



With the Tide



Friends of Lynn & Nahant Beach Newsletter

November 2012

Volume 6, Issue 3

An Event-filled Summer Season

June through August saw some beautiful weather in Lynn and Nahant, bringing many people out to the beaches and summer concerts.

The summer started out well for the Friends when we were awarded a \$2500 grant from the Save The Harbor/Save The Bay to support our Summer Concert Series. We also received grants from Lynn Arts, Eastern Bank, Mayor Judith Flanagan-Kennedy, and the Lynn City Council which helped us fund most of the concerts.

We co-sponsored the July 3rd fireworks display with the City of Lynn. The firework show was fantastic, as the thousands of people who witnessed it can attest.

The Thursday night concerts were well attended, regularly drawing several hundred people, including many families. For the first time, DCR provided us with two port-o-potties at each concert, which were greatly appreciated. Christopher's Café at 2 Lewis Street in Lynn donated baked items each week for the concession table— thank you!

The third annual Kids Day and Concert on July 28th was a huge success. The kids were entertained with hula hoops, balloon animals, face painting, marine animal touch tanks, and arts and crafts. More on this on the next page.

Finally, on August 24th, we co-sponsored with the City of Lynn a Family Movie Night at Red Rock Park. This was the second time the Friends co-sponsored this now annual event.

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, Chris Boverini, Jane & Tom Cahill, Michael Celona, Patricia Celona, TJ, Megan, and Sarah Cullinane, TJ Cullinane Sr., Jeanne Curley, Anne Goldstein, Holly Gross, Karen Johnson, Douglas and Duncan Maitland, Ann Marcou, Judy McCarthy, Susan Plawsky, Les Racowsky, Paula Roberts, Nancy Swiniuch, Joe Taurus, Bob Tucker, Perry Wechsler. It is truly a group effort. Well done.



NOTICE:
December Meeting
Date is Wednesday,
December 5th,
NOT the 12th.

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Kids Day and Concert

More than 100 children and several hundred family members enjoyed the Kids Day and Concert. There were balloon animals, face painting, hula hoops, marine creature touch tanks from the Northeastern University Marine Science Center and Save the Harbor/Save The Bay, sea-shell crafting with member TJ Cullinane, daughters Megan and Sarah, and his father TJ Cullinane Sr., crafting with DCR Ranger Matthew Nash, balloons from the Lynn Fire Department, and info from the Lynn Police Department. The main event was a performance from The Toe Jam Puppet Band. They did a fabulous job entertaining the children. Thanks to all who helped make the day a success, A HUGE thank-you to member Paula Roberts, who donated 3 hours of her time to do face-painting.



JetBlue Airline Raffle Ticket Winner



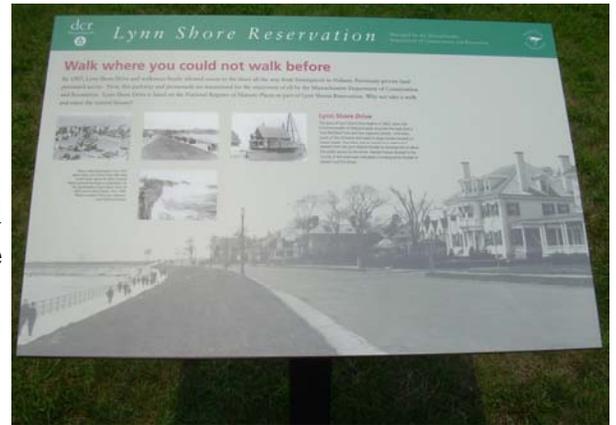
On August 16th, the Friends culminated their successful JetBlue Airline Raffle Ticket fundraiser by drawing the winning ticket. The winner of the raffle was Jay Walsh. He received two JetBlue airline tickets for anywhere in



the country. The Friends raised \$6,000 by selling all of the 300 raffle tickets. The Board will be working to identify specific uses for the funds. Special thanks to all those who sold multiple tickets, and a big Thank You to member Joe Taurus, who donated these tickets to the Friends.

Interpretive Signs- No News Is Good News

The four interpretive signs along Lynn Shore Drive were installed in July 2008. Over the past four years, the signs have been viewed by thousands of visitors. Many of us have read the signs and see other people reading them on a daily basis. It is worth acknowledging that they have survived well – they have weathered the storms of people and weather. Some members were concerned (myself included) that the signs would require yearly maintenance due to graffiti and other damage. But we have seen very little of that. The only real issue occurred over the winter when the Red Rock sign was knocked off its pedestal. The sign itself was un-damaged, but the physical hardware required some TLC. DCR did not have the capacity to fix it, but luckily, Board member Becky Suci, a graphic designer brought the sign to her employer and their staff were able to fix it. The signs popularity and the lack of issues really speaks volumes about the resurgence of the area. Something to think about.



Save The Harbor/ Save The Bay

A big THANK YOU to Save the Harbor/Save the Bay for their support over the last several years. Their support of the concert series, including the Kids Concert, has been incredibly helpful in these tough economic times. To learn more about them, visit www.savetheharbor.org.

WITH THE TIDE NEWSLETTER

Please let us know what you think of the newsletter. Please send comments to Michael at LynnNahantVicePresident@gmail.com or 978 835 7724.

October Beach Clean-up



On Saturday, October 20th, the Friends sponsored a clean-up at Nahant Beach. Over a dozen people collected trash that had accumulated from storms and activities at the beach. A big Thank-You to DCR for providing supplies and to Tiffany Bevis for organizing the event.



October Friends Meeting

The Friends were lucky to have Representative Lori Ehrlich, Mayor Judith Kennedy, and DCR Coastal District Manager Ray Faucher at our October meeting. Rep. Ehrlich talked about her efforts this past summer to get the DCR to remove the algae on a daily basis. She explained how the state delegation (Representative Steve Walsh, Senator Tom McGee, and herself) successfully got extra funding inserted into the state budget to fund algae removal. She also said she would follow-up with DCR to have the new 9ft signs that were recently installed at each entrance to the beaches on Lynn Shore Drive removed.



Mayor Kennedy talked about the Friends co-sponsorship with her office on the Annual Movie Night, which happened in August. She said she had received positive comments from residents on the Summer Concerts.

Mr. Faucher spoke about the efforts that DCR made to control the algae this past summer. He explained that he and DCR Regional Manager (?) X Y have had a learning curve since arriving earlier this year, and they hope to have more success next year with staying ahead of the algae before it overwhelms the beaches and causes odors and access issues.

A New Algae On The Scene

A new species of algae became prevalent on many beaches north and south of Boston this summer. The algae, *Heterosiphonia japonica*, is a native of Japan and was identified in the waters off of Rhode Island in 2009. For unknown reasons, this past season it proliferated along many sections of the Massachusetts coastline. It has many of the same characteristics of our own native algae that impacts Kings and Nahant beaches. *Heterosiphonia japonica* grows at a quick rate, and as the algae breaks apart in the surf, each part continues to grow. It can accumulate on the beach in mats several feet thick and releases a foul odor when it starts to decay. This new algae may have impacted our beaches this summer and it will be interesting to see if it competes with the native algae. Professor Matthew Bracken at the Northeastern University Marine Science Center in Nahant is studying the algae, and we are lucky to have resources like him nearby.

Nature Notes by T.J. Cullinane



Leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), Vandelli, 1761. Photo taken by Melanie White, Blue Ocean Society Research Associate aboard *M/V Granite State*.

Dear Friends,

You have often heard me wax rhapsodic about my summertime whale watching expeditions, but this season was extra-special. On a trip I took on the *M/V Granite State* out of Rye Harbor in New Hampshire this past August, I had the privilege of observing a critically endangered Leatherback Sea Turtle. About a week later, passengers onboard the *Granite State* were treated to another sea turtle encounter when a Loggerhead Turtle sidled up very close the boat.

The Leatherback is the largest of all living turtles and the fourth largest reptile. A specimen found in Wales weighed in at two tons and was almost 10 feet long. As its name would suggest, the Leatherback does not have a bony shell like other turtles. The turtle's back is shaped like a tear drop and is covered by a tough, oily skin. Strangely enough, Leatherbacks feed almost entirely on jellyfish. Oftentimes these turtles consume plastic bags which closely resemble its favorite food. A Pacific Leatherback was found with 11 pounds of plastic in its gut. Saving sea turtles is just another reason why it is so important to keep our area beaches clean!

Like the Leatherback, the Loggerhead ranges from Labrador to Brazil. Unlike the Leatherback, the Loggerhead will eat just about anything it can catch. While the Loggerhead is the largest hard-shelled turtle, it is full grown at 35 inches and seldom reaches the average length of the Leatherback. Loggerhead nests can be found as far north as Virginia, although the beaches of Florida are its favorite nesting grounds. The largest Loggerhead weighed in to date tipped the scales at 1,000 lbs. The chief threat to Loggerhead turtles is getting tangled in fishing gear with increased coastal development destroying their traditional nesting beaches.

My thanks to the Blue Ocean Society and the *M/V Granite State* for their help with article and some great days on the water.



Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) Linnaeus, 1758. Photo taken by Melanie White, Blue Ocean Society Research Associate aboard *M/V Granite State*.

The Tides

As you know, the Tides Restaurant and Pub suffered a kitchen fire and is currently undergoing repairs. We had to cancel our Fall Fundraiser. Some Nahant residents organized a fundraiser for the Tides' staff who were affected by the fire. The Friends donated some items for the fundraiser. The Tides has been very good to our organization and we urge you to visit the Tides once it re-opens.



December Meeting- Holiday Party

The December Friends meeting and holiday party is being held on Wednesday, December 5th. Typically, the Friends meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month, but the December meeting will be held on the first Wednesday of December. The location remains the same: 169 Lynn Shore Drive in Lynn. After the meeting, we will enjoy desserts and refreshments. Hope to see you there.

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 the 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 returning their 2012 membership forms (which were mailed in January) 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 programs and 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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