PONDLORE

Mission Statement

As a citizen scientist, I have created the website *Pondlore.com* as a documentary record- through the use of monthly photographs, video, and field notes, supported by relevant research- dedicated to protecting the river herring run into Slough Pond in Brewster, Massachusetts. Beginning in March of 2023, I have successfully documented an entire year in the herring migration into this habitat, creating a fact-based, data-driven record and resource for our community. On several occasions, my data and outreach alerted Town officials to critical issues they might otherwise have been unaware of during the migratory passage leading to timely management actions.

Slough Pond is one of five, originally seven, headwater and natal ponds used by the alewives annually for spawning and as a nursery habitat for their young in the Stony Brook Watershed, from Paine's Creek via the Brewster fish ladder. It is considered to be the healthiest pond in Brewster. Alewives are a keystone species essential to the health of this ecosystem, including water quality, and the species their presence supports.

My mission is to raise awareness of the critical importance of protecting and preserving this headwater pond for the imperiled herring population- who cannot risk losing another habitat- as well as for benefit of the entire ecosystem. My goals:

1.) to advocate for a commitment from the Town of Brewster, the Natural Resources Department, and the Alewife Committee to preserve this passageway with all the proper management required;
2.) to advocate for the complete restoration of the passageway;
3.) to advocate for the designation of the passageway as an official fishway by the Commonwealth which will afford its full protection;
4.) to advocate for the expansion of the Alewife Committee to five wardens, rather than three, and two alternate wardens. (Established in 1788, the original committee consisted of seven wardens. There has never been a woman on the committee in its 236 year history.)