of the channel since the inlet was relocated in January 2011.

NEW ENDOWMENT FUND GROWING

In November 2011 the board, with able assistance from Jim Mahoney, Barry David, and Greg and Rose Lano, launched its first formal fundraising campaign. The goal was to raise \$100,000 from at least 100 donors for a long-term endowment fund that would assure the ongoing work to restore Ellisville Marsh. The Friends organization has since its formation in mid-2007 relied upon “pass-as-you-go” fundraising, which does not provide long-term financial stability for sustainable operations. We are pleased to report that to date 38 donors have contributed or pledged a total of \$53,726 toward this target. Several extremely generous gifts, including one pledge of \$10,000, have been made by deeply committed supporters. In addition, Entergy Corporation awarded a grant of \$2,000 and the Lookout Point Improvement Association \$2,700. Money from the new Endowment Fund will only be spent by formal vote of the board of directors. If you haven't already made a gift or pledge, we encourage you to do so. Where else can you see the direct impacts of your philanthropy?

SAVERY POND MONITORING PROJECT

Since 2007, the Friends have focused our activities on restoring the Ellisville salt marsh. The Ellisville estuary, the freshwater side of the system, has received far less attention. Thanks in part to a \$2,000 grant from the New England Grassroots Environment Fund (NEGEF), we will be undertaking a modest, water quality monitoring

project at Savery Pond this summer. Savery Pond is connected to Ellisville Marsh by an old herring run that runs along the south side of Old Sandwich Road. Why monitor water quality at Savery Pond? Why now? There was a serious outbreak of toxic, blue-green algae (also known as cyanobacteria) in the pond last summer which necessitated the closing of the pond to swimming (a project fact sheet is available). Left uncorrected, this periodically occurring problem could ultimately have a harmful effect on wildlife and fisheries in Ellisville marsh downstream.



Snow Bunting in the marsh.
Photo courtesy of Diane Fletcher.

CHANGES IN THE BOARD 2012-2013

We are pleased to announce that Brad Winn is joining the Friends' board of directors. Brad works in the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences' Shorebird Recovery Project as a conservation specialist. Prior to joining the Manomet Center, he was a program manager for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division for more than a decade. Brad is also an accomplished wildlife photographer—his photos appeared in the 2006 book *Arctic Wings: Birds of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge*. William Grey and Kim Tower are retiring from the board after a year of service. Sincere appreciation to both William and Kim for their contributions prior to and during their board terms. Both have brought unique insights to the board's operation and we look forward to their continuing involvement with us.

2011-2012 Contributors to the Friends of Ellisville Marsh, Inc.

Ted Bradford *
Wayne Brasco *
Steve and Sue Brown *
Allen & Myrna Burbank *
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Mike and Andrea Carey *
Ralph & Lynne Casale *
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Caryl Scambos *
Jack & Donna Scambos *
Tom & Marian Scambos *
Jed and Caitlin Smith *
Paul Soulliere *

Order of St. Anne Bethany
Energry Corporation *
Lookout Point Improvement Association *
New England Grassroots Environment Fund
UNUM Group *

Bold indicates a gift or pledge of \$1000
or more during 2011-12.

Asterisk (*) indicates a gift or pledge
to the Long Term Endowment Fund