

Welcome to **splash!**

MANCHAUG POND FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2016



New channel markers ensure safe navigation
on Manchaug Pond.

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*Officers term 2015 - 2017

A Message From The President David Schmidt

Welcome all!

The winter "Snow Gods" turned 180 degrees from the winter of 2015! The ice on the pond has come and gone several times making for winter activities like ice fishing a minimum. Wildlife has still been spotted with coyote and fox seen walking the shoreline ice and adult and immature eagles frequently hunting the watershed as spring comes into season.



While the pond was somewhat dormant, the Foundation is active, working on the last leg of our second 319 water quality grant, putting together another challenging and exciting fundraising year, and providing educational opportunities for members, watershed residents, the many visitors to the pond, and beyond.

We have a very active Board of Directors helping the Foundation move positively into 2016. Throughout the newsletter you will hear from different committees focusing on the good welfare of Manchaug Pond. The Board meets 8 times per year (every other month in the winter) and committees meet multiple times throughout the year. Your BOD is 100% voluntary, making your donations 100% tax deductible and working fully for your lake and its watershed.

Again this year our Fundraising Committee has many events planned. Please get involved, become a member, make a donation, and watch your organization at work.

For some of our newer residents who may not be familiar with our successes and efforts, please join us at one of our events, visit our website, or talk to a member. We promote good practices within the watershed and safety on the water. The pond is a beautiful place but can turn dangerous without a moment's notice.

Please enjoy this issue of Splash!, have a great season on our Pond, and do your part to protect our lake and its watershed.

Best Regards,

David Schmidt
President

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Online!

@ManchaugPond



And Friend Us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/manchaug.pond



and like our
Manchaug Pond Foundation
page



Treasure Chest

Andrew Mosher



As I write this article on this beautiful 50 degree February day, I find myself planning to install the dock and launch the boats... maybe a bit too soon!

With 2015 behind us, we take a look at the success we have had for the Foundation. Our income, less grants and Beaton property, was \$35,836.00; our expenses, less grants and Beaton property, totaled \$25,433.72: giving us a net gain of \$10,402.28 for 2015.

2015 was the first year, since I have been involved, that we have had more than 100 members ending the year with 103. Thank you to each and every one of you!

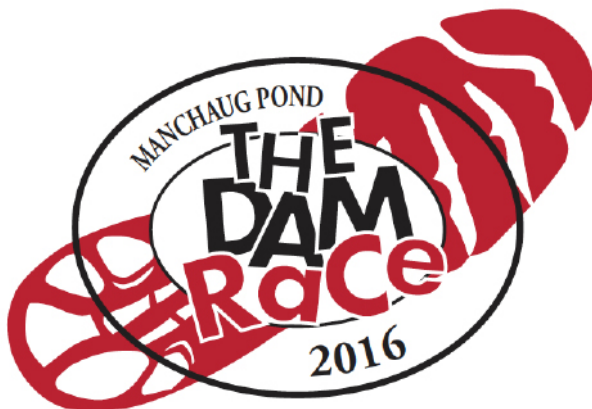
As our membership is strong and continues to grow, our Dues, Donations, Memorial Donations, Clothing Sales and Fundraising are a vital part of our success. Without a strong membership we would not be able to continue to preserve this lake at the rate we are. 100% of every dollar we collect directly benefits Manchaug Pond!

As you journey onto the lake this spring... Look for the new buoys at the channel and at Blueberry Island. Perhaps you will see the Weed

Watchers/Aquatic Plant Survey Team throwing the rake or snorkeling to checking certain spots for new and existing weeds. You might come across the Water Quality Team measuring the clearness (clarity) of the water or taking samples to be checked by an independent lab for nutrients and more. Undoubtedly you have already noticed some of the work from the second s. 319 Stormwater Grant along the roadsides of the watershed, designed to filter runoff before it enters the lake. We will be back for the annual spring and fall clean ups removing litter and sources of pollution not to mention shoreline invasives.

Check out the calendar of events and join us for one of our fundraisers where we meet our lake friends and neighbors. The Spring Social and the Annual Meeting at Camp Blanchard are always fun and informative for all!

Andrew Mosher,
Treasurer



Manchaug Pond's

5K Run & 3K Health Walk
Saturday, October 15, 2016

*To register,
sponsor,
and donate to
The DAM Race 2016,
visit
www.manchaugpond.org.*

Water Quality...

Keeping Our Lake Beautiful

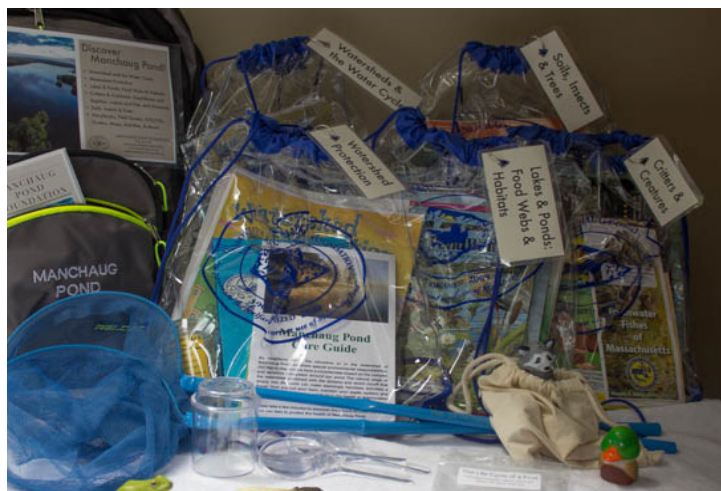
319 Grant Update

By: Marty Jo Henry

We are into our last quarter of our 3 year 319 Grant and as of the last reporting in January, we have over 4,800 hours of volunteer time. Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped make this grant such a success!

Roadside Sites:

The roadside sites have been completed and are working to filter sediment and nutrients that would have otherwise gone directly into Manchaug Pond. These sites play a very important role in keeping pollution out of the lake as well as keeping the nitrates and phosphates from fertilizing the submerged weeds. I am looking forward to reporting the final nutrient reduction calculations in the next edition of *Splash!*



Educational Backpacks:

This quarter we completed an important requirement for our public outreach aspect of this grant. The Junior Environmental Education Toolbox backpacks are ready for distribution to the local schools and libraries in the watershed as well as on loan through the MPF.

The backpacks house a wide-variety of educational materials for children in grades K-8, focusing on pollution and how it effects the Manchaug Pond Watershed. There are storybooks, DVDs, activity booklets, posters, maps, field guides and interactive supplies organized by the following themes:

- Watershed and Water Cycle
- Watershed Protection
- Lakes and Ponds, Food Webs and Habitats
- Critters and Creatures
- Soils, Insects and Trees

Everything was carefully selected to encourage children to observe the world around them and understand the role every day activities have on water quality. We also have a watershed "Enviroscape" model available to loan to teaching groups. Arrangements can be made to borrow backpacks and Enviroscape by sending an email to: waterquality@manchaugpond.org.

Aquatic Plants

Weed Watcher's Update

Aquatic Plants: the Good, the Bad, and How to Control

By: William Langlois

The aquatic plant populations in Manchaug Pond change from one year to the next. Determining what measures are needed to control invasive plant species is a challenge.

In 2014, non-native invasive plants, particularly Fanwort, were increasing in density and areas covered. MPF volunteers and Aquatic Control Technology surveyed the pond and found three areas that were of particular concern: the southwest cove by Holbrook's campground, the area off the Beaton property, and the northwest cove by the Lake Manchaug Camping area.

The non-native invasive Fanwort in these locations was of most concern, and it seemed application of a chemical herbicide might be required to control the plant's spread.

THE GOOD: In 2015, MPF volunteers monitored the three locations for Fanwort and conducted a plant survey in late August and early September. Both the observations and the survey found that the areas covered by Fanwort and the plant's density had decreased from the previous year! The annual lake-level drawdown combined with the unusually harsh winter of 2014-2015 may have been a factor in this decrease in Fanwort.

THE BAD: Native aquatic plants can be beneficial, for example, as fish habitat. But native plants can also be a harmful nuisance. If allowed to spread unchecked and dominate or disrupt the pond's biological community, a native aquatic plant is considered an "invasive." They can sometimes impede recreational use of the pond, harm fish and animal populations, and lower shoreline property values.

In 2015, some areas of Manchaug Pond had native aquatic plants like Tape Grass and Small Pondweed that produced a "bumper crop" -- dense masses of plants that covered significant areas. These plants had become nuisance invasives. In shallower waters, last year you could see hundreds of the fruits and flowers from these plants floating on the lake's surface.



Tape Grass Spiral Stalks and Fruit:

Tape Grass and Small Pondweed are already dispersed throughout Manchaug Pond, mostly in waters four to eight feet deep. Why did these aquatic plants grow so prolifically in 2015? We had a warm summer with little rain. There was little sediment from rain runoff to cloud the water and block the sun. The clearer water was one likely cause of the greater than average growth of these plants.

CONTROL OF INVASIVE PLANTS: For many years, Manchaug Pond has experienced a slow but steady increase in invasive aquatic plants -- both native and non-native. What can the MPF do to control and reduce these plant populations?

The annual Fall lake-level drawdown has been conducted for many years and is an effective control measure. But each year the density and the areas covered by native invasives like Tape Grass and Small Pondweed slowly increases.

In 2015, the MPF's Board of Directors researched and debated the use and cost of applying the chemical herbicide Clipper to kill invasive Fanwort in affected locations.. With populations of Fanwort observed to be decreasing in 2015, the Board voted not to conduct a herbicide treatment at that time.

Non-chemical measures are available to control nuisance aquatic plants. These methods include diver-assisted suction harvesting (DASH), benthic barriers, and mechanical harvesting. In 2016, the MPF Board of Directors will consider whether non-chemical measures might be appropriate for controlling nuisance aquatic plants on our pond.

The DAM Race 2015 Has Its Winners!

2015 The Dam Race Top Winners!

Another great family race/walk to benefit Manchaug Pond was held by the Manchaug Pond Foundation. The weather was sunny and crisp keeping runners and walkers cool and smiling on their trek along the shore of the 380 acre great pond. Manchaug Pond in all its autumn glory, was spectacular and as one spectator voiced more than once, "The hot chocolate was awesome!"



OUR WINNERS

MEN'S

- 1st Eric Shrayner 19.57
- 2nd Jose Aponte 21.49
- 3rd Scott O'Toole 22.09
- 4th Ryan Foley 22.53

WOMEN'S

- 1st Kyla Hatch 21.30
- 2nd Katelyn Desio 23.06
- 3rd Nancy Ryan 23.12
- 4th Nicole Salmonsens Gantt 23.19

Visit our website for the complete list of participants and race times.

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Ken's Oil & Heating
Frank's Lawn Care
The Mosher Family
Bloem's Auto Repair
The Limanek Family
The Schmidt Family
Crusader Auto Body

Safe Boating

Promoting Responsible Lake Recreation



Buoys improve boat safety!

The MPF Board of Directors appropriated funding and selected and installed buoys to further improve boat safety on the lake. Buoys have been installed at the channel and on Blueberry Island. They can be seen both during the day and evening.



Hazard marker brings attention to Blueberry Island, now a submerged sandbar.

While the red channel signs installed and maintained by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts brought attention to the large rock wall submerged for much of the spring, summer and fall boating season, their placement was not at the edge of the channel. Over the decades as motorboats came to Manchaug Pond, got larger in size and depth, more boaters damaged props, motors and hulls. While all love the addition of the mallard duck decoy, the new buoys offer a more precise navigational aid in compliance with boating laws. “Red, Right, Return” takes visiting boaters from open waters back to the state public boat ramp.



Follow the navigator’s rule, “Red, Right, Return,” to take you back to the Boat Ramp.

Thanks to those who executed this MPF project: Andrew Mosher, Donald Smith and Andrew Vote, Michael and Derek Bronson, and Kevin Bickford and for recommendations and interpretation of current boating laws: Sargeant Joshua Nunnemacher of the Sutton Police Dept. Lake Patrol and P/D/Lt/C Richard Winski, AP of the Worcester County Sail and Power Squadron.



Manchaug Pond Foundation

P.O. Box 154

Manchaug, MA 01526-0154

www.manchaugpond.org

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

MAKE WAVES! Join in to make a difference on Manchaug Pond.

MARCH - JUNE

2016 BIG RAFFLE tickets now on sale! Again this year, the BIG RAFFLE gives you three chances to win, or more depending on how much of a risk taker our winners want to be! Winners will have the option to choose from \$30, \$10, \$5 book of scratch tickets or take the cash - \$3,000, \$1,000 and \$500. To support the work of the MPF by taking a chance to win BIG, get your ticket online at manchaugpond.org, contact a member of the Board of Directors, or email events@manchaugpond.org. Only 100 tickets will be sold with ticket price \$100/chance with 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes awarded. Drawing will be held Saturday, June 18 at the annual Spring Social.

APRIL - NOVEMBER

WATER QUALITY TESTING begins. Watershed and On-lake test sites. Monthly testing by the Blackstone River Coalition (BRC) begins today as volunteers hit 3 locations in the Manchaug Pond watershed the second Saturday of each month from April through November. A second team hits the water, testing on-lake from April through October. Visit the Zap the Blackstone website to get involved or view our report card!

23 SPRING CLEANUP of Ramp, Shoreline and Roadsides: 9AM to Noon. Meet at the state boat ramp at Torrey Road in Sutton to fan out across the watershed. Garbage bags, gloves and refreshments will be provided. Your time counts towards our match for the NPS Pollution Grant!

JUNE

4 VESSEL SAFETY CHECK: 9:00 Am to Noon at the state boat ramp, Torrey Road, Sutton. Let examiner Jim Arpin of the Greenwich Bay Power Squadron help you get your boat safe and legal before you hit the water for the season! Bring your vessel, big or small, from kayak to pontoon boat and anything inbetween, to the state boat ramp for your free inspection, checklist and 2016 decal. This event is held in partnership with the Worcester County Sail and Power Squadron, is free and open to all with no limit to the number of boats you can bring!

25 SPRING SOCIAL & BIG Raffle Drawing: 9 AM at the YMCA Camp Blanchard Dining Hall. Over a delicious buffet breakfast, visit with neighbors and friends who all share a love for Manchaug Pond and see if we'll have our three winners "scratching" or taking the cash in this year's BIG Raffle! Remember, it's a reverse drawing with losers pulled first! MPF Logo t-shirts and more, photos, and flares will be on sale! Join the MPF as a member or friend and receive a complimentary flare!

JULY

3 BOAT DECORATING CONTEST: 1:00 PM Blueberry Island. Deck your boat in full regalia or just fly Old Glory as we celebrate the July 4th weekend on Manchaug Pond. Register on the website for judging and prizes or just join the fun as we parade around the lake. Judges, participants and spectators needed!

3 LIGHTING OF THE SHORELINE: 9PM. Manchaug Pond Shoreline cottages, homes and campsites. Flare or tiki torch, light up the shoreline in solidarity! Flares on sale at the Spring Social or from a member of the Board of Directors. Paid members and friends will receive a complimentary flare. Be part of a lake tradition begun in 1974!

AUGUST

6 CHEERING ON THE PAN-MASS CHALLENGE! 6AM Manchaug Road, Sutton. Along the roadside or the shoreline of the Manchaug Road, Sutton bike route, cheer on the many riders of the Pan-Mass Challenge. Get your signs, megaphones and horns cheering for a great community cause.

7 Second Annual POKER RUN: 1-3 PM on Manchaug Pond. We'll play for you or enjoy an afternoon on the lake with friends and family with a chance of producing a winning hand. Will you win with a straight, flush, full house or pair? Play a hand... or two or three visiting a number of docks on the lake to get your winning cards! Register at events@manchaugpond.org. (Rain date is the 14th)

MANCHAUG POND FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER

POKER RUN

Sunday, August 7, 2016

Rain Date: August 14

1:00 – 3:00

\$25.00 per hand

*Boat, kayak, canoe or jet ski welcome!
Load your boats, lets have some fun!*

You do not have to be present to play
Play as many hands as you wish

50% PAY OUT to TOP 3 WINNING HANDS

All Proceeds Benefit Manchaug Pond Preservation Efforts



Look for the balloons and leaderboard display
OR

Register online at

<http://www.manchaugpond.org/product/poker-hand-3rd-annual-poker-run/>

