



# Friends of Wollaston Beach

November – December 2018

*The Friends of Wollaston Beach is an organization promoting public use of Wollaston Beach, preserving and protecting the fragile ecosystems, and addressing the quality of life issues relating to the Beach. The goal of the Association is to promote the wise use and preservation of the Beach, encouraging volunteerism, alerting others to issues affecting the Beach through educational, cultural, social and civic programs, and advocating on behalf of Beach users.*

## Coming Events

### Dick Herbert Memorial Toy Event



Please join us on Monday, December 10, from 6:30 – 8:30 pm at the Hancock Tavern for The Friends of Wollaston Beach annual Holiday meeting. This meeting is traditionally a social “open house” type event. We invite members and the general public to stop by and drop off of new, unwrapped toy to be distributed to needy children in Quincy. This event was always a favorite of our late vice president, Dick Herbert – and we’d like to honor him this year for his commitment and dedication to FWB.

### President’s Message – Maureen Mazrimas

As we approach the winter season, we don’t think a lot about the Beach. But, we should be vigilant that the hard work (particularly the cleanups) of the spring and summer not be undone. We are asked to be good stewards of the great resource entrusted to us – Wollaston Beach.

One of the fall efforts was **COASTSWEEP**



On an overcast day in mid-September, 41 people fanned out across Wollaston Beach to participate in this year’s COASTSWEEP. Included in that group were 20 students from North Quincy High School’s Jr. ROTC program. If this is any indication of the future, we are in good hands! We owe a debt of gratitude to these young men and women, as well as to all the other young people who participated. A special thanks to Master Sergeant John Delorenzo for all he does, not only for the Jr. ROTC, but also for the *Friends of Wollaston Beach*. Also, thanks to Sandy Meskimen of DCR for helping to coordinate this event and for all she does to keep Wollaston Beach looking good!

COASTSWEEP Massachusetts was formed in 1987. Wollaston Beach participants join hundreds of thousands of other volunteers in the world’s largest volunteer effort for the ocean — Ocean Conservancy’s International Coastal Cleanup. COASTSWEEP volunteers collect trash, fishing line and other marine debris, and record data on what they find. This data is used to find solutions for keeping trash out of the ocean.

Sources of marine debris include people littering, trash blowing out of trash cans and cigarette butts washing into storm drains that connect to the ocean. Marine debris is more than an eyesore, it can also directly harm sea life and humans.

When promoting this event in the press, I stressed its importance by saying: “If you do only one cleanup per year, this should be the one! Participation in this cleanup has never been more important. Not only does the cleanup preserve and protect the beach’s fragile ecosystems, but the data collected in

COASTSWEEP is invaluable in identifying the sources of pollution to better allocate ever-dwindling resources on the state and federal level.”

Volunteers heard the call and collected the following items:

| No.                                | Description                               | No. | Description                | No. | Description                   |
|------------------------------------|---|-----|----------------------------|-----|-------------------------------|
| 2,360                              | Cigarette Butts                           | 228 | Food Wrappers              | 8   | Take Out Containers (plastic) |
| 2                                  | Take Out Containers (foam)                | 323 | Bottle caps (plastic)      | 15  | Bottle caps (metal)           |
| 49                                 | Lids (plastic)                            | 107 | Straws/Stirrers            | 32  | Forks, Knives, Spoons         |
| 94                                 | Beverage Bottles (plastic)                | 20  | Beverage Bottles (glass)   | 12  | Beverage cans                 |
| 24                                 | Grocery Bags (plastic)                    | 104 | Other plastic Bags         | 11  | Paper Bags                    |
| 77                                 | Cups & Plates (paper)                     | 19  | Cups & Plates (plastic)    | 5   | Cups & Plates (foam)          |
| 3                                  | Fishing Buoys, pots & traps               | 2   | Fishing Net and pieces     | 0   | Fishing line                  |
| 17                                 | Rope (1 yard = 1 piece)                   | 1   | 6-pack holder              | 57  | Other Plastic/Foam Packaging  |
| 9                                  | Other Plastic Bottles (oil, bleach, etc.) | 29  | Strapping bands            | 16  | Tobacco Packaging/Wrap        |
| 0                                  | Appliances                                | 26  | Balloons                   | 2   | Cigar Tips                    |
| 9                                  | Cigarette lighters                        | 22  | Construction Materials     | 2   | Fireworks                     |
| 0                                  | Tires                                     | 4   | Condoms                    | 0   | Diapers                       |
| 4                                  | Syringes                                  | 3   | Tampons/Tampon Applicators | 1   | Comb                          |
| <b>Tiny Trash Less than 2.5 cm</b> |   |     |                            |     |                               |
| 244                                | Foam Pieces                               | 32  | Glass Pieces               | 866 | Plastic Pieces                |

The items listed above are prepopulated into the form. In some areas, we have included a “zero” just to show that these items are frequently found on the beach.

| <b>Additional Items</b> |                                      |   |                  |   |          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|------------------|---|----------|
| 1                       | Piece of Styrofoam<br>24” x 8” x 12” | 2 | Bags of dog poop | 4 | Syringes |

Volunteers also found 4 dead fish, 2 dead crabs, and 1 dead seagull. None of these animals were entangled.

The large number of cigarette butts is disturbing. Another area of concern is the dog waste in plastic bags, and hypodermic needles. Since our area of concentration was near the stormwater pipe, these items may have made their way to the beach after having been carelessly disposed of into the storm drain. **PLEASE NOTE** – Storm drains **do not go** to the wastewater treatment plant in Winthrop. They empty out onto our beaches, rivers, streams, etc. If you are conscientious about picking up after you pet, please **DO NOT** drop the bag into the storm drain. Not only will the excrement wash up on the beach, but the plastic bag used to collect it is very harmful to sealife.

Thanks to all who participated. Your efforts on behalf of Wollaston Beach are really important.



**FRIENDS OF WOLLASTON BEACH  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - \$10 PER YEAR  
SEND TO MAUREEN MAZRIMAS, TREASURER  
49 BAYBERRY ROAD, QUINCY, MA 02171**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

I LEARNED ABOUT FRIENDS OF WOLLASTON BEACH THROUGH \_\_\_\_\_  
(e.g., Friend, Newsletter, Newspaper, Word of Mouth)

**I AM INTERESTED IN ASSISTING WITH THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:**

- Advertising
- By-Laws
- Conservation
- Events

- Membership
- Plantings
- Water Quality

Other \_\_\_\_\_

