



FOCUS ON CHILDREN

Nature's Classroom

AQUATIC / ENVIRONMENTAL HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

<p>MARTHA'S VINEYARD PROFESSIONALS VOLUNTEERING TIME & EXPERTISE</p>	<p>LOADING A LOBSTER TRAP WITH ASSISTANCE BY SHELLFISH GROUP INTERN</p>	<p>STUDYING 3 POOLS FOR PARENTS, CHILDREN & VOLUNTEERS TO OBSERVE JELLYFISH, HERMIT CRABS & SCALLOPS "TREASURES" CHILDREN FOUND</p>	<p>NETTING SMALL FISH, SNAILS & JELLYFISH WITH ENTHUSIASM</p>
<p>GUESSING GAMES IDENTIFYING SHAPES & SURFACES WITH SHELLFISH GROUP INTERN</p>	<p>LOOKING FOR SNAILS, CRABS & CLAMS</p>	<p>CONTRIBUTING THEIR FINDS TO THE "TREASURE POOL"</p>	<p>ROOTING FOR FAVORITE CRABS DURING THE EXCITING CRAB RACES</p>



Learning Their A B Seas

Once again TWI stepped in to fulfill its educational mission with children at last summer's Sail MV Seafarer's Festival Weekend. With its creative "Focus on Children" event, close to 100 children from ages 2 to 14 (and their parents) got a crash course in Aquatic and Environmental Activities 101. Echoing the successful kids' program from last year's clambake, our Nature's Classroom allowed the small fry to get up close and personal with a variety of shellfish and the Vineyard pros such as Rick Karney, Director of the MV Shellfish Group, who make a living protecting same.

Kiddie pools filled with crabs, jellyfish and clams served as mini laboratories and fishing grounds as kids set off into the shallow water with clam rakes, nets and shovels to see what they could uncover. Also part of the fun and games: the crab races a la Nascar with a real track and lanes and our own Lorraine Wells earning herself a lobster donated by the Net Result for guessing the right number of mussel shells in a glass container. A big thanks to all those who made the event such a success!



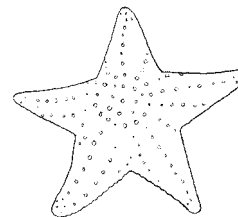
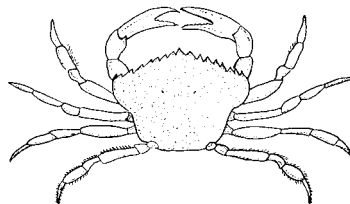
Photos by Amy Sabin Barrow

Public Enemies

If you were a scallop or a mussel or anyone of our cherished shellfish community which of these sea-going creatures would you want to avoid: friend of Flipper, green crab, starfish or the "living fossil?"



Photos by Jennifer Sayre



Answer: All prey on shellfish except for Flipper's buddy

TALES OF LAKE TASHMOO

Sponsored by Tisbury Waterways, Inc.

Tisbury Senior Center, August 29, 2006



Photo by William Elbow

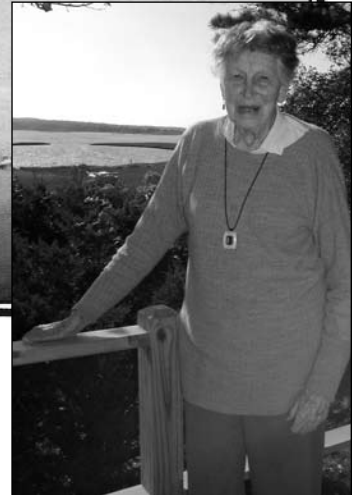


Photo by Melinda Loberg

TWI's annual meeting invited participants to share a nostalgic evening remembering Lake Tashmoo's Fresh Water Past with a guest panel including Ann Allen, who with her husband, William Elbow, created the eye-catching brochure (above); Ralph Packer; Isabel West (top right); George Santos Jr. and Joe Costa. Purchased by the Mayhews from the Pockanocket Indians (later the Wampanoags), Lake Tashmoo was cherished for its fresh water springs and plentiful herring which supported an active fishery and salting works. After the hurricane of 1938 when the tidal surge overran the lake, the Army Corps of Engineers completed the construction of the jetties marking the current channel. Isabel West recalls the stench lasting three years as fresh water flora and fauna gave way to our current salt marsh environment. Capping the evening was a presentation by Henry Stevenson of Tisbury's Planning Board and new TWI board member Lorraine Wells who also chairs the Old Pump Station Restoration Committee. The two reviewed the status of this historic building (right) and efforts to restore it for public use. The group announced receipt of an anonymous gift of \$25,000 to help defray the costs of evaluating the building and preventing further deterioration.

The slate of officers elected to serve were as follows: Melinda Loberg, President; Harriet Barrow, V. President; Jen Sayre, Treasurer and Clerk; and Jean Lewellyn, Secretary. President Loberg accepted the resignation of board member Peter Muldowney and founding member Richard Sherman who agreed to remain on the board in an ex-officio capacity.



Photo by Jennifer Sayre

On Lagoon Pond...

Taking a Hard Look at the New Boat Ramp

The Mass Water Access Board designed and built a new boat ramp which included improvements to an existing dock and parking area (photo) on the Vineyard Haven side of the Lagoon Pond Bridge. Its purpose was twofold: first – to build up the pavement at the lower end of the ramp so trailers and jet skis would have better access; second – to reduce the amount of oil and metals from the parking lot that ran into the shellfish beds. Unfortunately,



this new design does not appear to diminish this detrimental run off. TWI will continue water testing in this area to determine if another remedy should be sought.

Bridging the Gap

TWI continues to monitor progress on the Lagoon Pond Bridge project and participate in the Island's committee that interfaces with the State Highway Department. Here's the latest news: Parsons Engineering, the firm that won the contract to design the permanent bridge, made a preliminary presentation and heard input from the community about the height of the bridge (about 5' higher than the present one), number of bascules (two would allow for additional height without changing the approaches) and access from the bridge and roadway to Eastville Beach. Construction on the temporary bridge is scheduled to begin this April.

Forging an Alliance...

Presentations Focus on MV Water Quality



It's too bad Water Quality on Martha's Vineyard, the MV Water Alliance's informative PowerPoint presentation isn't required viewing for all Vineyarders. Those who attended a showing this fall, narrated by Wendy Culbert (photo) of The Vineyard Conservation Society left well versed in all elements that effect our water quality and, just as important, learned what we can do to insure its integrity. Clear and sometimes disturbing visuals defined the island's water sheds, explained the integral role of eel grass and dramatically demonstrated the ill-effects of nitrogen loading from its various sources, not the least of which comes from waste water, road run-off and lawn fertilizers.

TWI's Melinda Loberg and Harriet Barrow treated the audience to our significant contributions over the years including the dredging of the harbor and the on-going partnering with DPW director Fred LaPiania to install critical catch basins. "Without TWI the catch basin project wouldn't have worked with the Mass Highway Department," noted LaPiania who added, "TWI water tests show that they make a big difference. TWI has been quite an education for us." Well put.

In the Flow with Steve Hanschka

This spring TWI hosted an informative talk by Steve Hanschka, a city planner and Certified Floodplain Manager for Clackamas County, Oregon, the northwest portion of which lies within the Portland Metropolitan Area.

Of particular local interest was the aspect of Hanschka's work that touches on storm water management which, Hanschka explained, is basically a two-step process: detention first (usually), water quality second. Various systems for detention include detention ponds, retention ponds, infiltration trenches, underground injection systems (drywells) and sometimes swales which are bio-engineered and also act as a cleaning mechanism.

Swales are surprisingly versatile and can be created in parking lots, wetlands or grassy areas and can be adapted to different soil types.



Wendy Culbert, Steve Hanschka and Jo-Ann Taylor

All A-board



TWI is pleased to announce the addition of three new board members (photos above, left to right): Jean Lewellyn, Robert Culbert and Lorraine Wells. All share an attraction to TWI's modus operandi: "You raise an issue and work to solve it," notes Robert Culbert expressing an opinion held by the trio.

With an M.S. in Natural Resources, heading up the county's Water Testing Lab for nine years and currently self-employed as an Ecological Consultant, Culbert's impressive resume makes for a good TWI fit. "I like TWI's ability to work with and assist the town on issues of "mutual" importance, he says."

Having sailed our waters for 30 years Jean Lewellyn is no stranger to marine matters. "Being a boater I've always been interested in the environment," says Lewellyn a reading tutor for students in kindergarten through third grade.

Lorraine Wells also has the waterfront well covered with children on the high school sailing team and husband Jim Pringle who is assistant harbor master. "I'm the non-sailor in the family, but I'm interested in clean water and environmental issues," says Wells a school psychologist. "I hope to act as a liaison between the schools and TWI."

Passing the Test...

Board of Health Report Card Shows Vital Role Catch Basins Play

TWI focuses its water testing on road run-off after rain events while the Tisbury Board of Health has responsibility for weekly testing of all bathing beaches and is required to post swimming restrictions if bacteria counts reach a certain level. All test results are done at the Wampanoag's water testing lab in Aquinnah. The tests indicate there has not been a single incident of exceeding the state standards in two consecutive tests in three years in Tisbury. This is why TWI remains focused on installing catch basins and first flush basins where road run-off, particularly after a significant rainfall, can affect the water quality of both bathing beaches and shellfish nurseries.

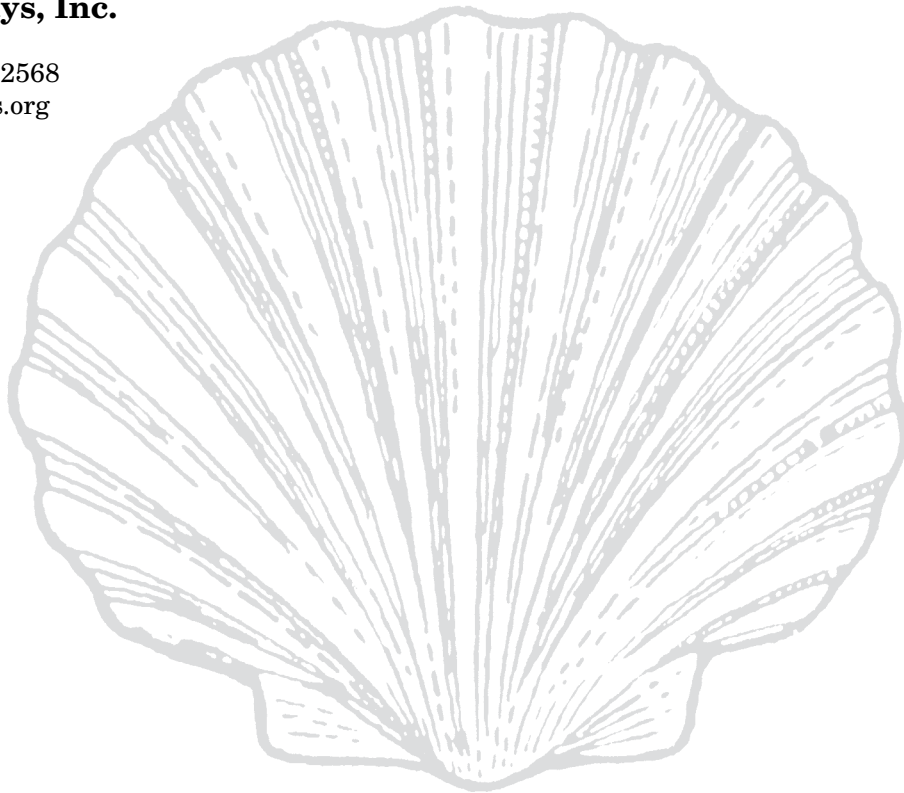
Speaking of catch basins, Tisbury's Department of Public Works has recently installed additional catch basins (funded by TWI) at the intersection of Harborview Lane and Grove Avenue which has dramatically reduced run off, subsequent erosion and pollution entering the harbor. The DPW intends to install six more basins along Harborview Lane, Oak Tree and Pine Tree Lanes. We continue to hope for state financial assistance, but the DPW has taken the initiative to move ahead despite the absence of the promised reimbursement from the state. In the future look for native perennial shrubs and beach grass to further buffer the impact of heavy rains and subsequent erosion.

Tisbury Waterways, Inc.

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Visit our Website: www.tisburywaterways.org

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.

Tisbury's Wastewater Management Plan: An Update

When Tisbury Board of Health's Tom Pachico recently updated the MV Water Alliance on the town's Wastewater Management Plan he also provided some advice. There will be a public meeting to educate the town on the details of the plan (Tisbury is the first town on the island to have one). In the meantime, here are the basics and some tips:

*The Plan will take effect when all necessary data concerning current systems is entered into a software program. About half of that data is complete and includes the most environmentally sensitive areas such as those close to ground water, ponds, water sheds and the town's water supply.

*A full septic inspection, when all compartments need to be viewed, must be done every 7 years and not for a sale or transfer of property which was previously the case. The homeowner must pay for the inspection and any necessary improvements, but if unable to pay the town will provide a loan.

*A quick inspection (for just the septic tank) must take place every two years to determine if a pump out is necessary. It pays to shop around for a pump out which can range from \$.35 to \$.44 per gallon and run as high as \$700. A permit must be pulled before a pump out can take place.

*Put a riser on your opening so it's easily accessible. To determine if your system needs a pump out, put a stick in the septic tank. If it moves easily, you can rest easy; if it doesn't, call for a pump out. If a pump out is necessary, look for a pump out operator who is also licensed by the state to do your inspection so both jobs can be done at the same time which could save you time and \$\$.

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