

# Shore Lines

## Restoring a precious resource

### *APCC launches volunteer monitoring program for Cape Cod salt marshes*



**R**ecognizing the value of citizen involvement and stewardship, the number of salt marsh restoration opportunities on Cape Cod, and the need for quality data, APCC has partnered with Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management (CZM), Massachusetts Bays Program (MBP) and the Massachusetts Wetland Restoration Program (MWRP) to launch a salt marsh volunteer training and monitoring program for the Cape. APCC is now recruiting project volunteers who will monitor birds, fish, plants and water quality at six sites from Bourne to Brewster, and in the process be provided with a rewarding learning experience concerning the unique inhabitants of Cape Cod's salt marshes.

Salt marshes are defined as low-lying vegetated coastal wetlands, influenced by a tidal estuary or marine water. Their importance reaches far beyond that definition.

Salt marshes are one of the most productive natural ecosystems on Earth, and support a rich diversity of plants and animals that are uniquely designed to tolerate and thrive in the constantly changing environment of tidal flow. Additionally, they serve as critical nursery grounds, wildlife habitat, shoreline erosion control, and natural pollution filters for coastal waters.

Despite their importance, salt marshes and wetlands have been mistreated since colonial times. Today, even as communities struggle to find a balance between growth and protecting their natural resources, development in coastal New England continues to threaten not just the quantity but also the quality of the remaining salt marshes.

The salt marsh volunteer training and monitoring program hopes to promote salt marsh protection and restoration by using

*Continued on page 4*

#### Autumn 2003

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**NOTES** **2**  
 APCC's new Web site

---

**REPORT** **3**  
 Annual meeting highlights

---

**ISSUES** **4**  
 Regional projects review

---

**PROFILE** **6**  
 New Board of Directors

---

**NEWS** **7**  
 APCC staff changes

# APCC's new Web site offers news and views...



**NOTES FROM  
MAGGIE GEIST,**  
*Executive Director*

**“Our new  
Web site will  
offer members  
more current  
information  
about APCC’s  
activities.”**

**F**or 35 years, APCC has relied on the generous support of its members to fulfill its mission of protecting the natural resources of Cape Cod.

As a membership organization, it is important to us that you, our members, know what issues and programs APCC is pursuing. Our quarterly newsletter, *Shore Lines*, and our annual report are two vehicles we have used on a regular basis to keep you informed about APCC projects.

Now, we are very pleased to announce a complete revision of our Web site ([www.apcc.org](http://www.apcc.org)), which will enable us to provide more timely information to members and friends.

The site offers several new features, including current environmental news items, an events calendar, and even Cape Cod weather reports!

But, most important, the design of our Web site allows APCC staff to quickly add new or updated information.

Here are some highlights of our new Web site.

### Development Review

APCC is the only organization that actively follows large development proposals that have the potential to impact Cape Cod and its

natural resources. APCC staff evaluates such developments, writes comment letters and speaks out at public hearings.

Now, you can access our comment letters and position statements on our Web site and download them as .pdf files. In fact, hundreds of visitors have already downloaded APCC's position statements and comment letters since our new site became operational.

### Open Space Preservation

As we are all aware, the amount of open space on Cape Cod is rapidly declining. APCC is using its Web site to focus attention on some of the most important parcels in need of protection on Cape Cod.

### APCC Business Roundtable

The Business Roundtable has embarked on an ambitious action plan to direct growth to existing activity centers or downtowns and away from natural resource areas; and to find a way to fund needed infrastructure, particularly wastewater, on Cape Cod.

The goals, plans, and activities of the Roundtable are available for review on our Web site.

### Cape Cod Towns

As the saying goes, all politics is local! In that vein, APCC has created a Web page for each of the 15 towns in an effort to provide information to you about issues of importance at the local level.

\* \* \* \* \*

Our hope is that our new Web site will offer members much more current information about APCC's activities.

We also hope the additional information will inspire those members who wish to be more active in advancing environmental interests on Cape Cod.



# APCC annual meeting: Robert Durand and local environmental heroes honored

Celebrating APCC's 35 years of environmental stewardship on Cape Cod, and looking ahead to the goals and challenges of the next 35 years were the backdrop for APCC's annual meeting, held this summer at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Barnstable Village.

At the meeting, APCC members elected four individuals to three-year terms on the Board of Directors (see related article on page 6). The meeting also featured an awards presentation in which four people were honored for their contributions to the protection of Cape Cod's environment.

Francis H. Smith of Falmouth received the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs Environmental Achievement Award for his multi-year volunteer effort to restore the Quashnet River back to a productive trout stream.

For his years of dedicated work in protecting Eastham's natural resources, the APCC Paul Tsongas Environmental Recognition Award was presented to Henry Lind, Eastham Shellfish Constable and Natural Resource Officer.

David Pearson was the recipient of the APCC Volunteer of the Year Award for his contribution of time and expertise in helping APCC settle in to the new Barnstable Village office last year.

## Former EOEA Secretary speaks out on issues

Special guest Robert Durand, Secretary of Environmental Affairs for the state during the administrations of Paul Cellucci and Jane Swift, was on hand to receive the Environmental Protection Agency's Paul Keough Award for Environmental Excellence.

In his acceptance speech, Durand remarked that working in the public sector frequently required him to withhold personal comment, but as a private citizen, he now felt free to express his opinion. He then proceeded to state his position on several current environmental issues that affect Cape Cod:

- Concerning the Massachusetts Military Reservation, Durand opposes the state's willingness to give the military 25-year lease extensions for continued use of the base without first ensuring that future uses do not create new threats to the water supply. He also believes the

state should require a commitment from the military to replace all Upper Cape water supplies that were lost to contamination, and provide guarantees that it will stick to its promise to complete the base cleanup in a timely manner. Durand said establishment of the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve on the northern 15,000 acres of the MMR "provides us all with an opportunity to have a vision, which is good, clean water for future generations. Nothing is more important. Why is it then that this administration is so quick to extend long-term leases?"

- Acknowledging the controversy surrounding the proposed Nantucket Sound wind farm, Durand called for the adoption of policy that would regulate the siting of offshore wind energy production. Such a policy would determine which locations were appropriate sites for the development of wind energy and which were inappropriate.
- Durand lamented what he perceives is a lack of focus on open space preservation under the new state administration. The previous two governors had set a goal of preserving one million acres of open space across the state by 2020, with a target of 200,000 acres by 2010. To reach that goal, the state would need to purchase or protect 50,000 acres a year. According to Durand, "We'd reached 150,000 acres when I left office. Since January, only 2,500 acres have been protected, and 1,000 of those were a gift." Durand also pointed to the \$753 million Environmental Bond bill passed by the legislature and signed into law in 2002, while he was still Secretary of Environmental Affairs. Although the bond includes over \$200 million allocated toward the protection of open space, the available funding has so far not been utilized by the current administration.

Durand congratulated APCC on its 35th anniversary, and praised the organization's continued advocacy efforts in the areas of groundwater protection and open space preservation.



*Former Environmental Affairs Secretary Bob Durand expressed concern over the state's recent environmental record at APCC's annual meeting.*

## Salt marsh restoration

*Continued from cover*

volunteer data to evaluate salt marsh conditions, identify restoration opportunities, and assess restoration success. The findings will be used to support state and regional programs that gauge wetland restoration potential, progress, and success.

The project objectives include:

- Providing volunteers with comprehensive training and assistance to allow them to monitor specific Cape Cod salt marshes. Many of these salt marshes are active candidate sites for the restoration of restricted tidal flow. The goal is to show the benefits and success of restoring tidal flow, and to educate and involve citizens in monitoring salt marsh conditions.
- Ensuring that the volunteers' data are quality controlled in every step of the data generation process, from the field protocols to data entry, analysis and evaluation.



*Volunteers will be trained to monitor four key indicators of salt marsh health.*

A series of workshops will be conducted to train volunteers in each of the indicators, and will include a field site visit. The first workshop was held in Sandwich earlier this autumn, and the next will be in spring, 2004.

For more information please contact APCC staff biologist, Tara Nye, toll free at 1-877-955-4142 or [tnye@apcc.org](mailto:tnye@apcc.org).

Funding for this program is provided by the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment.

- Forwarding the data to the state agency wetland restoration project managers and coastal habitat specialists to support their assessments and help formulate future actions.

The staff from CZM, MBP, and MWRP will work with APCC's staff biologist, Tara Nye, to train volunteers on the use of a variety of techniques that assess wetland health, enabling the volunteers to monitor salt marshes in their towns and local areas.

The monitoring program focuses on four areas of study that are used to measure salt marsh health:

- **Salinity** – Water salinity is at the heart of salt marsh health. Conditions that restrict the flow of salt water into a marsh produce a poor environment for the rich diversity of salt marsh life. Volunteer monitors will gauge a marsh's soundness by conducting water salinity tests.
- **Plants** – The type and diversity of plants found in salt marshes are a good indicator of marsh conditions. Using identification books and meter square plots, volunteers will learn to identify salt marsh plant species, and record their occurrence and percent of coverage within a series of transects at each site.

- **Birds** – Volunteers will identify by sight and sound the many varieties of birds that frequent a wetland site. The species, number and activity of birds recorded give a good indication of the habitat quality of a salt marsh.
- **Fish** – The diversity of fish species and the numbers in which they are found are another clue to a salt marsh's habitat quality. Volunteers will use seining nets to collect, identify, measure, weigh and release salt marsh fish.

The six project sites are at various stages of restoration, ranging from early project design and preparation to post-restoration. The sites are:

- **Wings Neck salt marsh in Bourne.** Post-restoration phase; will be monitored for plants.
- **State Game Farm in E. Sandwich.** Pre-restoration phase; will be monitored for salinity and plants.
- **Bridge Creek salt marsh in Barnstable.** Phase I of the restoration process; will require salinity, plant and bird monitoring.
- **Bass Creek salt marsh in Yarmouth.** Pre-restoration phase; will be monitored for salinity, plants and birds.
- **Quivett Creek marsh in Dennis.** Pre-restoration phase; will be monitored for salinity, plants and fish.
- **Freemans Pond wetland in Brewster.** Pre-restoration phase; will be monitored for salinity, plants and birds.

## Regional issues followed by APCC

APCC has been closely monitoring several large development proposals, projects and other important issues that have the potential to impact the Cape's environment and quality of life. APCC's position papers and written comments to federal, state and regional regulatory authorities regarding the following issues can be viewed on our Web site. Log on to [www.apcc.org](http://www.apcc.org) and select "Issues and Projects" on the Menu.

- Massachusetts Military Reservation Lease Extension
- Barnstable Municipal Airport Expansion, Hyannis
- Sagamore Rotary Improvements
- Mashpee Place Retail Development
- New Seabury Development, Mashpee
- Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan Update
- Cape Wind Associates Wind Farm, Nantucket Sound

## Can one person make a difference?

The answer is yes. Dedicated citizens, working individually, participating in neighborhood groups or serving on town committees, play a critical role in protecting the natural beauty, fragile resources and distinct character of the communities in which they live. So far this year, local community advocates on Cape Cod have helped bring about the following accomplishments:

- The designation of, and successful implementation of regulations for, the 300-acre Crowes Pasture/Quivett Neck District of Critical Planning Concern. Local advocates also helped generate enormous public awareness of the significance of Crowes Pasture, leading to the purchase by the town of 33 acres that were key in preventing future large-scale development of the area.
- The withdrawal of plans by Stop & Shop to build a supermarket in Truro that would have created traffic nightmares, threatened water resources and changed the rural character of the Outer Cape.
- The change in plans to build a Shaw's Supermarket outside Mashpee's Certified Growth Center on Route 151 and Old Barnstable Rd. Shaw's has decided to look at a more appropriate location in Mashpee Commons.
- The protection of Provincetown's greenway, a 122-acre forest and wetlands wildlife corridor bordering the length of Route 6. The land is now under the management of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.
- The adoption of a number of important smart growth and resource protection bylaws at several town meetings this past spring.

Become an **APCC Community Advocate** in your own Cape Cod town and start making a difference!

To find out how, please call APCC toll free at 1-877-955-4142 or e-mail us at [info@apcc.org](mailto:info@apcc.org).

# A profile of APCC's new Board members

Changes in the makeup of the APCC Board of Directors occurred at the August 6 annual meeting. Two individuals retired from the board, while four others were elected by the organization's membership to serve as replacements and to fill two additional vacant spots.

Retiring were Robert Neese and Amy Wuolle. Amy served as the board's treasurer for the past year, and will be replaced in that position by Charles Thomsen.

APCC thanks both Bob and Amy for contributing their time and talents to the service of the organization. We wish to give special recognition to Bob, who sat on the Board of Directors from 1998 to 2003, and served as president from 1998 to 2002. His leadership has been a tremendous asset to APCC.

Below is a look at APCC's newest board members.

**Robert Gatewood** – A native of West Virginia, Rob has been a Cape resident since 1986 and now resides in

Sandwich. He is Conservation Administrator for the Town of Barnstable. Rob served on the APCC Board from 1992 to 1995. Prior to coming to Cape Cod, Rob worked for the West Virginia Extension Service and the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources for 10 years.



towns of Belchertown and Harwich. She served for nine years on the board of directors of the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions. Currently, Jane serves as co-chair of the AmeriCorps Advisory Board and as a member of the steering committee of the Pleasant Bay Alliance and the Chatham Land Bank and Open Space Committee. Jane lives in Chatham.

**Chris Neill** – A native of New York City, Chris lives in Falmouth and works as a research scientist at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole. His research focuses on understanding how changes in land use and other human activities alter the structure of ecosystems and the ways that ecosystems cycle nutrients and organic matter. Chris serves as chairman of the Cape Cod Group of the Sierra Club and is a

member of the 300 Committee Land Trust. He writes a monthly column on birds and ecology for *The Falmouth Enterprise*.



**Carol Green** – Carol currently serves as president of the Wellfleet Harbor Actor's Theater group. She is also a member of the executive committee of the Center for Coastal Studies, a member of the Truro Center for the Arts, and a member of the Truro Conservation Trust. She is founder and president of the Phillips-Green Foundation, a small family foundation dedicated to teaching the importance of philanthropy to future generations. Carol lives in Truro with her husband, Edward. They have three grown children.

**Jane Harris** – Jane has been active in environmental efforts for over twenty years. She has held the position of Conservation Administrator for the



## Dorothy Pearson retires from APCC

APCC announces the retirement of Dorothy Pearson, Director's Assistant at the organization for the past 10 years. An invaluable component of the APCC family, Dorothy quickly



became an office institution, highly regarded for her cheerful friendliness and professionalism by fellow staff, APCC members, volunteers and board of directors both past and present. Although her last day at APCC was at the end of June, Dorothy is no doubt keeping plenty busy with her *other* family, consisting of husband and many children and grandchildren.

## Diane Bryant joins APCC staff

APCC is pleased to welcome Diane Bryant, who has been hired for the position of Executive Assistant. A native Cape Codder going back five generations, Diane readily



admits to a passion for environmental issues and the preservation of her Cape home. Her previous experience reflects that passion; she worked for the Bourne Conservation Commission for 10 years, and was the northeast regional manager for an environmental company assigned to help with the cleanup of the Massachusetts Military Reservation. Diane is excited about her new position, stating, "I love it here at APCC!"

## Parties with a Purpose

APCC has recently participated in several social gatherings hosted by APCC members who invited family, friends and neighbors into their homes to learn more about the work of our organization. Ranging in size from five to fifty guests, these events have been festive celebrations of the Cape Cod quality of life. Featuring a brief presentation by APCC Executive Director Maggie Geist, they also provide your guests with the opportunity to voice their opinions regarding future efforts to protect the Cape Cod environment. These events have been so successful we are encouraging other APCC members to consider hosting a "party with a purpose." You provide the venue and we do the rest. Contact us toll free at 1-877-955-4142.

## Acknowledge Someone Special



*Celebrating our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

By now you have already received APCC's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary appeal, which provides the opportunity to honor or remember someone whose love for the natural beauty of Cape Cod you would like to acknowledge. Dedicate your 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Appeal gift and APCC will send an attractive acknowledgement card to the honoree or the family of the person being remembered. Please consider this thoughtful way of recognizing someone special as you make your 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary gift.

## Changed your e-mail address recently?

APCC would like to keep our membership information accurate and up-to-date. Please drop us a line at [info@apcc.org](mailto:info@apcc.org) and let us know your current e-mail address.

**I would like to join APCC as a NEW member:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

On-Cape Address \_\_\_\_\_

- \$500 Partner     \$50 Family Membership    *This is a special gift!*  
 \$250 Associate     \$30 Basic Membership     In honor of     In memory of  
 \$100 Supporter     Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_    Name \_\_\_\_\_

My check payable to APCC is enclosed.

Please charge to my credit card:     MasterCard     Visa

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

# APCC

Association to Preserve Cape Cod

P.O. Box 398, Barnstable, MA 02630  
Toll Free: 1-877-955-4142 (508) 362-4226

info@apcc.org ■ www.apcc.org

*As a non-profit organization, all contributions to APCC are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.*

You can now join APCC online.  
It's quick and easy. Just visit our Web site at  
**www.apcc.org**

## APCC

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*The Association to Preserve Cape Cod is a non-profit corporation founded in 1968 "to foster policies and programs that promote the preservation of natural resources on Cape Cod."*

### APCC Staff

- Margaret Geist, *Executive Director*
- Don Keeran, *Assistant Director*
- Tad Kuhn, *Development Director*
- Tara Nye, *Staff Biologist*
- Diane Bryant, *Executive Assistant*
- Everett Kiefer, *Clerk/Receptionist*
- Patrick Frye, *Membership Field Coordinator*

*Shore Lines* Edited by Don Keeran  
Newsletter designed by Karen Holmes

Support comes from 5,600 memberships, and from gifts and grants from individuals, foundations, and businesses.

### Board of Directors

- Ronald E. Reed, *President (Cotuit)*
- Mark H. Robinson, *Vice-President (Cotuit)*
- Susan L. Shephard, *Clerk (Falmouth)*
- Charles H. Thomsen, *Treasurer (E. Orleans)*
- Jo Anne Miller Buntich, *(Sandwich)*
- Celine Gandolfo, *(Provincetown)*
- Robert Gatewood, *(Sandwich)*
- Carol Green, *(Truro)*
- Jane Harris, *(Chatham)*
- Kurt E. Hellfach, *(Chatham)*
- Ralph Herbst, *(E. Falmouth)*
- James G. Hinkle, Jr. *(Cummaquid)*
- Beverly A. Kane, *(Mashpee)*
- Chris Neill, *(Falmouth)*
- John D. O'Brien, *(Harwich Port)*
- Frederick M. O'Regan, *(West Barnstable)*
- Gwendolyn C. Pelletier, *(Eastham)*
- Lawrence D. Shubow, *(Mashpee)*
- Edith V. Squibb, *(Barnstable)*
- James E. Tobin, *(Brewster)*



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Celebrating our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



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