



# ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FRIENDS OF ELLISVILLE MARSH 2012-2013

## FROM SUCCESS TO SUSTAINABILITY: TRANSITION UNDERWAY

### NEW LEADERSHIP

After six years on the job, Eric Cody is stepping down as president. Leadership of the organization is now in the capable hands of Jack Scambos, who will lead a restructured board of directors with balanced responsibilities. Best wishes to Jack for a successful transition and a great tenure at the helm!

### BEST FINANCIAL SHAPE EVER

Thanks to tight financial management and the generosity of supporters of the marsh restoration program, our organization is financially stronger than ever and this assures the long-term sustainability of our work. An endowment fund has been established and the campaign to fully fund it continues until year-end.

### WINTER OF DISCONTENT

A succession of major coastal storms hit Massachusetts over the winter, causing barrier beach erosion of historic proportions. Ellisville was no exception. First came Superstorm Sandy, which hit on Monday, October 29th with its hurricane force winds and heavy surf. Only a week later, a powerful nor'easter rolled in on Election Day. The latter storm hit Ellisville with more raw violence than Sandy and formed a new barrier spit that partially blocked the Ellisville inlet and began restricting tidal flows into and out of the marsh. The Friends reopened the blocked inlet in early January only to have the Blizzard of 2013 (Nemo) block it again in February. Under a permit modification we requested from the MassDEP and with an emergency grant from Entergy's Pilgrim Station, we again reopened the inlet in early March. Whether this storm pattern was a harbinger of climate change or not, the experience made it clear that we need to explore alternative ways, both regulatory and physical, to insure that the inlet remains open.

### SAVERY POND PILOT PROJECT

The Friends have focused almost exclusively on the salt marsh since 2007; however, the fresh water side

is also important. We took our first step toward understanding the Ellisville estuary last summer with a baseline water quality assessment at Savery Pond, which has seen periodic outbreaks of toxic blue-green algae. The report is available to members.



Ellisville Marsh and Savery Pond.  
Photo courtesy of Mike Brennan ©2012.

### RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW TO MULTIPLY YOUR IMPACT!

Thanks to the generosity of two families that have long supported the Ellisville Marsh restoration effort, your 2013-14 membership renewals and endowment fund gifts will be matched. Don't miss this opportunity to leverage the impact of your donation – renew now at [www.EllisvilleMarsh.org](http://www.EllisvilleMarsh.org)!

### CHANGES IN THE BOARD 2013-14

In addition to re-election of our board for 2013-14, we are pleased to announce that Peter Schwartzman has joined the Friends' board of directors. Peter is a professional hydrogeologist based in Washington State whose family has had a home in Ellisville for seventy years. He was involved in our pilot project to establish baseline water quality conditions at Savery Pond last summer. Peter is interested in helping move the project forward as a catalyst for better understanding the Ellisville estuary.