

THE LANDING NEWSLINE

Official Newsletter of Jones River Landing



Issue 1, Summer/Fall 2006

Kingston, Massachusetts

Jones River Landing: From the Director's Desk

Contributor:
Pine duBois

Welcome to our inaugural newsletter. As Director of Jones River Landing, it is my pleasure to keep you informed of our ongoing efforts, activities, and development of the environmental heritage center at 55 Landing Road in Kingston, Massachusetts; a vestige of the historic Jones River Landing shipyards.

We have changed our name from the Jones River Marine Ecology Center to Jones River Landing: Environmental Heritage Center—a fully recognized non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization—to better reflect our dual scope of preserving vital natural resources and boatbuilding traditions. The Landing is now home to three dynamic organizations, Jones River Watershed Association, Mass Bay Maritime Artisans, and Tumblehome Boatshop, who are cooperating to advance our mission.

This month marks the Landing's fourth year of actively engaging in regional networking on water and land use, preservation issues, water quality, species management, and stream flow monitoring as we continue to revitalize the historical boatyard. We have made substantial progress and are very much looking forward to the years ahead.

Through our membership program, we provide an avenue for the public to enjoy the richness of the estuarine and bay environment. Those of us who have spent time pondering the river—hanging over the dock, fishing, or boating—are so impressed and inspired by the fluidity and dramatic changes that the tide and the seasons



Jones River Landing, circa 1890

bring to our location. It is wonderful to be challenged to identify the many species of birds, fish, and mammals that pass by here in their feeding and breeding routines.

We hope you will join us as we continue our mission to preserve and protect the natural and historic resources of the Jones River and Cape Cod Bay. As a member or volunteer you will have fun on the river and help develop the site along with ecology, boatbuilding, and recreational programs. Memberships are still only \$25 annually—we hope this small fee will persuade many to join. As with any non-profit community effort, we depend greatly on the generous contributions of our members and volunteers to grow and succeed in our mission.

Landing History

Ship Image: **Stafford**
Courtesy of Kingston Public Library

According to the 1926 book *The Ships of Kingston*, the term “Jones River Landing” has been applied since the earliest records to the strip of land east of Landing Road from “Stony Brook, upstream...to the present Poor House”. The land was given by Major John Bradford in 1713 to his son William. By 1745, Samuel Foster is thought to own the land where he built the wharves with his son before selling the “lower portion” to Shipwright Benjamin Walker. Walker sold to Elisha Brewster and Stephen Drew, who owned part of and built several ships on the wharves before passing the land to Joseph Holmes in 1810. Holmes became Kingston's greatest ship builder and owner with his four sons. During the period between 1776 and 1898, *The Ships of Kingston* lists a record of about 270 vessels, from a 20-ton boat to the 611-ton ship *Joseph Holmes*, as being built at Jones River Landing and owned in Kingston, Massachusetts. The land was passed from Joseph to his son, and ship's captain, Paraclete. Paraclete invited George Shiverick to build a shop in 1895 on the site of today's Landing, where for 45 years Shiverick honed widely acclaimed skill and became a sought after boat builder. The Shiverick building still stands and has new life as part of Jones River Landing Environmental Heritage Center.



Mass Bay Maritime Artisans

Contributor:
Reuben Smith

Mass Bay Maritime Artisans, the boatbuilding program at Jones River Landing, has much in store for 2006. Right, now, we are finalizing our Fall 2006 schedule of events, and we're excited about what we have planned. We'll continue with our very successful Speakers' Series, host some boatbuilding workshops, and have a few surprises, as well.

In just a few years, a vibrant community of boat aficionados, professional artisans, and nonprofit maritime institutions from throughout Massachusetts Bay has formed around Mass Bay Maritime Artisans. We have collaborated with Hull Lifesaving Museum, Duxbury Bay Maritime School, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This year, we'll continue these relationships, and work to forge new ones with other groups.

On June 15th, we brought into the shop the last Duxbury Duck built by George Shiverick at the Landing in the mid 1930s. This boat is going to get a thorough re-build: new keel, new frames, some new planks, deck beams, etc. We are shooting to launch in summer 2007. We will organize workshops around specific aspects of this restoration, but in the meantime, folks interested in volunteer participation in this and related projects should contact the boatshop at the Landing.

Very soon, we should have the Fall 2006 schedule posted online at www.jonesriver.org, and printed copies available at the Landing. If you would like more information about our programs, or to volunteer, contact Reuben Smith at (617) 462-7215 or email mbma@jonesriver.org.

Jones River Watershed Association

Contributor:
Wendell Chamberlain

As a 27-year resident of the area, I have agonizingly borne witness to the incremental changes to our local watersheds. As a philosopher by education and a naturalist by curiosity, I have always been musing upon the relationship between human activity and ecosystems. When the city of Brockton decided it needed the water from Pine Brook behind my horse barn, I found out that armchair musings are ineffective and action the only palliative. So began my relationship with JRWA.

This is an esteemed and courageous group willing to suffer the barbs of being the messenger. The Watershed Association has been at the forefront of building awareness of the watershed's plight and in its rejuvenation since our founding over 20 years ago. JRWA was fortunate to acquire the historic Shiverick Boatyard on the Jones River in 2003, and has been actively establishing the

Jones River Landing Environmental Heritage Center to promote education, recreation, and restoration of the Jones River.

JRWA is developing a new office at the Landing and from there will continue our advocacy efforts to protect and sustain the water and natural resources of the region. With our allied group, the Watershed Action Alliance of Southeastern Mass., we have been and will continue to influence public water policy on the federal and state level. Here at home, we are taking aim on the obstacles to fish passage and are working very hard to restore the native herring runs from the bay to Silver Lake. Our monitoring and ecology programs are focused on this goal. Please join us as we continuously strive to protect our local natural resources and advocate for the health of our regional ecosystem.

Campaign Update

Contributor:
Margaret Sheehan

Our Capital Campaign to raise \$775,000 is going strong. We kicked off the Campaign with a live auction and 20th anniversary celebration of JRWA in November 2005 at a private home in Duxbury. The event was an unquestionable success, raising \$39,000 and sparking tremendous interest in the Landing and its ecology and boatbuilding programs.

Since then, we have been hard at work to raise additional funds and are pleased to report significant progress. Nonetheless, the effort is not over, and we need more critical support to reach our goal. We ask everyone to be as generous as possible and to join in our community outreach efforts. While the Capital Campaign

Committee has focused its energies on finishing the campaign, others are working diligently on delivering initiatives and programs that reflect our core mission of advocacy, education and science to support the Jones River and its estuary. The success of the campaign will help to take those efforts to the next level.

We are having several Fall events, including another live auction and annual celebration planned for November. We hope to see you there!

To help with the capital campaign, contact Pine duBois at (781) 424-0353, or email pine@jonesriver.org.

Volunteer Corner

Jones River Landing works best when it is harnessing our collective energies to build something greater than our individual selves. Volunteers can be seen monitoring water quality, building the bathrooms and office, installing electrical conduit, restoring boats such as the historic Duxbury Duck, stacking wood, cutting weeds, sloshing in the river, or conversing at our many meetings. We can accomplish great things when we work together.

This spring, over 50 volunteers participated in the Jones River herring count. For the second year we stood watch during this annual rite of spring—but this year we had excellent coverage and participation. 278 fish in 62 days—not the thousands we saw in decades past—but the reason that we spent the effort. This information will assist the Mass Division of Marine Fisheries to protect this important species.

We are seeking volunteers to review video from the herring count and record what findings they can identify- be it herring or other. Knowing what kinds of fish are in the river is interesting to see and important to all of our efforts. You can participate now and reviewing footage at home or at the Landing.

Also, there is the stream gauge monitoring program called RIFLS. Volunteers take a few minutes each day or several times a week to read the meter gauges. We need most help with Tubbs Meadow Brook in Pembroke and the upper Jones River, just below Forge Pond dam. Measuring the stream height provides important information that the state Riverways Program will use to help determine the aquatic stream flow necessary to support health in our ecosystem. Once the gauge is read—it is simple to pass the

Marine Ecology Program

Contributor:
Alex Mansfield

Our marine ecology program is alive and well at the Landing, under the auspices of the JRWA. Thanks to a Coastal Monitoring Grant from Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management, we were able to purchase a suite of water quality sensors at the start of 2006. The instrumentation measures temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, pH, and turbidity – all of which are fundamental in assessing water processes and conditions. Volunteers have been using the sensors for long-term monitoring at the Landing, and for a monthly sampling program from the Jones River headwaters to Kingston Bay. After a successful half-year of sampling, we will be submitting a data report to MA CZM and will continue the long-term monitoring. We have submitted a request to EPA for the loan of a chlorophyll probe to add to our suite of parameters, and hope to make data available on our website for general access.

information to us or log it directly to the www.rifls.org web site.

We will continue the water quality monitoring and the juvenile lobster monitoring, and could use a few more volunteers on these projects as well. As always, there are plenty of other opportunities to participate in a wide variety of activities. If you would like to play a more active part at Jones River Landing, leave a message at (781) 585-2322 or email us at volunteer@jonesriver.org.

Why be a Member?

As a non-profit organization, Jones River Landing depends on community and individual support for its success. Membership is \$25 per year, with benefits that include:

- Access to the Jones River for kayaking, canoeing, and fishing
- Invitations to special events and seminars
- Group and independent study programs focused on ecology and habitat restoration
- Opportunities to learn traditional boatbuilding



Membership Sign-Up

Type: Renewal New Member(s)

Individual - \$25 x (# _____) = Total - \$ _____

Additional Donation = Total - \$ _____

Today's Date _____

Name _____

Additional Member Names (if applicable) _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Payment: Check Cash (Please do not mail cash.)

Total Amount Enclosed - \$ _____

Mail To: PO Box 73, Kingston MA 02364. Checks payable to Jones River Landing.





ecology ♦ recreation ♦ boatbuilding

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U.S. Postage
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55 Landing Road, Kingston, Massachusetts
Mail To: PO Box 73, Kingston MA 02364
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About the Landing

Jones River Landing is a non-profit entity that is home to organizations interconnected by an appreciation for our maritime environment, and a commitment to preserve our community's vital natural and historic resources. Our mission is to help reconnect contemporary coastal Massachusetts to its environment through ecology, recreation, and boatbuilding.

Ripple Effect

Brought to you by the Jones River Watershed Association

By replacing one 100-watt bulb with a just-as-bright 30-watt compact fluorescent, you can cut more than 1,300 pounds of the global warming pollutant carbon dioxide over the life of the bulb. Swap out two bulbs to lower your household emissions by more than a ton!

Source: www.environmentaldefense.org

What's Happening

High-Tide Friday Potlucks

6pm every other Friday at Jones River Landing.

Upcoming Dates: September 1, September 15

Join us every other Friday at the Landing for a casual get-together on the Jones River. Bring your favorite dish, small boat, musical instrument, fishing gear, etc... or, just yourself. Any schedule changes will be posted online at www.jonesriver.org.

Jones River Paddlers

6pm every other Friday at Jones River Landing.

(High-Tide Potluck dates)

For more information on the group, contact Phil and Deede Walters at (781) 585-3169, or email jrpaddlers@aol.com.

2nd Annual Fall Fundraiser

Scheduling for November. Location to be determined.

More information to come. Visit our website for updates.

Mass Bay Maritime Artisans Fall Speaker Series

Every 1st and 3rd Thursday from October to December.

More information to come. Visit our website for updates.

www.jonesriver.org