

**2021 Annual Meeting Notice
& President's Report
Association of Owners of Lowlands and
Meadows Around Chilmark Pond
(July 2021)**

2021 ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The annual meeting of the Association of Owners of Lowlands and Meadows Around Chilmark Pond (aka Chilmark Pond Association) will take place on August 15th from 5-6 PM via Zoom. The Zoom link will be shared closer to the meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It has been a busy year, though, as reported by our Commissioners, there have been fewer pond openings than last year.

Pond Health

The CPA's collaboration with the [Chilmark Pond Foundation](#) (CPF) is already improving our understanding of the ecological condition of the Pond and the causes of its degradation. It is also developing solutions, starting with strategic dredging of the Lower Pond to improve circulation and the effectiveness of cuts to flush the Pond with clean ocean water. The CPA submitted a letter in support of the CPF's dredge permit package last winter which the Chilmark Conservation Commission enthusiastically and unanimously approved (conditioned on a few technical issues relating to the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. The dredging permit application still needs to undergo review by various state and federal departments and agencies, but so far so good. To join the CPF's mailing list and receive updates, click [here](#).

The CPA also worked closely with the CPF, the Great Pond Foundation and Marina Lent from Chilmark Health Department (as well as health representatives from other Island towns) as they developed [MV CYANO](#). MV CYANO launched in May and regularly monitors and reports on toxic cyanobacteria (aka blue-green algae) blooms in Chilmark, Tisbury and Edgartown Great Ponds. The website includes maps of testing locations and results as well as color-coded health recommendations developed by the Departments of Health based on the test results. The Departments of Health developed informational signs that can be posted at various places along the Pond. The speed with which this project went from concept to action is extraordinary, particularly because most of the organizing was done during the pandemic which occupied so much of the health agent's time and attention. Huge thanks to Emily Reddington and her science team at the Great Pond Foundation, to Marina Lent for translating science into policy and the CPF for funding the work.

We are also participating in the Martha's Vineyard Commission's (MVC's) Up-Island Water Quality Committee that will develop a report to the Mass Department of Environmental

Protection about the Pond's ecological health and ways to restore its water quality pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act that should dovetail nicely with the work of the CPF. The MVC is also testing the Pond for cyanobacteria in a program called CyanoCasting that uses different methods from MV CYANO.

We will hear from both the CPF and MVC about their work at the annual meeting.

Shorebird Monitoring

As we reported this Spring, the CPA executive committee entered into a one-year shorebird monitoring agreement with BiodiversityWorks (BWorks). Several species of protected shorebirds nest on the beach near the cut and for many years BWorks and its volunteers have monitored activity at the site and been present during cut activity to help us keep in line with the Massachusetts and federal endangered species rules. In addition to observing pond openings during nesting season, the agreement calls for BWorks to monitor the area several times a week, take protective measures, educate the community, and report annually to the CPA and the State. The cost for this service will be \$1,593-\$2,443/year and we will seek a vote at the annual meeting to approve entering into this agreement from year-to-year as an annual operating expense. If any of you would like to see the agreement prior to the meeting, please let me know.

Online Billing

Thanks so much to Susie Mottau and Tim DeWitt for setting us up for online billing. It is truly a game-changer!

Communications

Please let us know of any changes in your contact information or if you sell your land so we can update our records.

Finally, please help spread the word about MV CYANO and the Chilmark Pond Foundation to your renters or others who might be interested.

Cheers,

Amy
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