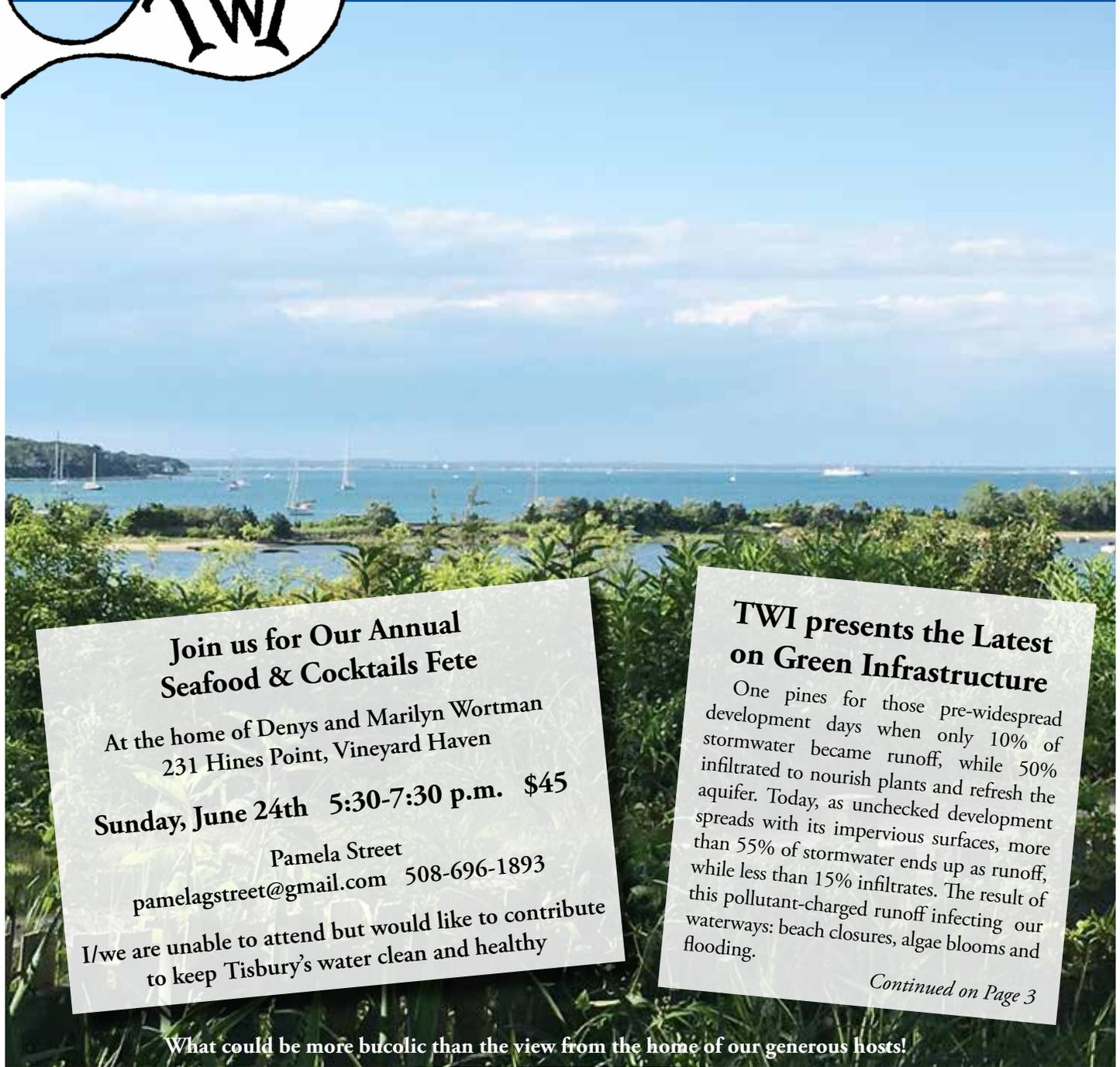


Tisbury Waterways, Inc.

Newsletter

Summer 2018



Join us for Our Annual Seafood & Cocktails Fete

At the home of Denys and Marilyn Wortman
231 Hines Point, Vineyard Haven

Sunday, June 24th 5:30-7:30 p.m. \$45

Pamela Street
pamelagstreet@gmail.com 508-696-1893

I/we are unable to attend but would like to contribute
to keep Tisbury's water clean and healthy

TWI presents the Latest on Green Infrastructure

One pines for those pre-widespread development days when only 10% of stormwater became runoff, while 50% infiltrated to nourish plants and refresh the aquifer. Today, as unchecked development spreads with its impervious surfaces, more than 55% of stormwater ends up as runoff, while less than 15% infiltrates. The result of this pollutant-charged runoff infecting our waterways: beach closures, algae blooms and flooding.

Continued on Page 3

What could be more bucolic than the view from the home of our generous hosts!

What's Inside



**Why Your
Donations
Count**
Page 3



**Meet Eleah Caseau
TWI Scholarship
Awardee**
Page 2



**Water Testing
Results are in**
Page 2

Eleah Caseau Awarded TWI Scholarship

Our newly-created Environmental Studies scholarship recognizes a local junior or senior in college or a graduate student who is majoring in a field related to marine, coastal or environmental sciences or related disciplines. The scholarship was first proposed to honor former educator and long time TWI contributor, Betty Feldman, but evolved to also recognize other early key TWI members, Jo Wood, June Kapell, and Ruth Stiller.

Eleah Caseau is our first winning candidate with an impressive resume on and off the college campus of the University of Massachusetts in Amherst where she is working on her Bachelors of Science in Environmental Science and Education.

"She has an affinity for the marine environment," says Danielle Ewart, Tisbury Shellfish Constable. "Eleah was on my team last summer working with the Shellfish Department as a Lagoon Pond Association intern. Her skill set was definitely beneficial to the department. Eleah was protective of the seed quahogs and scallops and understood the importance of managing the resource."

"This scholarship will help me to pursue my career aspirations to teach future students about the importance of protecting one of our most valuable resources," Eleah notes, "especially on the Island: water!"

A lofty goal TWI wholeheartedly endorses.



SMAST Water Testing Results are In

After wading through the 36 pages of text, graphs and spread sheets, there is good news from the "Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment" conducted at Lagoon Pond and Lake Tashmoo by the School of Marine Science and Technology (SMAST) in New Bedford. The summary was submitted to Sheri Caseau, Water Resources Planner at the Martha's Vineyard Commission.

The report notes that while Lake Tashmoo was found to be moderately impaired by nitrogen, based mainly on declines in eelgrass coverage and benthic animal communities (those living at the bottom of a body of water), generally Tashmoo shows "good water clarity" and low phytoplankton biomass compared to other estuaries such as Cape Cod and Buzzards Bay.

The innermost shallow region of the South End Basin of Lagoon Pond is highly nitrogen enriched, the report shows, phytoplankton blooms and low oxygen. But the total Pond currently supports only moderately impaired water quality, consistent with its remaining eelgrass areas and benthic communities.

In summary, the report says that while more data is needed for developing many restoration alternatives for implementation and ascertaining trends of water quality conditions as estuaries are managed, the 2016 and 2017 Monitoring Program data sets have brought forward a positive action that can serve as a solid base for future adaptive management strategies.

TWI Salutes this Year's Science Fair Winners

"Science is not only a disciple of reason," the late Stephen Hawking once said, "but also one of romance and passion."

And one can see the passion that went into the projects on display at the MV Regional High School Science Fair this winter. As TWI has done for several years we funded the top three Grand Prize Awards, honoring our former president, Dr. James H. Porter.



They went to, from left to right above, Owen Favreau, Second Place; Vito Aiello, Third Place, and Curtis Fisher, First Place. In addition, we want to cite Charlotte Packer for receiving a third place award for her TWI-esque project, "How Is Nitrogen Getting Into Lake Tashmoo," which also received the Lagoon Pond Association Award.

Glad to Help!

As our Mission Statement says, we support educational programs, especially when such endeavors can help participants to learn about and improve local marine water quality.

We applaud Tisbury Shellfish Constable Danielle Ewart who will be bringing back **Family Shellfish Day** for a third year. It's a great way for family members of all ages to learn about shellfishing and the importance of preserving the natural resources of the Lagoon where the event is held on Beach Rd behind Wind's Up in Vineyard Haven. Save the date: June 16th, 9 'til noon (rain date 6/23). Register for this free event by contacting Danielle: 774-563-1279; dewart@tisburyma.gov.

And kudos to Danielle, (photo below) reliable TWI contributor, for being named **Shellfish Constable of the Year** by the Massachusetts Shellfish Officers Association. The presentation of the award at a recent Tisbury Board of Selectmen meeting by Edgartown shellfish constable Paul Bagnall, President of the Board of the association, earned Danielle a standing ovation. Paul indicated that the award came after a selection process that involved



constables from around the state and added, "It is truly an award from your peers. In my mind that's the best award to have."

Also making a return for the 4th time is TWI-funded **Storm Drain Education Project**, a joint effort by Suzan Bellincampi, Director at the Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary and Sue Adamo of The Tisbury School and its always-eager 7th graders. What's new this year: a full day field trip to both Tisbury Waterworks and Felix Neck with activities to include water quality testing with

Continued on Page 4

TWI presents the Latest on Green Infrastructure



Stops on The Grand Tour – Cheryl Doble, Gerry Hokanson and Rich Claytor at TWI’s Owen Little Way Bioswale; wash out at the base of Grove Avenue; Rich inspects a sand-filled drain with a clogged French drain leading to it on Lake Street; Surveying Veteran’s Park

Continued from Page 1

Tisbury Waterways has informed readers of our Newsletters of the harmful effects of stormwater runoff and the message was brought home once again very succinctly by Rich Claytor, President of the Horsley Witten Group, an engineering and consulting firm, at a recent, well-attended presentation sponsored by TWI.

The good news, according to Claytor: within the past 15 years, municipalities are turning more to “green infrastructure” (GI), nature-based solutions that both capture stormwater and filter out pollutants. Use of GI creates “awesome” features that can be cost effective, multi-functional, educational, and attractive. A no-brainer for a town like Tisbury with all its roadways that slope downhill to our waterways

Claytor flavored his presentation with numerous examples of GI features, such as rain gardens, bump-outs, planters and tree trenches, swales, and constructed wetlands that have been implemented in major cities and smaller towns such as Falmouth and Oak Bluffs. Many are applicable for use in Tisbury. He also brought examples of permeable pavement systems that can replace asphalt for pathways and parking lots and allow stormwater to infiltrate into the ground below.

The Grand Tour: Applying GI in Tisbury

“We see all kinds of crazy stuff here in New England,” said Rich Claytor as he reviewed various stormwater runoff trouble spots in Tisbury (photos above). Claytor’s tour, prior to his presentation (see story at left), was conducted by TWI President Gerry Hokanson along with Cheryl Doble from the Town’s Planning Board and Vision Forum.

Not all of the GI suggestions Claytor made involved major financing or man power. There were areas, such as the TWI-sponsored swale on Owen Little Way for example, where “easy fixes” could help the swale function better. More involved were the suggestions requiring engineered solutions to problem areas such as Grove Avenue and Lake Street.

Fixing the Town’s stormwater infrastructure will require time and Town money. Horsley Witten provides grant writing services that could be used for funding design work that will get the process started. Getting the experts involved is definitely a great first step that TWI can partner on with others in the Town.

TWI Aids Tisbury NitROE Tank Demonstration Project

Your donations *do* make a difference. Thanks to you, TWI was able to provide \$8,600 worth of analytical laboratory equipment which has proved an invaluable contribution to the Town of Tisbury for the Grant it received from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC).

The Grant is being used to support the installation, operation and monitoring of 10 innovative/alternative (I/A) septic systems for enhanced nitrogen removal within Lagoon Pond and Lake Tashmoo watersheds. Specifically, 10 NitROE Tanks are being assembled on-Island by Tisbury’s technology partner CES Clean Water LLC and installed at 10 volunteer residential sites with engineering and installation being done by different Island firms.

The TWI-funded lab equipment enables operational monitoring of the NitROE Tanks to be done in an efficient and lower cost manner at the Tisbury wastewater lab than having to send samples off Island for analyses. This means results from the samples can be delivered the same day they are taken, invaluable for operation and monitoring on a real time basis. Based on the most recent sampling of the first NitROE Tank installed, total nitrogen is being reduced by near 90%.

Besides the immediate benefit it provides, the lab equipment will also be used to monitor and track the long-term effectiveness of the installed NitROE Tanks, as well as the effectiveness of other nitrogen reducing technology when it becomes available.



Tisbury Waterways, Inc.
 Post Office Box 4375
 Vineyard Haven, MA 02568
 www.tisburywaterways.org

Board of Directors

Gerard Hokanson
President

Robert Culbert
Vice-President

Ray Lincoln
Treasurer/Membership

Jean Lewellyn
Secretary

Pamela Street
Clerk/Newsletter Editor

Carole Abrahams

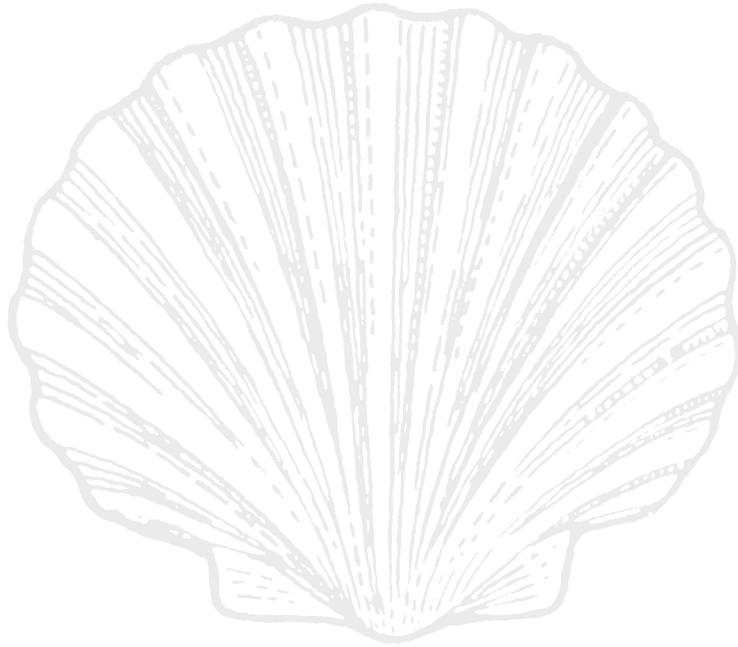
Harriet Barrow

Gus Lewis

Melinda Loberg

Henry Stephenson

Lorraine Wells



MISSION STATEMENT Tisbury Waterways Incorporated (TWI) is a citizens' non-profit organization whose mission is to provide a community presence in matters involving the quality and improvement of waterways in the Town of Tisbury. TWI acts as an advocate and catalyst to enlist the active participation of the public in support of municipal, educational and research programs designed to improve local marine water quality.



Visit our Website: www.tisburywaterways.org

A WEIGHTY MATTER

And in this truck load, weighing in at 2,700 pounds: trash collected at Lagoon Pond during this year's Earth Day Beach Clean-Up. Meanwhile, over at Owen Park the haul totaled 750 pounds. Our thanks to the Vineyard Conservation Society for pulling together this worthwhile and much-needed annual event for the 26th year.



Henry Stephenson Joins TWI Board

TWI enthusiastically announces the addition of Henry Stephenson to our Board of Directors. "When I served on the Tisbury Planning Board, as well as other town committees," notes Henry, "I found that almost every decision we faced included a question involving water quality – stormwater runoff, nitrogen loading, flooding, beach erosion, waterfront access and other problems. But it was not always clear which options were the most sustainable, effective or even available to us."



"I think serving on the TWI board presents an opportunity to focus on these problems in a more direct way," he adds, "one that could provide specific answers to these questions and perhaps help us develop a more comprehensive and sustainable overall strategy for protecting our waters."

The Island Blue Pages Gets An Update

First published in 2005, The Island Blue Pages, A Guide to Protecting Martha's Vineyard Waters was in need of revision. Thanks to financial support, including a donation from TWI, and the hard work of the Martha's Vineyard Commission, the Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group, the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head and Gail Tipton of Protect Our Water, the new version is ready for prime time. Ten thousand copies have been printed and soon The Guide will also be available online (<http://www.mvcommission.org/node/46152/attachment>). Besides updated telephone numbers, emails and websites, the new fertilizer regulations have been included. The aim is to also print a Portuguese edition and have all completed in time to be displayed at the Living Local Harvest in October. Copies are planned for Island schools and libraries.

Continued from Glad to Help, Page 2

test kits at Tashmoo Spring Pond. The field trip was expanded to add a half day at Tisbury Waterworks. And not to be neglected: installing "no dumping" storm drain medallions to replace missing ones on Main Street and add a few new ones.

With TWI's funding help, watch for the summer intern to assist Sheri Caseau, Martha's Vineyard Commission's Water Resources Planner, in testing the waters at Lake Tashmoo and the Lagoon; also for the summer assistant to help Shellfish Constable Danielle Ewart in welcoming seasonal boaters to the Harbor and Lake Tashmoo.