

Draft 4/21 Rev 10

Spring 2018 SCHA Newsletter

March certainly came in as a lion this year. With four Northeasters, the Cape had some pretty rough weather. Considerable tree damage occurred including Whippoorwill, Manitoba, and other streets where fallen trees blocked roadways. The SCHA landscaper, Jim Connolly, opened all the streets affected within a few hours and cleared the tree debris promptly. Those members whose trees blocked roads, or fell on adjacent properties, after notification, responded promptly with cleanup. When you pay your dues please confirm your email and emergency phone number to assist the board in contacting you concerning property issues.

Please remove storm debris from your yard as it often contains insects like the Black Turpentine Beetle, see web site, <http://ag.umass.edu/landscape/fact-sheets/black-turpentine-beetle> for more information) that attack otherwise healthy landscape trees. Also, many trees may have been uprooted but not blown over from the heavy winds. Look for any clearances around the trunk of the tree, when in doubt, consult your landscaper.

Keep in mind that the trees on our roads must be trimmed in the fall to a minimum height of 12 feet high and two feet back to keep our streets off of the Do Not Plow List. We have placed a 12 foot "Story Pole" behind the shed at the Manitoba Beach so you can use it to check and see if any of your trees may have been compromised over the winter. Please return when you are done using it.

SCHA 2018 Dues

At the April 14 board meeting the annual association dues for 2018 was reviewed and once again has been set at \$200 for this year (our dues have been \$200 since 2010.) Please keep in mind that only because of significant volunteer efforts has this been possible. Because increased costs including; taxes, insurance, landscaping, the annual picnic, and repair/replacement of dock and recreational equipment, we must consider increasing annual dues in the future.

Volunteer Spring Cleaning

This year the SCHA sponsored a volunteer "Earth Day" on April 21st. The objective was not only to clean up winter's damage but enhance the common areas which make all SCHA member properties so special. Work was done at the Manitoba and Whippoorwill beach/dock areas, the islands on our cul-de-sacs, all four of our entrances, Wills Work Road, and the common lots.

Please thank board members and the 20 to 30 volunteer families who contributed their time, labor, and commitment to preserve and enhance our exclusive environment this year. Remember what the old sage said, "**If not me who?**" the next time you see something that needs attention.....

2017 Holiday Decorations

Every year SCHA volunteers decorate our entrances. This last holiday season the Borowski family set up a memorial tree with individual ornaments for those association members no longer with us.

If you would like to participate in this memorial please drop a note to info@SCHAmembers.com so the Borowski family will know and you can add an ornament(s) to the tree.

Whippoorwill Dock/Beach Area

The storm damaged Whippoorwill dock float has been replaced. The new float was designed with enough space to tie up dinghies (in the water) on the inside and East side leaving the outsides and West (river) side open for loading and unloading of pleasure craft. Dinghy storage is no longer allowed on the coastal bank in both SCHA dock areas. All dinghies must be stored in the water, tied to the dock, per the recommendation of Mashpee conservation officials.

This change increase the beach area for families, makes dinghy use easier, reduces costal bank damage, and eliminate beach disruptions when launching dinghies. There are new stairs to the dock that are secure, less steep, user friendly, and new railings. Also there are 8 new kayak racks. New signage confirms use by participating members only plus; safety, dock, boat, dinghy, and other regulations to insure enjoyable use for all.

Dinghy Restrictions

SCHA dinghies are defined as 10' or less in length, with or without a motor, and are used for access to boats with registered Mashpee moorings. Boats 10' or over must be moored or launched and are limited to 8 minutes tied up to either SCHA dock for loading/unloading when other boats are waiting to use the dock. No boats may be left unattended. Any exception to these rules must be approved by the SCHA board in writing.

2018 SCHA Stickers

In this spring mailing the SCHA 2018 parking/kayak permits are enclosed for all members that are current with dues paid thru 5/31/2018. Each household has one permit for parking at the beach areas and, where registered, kayak ID stickers with address and emergency phone number to be attached to the top of their Kayak(s).

If you currently use a dinghy at either dock please notify us at info@SCHAmashpee.com to receive a Dinghy Sticker, with address and emergency phone number, to be applied to the stern. These Kayak and Dinghy Stickers identify boats to aid in recovery and help prevent unnecessary emergency response.

Annual Meeting and Picnic July 14

Annual Meeting: 9:30 AM - Please mark your calendar for the 2018 SCHA Annual meeting in the Mashpee library. At that meeting the treasurer's report, activities of the SCHA since last year's annual meeting, and election of three board members will be presented. If you are willing to volunteer as a board member please submit the application available on the SCHA website. (SCHAmashpee.com)

Annual Picnic: At 4:00 PM we will celebrate our 33rd annual Picnic in the Manitoba recreational area. Since last year's picnic was so successful we will repeat a "Pizza" fest for all homeowners who have paid their dues before July 1, 2018. In addition soft drinks, salads, and desert is included. All attendees are

invited to bring their favorite food treats or drinks to share with friends, neighbors, and new acquaintances.

Every household current with SCHA annual dues is allowed four (4) family members without charge and may bring additional guests for \$15.00 each. YOU MUST register and pay for guests in advance, by July 1st, so we can provide enough pizza for all those attending. Return the enclosed registration form and payment check for guests before July 1st with your 2018 dues. We cannot accept guest registration at the picnic because food is pre-ordered.

SCHA Whippoorwill Ospreys

On March 28 the male, Elmer, returned and rapidly reclaimed his nest by chasing the crows from the marsh and cleaning the nest. On or about April 1st the female, Gertrude, arrived to inspect the accommodations and make minor redecorating adjustments to Elmer's work. Since then they spent some more time making sure the crows know who's in charge, and making time in the nest. On April 8 Gertrude spent her first night tucked into the center of the nest. This is a sure sign that eggs have been laid and chicks may be hatched in 42 days (approximately May 20th)

Elmer participates during this period by bringing fish to the nest. At which time Gertrude gets off the eggs, takes the fish, and flies down to a snag near the river. Elmer sits on the eggs until Gertrude returns to resume the incubation. Feeding of Gertrude by Elmer happens about 1 hour after sunrise, one or more times at random during the day, and lastly about one half hour before sunset.

Please don't stop your cars at the nest, walk on the nest side of the road, or let dogs run on the Whippoorwill Marsh near the nest until after May 20th. If Gertrude feels threatened by these close encounters she will leave the nest and the eggs will not incubate..... With a successful hatching we will have near constant activity in the nest as both parents work to feed rapidly growing chicks. If all goes as in some previous years the stronger chicks will leave the nest in August for the winter migration. A few years ago some Martha's Vineyard Osprey was satellite-tracked to Venezuela!!! Go to the following website for more information. <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/backpacking-ospreys-following-their-migration/> and <http://www.ccmnh.org/Osprey-Live-Stream>

SCHA Web SITE - WWW.SCHAmashpee.com

You can preview the local weather, Great River tide schedules, SCHA history, current events, posted photos, recent newsletters, emergency contacts, and more on our web site.

To communicate with members of the board of directors send an email to info@SCHAmashpee.com. Suggestions, comments, photos, reviews, or other input are always welcome. If you have any ideas how the SCHA can be improved don't hesitate to let us know....