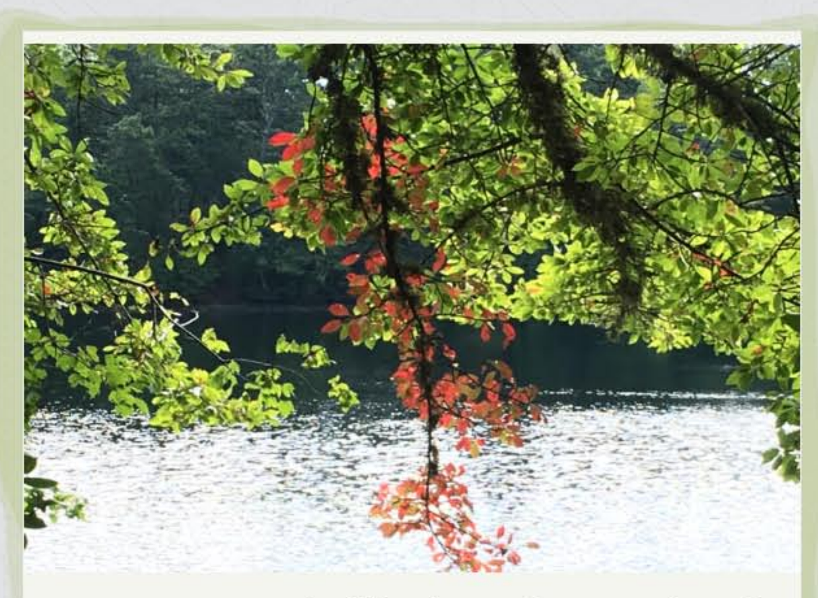

Signs of fall on Dark Bottom Pond - Image courtesy of Dawn Walnut

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

TOM VAUTIN

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I hope your summer was a good one and you had a chance to visit and enjoy our wonderful freshwater ponds! Brewster is truly blessed with a large number of beautiful ponds. It is the mission of the Brewster Ponds Coalition is to protect the health, beauty, and enjoyment of these ice age artifacts.

For those who were able to attend our annual meeting in August, we had an opportunity to consider the future of our Cape environment and the impact of climate change on our freshwater resources. See below for more on the meeting and remarks by our guest speaker, Richard Delaney, President of the Center for Coastal Studies.

We also shared the results of the new BPC strategic plan - an effort by your Board with the help of numerous advisors - to look beyond our first few years and determine what we need to do to continue and grow in support of our mission. You can access the details of our plan on the BPC website at http://www.brewsterponds.org/strategic-plan-and-by-laws.html.

Key to this are five important themes: Organization, Collaboration and Partnerships, Programs and Education, Development, and Communication.

Your Board has wasted no time in moving forward with this plan and we welcomed three new members to our Board at the annual meeting. I am particularly excited that we are making great strides in building the capacity of the BPC that will help us sustain and expand our programs going forward.

We are also advancing our collaboration with other organizations and associations and encourage any neighborhood groups concerned about your pond to talk with us about how we may be of assistance.

In this Newsletter you will also learn more about the progress we are making with monitoring the ever-increasing threat of cyanobacteria in our ponds. The partnerships we have created through our volunteer citizen scientists and other organizations is yielding new information on risks and early action to help protect public health.

We are all very excited about the progress we have already made and even more so as we look forward. Thank you to all of our supporters and volunteers for making this possible!

Annual Meeting: Climate Change and BPC Growth

The Brewster Ponds Coalition held its 2018 annual meeting on Saturday, August 18 at The Captains Course in Brewster, MA. More than 60 members attended.

The keynote speaker was Rich Delaney, President and CEO of the Center for Coastal Studies, Provincetown. While much of the Center's work focuses on the coastline, salt water estuaries and marshes, Rich touched upon the impact of climate change on our ponds and the freshwater lens that supplies Cape Cod's drinking water.

One of the impacts of rising oceans will be rising groundwater levels which will push upward and into contact with septic systems in some areas. Also, likely to occur are significantly higher pond water levels and warmer pond waters.

During the business portion of the meeting, Tom Vautin introduced the BPC's new strategic plan. One strategic plan recommendation - to amend the BPC by-laws in order to expand the Board of Directors from nine to a maximum of fifteen members, was unanimously approved.

Next up, Gwen Pelletier and Susan Searles were re-elected to the Board for three year terms. Three board new members were elected: Martin Burke, Wayne Jenkins, and Nancy Ortiz. (Please see profiles below.) We are grateful for their service.

The final--and fun--order of business was the presentation of the 2018 Splash award to Jim Holland. (Please see profile below.)

Jim Holland Makes A Splash!

by Judy Pirani

Renowned Cape Cod artist, Jim Holland, received the 2018 Splash award in recognition for all his contributions to the Brewster Ponds Coalition. Jim designed the eye catching BPC logo, the annual Ripples publication and the Pond Hero stickers--helping to raise public awareness about the BPC mission. He has also helped produce BPC educational videos and is a PALS pond tester.

Jim has lived in Brewster for 12 years. When he moved to a pond front home about 8 years, he felt it was natural to help out the BPC. "I was a graphic designer before I became a full time artist," said Jim. "I still like to work in design on a volunteer basis, and I want to help get the BPC's message out more broadly. If people are more aware about groundwater issues--whether or not they live on a pond--they might change their practices." His striking designs have certainly helped to achieve this goal.

Look for the 2019 edition of Ripples late this fall.

Summertime Fun And Learning

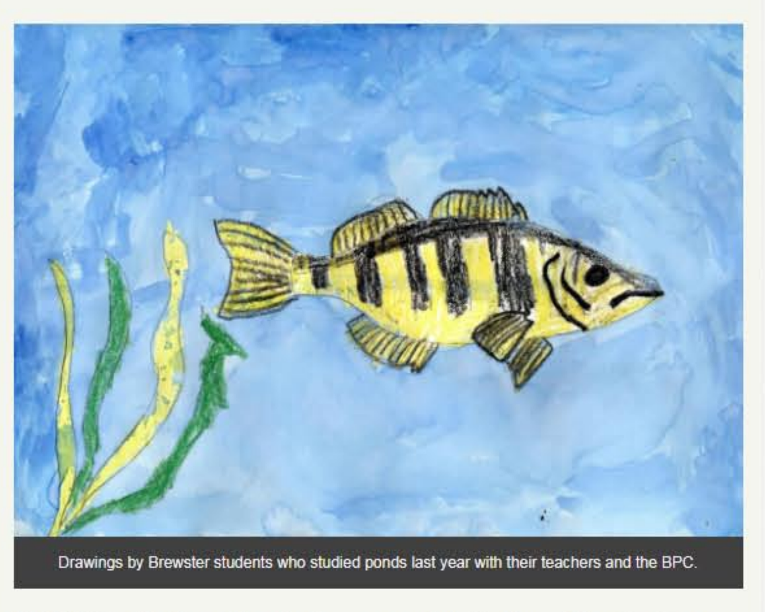
by Judy Pirani

It was a busy summer of activities for the BPC. See above from L to R Judy Pirani, Susan Searles, and Tom and Shirley Vautin at the BPC booth at The Brewster Horticultural Society's Farmer's Market. Below from L to R (front row) Marty Burke, Judy Pirani, Deborah Norton, Shirley Vautin ands Dawn Walnut. Second row L to R are Dick Litavis, Corey Bray and Tom Vautin.

These events provide a great way to meet people and introduce them to one of Brewster's defining assets - our 2100 acres of ponds.

Pond Education Curriculum Enters Third Year

by Susan Searles



Drawings by Brewster students who studied ponds last year with their teachers and the BPC.

The BPC Education Committee volunteers are eagerly looking forward to welcoming a new group of Brewster elementary students to the third year of the Pond Education Curriculum.

The BPC provides a tub full of classroom materials for the students and teachers to utilize. Our volunteers will soon be busy preparing pond kit materials and setting the agenda and the trip schedule.

The program culminates in Pond Field Trips. The experience will include a pond-side puppet show, guided walking tour, hands-on research that include exploring the teaming pond life in a scoop of pond muck and water with viewers, other instruments, and much more!

If you are interested in joining us, we would love to have you! Simply contact BPC Board member Sue Searles at sue.searles@brewsterponds.com. We have lots of fun!

Meet New BPC Board Members

by Dawn Walnut

We welcome three new members to the Brewster Ponds Coalition board: Martin Burke, Wayne Jenkins, and Nancy Ortiz, voted as Directors by our membership at the August 18 Annual Meeting.

All three have been volunteering with the BPC in various capacities for some time. Nancy has been a member of the Membership Committee for several years and for has helped collect samples for our cyanobacteria water testing program for the past two years. Marty is a 2018 water tester and was part of the crew at the BPC table on Brewster Conservation Day. And Wayne has been active with the BPC since 2016, most recently as one of the special advisors who were essential in assisting us during our strategic planning process. We feel lucky to have these three on our board.

Marty Burke has been a part-time resident in Brewster since 1997, and moved here full-time in 2014. He has a B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Connecticut and is now retired from a 36+ year career as an executive in the insurance industry. Over the course of his career, Marty led underwriting and sales teams in the employee benefits divisions of The Hartford, Prudential, and Highmark, in Boston and New York City.

In addition to his work with the BPC, Marty has been active with the Massachusetts Audubon Society since 2014 in their piping plover, diamondback terrapin, and horseshoe crab citizen scientist programs. He is particularly interested in organizations centered on preserving our natural surroundings. Marty first became interested in nature as a Boy Scout camping and swimming in the local ponds in his native Connecticut. Over the years his concern about our natural surroundings grew, as the effect of population growth and resulting pollution became evident worldwide. His desire to find a way to help led him to the Brewster Ponds Coalition, first as a member, then a volunteer, and now as a Board member. Marty says, "Helping in any big or small way to understand and improve the water quality issue in Brewster and Cape Cod is the least I can do."

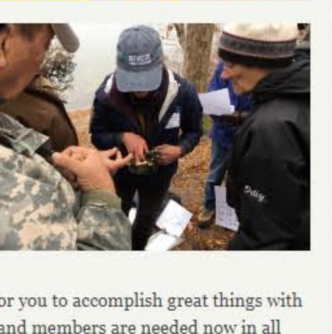
Wayne Jenkins moved to Brewster in 2016. With a background in Civil Engineering and a Master's degree in Environmental Engineering, he worked for a large consulting firm for three years where he focused on stormwater management and drinking water supply protection issues. He then spent eight years working for the States of Maryland and Rhode Island in various watershed protection programs, including the Chesapeake Bay Program, focusing on non-point sources of pollution like agricultural runoff, stormwater drains, and septic systems. Since 2006, Wayne has worked as a sales rep in the building products sector for industry leaders USG and Steelcase. Wayne, who lives near and enjoys Sheep Pond, says his desire to join the BPC board stems from his desire to get more involved and make a difference in Brewster, especially in a field where he thought he could contribute.

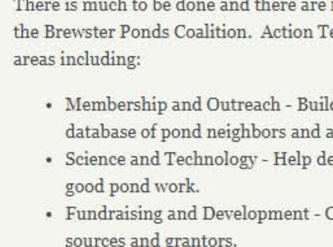
Nancy Ortiz fell in love with Cape Cod and its ponds in the late 80s, while visiting a camp on Upper Mill Pond. In 2011, she moved to Brewster full time. She has been an active member of the BPC since its inception. In addition, she volunteers at the Museum of Natural History, and at different times in her life, has been a volunteer with the PTO and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading, MA.

Nancy loves all the outdoor activities the Cape has to offer, and cares deeply about environmental issues. Nancy says she was delighted to find a group of residents interested in protecting Brewster's ponds, and has enjoyed meeting BPC members by participating in Beautify Brewster, working on the annual appeal, and joining BPC's various outdoor walks and paddles. Nancy is concerned about the increase in cyanobacteria in Lower Mill Pond and is pleased that her involvement in testing the water will provide data for a baseline cyanobacteria level that will be important in analyzing the results of any future treatments.

Nancy tells us, "My initial reaction when asked to join the board was concern over my inability to add to their vast array of talents due to my lack of science background. I have since realized that there are many ways to contribute to the board. The Brewster Ponds Coalition Board is an interesting group of individuals from diverse backgrounds that are a lot of fun to work with. I look forward to participating in this important mission of preserving our ponds for healthy habitats and safeguarding our ponds for future generations."

We Need YOU To Succeed - VOLUNTEER TODAY!





There is much to be done and there are many ways for you to accomplish great things with the Brewster Ponds Coalition. Action Team leaders and members are needed now in all areas including:

- Membership and Outreach - Build relationships with members, assist with the database of pond neighbors and associations, create member programs.
- Science and Technology - Help develop the ponds protocols that will help to begin good pond work.
- Fundraising and Development - Create relationships with businesses, funding sources and grantors.
- Education - Creating and presenting pond education and awareness programs.
- Communications - Website, newsletters, brochures, video development and more.

Click here to learn more or email us at brewsterponds@outlook.com or telephone 508-258-9801.

Brewster Ponds Coalition

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Tom Vautin, President
Konrad Schultz, Vice President
Gwen Pelletier, Treasurer/Clerk
Marty Burke
Wayne Jenkins
Nancy Ortiz
Judy Pirani, Communications Team Liaison
Susan Day Searles, Education and Events Teams Liason
Dawn Walnut, Membership Team Liaison

ACTION TEAMS
Communications - Jim Holland, Susan Spencer
Finance - Roger Normand
Nominating - Fred Budreski, Jay Olin, Marty Burke
Science and Technology - Karen Malkus-Benjamin, Nancy Gustafson-Smith, Doug Smith

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS
Judy Pirani, Konrad Schultz, Susan Searles, Tom Vautin, Dawn Walnut

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