

With The Tide

Friends of Lynn & Nahant Beach

Volume 1, Issue 3

Meeting with DCR Commissioner

On August 16th, several members of the Friends, along with our state delegation, met with Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Commissioner Rick Sullivan (right) at Red Rock Park to discuss several issues of importance to the group. Friends President Bob Tucker, Board members Michael Celona and Jerry Caron, Senator Tom McGee, Representative Doug Peterson, and an aide from Representative Steve Walsh's office discussed with the Commissioner the ongoing algae problem, several maintenance concerns at Lynn Shores, and the additional funding DCR has received for their Boston-area beaches.



We explained the unique situation that exists with the algae, and that the only method that has proven to be effective at limiting the scope and impact of the algae is to remove it from the beaches early in the season. When this happens, as it did last year, the amount of algae and odor was minimized. This year, while the Friends were told that the same actions would be taken early in the season; they were not and the result was as apparent as it was predictable. We reminded the Commissioner that our state delegation secured sufficient funding (\$85,000) for algae removal through June 2008 and we requested to be notified of the DCR's plans for removing the algae and spending the \$85,000.

We showed the Commissioner the paint coming off the wall railings and the damaged light fixture covers. We explained how several dead trees have remained along Lynn Shore Drive for years, the water fountain at Woodbury Point continues to be inoperable, and several other notable maintenance issues. In a follow-up letter to our meeting, Bob Tucker asked for a written response to the concerns that were raised at the meeting.

The Commissioner had been on the job for barely two months when he met with us. We were likely one of the first Friends groups that he met with. In addition, the Commissioner spent over an hour with us on b

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Meeting with DCR Commissioner (cont.)

the same day that the Boston Globe reported on its front page that Storrow Drive may be redirected over part of the Boston Esplanade. DCR manages both the roadway and the Esplanade. Needless to say, he had a busy day (and left to do phone and TV interviews), but still spent ample time with us to listen and understand our concerns. It is a testament to the dedication and influence of the Friends, our state delegation, and to you, our members. We thank Commissioner Sullivan for meeting with the Friends.

Tides Restaurant & Pub Fundraiser

Save The Date

Thursday, October 18th, 6-9PM
10% of All Sales Benefit the Friends

Algae, Algae, and More Algae

This summer, the algae and accompanying odor have been frequent (too frequent) visitors to the Lynn Shores Reservation. To many, this summer has been worst than last, when the DCR removed algae from the beach early in the season, which limited its growth in the summer. The advocacy group Save The Harbor/Save The Bay held a meeting in July on the algae, where scientists, elected officials, and representatives from the Friends and Nahant SWIM discussed the issue. The algae has also been in the news. The Boston Globe, which published an editorial each Saturday during the summer on one of the DCR metro-Boston beaches, noted the algae problem in their editorial on Lynn Shores Reservation and focused on it in their editorial on Nahant Beach Reservation. President Bob Tucker published a guest editorial in the Lynn Daily Item describing the Friends frustration with the management of the algae and proposed the formation of an Algae Task Force. A Task Force existed during the Weld Administration. Bob envisions the Algae Task Force being comprised of representatives of all affected parties– the Friends, DCR, City of Lynn, Nahant SWIM, and others. We will keep you posted. Finally, due to the strong efforts of Senator McGee and Representatives Fennell, Peterson, and Walsh, this years state budget includes an extra \$50,000 for removal of the algae for Kings and Long Beaches and \$35,000 for Nahant Beach. The Friends will work to ensure that this money is spent addressing this persistent issue.

With The Tide Newsletter

Please let us know what you think of the newsletter– what you like, what you don't like, what you would like to see, etc. Also, would you rather receive future issues via email? Please send comments to the editor Michael Celona at michaelcelona@yahoo.com or (978) 835 7724.

Fall Programs at Nahant Beach

Due in part to the increased interest expressed by members of the Friends, DCR is planning on running educational programs at Nahant beach during the fall! Some of the programs are geared towards schools and non-profit groups, while others are suitable for adults. Please show your support by either attending the events, spreading the word about them, or both!

For Schools and Non-Profit Groups

Dates & Times: Programs are offered Thursdays and Fridays beginning in September through the month of November at Nahant Beach. Specific dates and times are to be arranged by making an appointment

Cost: Programs are free of charge for schools and non-profit groups.

Contact: For more information or to register for the program that is listed below please contact DCR Park Ranger, Matthew Nash at Matthew.Nash@state.ma.us or 781-485-2804.

Beach Discovery –1.5 hours

Suitable for students grades K through 5 and in groups. Due to current staffing limitations we can only accommodate groups of 25 or less and will need 1 chaperone for every 6 students.

Children will explore the signs of life in and around the beach. Children will also learn ways to help keep this area beautiful and safe for wildlife and people. Correlated with aspects of the Massachusetts Science, Technology and Engineering Curriculum Framework, Life Sciences (Biology) for grades K-5.

For the Public

Cost: Programs are free of charge.

Contact: For more information or to register for the programs that are listed below please contact DCR Park Ranger, Matthew Nash at Matthew.Nash@state.ma.us or 781-485-2804.

After School Coastal Discovery Hours

October 23rd Tide Pool Exploration of Red Rock, Lynn

3:30 p.m.

Children will explore the signs of life in a tide pool. Meet at Red Rock Park in Lynn at the steps just above the rocks.

November 6th Legends of Egg Rock

3:30 p.m.

Children will learn about the exciting legends surrounding Egg Rock. Meet at Red Rock Park in Lynn at the Flag Poles

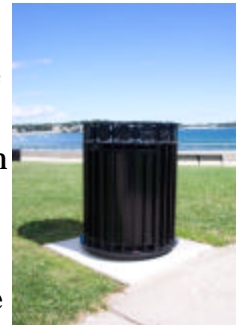
Summer Beach Cleanups

On Saturday, June 23rd and August 18th, members of the Friends conducted cleanups of Nahant Beach. Between 20-30 members helped to make the beach a more inviting place for people and a safer place for wildlife. We collected numerous pieces of wood, coffee cups, plastic bags, fishing rope, and even a shopping cart! Plastic bags, balloons, and rope are especially dangerous for wildlife, as turtles, dolphins, and whales can mistake them for food and ingest them, which can lead to their death. Drift wood, on the other hand, batters the dunes during storms, causing them to further erode. Please keep an eye out for these items, in particular, when walking on the beach. A big thank you to all who participated!



Improvements at Lynn Shores and Nahant Beach Reservations

As many of you have no doubt seen, DCR installed 30 new permanent trash receptacles at Lynn Shores Reservation. Bob Tucker worked with the DCR to have them purchased and installed. Thanks to the DCR for installing them, and to our state delegation- Representatives Robert Fennell, Doug Peterson, and Steven Walsh, and Senator Tom McGee for securing the funding for them. They look great and have reduced the amount of litter in the park.



DCR installed several new signs along Lynn Shores Reservation (these aren't the interpretive signs- see last page). Signs at opposite ends of Lynn Shore Drive now identify the road and it's ownership by DCR. A new sign at Red Rock Park identifies the location. Several unwelcomed signs were installed along the southern end of Lynn Shore Drive. These "No Parking Signs" identified this section of Lynn Shore Drive as a tow area from 11PM to 6AM. Apparently, years ago a request was made to have these signs installed but it was never done until recently. Many residents have become accustomed to having their car, or a friends car, parked there overnight. At a large public meeting in early August, residents expressed their displeasure with the sudden appearance of the signs. At the end of the meeting, the State Police agreed to not enforce the no parking signs and DCR agreed to remove them.



Along the Nahant Beach Reservation, the construction of the Halfway House was completed. It has men's and women's restrooms and outside showers. It is a welcome alternative to the Ward Bathhouse, which is located between the two reservations, and can be a long walk from parts of the Nahant Beach Reservation.

Interpretative Sign Update

Work continues on the Interpretative Sign Project. DCR has experienced some staff turnover, which has caused some unexpected delays. We are currently working on the layout for the signs- text and images. We will keep you posted.

Nature Notes by TJ Cullinane

If you had the chance to poke around Baby's Cradle and the other large tide pools situated around Red Rock this summer, you may have come in contact with an unfamiliar crab, brightly colored and no bigger around than a Kennedy Half Dollar. The creature you encountered is the Japanese Shore Crab, ***Hemigrapsus sanguineus***, a native of Asia that made its first U.S. appearance in waters off Cape May County, New Jersey, in 1988.



Photo credit: P. Erickson for MIT Sea Grant Program

Like the Zebra Mussel currently reeking havoc in the Great Lakes, the Japanese Shore Crab may have been introduced through the discharge of

ballast water from a visiting ship engaged in global trade. The crab is now firmly established in waters from North Carolina to Maine and may still be on the move. The full impact of the crab's introduction has yet to be fully determined, but preliminary studies indicate that the numbers of Shore Crabs is increasing with the number of native crabs like the Rock, Jonah, Blue and non-native Green Crab decreasing. Scientists in the Gulf of Maine are particularly concerned with the impact that the Shore Crab may have on the lobster.

How can such a small creature have such large impact? Like most crabs, the Asian Shore is an opportunistic omnivore; it will eat just about anything. The main problem stems from the fact that its breeding period is twice as long as our native crabs. Essentially, they are out-breeding the native species and out-competing them for the food supply. In Asia their numbers are kept in check by a naturally occurring parasite, a creature absent from U.S. waters.

Scientists are monitoring the Shore Crab's spread, conducting experiments to learn more about the Shore Crab's biology, and studying methods to prevent the spread of invasive species through ballast discharge. While the full impact of this invasion has yet to be determined, there is no need to panic for now. One early study has found that Shore Crabs are quickly becoming a favorite food of gulls and stripers, and everyone knows how much chow these two locals can put away. Ironically enough, a species commonly found on Lynn / Nahant Beach, the familiar Razor Clam, has recently taken up residence in Hamburg Harbor. It probably traveled to Germany via ballast water and as with the Japanese Shore Crab, its full impact on the European Ecosystem has yet to be determined.

For more information on the Japanese Shore Crab, visit the U.S. Geological Survey Website @ <http://cars.er.usgs.gov/Nonindigenous>

REMINDER: Regular meetings are held every other month on the second Wednesday at 7PM at the Diamond District Bed and Breakfast at 142 Ocean Street in Lynn (www.diamonddistrictinn.com). In 2007, the remaining meetings will be held in October and December. A Thank You to Christopher's Café and Catering at 2 Lewis Street in Lynn for providing delicious food at the last meeting!

Summer Concert Series

The Summer Concert Series at Red Rock Park was a huge success. Eight local bands showcased their talent on eight Thursdays in July and August. A thanks to our sponsors: Verizon, The Tides Restaurant and Pub, DCR, Mayor Edward "Chip" Clancy, Camp Dresser & McKee, Lynn City Council, the Lynn Daily Item, and the Massachusetts Cultural Council. A special thanks to those members who manned and/or supplied the Friends concession table and to the Lynn Daily Item, which donated ad space for the concerts each week. If you enjoyed a specific band, please inform Bob Tucker or Bob Dalferro, as we are already planning next years concerts.



Thank You To Our Major Donors

Camp Dresser & McKee

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The Lynn Daily Item

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Kearsarge Lodge I.O.O.F.

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Join the Friends of Lynn & Nahant Beach

____ Yes, I would like to join the Friends of Lynn & Nahant Beach. Membership entitles you to:

- An invitation to exclusive programs and special events
- Periodic updates on our progress and the condition of the Beaches
- The satisfaction of knowing that you are acting locally to impact the environment in a positive way.

Membership

__ Individual: \$25

__ Student/Senior: \$15

__ Family: \$50

__ Corporate: \$100

__ Sponsor: \$200

I am already a member. Please accept my gift of \$_____.

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Friends of Lynn & Nahant Beach

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