



With the Tide



Friends of Lynn & Nahant Beach

Volume 5, Issue 3

Another Busy Summer

It's hard to believe that another summer is gone, but judging by the crowds at our summer concerts and events and the beaches, many people got out to enjoy themselves.

Summer for the Friends started out well when on June 23rd we were awarded a \$3500 grant from the Save The Harbor/Save The Bay to support our Summer Concert Series. This award, as well as grants from Lynn Arts, Eastern Bank (a first!), Mayor Judith Flanagan-Kennedy, and the Lynn City Council helped us fund most of the concerts.

This year we co-sponsored with the City of Lynn the fireworks display. Although delayed by rain, the firework show was fantastic.

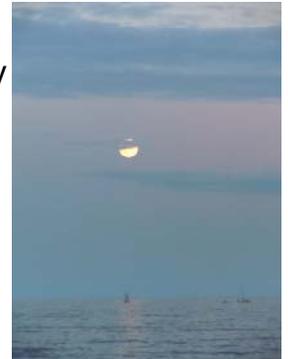
The Thursday night concerts were well attended, regularly drawing several hundred people, including many families. The concession stand sold a large selection of baked goods and snacks. A special thank-you to Christopher's Café at 2 Lewis Street in Lynn for donating baked items each week.

The second annual Kids Day and Concert on July 30th was a huge success. We had great weather and a great turnout. The kids were entertained with balloon animals, face painting, marine animal touch tanks, and arts and crafts. More on the concerts on the next page.

On August 13th, Save the Harbor/Save the Bay hosted its first Summertime Splash, a fundraiser at Carsons Beach in Boston. SHSB has been very generous to the Friends. We were able to raise \$236, which is the highest of any team on their website.

Finally, on August 26th, we co-sponsored with the City of Lynn a Family Movie Night at Red Rock Park. This was the first time the Friends co-sponsored this event, which will occur annually.

None of these events could have happened without membership support, donations, grant support, and the hard work of volunteers. We are especially grateful for the volunteers (in time and/or goods) that help make these events a reality: Hope Abramson, Tiffany Bevis, Jane & Tom Cahill, Michael Celona, Patricia Celona, TJ, Megan, and Sarah Cullinane, TJ Cullinane Sr., Jeanne Curley, Jamie Floyd, Anne Goldstein, Karen Johnson, Douglas and Duncan Maitland, Ann Marcou, Susan Plawsky, Les Racowsky, Paula Roberts, Judy Ryan, Joe Taurus, and Bob Tucker. It is truly a group effort. Well done.



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Summer Concert Series

Another Summer Concert Series has come and gone. Thank you to all who came out to enjoy the music. We would also like to thank the sponsors of the concerts:



Mayor Judith Kennedy

The Lynn Journal

Lynn City Council



WITH THE TIDE NEWSLETTER

Please let us know what you think of the newsletter. Also, would you like to receive future issues via email? Please send comments to Michael at michaelcelona@yahoo.com or 978 835 7724.

Second Annual Kids Day and Concert

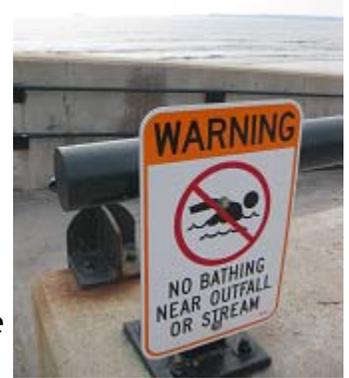
The Friends held their second kids day and concert on Saturday, July 30th. Based on the large turnout last year, we tripled the number of face painters and balloon artists and doubled the amount of time they were present. Still, the lines at the face painters got long! There were more than 100 children and several hundred family members in attendance. For the children, in addition to balloon animals and face painting, there were marine creature touch tanks from the Northeastern University Marine Science Center and Save the Harbor/Save The Bay, seashell crafting with member TJ Cullinane, his daughters Megan and Sarah, and his father TJ Cullinane Sr., crafting with DCR Ranger Matthew Nash and Susan Helter from Lynn Arts, balloons from the Lynn Fire Department, coloring books from the Lynn Police Department, and free papers and information from the Daily Item of Lynn. The main event was a performance from The Toe Jam Puppet Band. They did a fabulous job entertaining the children. Thanks to those who helped make the day a success, including the Lynn Daily Item, which helped us plan and advertise the event, the Northeastern University Marine Science Center, SHSB, DCR, Lynn Police, Lynn Fire, Lynn Arts, and members Jane & Tom Cahill, Michael Celona, TJ Cullinane and family, Anne Goldstein, Jamie Floyd, Douglas and Duncan Maitland, Ann Marcou, Joe Taurus, and Bob Tucker. A HUGE thank-you to member Paula Roberts, who donated 3 hours of her time to do face-painting. Also to Blurred Vision ATV Club for donating the cotton candy machine.



Kings Beach Water Quality

As many of you know, Kings Beach has had water quality issues the past couple of years. This past summer, the beach was closed fairly often. In the past, this has happened after rain storms, but this summer it seemed to happen even when it didn't rain.

Beaches in Massachusetts are required to be tested weekly during the summer season for bacteria. These bacteria themselves generally do not cause health issues, but are called indicator organisms because they are usually found in the presence of fecal matter- thus “indicating” the likely presence of harmful bacteria and viruses. There are too many of the potentially harmful bacteria and viruses to test for, so these specific bacteria act as a surrogate. A small sample of water is taken from the beach and is sent to a lab, where the bacteria are cultured and counted. This process generally takes 24 hours. If the number of bacteria are over one of the two state standards (a single sample standard and the running average), then the beach water is considered to be unsafe for bathing. A sign is posted at the beach and samples are collected on a daily basis until the bacteria levels are below the state standards. This is very similar to practices across the country. A process whereby bacteria results will be ready on the same day is still several years away, but is on the horizon (along with a significant increase in cost).



Kings Beach is a somewhat complicated situation. About three-quarters of it is owned by the state Dept of Conservation and Recreation (south of Staceys Brook) and one-quarter of it is owned by Swampscott (north of Staceys Brook). Because the DCR part of Kings Beach is long and Staceys Brook empties and dissipates predominantly in DCR water, DCR collects three beach water samples each week: one at Staceys Brook, one across from Ocean Terrace, and one across from Kimball Street. If two of the three samples exceed a state standard, DCR posts the bathing water along their beach as being closed. Swampscott samples from their section of Kings Beach. If that sample has elevated levels of bacteria, then Swampscott posts their bathing water as being closed. There is no coordination of sampling or posting between the two.



Staceys Brook used to be a real brook, but years ago it was channelized/replaced with a pipe and buried. It was used to carry stormwater and wastewater from homes, businesses, and storm drains in Lynn and Swampscott to the ocean (and in most peoples minds- away!). The Lynn Water & Sewer Commission has eliminated all known homeowner and business connections to the brook. The brook water is now a mix of natural water, stormwater from 40% of Lynn and 25% of Swampscott, and potentially additional illegal connections. In addition, during heavy rainfalls, LWSC discharges a mix of stormwater and wastewater into the brook. After heavy rainfall, it is not surprising that high levels of bacteria are contained in the brook, both because of LWSC discharges and the large amount of stormwater from Lynn & Swampscott (which is why we need clean streets, people to realize that storm drains are not for trash, and dog owners to pick up after their pets). LWSC has been working for several years to resolve the issue of high bacteria levels in the brook water. It recently hired a private consulting firm to assist them in their efforts (Story continued on Page 6)

Nature Notes by T.J. Cullinane

Dear Friends,

It was great seeing everyone at this year's Children's Concert. My Dad, T.J. Sr. and my daughters Megan and Sarah, enjoyed a beautiful day talking sharks and seashells with an enthusiastic crowd. We're already looking forward to next year! One question that continually came up at the Concert was, "what exactly is a sand dollar?" Sand dollars (*Echinarachnius parma*) are echinoderms, spiny skinned animals that are related to sea urchins and starfish. The sand dollars that we find washed up on the beach are usually the shells of dead specimens that have lost their spiny skin and have been bleached by the sun. Scientists refer to these shells as "tests". If you ever come across a sand dollar that looks like it is covered in maroon or purple felt, you might have found one that is still alive. These should be put back in the water immediately.

In our area, sand dollars live in colonies just beyond the tide line. They're most common further out in Nahant Bay in water thirty to forty feet deep. Sand dollars bury themselves into the bottom at a slight angle. The centrally located hole on the bottom surface of the sand dollar is the creature's mouth. Radiating from the mouth are five furrows, the same as found on the underside of the common starfish. The tiny spines on their skin trap tiny organic particles that the sand dollar uses for food. Microscopic hairs called cilia then convey the trapped particles to the sand dollar's mouth. Sand dollars in turn are fed on by snails, their cousins the starfish, and skates (when the latter aren't stealing bait set out for Striped Bass that is...). After Tropical Storm Irene, I found some dime-sized sand dollars washed up on King's Beach. I've never found sand dollars this small before. If Wikipedia is to be believed, sand dollars are called "pansy shells" in South Africa. This name refers to the petal like markings on the upper surface of the sand dollar. These markings are pores that accommodate respiratory activity.

Well Friends, whether you're looking for sand dollars or "pansy shells" on your next beach walk with the kids, I wish you happy hunting.



These unusual dime sized sand dollars washed up after TS Irene.

Note the mouth and five radial furrows on the sand dollar in the middle of the picture.

Photo by T.J. Cullinane. Feel free to use it!

Do you have a nature note to share? Contact T.J. at tjandteresac@hotmail.com

Tides Fundraiser A Success- Fall Fundraiser Scheduled

The Spring Fundraiser at the Tides Restaurant and Pub was successful. The Friends raised \$200. Thank you to those who came out to support the Friends and to the Tides for supporting local nonprofits. Our Fall fundraiser is scheduled for Thursday, November 10th from 6-9PM. Two games will likely be on the TVs. The Bruins will be playing the Oilers and in football, the Oakland Raiders will be playing the San Diego Chargers. Mark you calendar!.



Kings Beach Water Quality (continued)

source(s) of the bacteria. There was also a meeting between LWSC, the state Department of Environmental Protection, and Swampscott DPW to help formulate a plan for identifying the source(s).

Until that happens, no one should play or swim in the brook water on the beach. DCR has placed signs near the brook to that effect. And during the bathing season, when the beach water is being tested, people should adhere to the posted notices. Updates on this issue will come in future newsletters.

Membership Renewal

The Friends rely on the generous support of its members for the financial support of the organization. Our membership continues to grow as the Friends become more involved with other community groups, and we continue to be vocal advocates for Lynn and Nahant Beaches.

Membership dues help pay for the Summer Concert Series, publication and printing of the newsletter, Friends T-shirts, sweatshirts and hats, postage, refreshments for volunteers at the beach clean-ups and the Friends contribution towards matching grants for special projects.

We want to thank all members for renewing their 2011 membership and welcome all of our new members. The Friends need your continued financial and volunteer support so our organization can continue to be a strong advocate for our beaches.

Membership in the Friends of Lynn & Nahant Beach

_____ Yes, I would like to join or renew my membership in the Friends of Lynn & Nahant Beach.

Membership entitles you to:

- An invitation to exclusive programs and special events
- Periodic updates on our progress and the condition of the Beaches
- The satisfaction of knowing that you are acting locally to impact the environment in a positive way.

Membership

__ Student/Senior: \$15 __ Individual: \$25

__ Family: \$50 __ Corporate: \$100

__ Sponsor: \$200

I am already a member. Please accept my gift of \$_____.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Mail To: Membership

Friends of Lynn & Nahant Beach

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