

# THE IPA NEWSLETTER

Mystic Lake, Middle Pond, and Hamblin Pond in Marstons Mills, MA

Fall 2025

A quarterly publication of the Indian Ponds Association, Inc.

Vol. 25 No. 4



## KEEPING OUR PONDS HEALTHY: WHAT THE 2025 TESTING REVEALS

For over ten years, dedicated Indian Ponds Association (IPA) volunteers have been monitoring the health of Hamblin Pond, Middle Pond, and Mystic Lake. Their work has produced a unique historical database that allows us to see trends, spot early signs of trouble, and measure the success of interventions such as the alum treatment on Mystic Lake last year. Pond sampling actually began in the early 2000s (although some of that data has been lost or misplaced), and results for 2004 and 2005 were included in the 2006 report of the First Order Assessment of the Indian Ponds prepared for the IPA and the Town by the Cape Cod Commission's Water Resources Program. Data files for 2011 and 2014–2025 are available on the IPA website (<https://www.indianponds.org/pond-testing-reports>).


### How we test


From April through October, IPA volunteers, assisted monthly by staff from the Town's Department of Public Works, head out to the deepest part of each pond roughly every two weeks to collect data. Here's what they do:


- **Water clarity:** Using a simple, but effective, tool called a Secchi disk, they lower the black-and-white disk into the water until it disappears from view; that depth tells us how clear the water is.
- **Oxygen and temperature:** A probe from an instrument for measuring dissolved oxygen (DO) and temperature is then lowered into the water, with a series of readings taken at one-meter intervals from the surface to the bottom.


In addition, volunteers from the IPA and the newly formed Barnstable Ponds Coalition (see article on page 7) collect bi-weekly water samples from ponds across the Cape which are tested by the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) for harmful **cyanobacteria**. If testing results show unacceptable levels of cyanobacteria in a given pond, a notice is then sent by the APCC to the respective town on the Cape for posting of a pet or beach-closure advisory, depending on the severity of the level. For ponds in the Town of Barnstable, the Town posts the appropriate notices on its website at (<https://barnstablewaterresources.com/cyanobacteria-monitoring/>).

### 2025 POND HEALTH SNAPSHOT

 **Water clarity:** Hamblin: **5.5 m**, Middle: **4.5 m**, Mystic: **3.4 m** (still lowest)

 **Dissolved oxygen:** DO in Mystic was up **30%** following the alum treatment

 **Water levels:** Drought dropped depths by **0.6–0.8 m**

 **Cyanobacteria:** 5 blooms detected (4 in Hamblin, 1 in Mystic)

### What we found in 2025

**Water clarity:** Clarity stayed about the same as last year (Figure 1 – see page 5), with Mystic Lake still the least clear of the three ponds despite the alum treatment on Mystic in 2024. The slight uptick in clarity on Mystic (from 3.1 m to 3.4 m) was encouraging. However, this was a far cry from what happened after Hamblin's alum treatment in 2015. As seen in Figure 1, Hamblin's clarity jumped to 6.5 m in 2015 and has remained above 5 m since then.

**Dissolved oxygen:** Sufficient oxygen levels are vital to the survival of fish and other aquatic organisms. **The good news here is that Mystic Lake's alum treatment appears to have had a very positive effect on DO.** Average DO levels rose from **5.7 mg/L in 2024**

**to 7.4 mg/L in 2025.** As seen in Figure 2 (see page 5) while DO was higher at all depths, the improvement from the prior year was particularly pronounced at 7 meters and deeper. This suggests that the alum had the intended effect of locking up the phosphorus that feeds algae growth. With less algae, we have less consumption of DO by bacteria during the decomposition of algae after it dies off.

(Continued on page 5)

### IN THIS ISSUE

- KEEPING OUR PONDS HEALTHY: 2025 RESULTS
- MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT
- REMINDER TO JOIN OR PAY DUES
- DID HAMBLIN POND EVER HAVE MUSSELS?
- NEW IPA DIRECTOR
- A FISHING COMPANY WITHOUT FISH
- BARNSTABLE PONDS COALITION UPDATE NOVEMBER 2025
- TRIBUTE TO DAVE AND NANCY DAWSON

## IPA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2025–26

### President

Barry Schwartz

### Vice President

Scott Borden

### Treasurer

Greg Cronin

### Clerk

Maggie Fearn

### Directors

Peter Atkinson

John Chiniara

Tom Hamilton

Bob Kohl

Roger Lockwood

Tom Odjakian

Ron Thalheimer

### Associate Director

Kelly Barber

### Database Managers

Peter Atkinson

Tom Hamilton

### Newsletter Editor

Emory Anderson

### Webmaster

Scott Borden

IPA, Inc., PO Box 383  
Marstons Mills, MA 02648

[www.indianponds.org](http://www.indianponds.org)  
[info@indianponds.org](mailto:info@indianponds.org)



The IPA is a 501(c)(3) organization and a registered public charity. All dues and contributions are tax deductible. This newsletter, with a circulation of over 800, is a forum for the exchange of ideas on matters concerning the IPA mission, and the views expressed by authors of articles do not necessarily represent official IPA policy.

## MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



I'm always amazed when paddling in my kayak on Mystic Lake or Middle Pond how few people I see on the water. With the cold weather now upon us, it's not a surprise, yet in July and August, when the weather is delightful, the bald eagles are sometimes soaring overhead, but where are the people who live along Mystic Lake or Middle Pond? Occasionally, I'll see a fisherman or a couple of paddle-boarders, but that is increasingly rare. If I see another paddler, I'm inclined to get closer to see if it's someone I know or someone who would like to learn more about the IPA. A couple of times, I've seen Emory Anderson out in his boat with a willing sample collector. Once he was with Amber Unruh and Brooke Withers from the Town of Barnstable DPW, who have been very helpful working with the IPA to address the cyanobacteria issue that virtually all Cape Cod freshwater ponds are confronting.

Fortunately, with the IPA's lobbying last year, this problem was addressed by the Town's appropriation of \$270,000 for the alum treatment in Mystic Lake late last year. I'm not looking for crowds on the lake since it's so peaceful and beautiful, but I do wonder why there aren't more people enjoying this wonderful resource. People pay a premium to live on or near the water, but they don't seem to be taking advantage of it. I do understand that the threat of cyanobacteria has unnerved some people, especially swimmers and parents of young children and pets. But being in a kayak, canoe, pontoon boat, or paddle board poses no great risk. Our public and semi-public beaches are tested to comply with Board of Health standards weekly or fortnightly during the swimming season.

In August, returning board member, Bob Kohl, owner of Bay Spirit Tours that does tours out of Hyannis Harbor, donated a sunset cruise that raised \$2,300 for the IPA. Thank you again Captain Bob for your generosity.

On another positive note, longstanding IPA friend and neighbor, Roger Lockwood, was appointed to the Board of Directors in October and will make a fabulous contribution to our efforts. His appointment now brings the Board up to full strength of 11 directors. You can read more about Roger in this issue. Finally, my friend and neighbor Barry Sheingold was recently elected to the Barnstable Town Council represented Precinct 12. I'm confident he will be a positive voice for the Indian Ponds. He takes the place of our former precinct Councilor, Paula Schnepf, who was very helpful advocating for issues in Marstons Mills and for the alum treatment in Mystic Lake.

In short, the IPA has been busy! As we look to 2026 and a great year ahead, I'd like to thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter, for your enthusiasm for our wonderful ponds, and for your support.

Wishing you and your families the happiest of holidays.

*Barry Schwartz*

## REMINDER TO JOIN OR PAY YOUR DUES

If you are not a member of the IPA, please take this opportunity to join. **Yearly dues are only \$25 per household.** If you have been a member, but have neglected to pay your dues for this year, please take the time now to catch up. You can join or pay dues and contributions two ways: (1) send your name, address, and a check to IPA, PO Box 383, Marstons Mills, MA 02648 or use the remittance envelope included with each winter issue of this newsletter; or (2) by simply logging onto our website (<https://www.indianponds.org/>) and clicking "MEMBERSHIP" at the top of the homepage where you will find instructions for joining, paying dues, and so on. **Your membership and financial contributions are vital for the important work of this organization.**

## DID HAMBLIN POND EVER HAVE MUSSELS?

The reason this question about Hamblin and mussels is so interesting is that Hamblin Pond has a history that appears to be quite different from that of its neighbors Mystic Lake and Middle Pond. The question is about mussels. The answer appears also to involve people, fish, and pollution.

Hamblin Pond, unlike its two neighboring ponds, has no resident mussels today. It also has no run of river herring (alewives and blueback herring) in the spring as it is not connected to the sea. But, it was connected to saltwater, for a short time in the 1800s, by a "herring ditch" that ran from Hamblin Pond (then called "Grigson's Pond") down to "Tracy's Brook", a tidal estuary which ran into Warren's Cove. The herring ditch was dug in 1867 as an investment to increase the number of herring migrating to the ponds and further enrich the prominent citizens of Marstons Mills who financed the digging. Unfortunately for the investors, the herring had other ideas and never showed up in commercial quantities, and the ditch was, over time, filled in. Some of the local citizens suffered financial ruin (see related article on page 6).

Hamblin Pond has a history which traces back to the end of the last ice age, about 13,000 years ago, when it was formed from a dense block of ice left behind by the retreating glacial moraine. People from Asia, and possibly also from Europe, began moving into the thawing North American landscape around the same time. Much later, in the earliest years of the tenth century, Vikings sailed to what is now Newfoundland, but did not establish a lasting settlement in the New World.

The Wampanoags, indigenous people who inhabited Cape Cod for several millennia before the Europeans arrived, grew corn, beans, and squash on the Cape during summer then moved inland in winter to hunt game in the more sheltered forests. They were legendary custodians of the environment, which they managed for sustainability over hundreds of generations.

Beginning in the 1400s, ships from England, Spain, and Portugal started appearing frequently along what is now the New England coast to fish for cod and to kidnap native people, whom they sold into slavery. In 1620, the first permanent European settlers arrived. These new people had a very different attitude toward nature than did the natives: use it up and move on, chop down the trees, catch all the fish, farm until the land gave out, and then move west. The indigenous people had no tradition of land ownership. They treated land more like we treat the sea, something for the use of all, not private property.

The Unionoidea order of mussels, the kind that live in Mystic Lake and Middle Pond, are dependent on fish for re-

production. The egg-bearing female mussel attracts a fish by deploying a particular piece of tissue that fools the curious fish into approaching, whereupon she sprays her fertilized eggs, called *glochidia*, directly at the fish, where they attach parasitically to the gills where they live until sufficiently developed to detach themselves and take up



an independent existence on the bottom of the pond. Where the fish goes, the hitchhiking baby mussels go too, over waterfalls and dams and into new territory. The numbers of herring that run in the spring provide many well-timed targets of opportunity for female mussels and can result in the spread of large populations of mussels. Besides herring, other non-migratory pond fish such as perch, bass, and sunfish may also perform the same function in the mussel's life cycle.

Alewives (and less commonly blueback herring) have been known to form self-sustaining landlocked populations in ponds where access to the sea may have been cut off by natural or human means, so the absence of migratory herring does not always imply the absence of mussels. According to studies done under the auspices of the Town of Barnstable, Hamblin Pond does not currently have a population of landlocked herring, nor has it ever had a functioning herring run.

Another factor that may not have been considered in past analyses of the question of mussels in Hamblin Pond is whether the Indigenous people here may have moved herring around from one pond to another. While it has not been specifically documented for the Wampanoags, many other native groups in North America have been known to move fish from one waterway to another. If you like fish, it's nice to have them conveniently located. But, if they ever moved herring (or mussels) into Hamblin Pond, no trace of either of those organisms exists in the pond today. It might be worth pointing out that people still move fish around today: it's called "stocking". Such stocking of fish for recreation can expand mussel ranges if the fish carry *glochidia* in their gills when they are moved. Hamblin Pond has been stocked since the 1990s with several species of trout, but there are still no signs of mussels.

Native people used freshwater mussels, but judging from the contents of shell middens left behind, they greatly preferred marine shellfish to freshwater mussels for eating. However, they did use the thin, nacreous shells of freshwater mussels to make implements and may have employed them in other ways, such as in ritual objects or decoration. As we all know, water quality is a critical issue for mussels. The European settlers and their descendants tended to use any available water body for disposal of waste, trash, and unwanted eyesores such as old cars.

(Continued on next page)

## DID HAMBLIN POND EVER HAVE MUSSELS? *(Continued from page 3)*

They also used ponds for agricultural purposes, notably Hord's dairy farm adjacent to Mystic Lake. In the 1920s, the Hadley family started the Clear Lake Duck Farm at the south end of Hamblin Pond. At its peak, it held thousands of ducks, which deposited tons of droppings on what is now the Town beach and in the water. The phosphorus in the duck droppings fertilized immense algae blooms which would certainly have killed off whatever mussels that might have been there. The duck farm ceased operations in 1935, leaving a highly polluted pond with no live mussels or any sign (such as empty shells) of ever having supported a mussel population. The pond was cleaned up by the Town in 1995 by means of a poorly-controlled aluminum sulfate (alum) treatment which succeeded in inactivating the phosphorus, but killed a number of fish by way of collateral damage. A second alum treatment was administered in 2015 which caused no fish mortality.

Some of the phosphorus in a pond's sediments remains after an alum treatment and more is accumulated annually by natural processes of decay and by contributions of nutrients from the watershed. Under conditions of low oxygenation, such as found in midsummer, the phosphorus in the sediments regenerate into the water column and fertilize algae blooms on or below the surface. These blooms then die and sink, consuming yet more oxygen by decaying and contributing to the nutrient load, so additional alum treatments are periodically needed to keep the upper layers of the water clear and sufficiently oxygenated to support healthy fish populations and, of course, recreational uses by humans.



Eastern elliptio mussel

In Mystic Lake and Middle Pond, some species of mussel seem to be able to survive this multi-year cycle of phosphorus, anoxia, and alum treatments, but others do not.

The one species that seems to have maintained substantial populations in the two ponds despite these recurring chemical assaults is the Eastern elliptio (*Elliptio complanata*). At least six other species exist in Mystic and Middle, but in smaller numbers. Massive cyanobacteria blooms in Mystic Lake in 2009 and 2010 resulted in the deaths of millions of mussels there as well as in the adjoining Middle Pond, most likely due to toxins released by the cyanobacteria. Following the 2010 alum treatment in Mystic Lake, surveys have documented the rebuilding of some of the mussel populations that suffered massive loss in 2009–2010.

Various studies have addressed the question of whether Hamblin Pond ever supported a mussel population. With one exception, a study by researchers at the University of New Hampshire in 2011, considered questionable, the answer has always been a resounding "no". If there ever were mussels in Hamblin, pollution from the duck farm would have exterminated them in the 1930s–1940s. But that raises yet another question. What about the pre-European past, before 1620? Were there mussels then, perhaps from fish transplanted by Indigenous people? Core samples taken from the bottom of Hamblin Pond might disclose the presence of pre-1620 mussel shells, but core sampling has never been done in Hamblin, so that question remains moot. It should also be noted that mussel shells are thin and perhaps do not last long in the slightly acidic waters of the Indian Ponds.

Holly Hobart  
Former IPA president

---

## NEW IPA DIRECTOR



Roger Lockwood was recently appointed by the IPA Board to fill a Director vacancy brought about by the resignation earlier this year of Robert Reynolds because of health problems. No candidates for that position were found at the time of the July annual meeting of the organization. The IPA is very pleased that Roger has stepped forward to take on this responsibility.

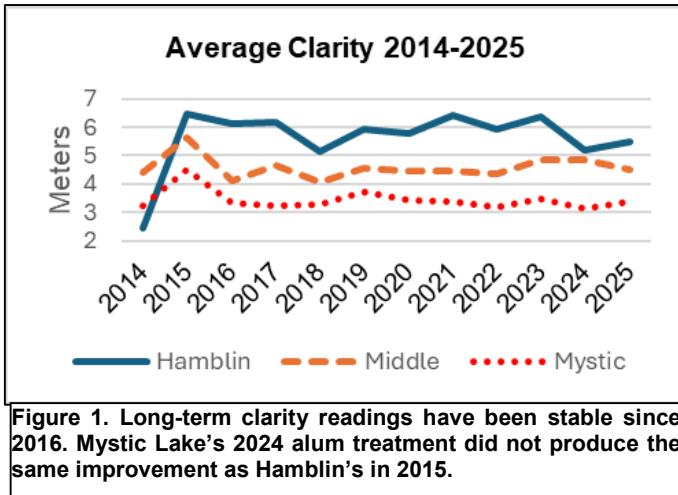
Roger has been a Hamblin Pond resident since 1974. He brings enthusiasm for our ponds and broad-ranging business experience, including a multi-decade franchisee of 33 Taco Bell restaurants in eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island, owner/operator of several movie theatres in six states, and as an independent film distributor and theatre booking agent.

Roger and his wife Sheila are parents to six children, 13 grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

Maggie Fearn



## KEEPING OUR PONDS HEALTHY: WHAT THE 2025 TESTING REVEALS (Continued from page 1)



**Water levels:** It was a dry year; in fact, Cape Cod is still in a Level 2 "Significant Drought." With rainfall well below normal, pond depths dropped by **0.6–0.8 meters** compared to 2024 (Table 1).

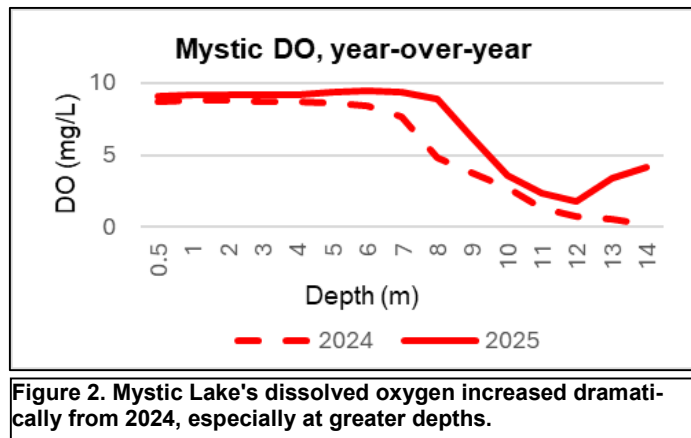


Table 1. Pond depth in meters, year-over-year.

	Hamblin	Middle	Mystic
2024	17.9	9.3	13
2025	17.1	8.7	12.3

**Temperature:** Surface temperatures averaged **21°C (70°F)**, with highs around **26°C (79°F)**. Average **bottom temperatures varied by pond depth**, as expected. Bottom temperatures were lowest in Hamblin (8.7°C / 47.7°F), highest in Middle Pond (18.2°C / 64.8°F). Mystic was in between (11.8°C / 53.2°F).

**Cyanobacteria:** Of particular concern, the APCC detected potentially toxic blooms four times on Hamblin (May 24, July 8, July 19, and August 30) and once on Mystic (June 24). These blooms can pose health risks, so staying informed is important. To sign up to receive APCC's email alerts, go to <https://apcc.org/our-work/science/community-science/cyanobacteria>.

### Thank you to all pond samplers

None of this work happens without our dedicated volunteers as well as staff from the Town's Department of Public Works. A big thank-you to everyone who helped with testing this season:

- IPA volunteers: Emory and Geri Anderson, Peter Atkinson, Scott Borden, Greg Cronin, Bob Derderian, and Elisabet Norgard.
- DPW staff and interns: Brooke Withers, Amber Unruh, Nina Barrette, Liberty Jackson, and Hailey Philbrick.

*Tom Hamilton and Emory Anderson*

## A FISHING COMPANY WITHOUT FISH

At one time, Marstons Mills had two herring runs. In 1867, the catch on the Marstons Mills River was so good that local businessmen built another run, which you can still see, though it is long abandoned. Our village historian Vivian Cushing discovered the records of the Marstons Mills Fishing Company in the Nickerson archives of the community college.

The existing river run had a potential of 600 barrels of alewives a year, all going up to Run Pond (now called Middle Pond), which connects to Mystic Lake. But there was no outlet to the southernmost pond, Grigson's (now called Hamblin) Pond.

It was generally believed that one could introduce herring to a new location. So, in April 1867, five men, James H. Hallett, Nathaniel Ruggles, Allan Marston, David Jones, and George N. Goodspeed petitioned the Town for permission for "opening a canal, or ditch from the Pond near John C. Grigson's...to the Tide water at or near 'Tracy's Brook'". The Town Selectmen approved at once.

The Marston's Mills Fishing Company agreed on May 5, 1867 to be run by five directors, with capital of \$1000 in \$10 shares. The biggest shareholders were the retired steamboat captain Samuel Baxter, local carpenter James

*(Continued on next page)*

H. Hallett, who became clerk of the company, local farmers Bennett W. Cammett and Ansel Fuller, and Bostonian Christopher Gifford who had married into the Fish family. They were joined by about 20 other investors, mostly from the local Jones, Hamblin, Hinckley, Marston, and Crocker families.

By the end of May, they had laid out a plan of about 8,000 feet (about a mile and a half) running from the east side of Grigson's Pond just north of today's Burgess House in a 50-foot "Floom" 3 feet wide and 3½ feet deep, then running under a stone bridge to be built on the West Barnstable road (now Cotuit Road/Route 149). Then it would run at a 45° drop 2 feet wide, turning in a big bow southward, under another stone bridge on the Falmouth Road (now Route 28), and down to saltwater west of Warren's Cove. The last 3,000 feet following Tracy's Brook was only a foot and a half deep and three feet wide, carefully avoiding widow Gifford's cranberry bog.

All of this was to be done by October 1, 1867, the bridges built by April of the next year, with railings on both sides. Bennett Cammett was paid \$86 for the bridges, which were completed in time. In January 1868, the company bought ten pieces of land for the proposed canal 32 feet wide at the upper part, narrowing to 12 feet farther down, paying from \$1 to 10 apiece.

But by June, the treasurer reported they had overspent their stock by \$400, and they had to ask for more money. Some of the stockholders sold their shares to wealthy Cotuit summer people like George Gardner Lowell.

The founding petitioner and clerk James Harvey Hallett died in tragic circumstances in 1871. While Christmas shopping in Boston, he met an old acquaintance in the Union Wharf warehouse. Hallett tapped his friend on the shoulder and said, "I have found you at last old fellow!" Stepping back, Hallett fell into an open elevator shaft, falling five floors to his death.

Company records show no income from fish, but they had paid Capt. Baxter \$16 for herring in 1872. It could be that they bought fish in order to stock the run, though that never happened. James H. Jenkins submitted a bill for \$3.25 for 15 hours of labor, which figures at 21¢ an hour.

At the next meeting, the board was talking about deepening and widening, but gave up. They put the company up for auction on March 1, 1872, and apparently got no bidders. In December 1872, the local paper reported on recent fisheries failures that "Many persons have been utterly ruined."

Today, one can see the "floom" of the great herring ditch where Route 149 dips down north of the Burgess House, or the "stump dump" of Cape Resources which filled the ditch north of Old Falmouth Road, or the Town landfill which filled the south side. In 1935, the new Route 28 crossed the ditch at Sandy Valley near Robert Childs's ice house. There is still a little pond north of South County Road which was created by this ditch back in 1867.

*Jim Gould's Blog  
November 27, 2010*

---

## BARNSTABLE PONDS COALITION UPDATE NOVEMBER 2025



It's official! The Barnstable Ponds Coalition (BaPC) is a real organization, incorporated in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Our 501(c)(3) application has been approved allowing us to accept tax exempt donations. Our bylaws have been reviewed, edited, and officially adopted by our founding Board of Directors: Butch Roberts (President), John Thomas (Vice President), Jim Weiler (Secretary), Steve Waller (Treasurer), Zee Crocker, and Tom Odjakjian.

In forming this organization, BaPC had representatives from the Indian Ponds Association, Lake Wequaquet Protective Association, Friends of Marstons Mills Long Pond, Red Lilly Pond Project Association, Association for the Preservation of Long Pond (Centerville), and the Barnstable Clean Water Coalition attend several planning sessions. The Barnstable Clean Water Coalition has been particularly helpful in offering meeting space, support staff, and guidance. There have been several conversations

with local hydrologists and limnologists regarding the establishment of a scientific advisory council. Our education team has been identified and will be meeting soon. Our website (<https://www.barnstableponds.org/>) is up and running along with our Facebook page.

Most exciting was our first Open House held at the Barnstable Land Trust's Michael Kramer Center. This was attended by 70+ participants, four Town Council members, one past Town Council member and our State Representative. Janet Milkman, Executive Director of the Barnstable Land Trust and Andrew Gottleib, Executive Director of the Association to Preserve Cape Cod gave welcoming remarks. Along with our volunteers displaying pond-related information, Brian Horsley from the Massachusetts Septic System Test Center, Dr Julie Hambrook-Berkman, Pond Cyanobacteria Operations Manager at APCC, and Susan Baur, founder of Old Ladies Against Underwater Garbage, also had display tables highlighting their work.

*(Continued on next page)*



BaPC's Open House November 8, 2025

This summer our cyanobacteria sampling program began increasing the number of Barnstable ponds that are monitored for cyanobacteria from 17% to 22%. We are striving

to increase that number next year. Our cyanobacteria team is a fun-loving group of individuals. If you like visiting different ponds in the early morning calm and can spare a couple of hours, consider volunteering.

This is the first of a long list of projects that are envisioned for BaPC. We need volunteers with diverse skills for various other projects. If you have some time and an interest in making a difference, BaPC has an opportunity for you!

We have a silent crisis brewing in the ponds in Barnstable as well as the rest of the Cape from the excess nutrients in our groundwater. With community involvement, **WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**. Join us in making our community a healthy place to live, work, and play. Volunteer at <https://www.barnstableponds.org/> or email us at [info@barnstableponds.org](mailto:info@barnstableponds.org).

## 163 Ponds Need You!!

*Butch Roberts*

## TRIBUTE TO DAVE AND NANCY DAWSON

My wife Geri and I had the good fortune to be close friends with Dave and Nancy Dawson for over 30 years on the north shore of Mystic Lake. Dave passed away last December 1 at the age of 93, with Nancy following this past September 25 at the age of 93.



Dave, with a Ph.D. in special education from The Ohio State University, was a retired university professor in special education who was noted for developing a teacher-training program for certification in special education when he was professor and chairman of the Department of Special Education at Central Connecticut

State University. In retirement, he served the Cape Cod community in various ways, including serving as ombudsman for Elder Services of Cape Cod and the Islands advocating for nursing home residents. Dave was an avid fisherman, proudly possessing an impressive array of fishing tackle, and was a passionate fan of the Boston Red Sox, watching every game on TV, knew all the players' statistics, and closely followed the farm teams keeping an eye on upcoming players.

Nancy started as a high school teacher of home economics, science, and physical education, but then became a

mother and homemaker. She was a talented artist, knitter, and jewelry maker, but her greatest passion was making stunning flower arrangements and sailors' valentines using sea shells. She was also a talented horticulturist and an active member of the Osterville Garden Club since 1996. She and Dave spent 20 enjoyable years buying and selling antiques, specializing in Shaker furniture and ephemera (collectible memorabilia, typically written or printed) and attending shows all over New England.

The Dawsons were long-time members of the IPA and played important roles in the work of the organization. Dave served one year on the Board of Directors (2002) and briefly as clerk. In subsequent years, while he was physically able, he frequently participated with other IPA volunteers in clean-ups of Mystic Lake and Middle Pond. Nancy, while not serving in any official capacity in the IPA, nevertheless made important contributions. She was very observant of things happening on Mystic Lake, drawing attention to invasive gray willow trees, algal blooms, mussel or fish mortality, and the bald eagles when they first arrived. Dave and Nancy were among the first IPA volunteers in the early 2000s to participate in pond testing. They were regular attendees at IPA annual meetings while they were physically able, and you could always count on Nancy bringing something for the social hour. Their help to the Indian Ponds Association in many ways over the years is clearly worth remembering. Speaking for myself and Geri, we will miss them dearly.

*Emory D. Anderson*



*"To preserve and protect the natural environment and ecological systems of the Indian Ponds and surrounding parcels of land and watershed and to participate in studies and work with other agencies, individuals, and groups to educate the public, serve the community, and promote and preserve the Indian Ponds and surrounding areas." IPA Mission Statement*

**INDIAN PONDS ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**PO BOX 383**  
**MARSTONS MILLS, MA 02648**  
FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

