

## ..Hunting On the Beach..

In the shoulder season Sandy Neck provides a multitude of outdoor recreational activities including hiking, camping, horseback riding, fishing, beachcombing, bird watching, and hunting.

Hunting for in-season game occurs between sunrise and sunset. All hunters must check in at the Sandy Neck Gatehouse prior to and at the conclusion of their hunt and adhere to supplemental Sandy Neck regulations in addition to state laws.

**Pheasants** – Over 250 pheasants were stocked in the dunes between trail 1 and trail 2 from October 16<sup>th</sup> to November 28<sup>th</sup>. An estimated 85 pheasants were taken.

**Deer** - Each September a deer count is taken on Sandy Neck to determine if a deer hunt will occur. This year a total of 12 deer will be allowed to be taken by **archery** and **primitive firearms only**.

### Archery

Three deer were taken during the archery hunt between November 16 and 21.

### Black Powder

Hunters interested in the primitive firearms must attend a **mandatory meeting** to be eligible for a permit. See details below.

### Sandy Neck Beach Primitive Firearms Deer Hunt

### MANDATORY MEETING

West Barnstable Community Center  
Route 149.

DECEMBER 11, 2009, 7:00 PM

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## Important Information

- **Shellfishing** on the Marsh Side of Sandy Neck is **closed** until December 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Important Dates

- **December 11** – Mandatory meeting for hunters interested in Sandy Neck deer hunt (See Hunting on the Beach inside)

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### Sandy Neck Beach Park

#### Park Manager

Nina Coleman

#### Natural Resource Officer

Matt Gough

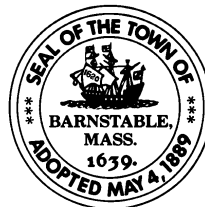
Town of Barnstable  
Marine and Environmental  
Affairs Department

1189 Phinney's Lane  
Centerville, Ma 02632  
(508) 790-6272

Sandy Neck Gatehouse  
(508) 362-8300

For the latest Sandy Neck information  
visit the Sandy Neck website at:

[www.sandyneckbeachpark.com](http://www.sandyneckbeachpark.com)



Sandy Neck TRACKS compiled by Matt Gough  
Email questions and comments to  
[matthew.gough@town.barnstable.ma.us](mailto:matthew.gough@town.barnstable.ma.us)

## SANDY NECK TRACKS

The Sandy Neck Beach Newsletter Nov./Dec. 09

## Ridley Rescue

Seven cold-stunned Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtles were found between Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> on Sandy Neck Beach. Sandy Neck Staff retrieved the Ridelys and turned them over to the Wellfleet Audubon Society for rehabilitation. According to the Audubon Society the Ridley pictured below is the first stranded turtle found living this year. The rescues



are significant because Kemp's Ridley Turtles (*Lepidochelys kempfi*) are an endangered species and considered the rarest of sea turtles.

### **Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle found Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>**

As water temperatures drop there is a higher likelihood of more sea turtle, seal and dolphin strandings. If you happen upon a turtle or marine mammal please **do not disturb** them. Notify the Sandy Neck Gatehouse attendant. If no one is available notify the Wellfleet Audubon Society or IFAW Marine Mammal Rescue.

### **Sandy Neck Stranding Contacts**

Sandy Neck Gatehouse (508) 362-8300  
Marine and Environmental Affairs (508) 790-6272

**Seals and Dolphins**

IFAW Marine Mammal Rescue (508) 743-9548

**Sea Turtles**

Wellfleet Audubon Society (508) 349-2615

**THE 2009 NUMBERS ARE IN**

Sandy Neck is home to several species protected by Federal and State law. Each year endangered Piping Plovers (*Charadrius melodus*), Diamondback Terrapin Turtles (*Malaclemys terrapin*), and Terns (Genus – *Sterna*), are monitored closely from spring to early fall to determine their reproductive success. Below is this year's tally:



**Piping Plovers**

Total Pairs – 28

Eggs – 101

Eggs Hatched – 66

Chicks Fledged - 28

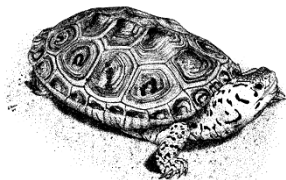
**Diamondback Terrapin Turtles**

Nests Collected From Paths – 7

Nests Capped – 108

Nests Predated – 0

Total Nests – 119



**Terns**

Least Terns (*Sterna antillarum*) – 432 pairs

Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) – 0

***A Note from Sandy Neck's Natural Resource Officers***

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the users of Sandy Neck for their cooperation during beach closures during the 2009 summer season. We strive to provide a safe and enjoyable outdoor experience while maintaining the integrity of Sandy Neck's natural resources and beauty. Your participation in this goal is

**Save the Swales!**

*Sandy Neck contains over 170 interdunal fresh water wetlands known as swales. Over the last two decades an invasive reed grass, Phragmites australis, has migrated into the swale system reducing native vegetation and water available for Sandy Neck's wildlife. In 2002, The Nature Conservancy initiated a Phragmites control project with the Town of Barnstable. This project has continued with support from the Massachusetts Environmental Trust, USFWS Partners Program, NRCS WHIP grants and gifts from private foundations.*

*This year Sandy Neck staffers, Erica Erskine and Officer Justin Willey, assessed and/or treated 74 swales. Justin Willey says, "It was a long and tedious project, but the environmental benefits are great, we identified some plants we've never seen before, the views were breathtaking, and I dropped a few pounds." Hikers can reap the benefits of their hard work when the wild cranberries ripen next year.*



**Phragmites australis**

**Research Cottage Gets Love**

The Sandy Neck research cottage commonly called the Halfway House (due to its location halfway down the Marsh trail) was built prior to 1872, and is listed on the National Registry of Historical Places. Gifted to the town in the 1960's, the cottage has been used primarily by Barnstable High School student groups under the guidance of Dr. Peter Auger. However, due to his retirement from BHS and the deterioration of the cottage, the usage of the building has decreased to only a few times a year.

Recently, thanks to the efforts of volunteers,

the cottage has undergone some much needed renovations including new windows, interior and exterior siding, retaining wall and stairs, as well as a new roof and shingles. We hope that increased numbers of high school groups and



undergraduates/ graduates in biology, writing, and art will take advantage of the cottages location for their studies and enjoyment. Organizations interested in utilizing the cottage should contact the Sandy Neck Park Manager.

***Shhh! It's a secret***  
**Sandy Neck has four tent camping spots available on a first come first serve basis.**



