



Tisbury Waterways Invites You to join us for Seafood & Cocktails

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

Sunday, June 26th 5:30-7:30PM \$45

RSVP 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.

See enclosed envelope.

Eelgrass is considered a sentinel species. A haven for shellfish, its abundance is a strong barometer of our marine water's state. Join us to hear about its key role in Tisbury's waterways, how water quality is being assessed and the latest innovative solutions to help keep our waters healthy.

There is good news on the horizon!

Protecting Our Waters: What's Being Done Now

A number of recent actions are promising steps to secure the future health of our marine water and the wealth of species that call it home.

Saying No to New Nitrogen...

As a consequence of the population growth in the Town of Tisbury the current wastewater treatment infrastructure (largely individual septic systems) lacks the capacity to remove sufficient nitrogen to ensure that Tisbury's ponds are safe.

The Massachusetts Estuaries Project (MEP) concluded that 6,435 pounds of nitrogen currently entering Lake Tashmoo (32%) annually must be removed to restore Tashmoo to a sustainable

waterway. For Lagoon Pond, 13,016 pounds (35%) must be removed.

As incredible as these numbers sound, they assume that no new nitrogen will enter the watershed through new development. To this end Tisbury's Board of Health will soon be holding public hearings aimed at implementing a fee to hold property owners financially responsible for new wastewater-based nitrogen entering the groundwater. The collected fees will vary according to the pounds of nitrogen a property contributes to the groundwater, based on actual household water usage, and the type of on-site

Continued on Page 2

What's Inside

**Remembering Jo Wood
and Betty Feldman**

Page 3



The Retirement Cake

**Harbormaster
Jay Wilbur Retires**

Page 3

**Going Green
at the MV Shipyard**

Page 2

Protecting Our Waters: How to Get the Job Done

Continued from Page 1

treatment installed. The fees will provide a revenue source to fund denitrification strategies within the same watershed. At this time, the fee will apply only to new development within the Tashmoo and Lagoon Pond watersheds in Tisbury.

An Innovative Alternative Conference Offers Potential Options to help solve our “Nitrogen Problem”...

Most readers are aware that Tisbury’s two ponds, Lake Tashmoo and Lagoon Pond are seriously threatened by eutrophication due to



A MVC map shows major watersheds & pond water quality of MV

high levels of nitrogen in the water. About two thirds of the nitrogen flowing into the ponds comes from wastewater. Most people don’t realize that the typical Title 5 septic systems installed at homes are designed for sanitary purposes, not to remove nitrogen.

This spring, the Martha’s Vineyard Commission sponsored a day-long Innovative Alternative Conference: Cleaning Up Our

Waters. The well-attended conference, chaired by Adam Turner, Executive Director of the MVC, brought together 12 speakers who described the nitrogen problem for Vineyard ponds, the MEP process, and a variety of potential solutions. As Mr. Turner indicated in his introductory remarks, no single solution will be sufficient to solve the problem. Presentation materials will be available on the MVC website, and a recording of the conference through MVTV.

Eelgrass: Protecting the Canary in the Coal Mine...

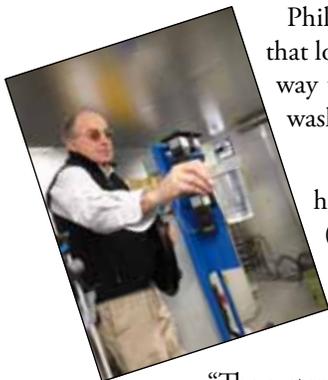
It is well established that eelgrass is an indicator of the health of our waterways, owing to its sensitivity to changes in environmental conditions. Population growth and land and water use practices have all contributed to historical losses of eelgrass habitats.



Removing the stress on eelgrass requires a number of actions, including reduction in nutrient levels, improving water clarity, and removing physical stressors. Protecting existing eelgrass beds to achieve “no net loss” is important for both environmental reasons and to provide a nurturing environment for shellfish (photo).

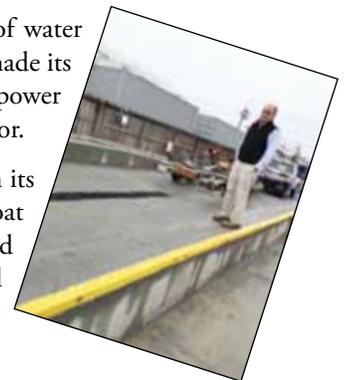
To this end, the Tisbury Board of Selectmen has formed an ad hoc Eelgrass Advisory Committee. The Selectmen have asked the Committee to develop a plan for eelgrass protection in Lake Tashmoo and Lagoon Pond by the end of July 2016. The plan may include strategies for anchoring/no-anchoring areas as well as mooring types and mooring inspection regulations in eelgrass areas. Current TWI President, Gerry Hokanson, was appointed by the Selectmen as a member of the Committee.

Going Green at the Martha’s Vineyard Shipyard



Phil Hale, owner of the Martha’s Vineyard Shipyard, holds up a glass of water that looks good enough to drink (photo left). Not long before this liquid made its way there, it was a gunky, murky brown. It contained the residue from power washing five to eight boats a day that used to make its way into our harbor.

Today, when a boat is power-washed at the shipyard, what falls from its hull flows into one of two settling tanks, via a long drain under the boat (photo right). That water then goes into a second settling tank and ultimately makes its way to a third processing tank where the model developed by OilTrap, the EP5-WR ElectroPulse EC system, does its cleansing thing.



“The system is designed to not only remove heavy metals such as zinc and copper, but it will oxidize the metals, converting them from a hazardous waste to an inert nonhazardous waste,” explains Mike Davis, VP of Business Development at OilTrap in Turnwater, WA. The system will also tackle the emulsion of paint, marine debris and oil and grease if present in the water. All functions are automatic and are controlled by an on-board computer.

“At some point you just have to do what’s right,” Hale tells TWI. And at what cost? “Let’s just say installing this system was about the same price as a small house on the Vineyard...not on the water.”

Shellfish Update: All in the Family

A Family Affair... We were excited to learn about Tisbury Shellfish Constable Danielle Ewart's plans for Family Shellfish Day, Saturday, June 25 from 9 until noon at the town landing on Beach Road. This is a great opportunity to get Tisbury's small fry (and other family members!) informed about one of our cherished seaside rituals, shellfishing. Rain date: Sunday, the 26th. For more information contact Danielle Ewart: 508-684-8384; dewart@tisbury.ma.gov.

Learning about nub scallops... Another Tisbury Shellfish Department educational endeavor merits mention. Earlier this spring, at the invitation of our shellfish department, Valerie Hall, Ph.D., Research Associate (photo), Maria Mitchell Association made her way from Nantucket to talk about nub scallops to a packed house at the Tisbury Senior Center. TWI funded the trip.



The talk focused on the controversial question over harvesting of nub or seed scallops which show a raised growth ring at 3-4 mm. Hall explained the life-cycle of the scallop and the importance of allowing the nubs to grow to maturity. Her study on Nantucket showed that more than 50% of nubs can spawn in their 2nd summer if they survive the fishery. In conclusion Hall offered "a flexible management plan," limiting or excluding nubs from harvest during some years "to avoid commercial extinction of this remarkable species on Nantucket and other places where there is still a fishery."

It's in the bag... Just before press time, Rick Karney, Shellfish Biologist/Director of the Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group, showed us these beautiful two-year-old oysters (photo) grown in a culture bag anchored to the shore where the fresh groundwater seeps into the Lagoon near the shellfish hatchery. Although during the first year they experienced some predation from drills, a predatory shellfish species, none were found when we opened the most recent bag. Drills don't like fresh water so perhaps the location of the bag near the seep helped to deter the drill predation.



This is part of a larger investigation to see whether oyster beds could be established in the Lagoon. Some of the obstacles we experienced were:

- 1) Difficulty in finding areas to establish a bed due to the area being populated by other species of commercial shellfish; or the area did not offer enough protection.
- 2) Heavy predation by drills on the young seed. We planted larger oysters in a few areas near the marina by Mud Creek. As of this spring, the large oysters in one area are still alive. In the other they disappeared and we suspect "human predation."

The oysters seem to grow and survive best when cultured in bags as would be the case on a private oyster farm. Unfortunately, this has not been allowed by MA's Division of Marine Fisheries.

TWI Remembers Jo Wood & Betty Feldman

We lost two of our stalwart board members this year. Always ready to roll up their sleeves to get the job done, Jo Wood and Betty Feldman will be missed for their tireless contributions to our cause. "Worked for Clean Harbors" read the headline for Jo's obituary in The Vineyard Gazette, and work she did, especially when it came to archiving our records.



Jo, left, one of TWI's founders, was my next-door neighbor on Main Street and introduced me to TWI in 2003. Practically before hellos were exchanged, she handed me a collection of our newsletters while extolling TWI's accomplishments. I was sold.

Betty, right, coordinated our educational efforts, was a fixture at our booths at the Tisbury Street Fair and at the Ag Fair. In 1995, she organized field trips aboard Enviro-Lab III, a research vessel of the University of Massachusetts, so Vineyard students could study creatures and organisms found in the sea. Both Jo and Betty were seasonal members, but they sure made up for lost time during the summer months when the crush was on. —Pamela Street



Tisbury Harbormaster Jay Wilbur Retires *Friend to TWI and Our Waters*

As veteran board member Harriet Barrow remembers John (Jay) Wilbur III: "Initially, Jay helped us set up pump out barrels for boaters at several of Tisbury's docks. He was also instrumental in acquiring our first pump-out boat. Together with assistants, he distributed TWI's brochures which provided information to boaters about town services and environmental guidelines."

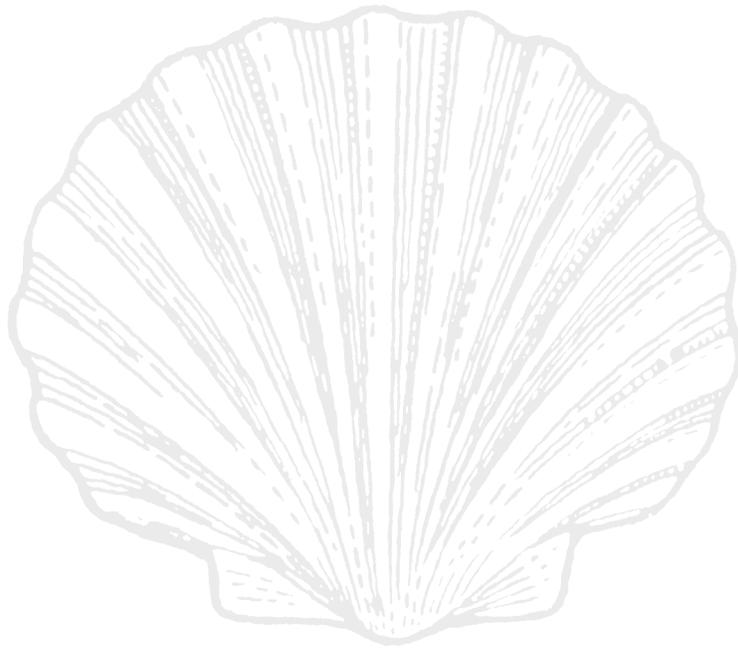
This spring, Jay said goodbye to a job he held for 24 years, time accented by two major benchmarks that involved TWI: "that first 55-gallon drum on the dock at Owen Park" and the dredging of the harbor in 1998. The dredging which increased circulation for the harbor and helped eliminate its foul odor was brought about by a group of concerned citizens who banded together to found TWI.

In the immediate future, assistant harbormaster John Crocker will be at the helm while the town looks for Jay's permanent replacement.





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

Bruce Stelle

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

TWI: On the Waterfront and Beyond

Once again TWI participated in two signature Vineyard events - the MV Regional High School Science Fair, funding the top three prize awards, and the Vineyard Conservation Society's 24th Earth Day Beach Cleanup which always packs our big pick-up bags to the brim.

Speaking of picking up, look who we captured early one morning on Main Street: David Jardin of Leo Vigilant Co. cleaning a very clogged catch basin (photo). Vigilant owner Chris Souza noted that Tisbury's catch basins are in some of the worst condition on the island, a fact recognized by Ray Tattersall, the town's new Director of Public Works. Ray has made creating a plan for cleaning up and maintaining our catch basins one of his priorities. See related story at right.



TWI and the MVC Partner for More Water Testing

Good news on the water testing front! For another summer, TWI will assist in the funding of the Martha's Vineyard Commission's (MVC) Water Resource Intern to help with water quality monitoring of Lagoon Pond and Lake Tashmoo. That means that we will once again welcome the sight of George Smith, last year's intern, on those waters. We look forward to George's report of water quality data at our Seafood Party in June.

Ray Tattersall:

Meeting the New DPW Director

Many of Tisbury Waterways good deeds wouldn't be possible without the various partnerships we have forged with the town over the years. A key player has always been the Department of Public Works so this spring we introduced ourselves to Ray Tattersall, the new DPW Director and his foreman, Bobby Blanchard. After reviewing some of our past projects which the DPW participated in, such as our bioswale at Owen Little Way, the two men understood what we were about, particularly concerning two of our major missions: mitigating stormwater runoff and maintaining our catch basins.



Since our get together, the DPW has been working at Grove Avenue (photo) installing a granite barrier at the end, building up the sand supply behind it and creating a gravel-filled passage at an opening just to the right of the barrier to help filter off stormwater runoff. The project will also reduce the volume of water cascading down Grove before it reaches the harbor. Similar work will be done at the public access off of Hines Point. We appreciate these speedy first steps.