

President's Report
Association of Owners of Lowlands and Meadows Around
Chilmark Pond
June 2018

I. Website

The Chilmark Pond website (www.chilmarkpond.org) designed by Andria Jason continues to evolve. We are continuing to make improvements and add additional content. If anyone has information or photos that they would like to share on the site please direct them to Andria at andriajason@gmail.com.

II. Pond Openings

We have had two successful openings of Chilmark Pond so far in 2018. We had exceedingly high water levels in the pond this winter (as did all great ponds on the island). We were unable to open the pond earlier due to ice in the pond. Because of the high levels of water we had excellent flushes and, as a result, the water quality should be good moving into the summer season.

III. Water Sampling

In 2017 we formed an alliance with the Great Pond Foundation to conduct water sampling on Chilmark Pond starting in the Summer/Fall 2017. Their goal is “to understand overall pond health both seasonally and through time.” Their protocols include measuring “dissolved oxygen, salinity, pH, ORP, temperature, depth, pressure, conductivity, turbidity.” This was to be done within the water column—surface, mid depth and at the bottom. At our annual meeting Emily Reddington of the Great Pond Foundation will share their results, to date, for Chilmark Pond.

IV. MV Shellfish Group

At last summer's meeting representatives from the MV Shellfish Group informed us that they were studying the effects of harvesting phragmites as an aid to nitrogen problems in the great ponds on Martha's Vineyard. They have been actively developing protocols for working on this problem/solution. In March Emma Green-Beach made a public presentation at the West Tisbury Library entitled:

A Phragmites Phorum:

Investigation into the annual harvest of the invasive reed, *Phragmites australis* as a potential nitrogen mitigation strategy with widespread application

At our annual meeting Emma will update us on where this program currently stands and how they hope that it will move forward to help solve the nitrogen problem in Chilmark Pond.

V. Biodiversity Works

The “piping plover people” have once again cordoned off bird-nesting areas adjacent to Chilmark Pond on South Beach. It is important to respect the area and

remember that all dogs must be leashed at all times at the beach. These nesting areas had a very good yield in terms of fledglings last summer! The other good news is that the enclosures are allowing the beach grasses to grow back and the dunes are beginning to reform due to lack of human traffic. The enclosures will remain in place this season until all of the young birds have fledged. For more information one can check out their website at www.biodiversityworksmv.org.

VI. Member List

We continue to update our membership list to accurately reflect all property owners who have a property interest in, and benefit from use of the pond on our tax rolls. If your property comes with any right-of-way concessions for others please provide us with their contact information when returning your payment to Steve Lewenberg or by email at lewenberg@cornell.edu. In addition, please keep all of your contact information current by letting Amy Salzman know of any changes at Amelia.salzman@gmail.com

VII. Update on Chilmark Pond Foundation

Two year's ago talks began about establishing a foundation to work on interests surrounding Chilmark Pond that would supplement the work of the Association of Owners of Lowlands and Meadows Around Chilmark Pond (a.k.a. the Chilmark Pond Association). A number of interested members stepped forward to start work on the mission for this group. Meetings were held last summer and work has been ongoing during the off-season to get this group up and running with input from our executive board. We look forward to hearing about their progress as well as the scope of what the foundation hopes to accomplish moving forward at our annual meeting.

VIII. Annual Meeting

Sunday, July 15th at 5 P.M. in the Community Room at the Chilmark Library

Submitted by:

Walter (Terry) Meinelt, President

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