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Now that we survived another summer season, I wanted to update you on some of the things we are working on and how some of our summer activities went: |  |  | | --- | | A couple of people sitting on a boat  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | **Summer Interns**: The LPA hired Madeline Blaha and Robert Simpkins to work in the Lagoon with the Oak Bluffs and Tisbury Shellfish Constables, as well as the MV Shellfish Group.  The interns were fantastic and able to participate in every aspect of the raising of shellfish, from spawning at the hatchery, to the growing of seed, the use of upwellers, the checking and moving of seed as they grow, predator prevention and finally, the release of adult species into our Island waters. The interns also worked with the MVC on water quality testing-taking samples for toxic bacteria and reviewing the samples through microscopes, identifying potential threats to both humans and shellfish. Interns also learned how to maneuver boats, repair and deploy equipment in the Pond and this summer they spent some of their time working on the eelgrass restoration project with the MV Shellfish Group and on the LPA Data Mining Project (aka, the LPA Repository), more fully described below. We were so lucky to have Maddy and Robert—they were such a positive force on the Pond!  Thank you to all of our members for your donations that made this program possible.  To review the interns’ reports, please scroll down [here](https://u16442091.ct.sendgrid.net/ls/click?upn=g-2BC1o-2FwZskSRzL3mQ9pyCwbqy3BGMvcwjuB5dk08-2Fy8UIe1J42PbMm6YieyPoG044PrEZUEQBh74Aly2H4IBkA-3D-3DhKTG_sdxM7Uy6DPEcEtkziPKaisX-2Fmk1UEsFftOunpDYzeqBKkjOOI7HHFo2aFSS-2FEIF0697X-2B6JGodL5bbDerzOu-2BdB8Q3QUT-2Fe-2BjwpSYUD4ZuaUjKEHyZwyw5oP07x5Og8RobIgz8-2BAyaY8M8vF66vlJm6j0QZSpPv4QvGTU-2BACTmHzxEsrhxTCUzOi4VbvyPaqEnHy55f-2BmTN7Eg0-2B4JIZPzVkWX0Ah3EfcW5cc6TG-2FPJuVoECygWDDuY9bSTGinYWgKt1pbmsXwNba2KkL-2BGq1uOCDi0gPFWvvFG0cN0hF9hSnrci7S-2Fa-2BZ57SRQxOuDEF0yqL3Mhdo8kF8hV-2BGPGBmGC2PYFzhhbaB-2BCBgaTZmAWGmg2gW-2B-2F8lpBD6LKBjHG). |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | | A person standing next to a pile of garbage  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | **Beach Cleanup/Light Up the Lagoon/Boat Turn In Weekend**:  These three annual events continue to be a work in progress but we are encouraged that they continue to get bigger each year. This year we had two cleanup stations (Tisbury Landing and the Hughes Hatchery) and timed the event to coincide with the Vineyard Conservation Society Cleanup.  We also encouraged homeowners on and around the Pond to clean up their own parts of the Lagoon.  That night Light Up the Lagoon did not disappoint!  There were lit up boats on the water and lots of hooting and hollering across the Lagoon.  It is a wonderful opportunity to meet neighbors and honor the work we do on the Lagoon.  Finally, while Boat Turn In Weekend did not yield quite as many boats as we were hoping for, we did collect several and together with the OB Harbormaster and Shellfish Constable, we have a number of boats, kayaks and paddleboards to sell.  So stay tuned for a sale announcement if you are looking for low cost marine transport! |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | | A group of people standing on a brick path  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | **Annual Meeting/Summer Social**: Our Annual Meeting was well attended with information relating to both OB’s and Tisbury’s Wastewater Management Plans and how they’ll affect people around the Lagoon being the major topic.  The Shellfish Constables gave reports on what they were accomplishing this summer and we let our members know what the LPA had been doing.  The summer social hosted by Doug and Amy Reece was also an incredible success, with members mingling and talking Pond “stuff” and making and renewing acquaintances.  Thank you, Doug and Amy, for what is always a great community get-together! |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | | A group of people holding a net in the water  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | **Biodiversity Seine (fishing net) Survey**:The first LPA Biodiversity Seine Survey took place on August 1, 2023! This survey was the first of hopefully many surveys to catalog changes in the Lagoon’s flora and fauna over time and to better document the health of Lagoon Pond. Twenty-two species of animals were found including: 11 species of fish, 7 crustaceans, 5 mollusks, 1 anemone, and 8 species of seaweeds. Eelgrass blades were absent, but pipefish and bay scallops which prefer eelgrass were still present. Animals counted totaled approximately 900. To see more information on the Survey scroll down [here](https://u16442091.ct.sendgrid.net/ls/click?upn=g-2BC1o-2FwZskSRzL3mQ9pyCwbqy3BGMvcwjuB5dk08-2Fy8UIe1J42PbMm6YieyPoG044PrEZUEQBh74Aly2H4IBkA-3D-3DzIiK_sdxM7Uy6DPEcEtkziPKaisX-2Fmk1UEsFftOunpDYzeqBKkjOOI7HHFo2aFSS-2FEIF0697X-2B6JGodL5bbDerzOu-2BdB8Q3QUT-2Fe-2BjwpSYUD4ZuaUjKEHyZwyw5oP07x5Og8RobIgz8-2BAyaY8M8vF66vlJm6j0QZSpPv4QvGTU-2BACTmHzxEsrhxTCUzOi4VbvyPaqEnHy55f-2BmTN7Eg0-2B4JIZPzVkWX0Ah3EfcW5cc6TG-2FPKDPbedPq8wHGCu5nL-2F5-2B7uuE4Yqd14MEsNRcgiUXuzk71A0STSSl-2BFE2r1-2Fc3bA-2BPPrW8iCATvoYZw9C-2FA8sWujg3qR21zvJCqvASPs6a8xdjBvJz1A60Bv7V2vaEj74Ecl7iAsOeDejo0tmQiHjJP).  The importance of the Pond as habitat for young and forage fish was apparent. The LPA plans to conduct additional offseason survey(s), and invite LPA members in for a “Bioblitz” in the summer of 2024.  Stay tuned! |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | | **Septics/CWMP**:We all know that nitrogen is the biggest threat to the Pond.We continue to confer with the Boards of Health, Wastewater Departments, Water Resources Committee and the MVC with respect to the Oak Bluffs and Tisbury Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plans (CWMPs).  We have been urging the OB BOH to adopt Bylaws similar to those in Tisbury that require Innovative/Alternative Septic Systems upon the happening of certain triggers.  You may also have seen an article that Becky Rivera and David Reed drafted that was published by the Vineyard Gazette.  You can see it [here](https://u16442091.ct.sendgrid.net/ls/click?upn=g-2BC1o-2FwZskSRzL3mQ9pyC8EfKCkoMGwSyZxNXhZu6d1UKOsI3Vps1aEzN0d0B4z6yJ-2BpNUyPphNTlDNs-2Bfr13QSuAx-2FmkgaQIk1y9HbESyrSj7ENg-2FoZj1yBjvqfxTIivfZRSQ73kPbrbwxPHmIHiCfwglGvrDhZsxUgoHMWv-2FI-3DvPw6_sdxM7Uy6DPEcEtkziPKaisX-2Fmk1UEsFftOunpDYzeqBKkjOOI7HHFo2aFSS-2FEIF0697X-2B6JGodL5bbDerzOu-2BdB8Q3QUT-2Fe-2BjwpSYUD4ZuaUjKEHyZwyw5oP07x5Og8RobIgz8-2BAyaY8M8vF66vlJm6j0QZSpPv4QvGTU-2BACTmHzxEsrhxTCUzOi4VbvyPaqEnHy55f-2BmTN7Eg0-2B4JIZPzVkWX0Ah3EfcW5cc6TG-2FPL7KEVMNtOseWnbshVeMyrg1dtGR0hxUAvYViyxW-2FPDVl8KIq40o0rIVcriU9-2FvLWqn3OJwBkbGhwF3GAGTAIPWmYQOWZ-2FQ33nDV-2BWp-2BnR0d5ZMW4yLxww16pzrCFvx8qe8pl2P2rOQCbBrjJTsbRVs).  In addition, we notified our members of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds available for an I/A system and have fielded several calls relating to that.  As this is our paramount issue, be assured we are working on this first and foremost, through advocacy, education and tangible action. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | | **Lagoon Pond Collaborative**:  As previously reported, the LPA and Safe Harbors Marina have set up a Collaborative of Lagoon Pond Stakeholders to meet and exchange information regarding projects and concerns on the Pond. We met in June and again in September with members exchanging ideas and progress on projects relating to the Pond. We can report from this that not only does Safe Harbors Marina have certification as a “Clean Marina” but now MV Shipyard has this certification as well!  This is a major achievement for both marinas and they are among the very first in the state of Massachusetts to achieve this standing.  In addition, the Collaborative has begun discussing the “mapping” of the Lagoon.  This will help all of us achieve the needs of everyone using the Pond, whether for scientific, recreational or commercial purposes and it will set expectations and hopefully avoid conflict. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | | **Committee Highlights**:  Our committees have been meeting regularly.  Highlights are as follows:    **Membership/Outreach Committee~** Our website has been updated and continues to be refreshed.  We have updated our Facebook presence and you will see more of our message on social media in the future.  Our outreach for new members is ongoing. [Don’t forget to pay your dues!](https://u16442091.ct.sendgrid.net/ls/click?upn=g-2BC1o-2FwZskSRzL3mQ9pyCwbqy3BGMvcwjuB5dk08-2Fy8bXL9iLrEIOrTGl1RkW5W-2BsQe3gf8zPg1hMRxHjxbS7w-3D-3Dsavd_sdxM7Uy6DPEcEtkziPKaisX-2Fmk1UEsFftOunpDYzeqBKkjOOI7HHFo2aFSS-2FEIF0697X-2B6JGodL5bbDerzOu-2BdB8Q3QUT-2Fe-2BjwpSYUD4ZuaUjKEHyZwyw5oP07x5Og8RobIgz8-2BAyaY8M8vF66vlJm6j0QZSpPv4QvGTU-2BACTmHzxEsrhxTCUzOi4VbvyPaqEnHy55f-2BmTN7Eg0-2B4JIZPzVkWX0Ah3EfcW5cc6TG-2FPILEYoUbFdEdH1sPhP7R6FGj6esjio3SZfR4fYn9TFXa-2BlHVOSvNusg-2Bn-2Bln6dJbGJEY-2BKL1y7mQbdCuvSZBfACmLQfseLlefudPZ7txPDAX4bhH-2FbcI9g5qeERCR0thuA6pitSYDTNgASYKiWq-2F7eM)    **Science Committee~** See the Biodiversity study discussion above.  In addition, with the help of some of our summer interns, we are making headway on our Data Mining Project which will enable us to better analyze trends on the Pond.  Finally, we have spent a great deal of time reviewing potential permanent water quality devices to put in the Pond.  Right now, the Pond is tested by the BOHs for bacteria and by the MVC for nitrogen, dissolved oxygen and other nutrients during the summer only.  The LPA believes additional testing will give us more indicators of how the Pond is doing, both when it is full of life and when it is resting.    **Fundraising Committee~** It is grant season and we are actively seeking grants to promote our work on the Pond.  We are proud to have received a $2,000 grant from the Martha’s Vineyard Community Foundation for our intern program.  We have many exciting projects awaiting funding and are hopeful that we will obtain the funds to make a real difference on the Pond.  **If you are interested in donating to a particular project, kindly contact me. Stay tuned for a targeted appeal coming your way soon.**    **Special Projects Committee~** We are continuing our efforts to educate our members and the public on the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plans and Innovative/Alternative Septic Systems (see article in Vineyard Gazette noted above and our ARPA Fund email).  We are in the process of developing a short film about the Lagoon, its challenges and what we can all do to help it.  With any luck we will be showing it from time to time at the Film Society.  The SPC is also hard at work coming up with a new Speaker Series in collaboration with MV Shellfish Group, the Lagoon Pond Collaborative, Tisbury Waterways and Friends of Sengekontacket.  Stay tuned for that as well. |  |  | | --- | | Heading into the holiday season and the winter is the perfect time to think about the Pond and what we can do to help it.  Together, we can make a real difference.  Of this, I am 100% sure.  Thank you for your support.    See You on the Water!  Sherry Countryman, President | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Our Contact Information**  Lagoon Pond Association  PO Box 1978 Vineyard Haven, MA 02568  [info@lagoonpondassoc.org](mailto:info@lagoonpondassoc.org)  [https://www.lagoonpondassoc.org](https://u16442091.ct.sendgrid.net/ls/click?upn=g-2BC1o-2FwZskSRzL3mQ9pyCwbqy3BGMvcwjuB5dk08-2Fy9KpOnDadt30x3OT6ctPv1xWvqWEbrLBF1um5-2BGnSzvtQ-3D-3Dux3y_sdxM7Uy6DPEcEtkziPKaisX-2Fmk1UEsFftOunpDYzeqBKkjOOI7HHFo2aFSS-2FEIF0697X-2B6JGodL5bbDerzOu-2BdB8Q3QUT-2Fe-2BjwpSYUD4ZuaUjKEHyZwyw5oP07x5Og8RobIgz8-2BAyaY8M8vF66vlJm6j0QZSpPv4QvGTU-2BACTmHzxEsrhxTCUzOi4VbvyPaqEnHy55f-2BmTN7Eg0-2B4JIZPzVkWX0Ah3EfcW5cc6TG-2FPL8VDWNY2XvlWxnka3YItWJ-2BrBGC42rdNBPIvXI4FNBPPSOY3iGIStBazcvb-2ByX0TsM5A5onf1JR0mB-2BgCDh-2BdPRQ8gnTgsbsQyhcZ72x4kHytVStrwOD-2B49w7oBmOxLf7x7BgqY2n-2Fgd88WkfnptGl)    [Unsubscribe](https://u16442091.ct.sendgrid.net/ls/click?upn=g-2BC1o-2FwZskSRzL3mQ9pyCwsjkbsYfEDYAJSQ0oIZMMBnbrx5rYdJTSGYLRLturYvgai-2FGZdnOQ6Du9lnuHI12dGUJfZ5minoI7rip2bUVpHC8cLCQGLgmlIG-2B6Lq29Xuo5pmpzL0B23bDLTTISZSKkLfU-2F-2FcWnaFVpzO2C-2FWDoCx8iGz8dgo3DXdaDFPz8zKrQ-2FOiF79cAfMf6DfVG3GXEtIoeTw9t-2BknP7YLaxQcQbB7T99irEc1J54FUFosikn1sjbBOZuAq4-2Fcyl5J6Jz9OvPpuYe0B-2FgN1qFJJ1yqeg-3DKMHE_sdxM7Uy6DPEcEtkziPKaisX-2Fmk1UEsFftOunpDYzeqBKkjOOI7HHFo2aFSS-2FEIF0697X-2B6JGodL5bbDerzOu-2BdB8Q3QUT-2Fe-2BjwpSYUD4ZuaUjKEHyZwyw5oP07x5Og8RobIgz8-2BAyaY8M8vF66vlJm6j0QZSpPv4QvGTU-2BACTmHzxEsrhxTCUzOi4VbvyPaqEnHy55f-2BmTN7Eg0-2B4JIZPzVkWX0Ah3EfcW5cc6TG-2FPKoputQwvFhrnR3LRMgKzyXIHUTdZhhQM-2Fe-2BVXcIp-2FRvz1mRNEdT9-2FcqGWmAViNWQwWwq2tcjc8jsuDTjfltT4pA1tPvEuDtxcj0lL9eIFwSBZQG93u0RqIqx9a1-2BVZ6zf5Y8ANPbzPTRixRksb5Kc1) | [Manage email preferences](https://u16442091.ct.sendgrid.net/ls/click?upn=g-2BC1o-2FwZskSRzL3mQ9pyCwsjkbsYfEDYAJSQ0oIZMMBnbrx5rYdJTSGYLRLturYvgai-2FGZdnOQ6Du9lnuHI12dGUJfZ5minoI7rip2bUVpHC8cLCQGLgmlIG-2B6Lq29Xuo5pmpzL0B23bDLTTISZSKkLfU-2F-2FcWnaFVpzO2C-2FWDoCx8iGz8dgo3DXdaDFPz8zKrQ-2FOiF79cAfMf6DfVG3GXEtIoeTw9t-2BknP7YLaxQcQbB7T99irEc1J54FUFosikn1sjbBOZuAq4-2Fcyl5J6Jz9OvPpuYe0B-2FgN1qFJJ1yqeg-3D8nvk_sdxM7Uy6DPEcEtkziPKaisX-2Fmk1UEsFftOunpDYzeqBKkjOOI7HHFo2aFSS-2FEIF0697X-2B6JGodL5bbDerzOu-2BdB8Q3QUT-2Fe-2BjwpSYUD4ZuaUjKEHyZwyw5oP07x5Og8RobIgz8-2BAyaY8M8vF66vlJm6j0QZSpPv4QvGTU-2BACTmHzxEsrhxTCUzOi4VbvyPaqEnHy55f-2BmTN7Eg0-2B4JIZPzVkWX0Ah3EfcW5cc6TG-2FPKSamgVfMHIrXSnAuBfsudS82gvCoqqkBroepEQcwIreapXJGPxexov7c6Kq1OygQj8kqt97yxFw42OQ1s1RpJH85MOq7MO5NylL3PJPSG1eIOJfhXWYI9uVTDJLB-2F4aJPS-2FaNVsvKAzwVklxuqRv2F) | | |  | | --- | | Image | | | |

