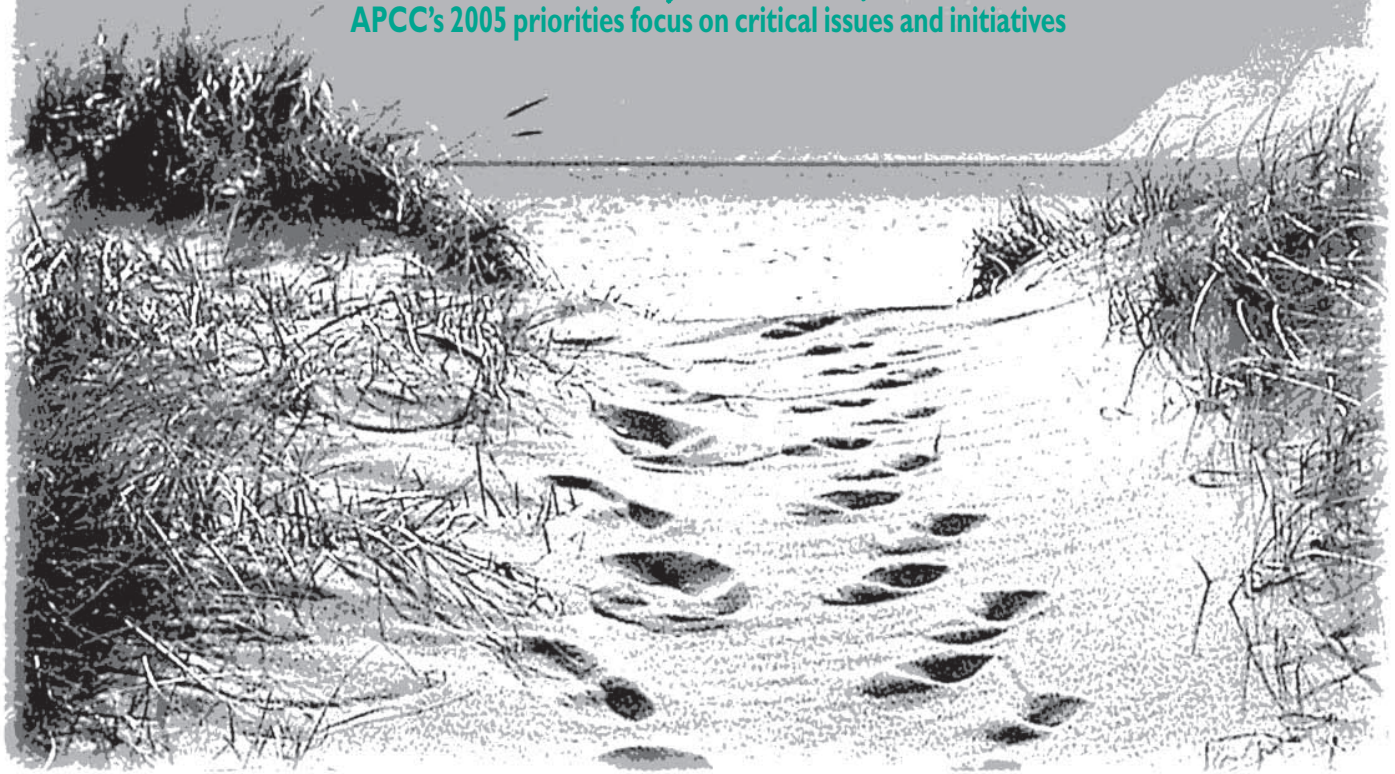


## Preserving Cape Cod

APCC's 2005 priorities focus on critical issues and initiatives



This publication of *Shore Lines* is devoted to the programs and issues on which APCC will be concentrating its attention in 2005. The effort to protect Cape Cod's environment is an ongoing – and challenging – mission. Therefore, in 2005 we are developing new projects to help educate the public about issues such as growth management and natural resource protection.

We also remain the Cape's leading watchdog against environmental threats, steadfastly promoting the adoption of policies that strengthen environmental safeguards across the region.

### Choosing how - and where - to grow

In coordination with APCC's Business Roundtable, APCC is concentrating its growth management efforts on three specific issue areas this year:

#### Fighting sprawl

APCC will continue to be the leading regional voice advocating for the elimination of sprawl-style development by directing growth to designated town centers and away from areas that are less developed.

APCC and the Business Roundtable have consistently promoted the revitalization and redevelopment of the Cape's town centers to allow for increased density and a mix of uses. APCC has also maintained that to curb sprawl, growth in town centers *must* be offset by a reduction in growth elsewhere.

*Continued on page 3*

## Wind farm environmental report fuels many questions



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

**“APCC calls for a supplemental DEIS to address the document’s serious shortcomings.”**

APCC’s mission to preserve Cape Cod’s natural resources is founded on an appreciation of the bountiful and interconnected resources of the Earth, and of our responsibility to conserve those resources. But we know we are not really safeguarding our land and water if we continue to allow fossil fuel emissions to destroy them. Damage from fossil fuels is arguably the most life-threatening problem on our planet for which we all bear responsibility—from the daily decisions we make in our individual lives to national policies crafted by those we elect.

It is against this backdrop that APCC submitted comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Cape Wind’s proposal to erect 130 turbines on 24 square miles of Horseshoe Shoal. If built, this wind farm would create a supply of clean energy. It is also a very large installation proposed for an area revered by many, for development by a private party, and outside the oversight of a national energy plan. For some, the need for clean energy has led to early embracement of the proposal. For others, no energy project should ever be sited in Nantucket Sound.

APCC’s ultimate goal is to support the right renewable energy project in the right place with the right regulatory process. As the first DEIS for an offshore wind farm, the Cape Wind DEIS will be a model for future proposals, and must contain adequate information and results that are reasonable and balanced.

While APCC believes the DEIS contains useful information, it falls far short of providing a thorough evaluation of the project, and does not offer sensible alternatives to the applicant’s proposal. We call for a Supplemental DEIS to address the document’s serious shortcomings.

The DEIS evaluation is flawed because it takes place outside of a national energy plan. The review has been conducted under standard procedures of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)—procedures that are ill-suited for emerging renewable energy technologies. The USACE process provides only for acceptance or rejection of a specific proposal and does not allow for multiple or compromise solutions. The analysis of

alternatives does not include all potential sites, but is restricted to those suggested by the proponent or others during the review process. APCC fears these procedures actually may hinder the development of renewable energy.

The USACE was wrong to restrict the alternatives analysis to locations that could support a 200 MW or greater project. A 200 MW facility can only be sited where there are vast amounts of land or water and sufficient excess transmission capacity to connect to the regional grid. With this single decision, the USACE effectively removed all locations in New England from consideration—except for the Nantucket Sound area. As APCC has repeatedly stated, if Nantucket Sound is the only place to site a wind farm, the future of wind energy is dim.

APCC urged the evaluation of smaller land and sea installations, multiple-site installations and alternative spacing of turbines.

APCC documented many areas of the DEIS where data are incomplete and conclusions unsupported by data. In particular, the DEIS contains incomplete and faulty data on potential avian impacts. APCC supports recommendations by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Mass Audubon for three full years of monitoring of terns, winter waterfowl and migrating songbirds.

This proposal has underscored the seemingly insurmountable problem of meeting increasing energy needs, while reducing dependence on fossil fuels. Nationally, electricity demand is expected to increase 1.9% annually over the next 20 years. While the Cape Wind project would supply an average of 25% of the current energy needs of Cape Cod, it would only provide about 1% of the current capacity of the New England grid. How many Cape Winds, or how many nuclear, coal, gas or oil-fired power plants, must be built to quench future demand?

We cannot build ourselves out of this problem. Leadership is needed on the national level to implement a comprehensive energy program that advances renewables and includes large-scale conservation. Real commitment is needed on the individual level to reduce personal energy consumption. No less than the future of our Cape Cod home is at stake.

Read APCC’s entire comment letter to the USACE at [www.apcc.org](http://www.apcc.org).

## APCC's 2005 priorities

*Continued from cover*

Now that several towns have adopted or are considering bylaw changes to promote town center revitalization, APCC is re-emphasizing the need to implement growth reduction measures in outlying areas through the use of various planning tools, including downzoning, land acquisition and cluster development.

This year, APCC also plans to call attention to opportunities to “undevelop” previously-developed parcels in targeted areas that have contributed to sprawl across the landscape. Reclaiming areas of Cape Cod can reduce impacts on natural resources, create better definition between villages, restore vistas and serve as the necessary offsets to density increases in town centers.

Following closely on the heels of several growth management success stories last year – most notably the adoption of the Dennisport revitalization measures – APCC and the Roundtable are continuing to push for more zoning bylaw changes that encourage smart growth and reduce sprawl.

APCC, the Roundtable and other regional partners also plan to sponsor two workshops as follow-up to a highly successful main street revitalization and redevelopment conference held late in 2004.

### Community Preservation Act

APCC will continue to advocate for passage of the Community Preservation Act in Cape Cod towns that have not yet adopted it. Interest in the CPA has been renewed now that an amendment was passed by the legislature that permits communities to switch from the Land Bank to the CPA.

CPA funds must be divided among open space, historic preservation and affordable housing programs, making it a very useful tool for growth management efforts that strive to create housing opportunities in revitalized town centers while preserving open space in outlying areas.

The amendment, which was written specifically for Cape Cod, enables the 15 towns in Barnstable County to transfer their participation in the Land Bank to the CPA at no additional cost to taxpayers. Towns can also choose to retain the Land Bank and add the CPA, or simply do nothing and keep the Land Bank.

If a town votes to make the switch, the three percent surcharge on real property that funded the

local Land Bank account then goes into the CPA fund. Plus, the locally-generated revenue is now matched with money from a dedicated state fund set aside for Massachusetts municipalities that participate in the CPA.

APCC believes each Cape town must weigh how best to allocate CPA funds based on local open space, housing and historic preservation goals.

### Wastewater Infrastructure

Impacts to the quality of Cape Cod's coastal waters and ponds will increase in severity if the region continues to rely on conventional septic systems. The lack of proper wastewater infrastructure also drastically reduces the ability of the region to accommodate denser town center development as a means to reduce sprawl.

APCC has long recognized the seriousness of the wastewater problem and the implications for Cape Cod if solutions are not found.

Lately, public dialogue has progressed to the point that many municipal and regional political leaders are now in agreement that the status quo must change. APCC is committing much energy and resources in 2005 to move the discussion forward, helping ensure the creation and implementation of a workable regional strategy.

In 2004, Barnstable County appointed a Blue Ribbon Committee to study the wastewater question and come up with the best approach. APCC was one of the representatives on the committee. Late in the year, the committee endorsed recommendations that had been put forward in 2003 by APCC and the Business Roundtable to create a county entity charged with addressing the complex and costly issue of wastewater infrastructure.

Solving the wastewater infrastructure problem on Cape Cod will depend in no small part on the understanding and commitment of the public. Because the issue itself is very complicated and because the solution will be very costly, APCC is collaborating with other regional groups on the development of a comprehensive public education program.

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**“APCC is committing much energy and resources in 2005 to move the wastewater discussion forward.”**



## 'Visualizing' a successful revitalization model

APCC believes the process that culminated in the successful passage of a main street revitalization bylaw in Dennisport is transferable to other communities on Cape Cod. To encourage further

use of the process in other town center revitalization efforts, APCC intends to develop a program based on the design and planning techniques used by the town and our 2004 Whitlock Intern to create visualizations of Dennisport.

The Dennisport model brought together all the stakeholders, involved a thorough public review process, produced a carefully planned bylaw that incorporated specific building design standards, and – thanks to APCC's summer intern – utilized precise architectural visualizations to illustrate how a revitalized Dennisport could look.

The effort not only ended in approval of the bylaw at town meeting, but resulted in the town of Dennis receiving awards from the state and from the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Planning Association.

A program developed by APCC could even provide some main street marketing analysis to help guide towns in their revitalization plans. APCC is currently seeking funding to make the project possible.

APCC also plans to use the 2005 Whitlock summer intern for a project that complements the successes of 2004.

Visit [www.apcc.org](http://www.apcc.org) to view more Dennisport visualizations.

*APCC's 2004 Whitlock Intern created visualizations depicting Dennisport under 2004 zoning and what would be possible once village center revitalization proposals were adopted. Town planners used the visualizations to explain the proposals at town meeting, which overwhelmingly approved the bylaw changes.*



## Pushing for land use reform in Massachusetts

Once again, APCC is taking a leadership role in a statewide movement to reform Massachusetts' antiquated and ineffective land use laws, regarded as some of the nation's most outdated. Current state law places unreasonable restraints on local growth management efforts.

The Massachusetts Land Use Reform Act, comprising 42 amendments to the state Zoning Act and Subdivision Control Laws, was refiled in the legislature in December 2004 with nearly a quarter of the entire legislature signing on as co-sponsors, including the Cape's Sen. Robert O'Leary and Reps. Shirley Gomes, Matthew Patrick and Eric Turkington.

The amendments were drafted by the Zoning Reform Working Group, a body of planners, land use attorneys, government officials, environmental organizations and housing advocates from across the state. APCC is a member of the working group, and also coordinates the Coalition for Zoning Reform, which is advocating passage of the legislation. The bill will reach its first hurdle this spring, when a hearing will likely be held before the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

For more information on the Land Use Reform Act, visit [www.apcc.org](http://www.apcc.org) and select "Legislation" on the Home Page menu.

## Conserving open space

### Priority Parcels Project

The acquisition of Cape Cod open space is an essential component of regional growth management strategies, and it is vitally important for protection of the Cape's natural resources.

As open space disappears, it is increasingly important that the preservation of land holding the greatest resource value be given the highest priority. APCC is completing a town-by-town study of all the Cape's undeveloped and underdeveloped parcels, to be ranked according to their environmental significance. The study will give us a clearer picture of how much priority open space is still unprotected across Cape Cod. It will also assist towns in strategizing their land acquisition goals.

### State open space funding

APCC continues to advocate for increased state funding for land acquisition. Severe budget cuts for state environmental programs over the last two years have meant drastic reductions in money going toward open space purchases.

APCC has expressed concern over the current administration's lack of focus on programs that finance state land acquisitions or distribute grants to aid municipalities in local open space purchases.

At stake are thousands of acres of forest, meadows, farmlands, and areas rich in natural resources across Massachusetts that are threatened



Photo: The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts.

by sprawling growth. Statewide, approximately 40 acres are lost every day to development. The funding cutbacks have severely limited the ability of communities on Cape Cod and elsewhere to finance costly land purchases.

In our region, funding from the Land Bank and Community Preservation Act falls far short of the money that will be needed to protect the Cape's remaining priority open space parcels. APCC has joined other Massachusetts environmental organizations in calling on the current administration to restore funding for open space, at a minimum, to the levels of previous administrations.

*Setting priorities: Fox Island Marsh and the surrounding woodlands have been the focus of a sustained open space acquisition effort between the town of Wellfleet, Wellfleet Conservation Trust and MassWildlife since 1994. To date, 153 acres have been preserved. Currently, funds are being sought for the purchase of 4.65 acres at the point leading into the marsh.*

## “Land of Sand and Water” premieres on WFCC-FM

Just what is it about our small peninsula that makes it so special, and so worth protecting? To find out, tune in to APCC's “Land of Sand and Water” at 8 AM each weekday morning on WFCC-FM, located at 107.5 on the radio dial.

APCC is producing the daily one-minute radio spots to promote a greater awareness of the many natural wonders that surround us and connect us to our Cape Cod home. The series explores a wide range of topics that highlight the Cape's environment – from natural history, plants, animals and their habitats, to interesting places, environmental research and special projects.

Naming the program “Land of Sand and Water” calls attention to our existence on this small and fragile spit of land that is so inexorably linked to ocean, pond and groundwater.



“We get so wrapped up in the routine of our day-to-day living that all too often we take our natural surroundings for granted, or forget what it is about Cape Cod that sets it apart from everywhere else,” explained APCC Executive Director Maggie Geist.

By offering a little bit of the natural world to people as they drive to work or begin their day, APCC intends for radio listeners to come away with a better understanding and appreciation of the connection between their lives and the Cape's environment.

Funding for “Land of Sand and Water” is made possible through the Dolphin Trust and the Mary-Louise Eddy and Ruth N. Eddy Foundation.

Recent episodes of “Land of Sand and Water” can be heard at [www.apcc.org](http://www.apcc.org).



## Assisting Cape Cod salt marsh restoration



*Volunteer monitors haul a seining net to identify and catalog fish species at the State Game Farm salt marsh in East Sandwich.*

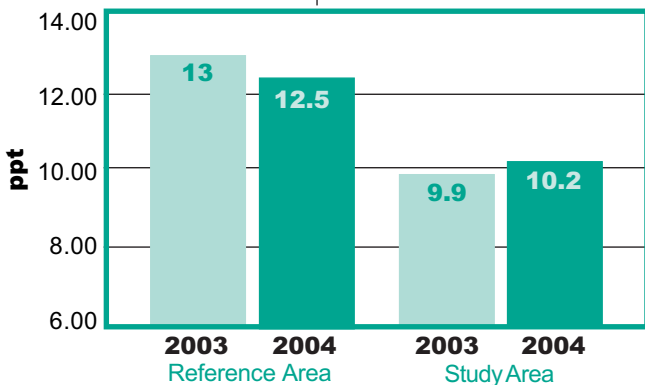
A study conducted by APCC volunteers that tracks restoration efforts at six Cape Cod salt marshes is now in its third year. APCC coordinates the training and activity of volunteer monitors, who are assigned to collect data at the six sites. The data is being used to help researchers gauge the success of efforts to restore marsh health by removing man-made restrictions to tidal flow.

In the past two years, post-restoration data were gathered at Wings Neck in Bourne, and pre-restoration data were collected at the other locations in East Sandwich, Barnstable, Yarmouth Port, East Dennis and Brewster. This winter, restoration was completed at the East Dennis Quivet Creek salt marsh. Construction has begun at Bridge Creek salt marsh in Barnstable and is scheduled to begin soon at the State Game Farm site in East Sandwich. Volunteer monitors are hopeful that data will begin to show positive effects from the restoration work at these sites.

APCC plans to expand the parameters of the program, which currently include water data on salinity, plant diversity, and bird and fish species. New equipment will be purchased to keep track of other water quality indicators, such as dissolved oxygen and pH levels.

*The graph shows water salinity monitoring results before restoration of tidal flow at Quivet Creek salt marsh in East Dennis. The Reference Area is the portion of the marsh where tidal flow is unrestricted, and the Study Area is where flow has been restricted.*

*APCC's monitors hope future samples from the Study Area will show increased salinity now that tidal flow has been restored.*



Once again, APCC is fortunate to have the services of an AmeriCorps-Cape Cod volunteer to assist with the monitoring program. The 2005 AmeriCorps-Cape Cod volunteer is Jesse Bermel.

The popular program currently utilizes 70 volunteer monitors, many of whom are members of the Senior AmeriCorps program. However, more volunteers are needed for monitoring in the summer months.

APCC is also in search of volunteers to help plant native salt marsh-tolerant plants along the bank and trail leading into the Quivet Creek site, as part of the restoration work being done there. This project will take place in early spring 2005.

To find out more about volunteering for the Quivet Creek planting project or the volunteer monitoring program, please contact APCC Staff Biologist Tara Nye toll free at 1-877-955-4142 or at [tnye@apcc.org](mailto:tnye@apcc.org).

*APCC and its partners have released an informative brochure about Cape Cod's salt marshes and the restoration work being conducted across the Cape. Copies of the brochure can be obtained by contacting APCC at 1-877-955-4142 or [info@apcc.org](mailto:info@apcc.org).*

### Joan Bailey joins APCC

APCC would like to welcome Joan Bailey, who joins the APCC staff as Executive Assistant. Joan has quickly proven herself to be an indispensable and much-appreciated addition to the APCC family, skillfully taking on a multitude of projects with just the right mix of professionalism, patience and good humor.



*Joan Bailey, making life easier at APCC.*

## Creating new programs to enhance APCC's potential

APCC has an ambitious and varied work plan for 2005, but from a development standpoint the strategy is simple: APCC must continue to grow stronger to meet the challenges of the new century.

APCC recently hired Janet Serman of Falmouth to the newly created position of Development Officer. Following 18 years with the MIT Alumni Association and five years at the Woods Hole Research Center, Janet has been brought aboard to identify philanthropic opportunities for APCC members who wish to direct their charitable giving at a higher level for the protection and preservation of our unparalleled Cape Cod quality of life.

"Everybody who lives on the Cape has a stake in its future," says Janet. "APCC members recognize how important the protection of our environment is to that future, and are willing to take the steps necessary to transfer that legacy to our children and grandchildren."

At the forefront of Janet's efforts will be a campaign to establish the *Carpe Diem Fund*. This fund will allow APCC to address environmental issues without entering the involved grant application process or starting a campaign from scratch. With resources in hand, APCC will be able to respond to issues more quickly and effectively; resolve small problems before they become big problems; provide support to towns and organizations in need of timely technical and strategic assistance; raise additional funds through matching gifts; and be a stronger partner with organizations that have a shared concern. For more information on the *Carpe Diem Fund*, please contact Janet toll free at 1-877-955-4142.

Equally high on APCC's 2005 development agenda is an increased capacity to facilitate planned gifts. This commitment will allow

APCC to more effectively assist and support donors who wish to fulfill their charitable and financial objectives through the benefits of planned giving vehicles.

Additionally, our ongoing work to attract new members will be complemented by an increased focus on stewardship. With current membership totals at the highest levels in the history of APCC, we recognize the importance of maintaining current relationships through improved communications, increased membership benefits, a more interactive and comprehensive Web site, and additional opportunities to learn about and appreciate the unique qualities of the Cape Cod environment.

While we do not underestimate the challenges that accompany the proposed growth and change for 2005, APCC is confident that the steps taken thus far have been the right ones, and we know that our members have never failed to rise to the occasion in support of our efforts.



*Development Officer Janet Serman comes to APCC with plans for increasing the organization's ability to address important issues.*

## Remembering Jim Tobin

APCC's Board of Directors, staff and friends were shocked and saddened to learn of the passing of long-time board member Jim Tobin. Jim died on March 1 from pneumonia and complications of gall bladder surgery. He was 64.

Jim served on APCC's board from 1998 to 2004. He remained on APCC's development committee after retiring from the board.

Jim was involved with many organizations in his hometown of Brewster as well as throughout the region, including serving at one time as president of the Ocean Edge Resort and Golf Club, president of the Cape Museum of Fine Arts, and as a member of the Cape Cod Business Roundtable. At the time of his death, Jim was president of the Home Builders & Remodelers Association of Cape Cod.

While with Ocean Edge Resort, Jim was credited with introducing environmental tourism to Cape Cod. For this effort, he was acknowledged by then-Governor Michael Dukakis with a Commonwealth of Massachusetts proclamation, and also received recognition from Senator John Kerry, Congressman Garry Studds and State Senator Henri Rauschenbauch.

In a letter sent out to past and present board members, APCC Board of Directors President Ron Reed remembered Jim not only for his contributions to APCC, but also for his engaging personality. "Jim was such a warm and enthusiastic supporter of our organization... We will miss his big smile and many kindnesses."

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

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

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- \$500 Partner     \$50 Family Membership    *This is a special gift!*  
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My check payable to APCC is enclosed.  
 Please charge to my credit card:     MasterCard     Visa

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# APCC

Association to Preserve Cape Cod

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

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## 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

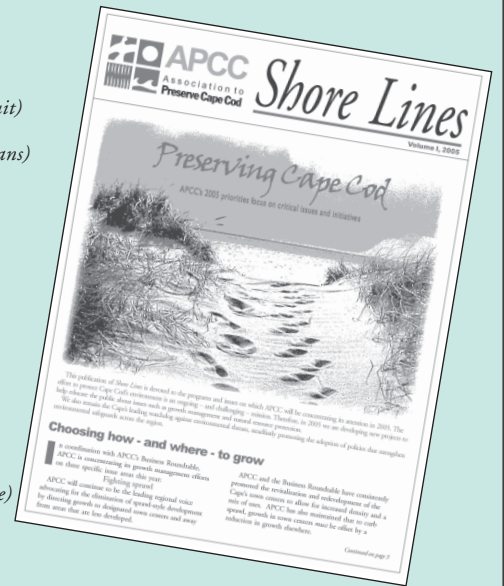
- Margaret Geist, *Executive Director*
- Don Keeran, *Assistant Director*
- Tara Nye, *Staff Biologist*
- Tad Kuhn, *Development Director*
- Janet Serman, *Development Officer*
- Joan Bailey, *Executive Assistant*
- Everett Kiefer, *Clerk/Receptionist*
- Patrick Frye, *Membership Field Coordinator*

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

*Support comes from 5,700 memberships, and from gifts and grants from individuals, foundations and businesses.*

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