

**2022 Annual Meeting Notice
& President's Report
Association of Owners of Lowlands and
Meadows Around Chilmark Pond
(June 2022)**

2022 ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The annual meeting of the Association of Owners of Lowlands and Meadows Around Chilmark Pond (aka Chilmark Pond Association or CPA) will take place on July 10th from 5-6 PM in person at the home of Liz and Steve Lewenberg, 3 Osprey Lane, Chilmark. If it rains, we will switch to Zoom and the decision will be made by noon on July 10th.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It has been a relatively quiet year as reported by our Commissioners. Over the last year there has been a lot of progress toward improving the ecological health of the pond through our partnership with the [Chilmark Pond Foundation](#) (CPF).

Pond Health

The CPF has collected and analyzed a year's worth of scientific data about the ecological conditions of the pond through its collaboration with the [Great Pond Foundation](#). This work already is improving our understanding of the ecological condition of the pond and the causes of its degradation. For example, preliminary [analysis of pond samples](#) by the Marine Biological Lab shows that the primary sources of nitrogen pollution are septics and fertilizer. During the coming year, the MBL will work to identify whether there are nitrogen hotspots in the pond and will test groundwater wells to determine the nitrogen sources with more specificity and to assess whether there are nitrogen plumes. The watershed for the pond is very large, so this work will be important in order to develop projects to reduce the nitrogen load in the pond.

This Spring, the Executive Committee voted to use \$30,500 of the funds that the CPA authorized us to spend to support the CPF's work to pay for this second phase of the MBL's work. That leaves \$18,077 of the original \$75,000.

Also this Spring, the CPF's permit application to improve circulation and the effectiveness of opening the pond was submitted to the various state agencies and the Army Corps of Engineers. As we wait their decisions, the CPF team is looking for a right-sized dredge to rent or buy and a good place to launch it. It is possible a decision will be made on their application by the end of 2022.

[MV CYANO](#) is up and running again this summer, thanks again to the CPF, the GPF and the Island Departments of Health. Please check the website for regular reports on the presence of toxic cyanobacteria (aka blue-green algae) blooms in Chilmark, Tisbury and Edgartown Great

Ponds. Please also look for Department of Health color-coded informational signs around the pond. We will hear from representatives of the CPF at our annual meeting.

Finally, the Martha's Vineyard Commission's (MVC's) Up-Island Water Quality Committee that has been working on a "Section 208" report to the Department of Environmental Protection about the Pond's ecological health and ways to restore its water quality pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act. The first part of that report, on the current conditions of the pond, "[Chilmark Pond Individual System Assessment](#)" is complete. I hope we will hear more about it from Sheri Caseau at our meeting.

Shorebird Monitoring

BiodiversityWorks is again under contract with us to monitor several species of protected shorebirds that nest on the beach near the cut. This year, a pair of American Oystercatchers and a pair of Piping Plovers have nested in the areas that are fenced off adjacent to the cut. Please take care not to disturb them—it's especially important to keep dogs leashed around these protected birds while they are raising their young.

Internal Combustion Engines on the Pond

As you may recall, there have been some discussion about whether to extend the ban on internal combustion engines that was adopted in 1982 for the upper pond (and what some call the "middle pond") to the entire pond. Leaked gasoline can harm the fragile pond ecosystem and phasing out internal combustion engines is a priority action to address climate change. There will be a motion to phase them out in the whole pond at the annual meeting.

Online Billing

You will receive your annual tax bill online through Stripe. Thanks to our wonderful Treasurer Susie Mottau and her partner Tim DeWitt.

Communications

We are desperately looking for help with our website. If you or someone in your family has some expertise and might volunteer to help us post information from time to time we would be very grateful.

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

Cheers,

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