

## Message From the President

Education is critical to our mission of preserving Quissett Harbor. As we begin another summer, I am delighted by the variety of new and returning educational initiatives available to our members and the public.

Our educational effort has been designed to reach out to families, students and adults. In this newsletter, you will read about two new programs. The Knob walks, which will be led by Naturalist Kim Torres, will take place four times during the summer. These promise to be great events for the entire family. In August we will welcome Timothy Goldsmith, QHPT member, Yale Professor Emeritus, and lifelong ornithologist, who will reveal what the eyes of birds and other animals can teach us about our own eyes.

I hope you will also put our returning favorites on your calendar: the Harbor and Beach Clean-up, June 22; Annual Meeting of Members, June 30; and the Wheeler Lecture, July 25. You will find additional details under Save the Date later in this newsletter.

Finally, we have begun talks with Falmouth Academy about partnering on a science project related to Quissett Harbor. We're considering a multi-year collaboration with the students that would be of mutual benefit, enhancing their studies while helping to preserve the Harbor.

Our thanks to the Education Committee, led by Co-Chairs Kate Davis and Sarah Meigs, for their work in helping us fulfill the Trust's mission.

I look forward to seeing you all in June.

Weatherly Dorris  
President



**Weatherly and Rick Dorris**

## MEP/UMass Study Confirms Quissett Harbor One of the Healthiest Nitrogen Levels Still Must Be Reduced

The Massachusetts Estuaries Project (MEP), a collaboration between the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and the School for Marine Science and Technology (SMAST) at the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth, has studied the nitrogen levels in estuaries throughout eastern Massachusetts. These MEP studies will assist the Town of Falmouth in its Comprehensive Wastewater Treatment Plan.

Because of its relatively healthy state, Quissett Harbor was one of the last on the list of areas to be studied. The results confirmed much of what we had already known from the work the Buzzards Bay Coalition has been doing on water quality, which is that, while Quissett Harbor is in comparatively good shape, it still needs attention. "We are pleased that the study shows that Quissett remains one of the healthiest estuaries," said Weatherly Dorris, President, QHPT. "But there's room for improvement. The Harbor is showing signs of nutrient-related decline, and we must address the problem before it increases further."

An estimated 22 percent reduction in locally controllable nitrogen that is currently reaching the Harbor would reverse the trend. QHPT will continue to work with the Buzzards Bay Coalition on this important issue.





# QUISSETT HARBOR PRESERVATION TRUST

## NEW Family Fun Walks To Take Place This Summer

This season we are providing a series of walks on the Knob. The events are free and designed for the whole family. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

### There will be four walks:

Friday, July 19, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.  
and 1:45 to 2:45 p.m.

Tuesday, August 6, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
and 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Naturalist Kim Torres of Chatham will lead the walks, describing the flora, fauna and marine life and recounting the Knob's and Quissett's rich history. At the same time, she will point out some of the precautions to take when exploring the natural world, such as checking for ticks and identifying poison ivy.

"We hope these walks will be an opportunity to instill in the younger generation an appreciation for the importance of preserving Quissett Harbor and the Knob," said Sarah Meigs, Co-Chair of the QHPT Education Committee. "They can also be

a reminder to adults that we need to maintain and protect the area we love in order to be able to share it

with others and preserve it for future generations. **To participate, meet at the entrance to the Knob path at the inner Harbor.**



## Meet John Sigel Board Member, Clerk and Secretary

As a young boy, John Sigel used to spend his summers in Woods Hole. "My aunt and uncle have had a house here since the 1960s," John said. "I would come down and stay with them and my cousins. I would attend the

Children's Science School on School Street, and then my cousins and I would bike around Falmouth. We had a great time, visiting the ponds and fields, learning about the wildlife on the Cape, sailing in Woods Hole Harbor and hanging out at Stoney Beach."

John's brief exposure to science didn't create enough of an impression for him to make a career of it. Instead, he became an attorney, working in debt finance for the law firm Wilmer Hale in Boston. But Quissett Harbor did make an impression, and today he and his wife of 32 years, Sally Reid, own a summer house in the Racing Beach area.

A member of QHPT since 2008, John has served as the Trust's Clerk and Secretary for the past two years, keeping the minutes and keeping track of the organization's documents. "I think the preservation work that QHPT does is important for two reasons," he said. "First, the Harbor and surrounding area is one of the most beautiful parts of the Cape. But, even more important, that beauty is accessible to the public. Anyone can enjoy the Knob and the beach."



For his part, John said the two things he loves to do most is walk the area and sail out of Quissett Harbor. He and Sally particularly look forward to visits from their two grown children, James and Rebecca, who both live in California. In fact, James and his fiancée, Laura, will be getting married at the Quissett Harbor House this summer.

"Quissett Harbor and the Knob are treasures. I'm pleased to be working with an organization whose mission is to preserve the public's ability to enjoy and appreciate those treasures."

## 2013 Wheeler Lecture To Feature MBL Research on Alzheimer's Woods Hole Squid Advances Alzheimer's Research

The 2013 Wheeler Lecture will take place Thursday, July 25, at 6:00 p.m. at the National Academy Jonsson Center.

The speaker will be Joe DeGiorgis, PhD, Associate Professor of Biology at Providence College, Providence, Rhode Island, and researcher at the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) in Woods Hole. Dr. DeGiorgis will talk about his research using squid to increase our knowledge of Alzheimer's disease. "Most of us are touched by Alzheimer's in some way—through a family member or friend," said Sarah Meigs, Co-Chair of the Education Committee. The disease will have a powerful impact on health care costs in the future. This promises to be an enlightening discussion on the topic."



## Don't Miss...

## What Your Mother Never Told You About the Birds and the Bees. How the Eyes of Birds and Other Animals Can Teach Us About Our Own Eyes

Our eyes work on the same optical principle as a camera, but what about the eyes of insects and crabs? How does color vision work, and what can other animals see that we can't? What clues do birds give us about the evolutionary history of our own eyes? Why do we wear polarizing sunglasses, and how and why do some creatures use polarized light?

Timothy Goldsmith, Professor Emeritus from Yale University, will answer these and other questions on Thursday, August 15, 6:00 p.m., inside the Harbor House.



## Save the Date

- **Harbor and Beach Clean-up:** Saturday, June 22, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Meet at the Harbor House.
- **Annual Meeting of Members:** Sunday, June 30, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. (Note the earlier time.) Inside the Harbor House.
- **Wheeler Lecture:** Thursday, July 25, 6:00 p.m., at the National Academy Jonsson Center. Dr. Joe DeGiorgis, MBL Research on Alzheimer's.
- **Knob Walks:** Meet at the entrance to the Knob path at the inner Harbor.  
Friday, July 19, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. and 1:45 to 2:45 p.m.  
Tuesday, August 6, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
- **Nature Talk:** Thursday, August 15, 6:00 p.m. Inside the Harbor House. Timothy Goldsmith, Professor Emeritus from Yale University, *What Your Mother Never Told You About the Birds and the Bees.*