

# WWII SUBMARINE NETTING IS HISTORY

January 14, staff from the Town's Highway Department removed approximately 30 tons of steel cable netting from Sandy Neck. It was originally used to prevent enemy submarines from entering Chesapeake Bay during WWII. After the war, the net was sold for scrap and the Town purchased it from a company in New Jersey. The Town then placed net at the toe of the dune at Trail 1 in the early 1970s for erosion control. The erosion control worked for a short time but protruding cable began puncturing tires and oil pans. After a few storms the netting ended up in a ball at the mouth of Trail 1 where it sat for years.



The Highway Department removed the netting by stretching it out, cutting it into sections with a blow torch, and then hauling it off the beach.

While art to some and an eye-sore to others the decision to remove the cable was made in the interest of safety. Thanks goes out to Highway for their hard work.

## Four Deer Harvested During Sandy Neck Hunt

*Two bucks and one doe were taken during the archery portion of the Sandy Neck Deer Hunt from November 16 – 21. An additional doe was taken during primitive firearms season from Dec. 14 – 19. While the majority of deer seen during the hunt were antlerless there were several reported sightings of a large buck adding excitement to the hunt.*

*Harvesting deer on Sandy Neck is important to maintain healthy individuals within a deer population and to avoid ecosystem damage caused by overgrazing. This year a total of twelve deer were allowed to be taken. A maximum of twelve hunters were permitted on the beach each day to avoid over harvesting and to ensure safety for hunters and other user groups. We thank this year's participants for another safe and enjoyable hunt.*

### 36

The number of people allowed to participate in the 2009 deer hunt chosen by lottery at a mandatory meeting in December.

**Coincidentally, it is also the number of hunters who came to the mandatory meeting, therefore allowing all to participate.**

## Biology Students Conduct Field Studies on Sandy Neck

With support from biologist, Dr. Pete Auger, students from Wheaton and Boston College honed their field study skills on Sandy Neck from January 6 – 13. Using Sandy Neck's research cottage (historically known as the Halfway House) as a base camp, students collected, organized, and analyzed data on resident wildlife.

### Tree Swallow Studies

Sam Gawrych, a senior at Boston College, focused on tree swallow nests. Throughout the week she carefully removed nests from tree swallow bird boxes along the marsh,



### Skull found in box 13

weighed each nest and examined its contents. While no conclusions have been drawn, the existence of small swallow skulls, the presence or lack of feathers in each nest, and amount of nesting material offer insight into the reproductive success of tree swallows.

### Coyote Studies

Lauren Smith, a senior at Wheaton, focused on coyote. Throughout the week Lauren would repeatedly walk a selected path called a transect, locate coyote tracks and tracks of other animals, and plot them on a map. The completed maps will reveal patterns of coyote movement over time in relationship to the movement of other animals. Analysis of the maps will shed light on correlations between coyote and other species.

