

Tisbury Waterways, Inc.

Newsletter

Summer 2019



This is Your Invitation!

TWI Invites You and Your Guests to Join Us for Seafood and Cocktails

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

Sunday, June 30th, 2019

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

\$50 at the door \$45 advanced purchase

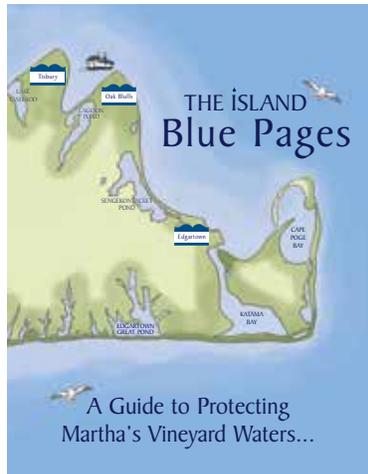
**Please use the enclosed envelope to reserve a spot
and/or to support TWI with your generous donation**

or

RSVP by emailing info@tisburywaterways.org or calling (508) 693-9309

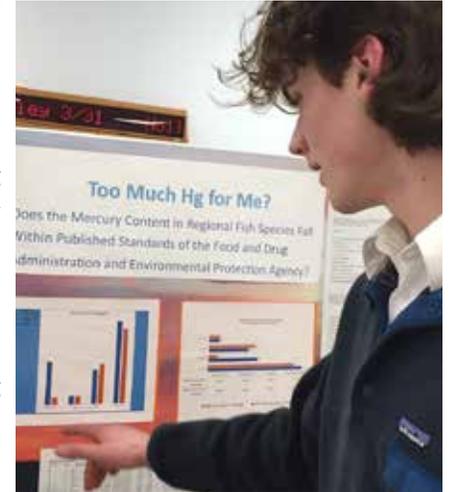
Blue Pages Gets an Update

We all want to protect the water resources of our Island home, but often don't know what we can do. **The Island Blue Pages** gives you some ideas. Through the efforts of the Martha's Vineyard Water Alliance, the second edition of the Blue Pages is now available. TWI is a participant in the Water Alliance and also helped fund the new printing. The Blue Pages begins with the big picture - everything you need to know about the Vineyard's water cycles - and then identifies actions that each of us can take to safeguard our Island's waters. Keep this booklet as a handy reference. Share it with members of your household or lend it to a neighbor or friend. You can get a copy at our Seafood Party on June 30th, or at MV libraries and Town Halls. An online version is also available through the MV Commission.



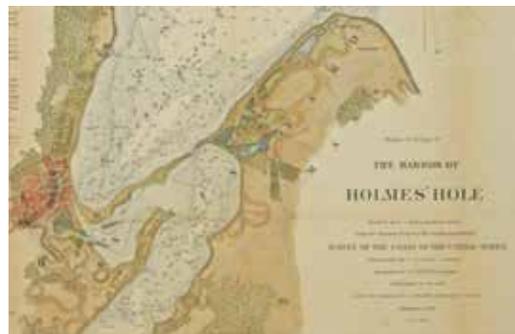
TWI James H. Porter Prizes

TWI again supported the 2019 Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Science Fair with a \$500 donation for the Dr. James H. Porter prizes, given to the top three winners. This year's winners for investigative and engineering projects, respectively, were Henry D'Andrea ("Can Bacteria Grow in Space without a Space Suit?") and Chloe Combra & Kate Howell ("Biodegradable Water Bottle"). The fair, held on March 22-23, was coordinated by Jason Neago, MVRHS Chemistry teacher, who has just returned from 2 years teaching in Japan. Of particular interest to the TWI Board members who served as judges was Graham Stearns' project, examining mercury levels in local fish (shown), which won a second prize.



SWIMMING THROUGH FIVE CORNERS

Just about everyone who lives on Martha's Vineyard or visits regularly has experienced the drive through the flooded Five Corners area after a heavy rain storm. One of our favorite pieces of history in this context is that of Bass Creek. A complex barrier beach and estuarine system once existed in the area of



Five Corners and the flat expanse of the Legion Veteran's Memorial Park behind the post office. Two hundred years

ago, a navigable waterway of 6 - 7 feet in depth emerged through an opening in the barrier beach near the present location of the Steamship Authority parking lot, curving past the present Stop & Shop and Five Corners locations, and flowing south to Lagoon Pond. While an 1835 gale closed off the northern-most portion of this waterway, the 1847 map of Holmes Hole Harbor shows its remnants. The picture to the right shows that homes along Howard Avenue (current Lagoon Pond Road), across from Chicken Alley, had waterfront property (graphics courtesy of MV Museum.)

Why is this history relevant today? Over time most of Bass

Creek was filled in, leading to the commercial development between Beach Road and Lagoon Pond Road. Nature, however, has a way of having the last say and much of this area is threatened by storm surge and sea level rise. It's instructive to remember the watery history of the Five Corners location in designing a fix to the frequent flooding there.

The "Bass Creek" area is the subject of several overlapping projects by the Town of Tisbury, mentioned in TWI's December 2018 newsletter. The EPA study described in the newsletter has led to two preliminary ideas - one to improve the storm water outfall next to the Black Dog Tavern, and a second, to redirect stormwater cascading downhill on Beach Street into an underground storage system under the Town parking lot and then into a wetland feature along Veterans Park. The EPA has also agreed to coordinate with Mass DOT on storm water plans.



GETTING RID OF THE ALGAE

TWI was awarded an \$8,000 grant from the Edey Foundation to ameliorate the condition of the Tashmoo Spring Pond, next to the old water works building. The 24



acres of land surrounding the pond is a beautiful place for picnics, family outings and special events. Unfortunately, the pond is often covered with algae and frequently smells of sulfur.

With the Edey Foundation funds we have purchased an Airmax[®] aeration system, including an air pump and eight diffusers with hoses that will be placed throughout the pond (see diagram on right.) Distribution of air is intended to break up the algae, improve oxygenation, and discourage continued eutrophication. We are hoping this aeration will help clarify the water, reduce the muck at the bottom of the pond, and

encourage additional marine life to inhabit the pond.

To establish a water quality baseline before installation of the aeration system, Sheri Caseau, MV Commission Water Resource Planner, and Danielle Ewart, Tisbury Shellfish Constable, will be coordinating water sampling to measure nitrogen, phosphorous, and other potential contaminants. Samples will be sent

to a laboratory off-island for testing at TWI's expense. TWI is sponsoring a Shellfish Assistant who will collect Spring Pond samples and also help Danielle supervise the clam flats in Lake Tashmoo. The

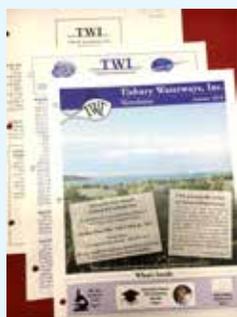


sampling program will continue after installation of the Airmax[®] system and is designed in part to ensure that pond oxygenation does not inadvertently increase nitrate levels in the already impaired Lake Tashmoo. TWI also purchased two dissolved oxygen and temperature/light loggers that have been deployed at Spring Pond.

Brad Chase, Senior Biologist of the Mass Division of Marine Fisheries, recently visited Spring Pond. Mr. Chase offered a few suggestions on how to better care for the Pond. He indicated that continued water testing is the key to understanding the factors fueling algal growth. He did not feel that aeration would adversely impact Lake Tashmoo. One suggestion made was to remove the berm and join the pond to Lake Tashmoo, gaining the benefits of tidal exchange.

A Big *Thank You* to Pamela Street

TWI would like to dedicate this issue of our newsletter to Pamela Street who recently retired from our board. She



was an enthusiastic hard worker, always willing to take on different tasks. Most notable, for many years Pamela served as our newsletter editor extraordinaire, transforming it to a very professional multi paged publication printed on glossy paper and featuring many full color photos. (See photo on left showing evolution of the newsletter.)

Pamela says she loved the newsletter projects since it took her back to her professional work as an editor at Fairchild Publications which published *Woman's Wear Daily*. Ever the journalist, she often attended Tisbury Board of Selectman's Meetings and Planning Board meetings, and attended many workshops on and off Island. Every non-profit would love to have such a talented and dedicated individual doing this time consuming job.



Thank you Pamela!

TWI Selects 2019 Scholarship Recipient

The TWI Board has selected Hannah Gonsalves as the 2019 recipient of the TWI Environmental Studies Scholarship. Hannah, a 2016 graduate of the Charter School, is a student at Salem State University with a major in Geology. She currently plans a career in Marine and Coastal Geology.



During the summer of 2018, Hannah served as an intern for the Lagoon Pond Association, working with the Oak Bluffs and Tisbury Shellfish Departments. In her application, she notes that this internship "...set me off on the path of what I believe is what I want to pursue with my career and essentially the rest of my life."



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

Board of Directors

Lorraine Wells
President

Robert Culbert
Vice-President

Ray Lincoln
Treasurer/Membership

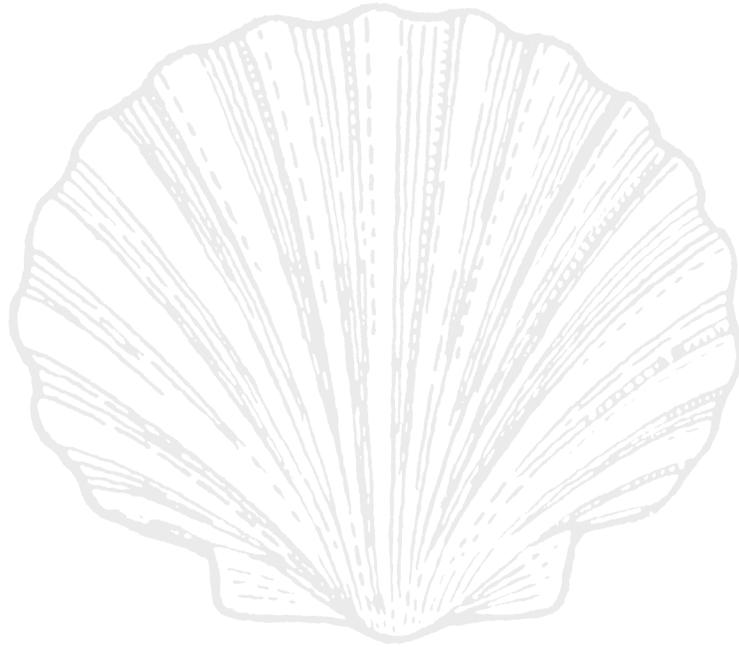
Jean Lewellyn
Secretary/Clerk

Gerard Hokanson
Newsletter Editor

Carole Abrahams
 Harriet Barrow

Gus Lewis

Melinda Loberg
 Henry Stephenson



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

TWI Helps with Beach Clean-up

Again this year TWI Board Members and Friends of TWI helped out with the Vineyard Conservation Society's annual Earth Day beach clean-up. TWI took responsibility for beaches at the Tashmoo opening, the Lake Street dock, Owen Little Way, the harbor from SSA to the Packer property, and Tisbury Marketplace to Wind's Up. We're happy to report that, for the most part, the amount of trash collected was reduced compared with past years. In particular, fewer plastic bottles, plastic bags and balloon remnants were found, attesting to the hard work of VCS and Island school children in reducing plastics on MV. TWI has a long history of cleaning up Tisbury's beaches and is considering an independent clean-up for September, after many of the summer visitors have departed.

Waterways Regulations
What Do You Think??

Live-aboards: Are they a way of life on our ponds that should be preserved, or a threat to water quality? Public discussion of the revised Town of Tisbury Waterways Regulations planned for May has been deferred. The regulations will be revised over the summer and public discussion rescheduled. Watch for further news.

TWI Sponsors Tisbury School Water Program

For the 4th year TWI is proud to support a collaboration with the Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary and the Tisbury School to offer a water quality education program for local 7th graders. With hands-on coordination by Suzan Bellincampi from Felix Neck and Sue Adamo, Tisbury School Science teacher, the program involves a classroom session, a full-day field trip split between Tashmoo Spring Pond and the Felix Neck Sanctuary, and a separate field trip to downtown Vineyard Haven to install/replace storm drain medallions.

This successful school program is aimed at inspiring Tisbury's youth to think about contributions they can personally make to improving water quality.

SAVE THE DATE

Family Shellfish Day 2019
 June 22nd, 9 a.m. - noon
 Register with Danielle at 774-563-1279
 or Dewart@tisbury.ma.gov