

Special Anniversary Issue

*Announcing*

## APCC's 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

**DATE:** WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2003

**TIME:** 5-7 PM

**PLACE:** ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
3055 MAIN STREET,  
ROUTE 6A IN BARNSTABLE VILLAGE

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND APCC'S SPECIAL 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL MEETING AND SOCIAL GATHERING. JOIN US IN COMMEMORATING 35 YEARS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY AND PRESERVATION ON CAPE COD.

— BRIEF BUSINESS MEETING AND ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS —

— ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS PRESENTATION —

HORS D'OEUVRES, WINE AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO SOCIALIZE WITH OLD AND NEW FRIENDS

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL APCC TOLL FREE AT 1-877-955-4142

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*APCC gratefully acknowledges  
Cape Cod Bank & Trust for  
underwriting this newsletter.*



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

## Achieving an environmental ethic— our goal for the next 35 years.

**O**n the occasion of our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it is timely to appraise the progress we have made toward our goals as an environmental advocacy and educational organization.

APCC's stated mission is "to promote policies and programs that foster the preservation of the natural resources of Cape Cod." The goals that accompany the mission statement are "preservation of open space, protection of water resources, promotion of responsible planned growth, and the achievement of an environmental ethic."

Reviewing our progress, we can say indisputably that APCC has been a tireless and successful advocate for open space and water resource protection and for managed growth. APCC's leadership in securing passage of the Cape Cod Commission, the Land Bank, and the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve acts, and in the designation of Stellwagen Bank as a National Marine Sanctuary and Cape Cod as a sole-source aquifer are a few of APCC's many accomplishments.

The goal that remains elusive is the achievement of an environmental ethic. In truth, this goal should be at the top of our list instead of the bottom, as sound planning for the protection of our resources would follow naturally if we lived by an environmental ethic. Said another way, it is the very absence of an environmental ethic that has made attaining our other goals difficult.

Volumes have been written about environmental ethics. Here, I use it to mean a deep, thoughtful appreciation and reverence for the intricacy and connectedness of everything on planet Earth—a profound respect for our Earth that would translate naturally to wise and careful stewardship of resources.

Unfortunately, most people live today without a guiding environmental ethic, and consequently without wise planning. The results are not only ecological disorder, but also unnecessary and costly expenditures. In fact, we have so removed

ourselves from a close connection to the physical world that we unquestionably accept the degradation of the natural world and many expenses we would have considered outrageous only a short time ago.

Consider the following local examples of the ecological and economic consequences of poor stewardship.

Although Cape Cod's sandy soils are a giant sponge that readily soaks up and stores our abundant rainfall, many of us purchase bottled drinking water!

On Cape Cod we are blessed with the ocean all around us, dozens of estuaries, and scores of rivers and streams, yet we are forced to import many fish and shellfish!

Although Cape Cod has 400 ponds larger than an acre, each year the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife must re-stock many of our ponds with fish.

Our open spaces used to provide habitat for many important species, including game birds, but each year the National Seashore stocks pheasant (a non-native species) for the hunting season!

For the most part, we do not lament the loss of habitat our lack of stewardship has caused, nor do we complain about the costs of bottled water or stocked fish. Sadly, the outrage of our neighbors and newspapers seems to be directed more to nuisance deer nibbling rhododendrons in suburbs and fox and coyote running loose in neighborhoods. But, if we had only set aside adequate land for our fellow creatures to make their homes, raise their families, and feed their young, we would not be competing with them now.

APCC is determined to reverse this trend. In the future, we will strive for the achievement of an environmental ethic as a leading goal for our organization. Look for more essays on this topic in our newsletters and our Web site in the months to come. We also welcome your comments and input.



(L to R) Community Working Group Chair Mimi McConnell, EOE's Jim Hunt, U.S. Rep. William Delahunt's Congressional Aide Mark Forest, MMR Coalition coordinator Susan Rohrbach, State Rep. Eric Turkington and APCC Executive Director Maggie Geist celebrate passage of the Upper Cape Water Supply Act preserving the upper 15,000 acres of the MMR.

**35<sup>th</sup> APCC**  
 Association to  
 Preserve Cape Cod  
*Celebrating our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

Over the past 35 years, APCC has worked diligently to protect Cape Cod's natural resources through environmental activism. Our ability to respond quickly to crises, to rally our members or the community at a moment's notice, and to adapt the focus of our attention as needed have been our strong suits. Throughout our ongoing efforts, however, we have been steadfast in maintaining the original ideals of our founders: we are grassroots; we are science-based; we are educators; we are activists; we are protectors of our fragile natural resources; we are passionate about our work to retain the Cape Cod quality of life; and our members remain the single greatest resource of our organization.



Governor Michael Dukakis approves the Cape Cod Commission Act.

*"Without APCC's efforts, Cape Cod would be an immeasurably poorer place. Without APCC there would be no Cape Cod Commission, no Cape Cod Land Bank, no Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve, no MMR cleanup. Everyone who loves this special place owes APCC a huge debt of gratitude for its thirty five years of fighting to preserve it."*

State Rep. Eric Turkington

*"APCC has been fighting at the grass roots level for 35 years to preserve and protect the natural beauty that is Cape Cod. From stopping drilling on Georges Bank to holding the government accountable at MMR, the staff, supporters and volunteers of APCC have been on the front lines of conservation for over three decades. They have been a valued partner of mine in environmental struggles we have faced both locally and nationally, and Cape Cod is a better place to live, work, and visit because of their efforts."*

U.S. Senator John Kerry

*"Beautiful vistas, clean water, affordable housing and good transportation networks are all key to a wonderful way of life on Cape Cod. These things are important to the Cape Cod Chamber and we are grateful to have the support and hard work of the Association to Preserve Cape Cod on these key issues."*

Wendy Northcross, Executive Director, Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce

*"APCC has played a pivotal role in protecting the Cape's natural resources. It has educated the public and advocated successfully for the creation of several key initiatives- including the Cape Cod Commission, the Land Bank, and MMR Water Supply Reserve. It has also built an effective partnership between environmental and business leaders to address the Cape's land use issues."*

Margo Fenn, Executive Director, Cape Cod Commission

*"The environment represents our single best chance to revitalize the notion of community. APCC members care about it and it defines you. In fighting for Cape Cod, you are fighting not just for a place, but for a way of life that goes with it. And you are fighting for your community."*

Teresa Heinz, Chairwoman of Heinz Family Philanthropies to APCC members at a 1996 reception.

*For the past 35 years, APCC has played a vital role bringing action to bear on environmental concerns across the Cape. APCC has long recognized that the issues confronting individual towns are also the issues confronting the region as a whole, and its historically broad view has been vital to the success of environmental efforts that benefit all of Cape Cod.*

Susan Nickerson, APCC Executive Director from 1988 - 2000

*"For 35 years, the APCC has been a forceful and effective advocate of Cape Cod. I can't even imagine what this special place would be like today without the APCC. I do know we could not have created a Land Bank, cleaned up Otis, or created a 15,000 acre water supply reserve on the Upper Cape were it not for the vision, skill and perseverance of the APCC."*

U.S. Congressman Bill Delahunt

*"A friend in need is a friend indeed. APCC is Cape Cod's best friend."*

Mark Robinson, Executive Director, Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts

*"I can think of no other organization that has had a more positive impact on the Cape than the APCC. APCC has a rich tradition of being a leader on our most important issues."*

State Senator Rob O'Leary

Acts as co-plaintiff in a lawsuit to prevent irresponsible oil drilling on George's Bank in the ongoing effort to protect one of the most significant marine ecosystems in the world. As early as 1972, APCC plays the role of watchdog against the sale or lease of drilling rights on Georges Bank to oil corporations, guarding against the multiple risks posed by oil exploration and transport.

1978

Begins decades of environmental activism to cleanup the MMR after discovery of a contaminated drinking water supply well in Falmouth is linked to activity on the Massachusetts Military Reservation, the first of many discoveries of groundwater contamination from the military base.

1979

Testifies before a U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee on implementation of the Coastal Zone Management Plan, addressing protection of the quality and quantity of our water supply, erosion of our beaches and offshore/onshore impacts of oil and gas drilling.

1980

Spearheads a successful campaign to have the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency designate Cape Cod as a "sole source aquifer," thereby identifying rainfall as the source of Cape Cod's groundwater supply.

1982



Sen. John Kerry, Rep. Gerry Studds, Adjutant Gen. Raymond Vezina and Sen. Edward Kennedy announce funding for cleanup of the MMR.

Publishes "APCC's Growth Report - Options for Cape Cod's Future," providing information on wetlands, waste disposal, zoning, population projection, growth rates and land-use planning that becomes an invaluable resource for both public and private decision makers, and plants the seed for creation of the Cape Cod Commission.

1985

Leads the Coalition for the Cape Cod Commission Act to victory in establishing this critical regional planning and regulatory agency. Enacted by the Massachusetts Legislature under the Cape Cod Commission Act and confirmed by a majority of Barnstable County voters during a special election, the Cape Cod Commission reviews and regulates Developments of Regional Impact and implements a Cape-wide land use policy plan.

1990

Successfully advocates for legislation proposed by Rep. Gerry Studds designating Stellwagen Bank a National Marine Sanctuary. Culminating a 10 year effort, the U.S. Congress approves the proposal after receiving petitions signed by more than 20,000 persons, 860 written comments, and countless phone calls during a 60 day public comment period.

1992

Realizes the significant influence a persistent and informed group of community activists can have against seemingly insurmountable odds as the Department of Defense commits to funding a containment and cleanup program for toxic plumes emanating from the MMR.

1994



The founders of APCC realized that to be an effective grassroots organization, they would only gain strength through members. Address books were brought to the home of Herb & Bobsie Whitlock and a list of names was culled from family and friends. That first mailing resulted in 300 new members, each of whom had their pertinent information transcribed on a 3x5 card and filed in a box.

Today, APCC is more than 5,500 members strong and the most effective environmental advocacy organization in the region.

APCC's founders accurately assessed the value and importance of a strong constituency. While time and technology have increased our capabilities and improved our methods, members remain our lifeblood:

- Approximately 75% of our annual revenues are received through membership dues and donations;
- Private funding allows APCC to take clear action based on scientific fact and research data. Our decisions and strategies are unencumbered by the political agendas or economic biases of funding sources;
- APCC relies heavily on the active participation of its members for advocacy and education efforts.

It is clear that above all else, APCC is the collective voice of its members speaking out for the protection of our natural resources and the preservation of our unequalled quality of life. To all of our members over the past 35 years...

### Thank You

## Thirty-five Years of Environmental Advocacy: A Look Back at Some APCC Highlights



*"To my mind, APCC has offered the citizens of the Cape the best scientific information available. Science is not weighted down with personal biases, so we can propose good solutions that are not constrained by individual prejudices or based solely on economic considerations.*

APCC Founder Dr. Herbert E. Whitlock in 1994



Photograph by Steve Hardin, Cape Cod Times

**1998**

Celebrates passage of the Cape Cod Land Bank bill as it is adopted into law by all 15 Cape towns following a fourteen-year effort to establish a dedicated funding source in each community for the purchase of open space.

**2002**

Leads a determined advocacy effort to a landmark achievement when Acting Governor Jane Swift signs legislation designating the northern 15,000 acres of the Massachusetts Military Reservation as a protected water supply area and wildlife reserve. The legislation officially transfers control of the 15,000 acres to a state environmental commission and places the land in permanent conservation.

**2003**

Launches a major town-by-town growth management campaign with the APCC Business Roundtable, a diverse group of business, environmental and civic leaders, calling for the adoption of local bylaws that will direct growth to appropriate areas and away from natural resources, including a study of funding options for wastewater infrastructure on Cape Cod.

**1968**

A proposed dredging of Nauset Marsh to create a "safe harbor" for oil tankers and industrial freighters during rough seas is opposed by concerned residents hoping to stop the project. Realizing the significant role grassroots advocacy and education can play, the Association for the Preservation of Cape Cod (APCC) is formed to address regional environmental issues.

**1970**

Advocates successfully for the Ocean Sanctuaries Act, which designates Cape Cod Bay, Buzzards Bay, Vineyard Sound and Nantucket Sound as Massachusetts Ocean Sanctuaries. The Act prohibits exploitation or development that would alter or endanger the ecology or appearance of the ocean for three miles from every shoreline.

**1975**

Begins a 28-year partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey by supplying data from APCC's Cape-wide "Pond Monitoring Program," started in 1972 to track the rise and fall of Cape Cod's water table.

**1968**

*"We are not organizing to complain about something; it is our hope that we can keep information so before the public that the need to complain will not arise."*

APCC Founder Dr. Herbert E. Whitlock in September 1968

*"APCC is the only (environmental) army we have."*

The late U.S. Senator Paul Tsongas at APCC's 1988 Annual Meeting

*"If you get the people concerned, then you are not working on these problems alone."*

Elizabeth Price, APCC staff member 1972-1994

*"Our power as an agency is as a catalyst to promote and achieve 'caring growth'."*

Esther Snyder, APCC Executive Director from 1973 - 1988

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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](http://www.apcc.org)

## Ponds in Peril workshop

The environmental health of Cape Cod's nearly 1,000 ponds continues to draw the interest of concerned individuals and citizen groups. This past May, over 100 participants attended the fourth "Ponds in Peril" workshop, sponsored by APCC and the Cape Cod Commission.

Highlights of the meeting included an update of the Ponds and Lake Stewards (PALS) monitoring program, water sampling strategies for the year, a presentation on groundwater and pond interactions on the upper Cape, a report on Cape Cod's priority ponds, and the unveiling of the *Cape Cod Pond and Lake Atlas*.

A fifth "Ponds in Peril" workshop will be held later this year. "Ponds in Peril" is funded by the Community Foundation of Cape Cod through a Fresh Water Fund Grant to the Cape Cod Commission.

## APCC Summer Intern

APCC continues to utilize Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology as an important component of the Herbert E. Whitlock Memorial Internship program. The 2003 summer intern, Elise Richards, is busy at work on a GIS project that will prove valuable to Cape Cod towns and private conservation trusts searching for the most desirable open space acquisitions.

Elise is combining two sources of GIS data, prime habitat areas and water supply areas, to produce maps of Cape Cod that show where priority open space parcels are located. Cape Cod's rapid rate of development in the last several decades has reduced the amount of remaining open space. The demand for land that spurred recent development has also caused the cost of land to skyrocket, making it difficult to fund open space purchases.

Information provided by the intern project will allow communities to focus their limited financial resources on properties of greatest environmental significance.

A 2003 graduate of Duke University, Elise's majors are in Public Policy Studies and Environmental Science and Policy, with a minor in Economics.

## APCC Annual Report

The APCC 2002 Annual Report is now available. For a free copy, please contact APCC toll free at 1-877-955-4142 or at [info@apcc.org](mailto:info@apcc.org).

The annual report can also be viewed on APCC's Web site, [www.apcc.org](http://www.apcc.org).



## Become a Volunteer Community Advocate!

APCC is looking for volunteers to do one or more of the following:

- Attend local hearings to support bylaw changes that would manage growth and protect natural resources.
- Participate in annual town meetings by supporting open space purchases, zoning changes and other positive environmental action.
- Vote for environmental and community preservation issues in local elections.
- Serve on a town board, commission or committee.
- Work with other APCC volunteers in a neighborhood or town-wide.
- Speak out at public hearings concerning developments that threaten natural resources and community character.
- Become a member of APCC's Action Alert Team.

In the last issue of *Shore Lines*, APCC announced the launch of a new citizen volunteer program for individuals or groups interested in helping APCC through local community involvement.

To find out how to participate in APCC's Community Advocate program, please contact APCC toll free at 1-877-955-4142 or e-mail us at [info@apcc.org](mailto:info@apcc.org). Read more about APCC's Community Advocates on our Web site, [www.apcc.org](http://www.apcc.org).

APCC established the internship program in honor of the organization's founder, Dr. Herbert Whitlock, and APCC welcomes restricted contributions in support of the program. Please contact APCC Development Director Tad Kuhn toll free at 1-877-955-4142 for additional information.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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

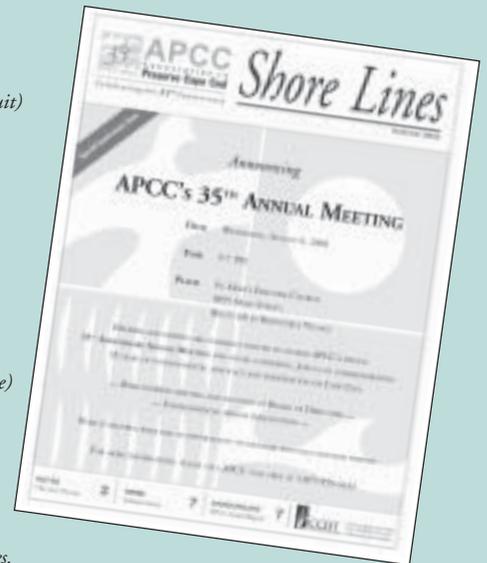
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*Shore Lines* Edited by Don Keeran  
Newsletter designed by Karen Holmes

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

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