



Dear Volunteers:

Spring is less than a week away, and our Service Partners are gearing up with an ambitious list of projects for the 2009 season! As our snow birds return and we put away those cursed snow shovels and ice scrapers, there are a number of opportunities to try out new activities! SEC's Service Partners have quite a variety of programs and projects needing volunteers this spring!

## Martha's Vineyard Minute:

The SEC is pleased to announce that we've signed an agreement with the **Friends of Sengekontacket**. On Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, volunteers planted beach grass at Joseph Sylvia State Beach in Oak Bluffs. Look for more opportunities (and a good excuse to visit the island) in The **Martha's Vineyard Minute** in upcoming editions!



Suzan Bellincampi, Sanctuary Director at Mass Audubon's **Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary** on Martha's Vineyard, is looking for volunteers to assist with Horseshoe Crab monitoring. Volunteers will monitor selected beaches, collect data and report back to the sanctuary. There will be a training session in April; please contact Suzan at 508 627-4850 for further information!



The **Cape Cod Cabaret Murder Mystery Players** will be performing "*Where There's a Will... There's a Way*" at the **Cape Cod Museum of Natural History** on Saturday, March 28, 2009 at 3:30 PM. Tickets are \$25 and there is a limit of 80, so pre-registration is required. Please call 508.896.3867 to make a reservation.

The museum is offering an ambitious list of programs this spring: Beginning on Wednesday, and continuing on each Wednesday through April 29<sup>th</sup>, Connie Boyce will be conducting "Wednesday Walks", there will be a series classes for "Nature Photography for Digital Photographers" by Stan Godwin, an Erica Wheeler concert, as well as book discussions and a number of children's programs!

Always in need of volunteer trail guides, docents, and gift shop. Please contact Pam Fearn at 508-896-3867.



**AmeriCorps** is hosting its annual Canal Cleanup Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, at the Herring Run Recreation Area, 830 Scenic Highway Bourne, MA. Besides picking up trash along the canal, we will also be sorting recyclables, enjoying free breakfast and lunch, live music, kids activities, and lots of educational booths about environmental issues, including composting and recycling. Gloves and trash bags will be provided. If you would like to volunteer but would rather not pick up trash, we can find another job for you!





The **Mass Audubon Wildlife Sanctuaries at Long Pasture and Wellfleet Bay** are hosting a number of programs this spring. They are looking for volunteer support for their important environmental projects.

**Help Wanted:** Mass Audubon at **Wellfleet** is looking for volunteers to help with a number of projects. Piping Plover season is fast approaching and Corn Hill Beach (Truro). In conjunction with The Friends of the Herring River, APCC, and Wellfleet's Herring Warden, the Sanctuary is looking for volunteers to assist in tracking the progress of restoration efforts and conduct counts of the fish. The Sanctuary is also involved in oyster habitat restoration and will be looking for additional volunteer support later this spring. Contact Cynthia at 508-349-2615 X101.

Wellfleet Bay is co-sponsoring, with Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch, a series of lectures "**Birds of Cape Cod: Past, Present, Future**". The next lecture will be at 7 PM on Saturday, March 21. For more information, please call 508-349-2615.

Long Pasture has a number of programs featuring local wildlife! From the Wrack Line:

"The *American Woodcock* struts, spirals into the sky, hovers whirring and twittering, then zigzags down to where he started and begins again. We will begin with a brief slideshow and warm beverage and then walk out to the field for this special, live performance. Two Performances – Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 6pm and Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm"



"Mass Audubon is seeking help from volunteers to "adopt" an osprey nest site and monitor the birds' activity. Volunteers will check in on their particular nest, record important milestones including when birds first arrive, nest building, incubating eggs, hatching, fledging of chicks and departure. If you know of an Osprey nest or would like to observe these awesome raptors, join us for an Osprey presentation and pep rally! Thursday March 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM."



**Otters on Cape Cod?!** Long Pasture has confirmed sighting a pair of *North American River Otters* at the Sanctuary on Bone Hill Road in Cummaquid!



This sighting compliments two other sightings; at **Ashumet Holly and Skunknet River Wildlife Sanctuaries** (both sanctuaries are managed by Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary). The following web site has additional information on these beautiful animals:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North\\_American\\_River\\_Otter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_American_River_Otter)

On April 4<sup>th</sup>, at **Ashumet Holly**, there will be a vernal pool program. For registration and general information on **Long Pasture's** upcoming events and volunteer opportunities, please contact Jodie at 508-362-7475 ext. 9355



International Marconi Day (IMD) is a 24-hour amateur radio event held annually to celebrate the birth of Guglielmo Marconi on the 25th April 1874. The IMD event is not a contest: it is an opportunity for amateurs around the world to make point-to-point contact with historic Marconi sites using HF communications techniques similar to those used by Marconi, and to gain an attractive Award for achieving the requisite number of Marconi stations worked

From 9:30 AM to 2 PM, the **Cape Cod National Seashore**, in conjunction with its partners and dedicated volunteers, will host a number of activities to commemorate the birthday of this pioneer. The program will celebrate both old and new communication technologies, from signal flags to lighthouse flashing activities.



The day's activities will culminate with a presentation at 2 PM at the **Salt Pond Visitor Center** by **NASA space educator Rick Varner**.

For additional information on IMD, please contact Education Specialist Barbara Dougan at 508-255-3421. Further details can be found on the International Marconi Day websites:  
[www.gb4imd.org.uk](http://www.gb4imd.org.uk) <http://ema.arrl.org/node/1564>  
<http://www.nps.gov/caco/forteachers/curriculummaterials.htm>.

The **Cape Cod National Seashore** is certainly one of the Cape's golden treasures! The Seashore is always in need of volunteer support, from strenuous activities to more docile opportunities. Please contact Sue Moynihan at 508- 349-3785 X230.

**River herring** play a crucial part in the Cape's ecosystem. Herring are important food source for striped bass, seals and sea lions, tuna, cod and halibut. The herring population has suffered a precipitous decline in recent years, so much so that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has placed a moratorium on the harvest, sale, or possession of herring at least until 2011.



**Harwich Conservation Trust**, in conjunction with **Association to Preserve Cape Cod, Town of Harwich DNR**,



and the **Cape Cod Hook Fishermen's Association**, will conduct a comprehensive river herring count program. This ambitious program needs a number of volunteers to assist. If you can spare as little as only 10 minutes a week, your help would be greatly appreciated!



There will be a training session at 11 AM, March 30<sup>th</sup>; please contact HCT's Outreach and Stewardship Coordinator, **Ryan Mann**, at 508-432-3997.

*For the Land's Sake*



For the **Cape Wildlife Center** in Cummaquid, spring is a very busy time of the year! Numerous wild orphans find their way to the Center, all of them in need of a great deal of care. If you would like to help, please contact **Debbie Richmond** at 508-362-0111 X201.



The Center is *always* in need of supplies (such as zip bags and old newspapers) and animal food (such as bananas, apples and sweet potatoes). If you can donate some, please contact Debbie Richmond at the Center!

**Oral Rabies Vaccine Baiting** There is a glimmer of hope that there will be a rabies baiting program this spring after all. The **Cape Cod Rabies Task Force** met on March 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss possible ORV baiting in the spring. Look for updates either by Email or the next issue of the SEC Newsletter!

First time baiters need to watch the video/DVD "How to Think Like a Raccoon" prior to baiting. Contact me at the number below to arrange a time.



The **Advisory Council of the Senior Service Corps** is seeking members to fill recently vacated positions. The Advisory Council meets quarterly with the purpose of assisting and advising the Program Director and the Senior Service Corps staff in the operation of the program. Diverse backgrounds and experience is welcomed.

The Advisory Council is encouraged to attend recognition events and to be a face of the Senior Service Corps in the public. We pay for mileage to and from meetings and meet on Wednesdays at 12:30 Noon with lunch served. For the remainder of 2009 the meetings are scheduled for April 29<sup>th</sup>, July 29<sup>th</sup>, and October 28<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your consideration for this important position. For more information please contact Susan Schneider, Senior Service Corps Director at 508-394-4630, Ext. 111

As always, stay safe and be busy. Please share any comments or suggestions you have and also keep up on your hours for the time sheets. Thanks!

### **Kevin**

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