

Shore Lines

Newsletter of the Association to Preserve Cape Cod

Summer 2011

The interns of summer

APCC's internships enhance environmental programs and change lives

APCC's 2011 summer interns are lending a much-appreciated hand to our salt marsh monitoring, herring count programs and other special projects. See below for a profile of our interns.

APCC is very proud of our internship program and of the talented individuals who have taken part in it over the years. Working on projects as diverse as village center revitalization, GIS mapping and salt marsh monitoring, the future planners, biologists and environmental managers participating in APCC's internships have gained invaluable career experience while they contribute their significant skills to initiatives that have a lasting and positive effect on Cape Cod.

To find out more about APCC's internship program and about opportunities to help support it, please contact APCC at 508-362-4226 or info@apcc.org.

APCC salt marsh intern
Josh Helms and Whitlock
Intern Carl DePuy.



Josh Helms: APCC's 2011 summer salt marsh monitoring program intern is Josh Helms, who is helping collect data on marsh restoration efforts. Josh was raised in Sandwich, and recently finished his coursework toward a M.A. in environmental affairs and policy from the University of Miami. He completed his undergraduate studies in 2008 at the University of Rhode Island, with a B.S. in marine biology and a B.S. in coastal and marine policy and management. Josh has completed numerous internships, including stints with NOAA and the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Carl DePuy: Carl is APCC's 2011 Whitlock Intern, and is returning for his fourth season in the salt marshes. He attended Huxley College of Environmental Science at Western Washington University. Now a Dennis-Yarmouth high school teacher, Carl began his first APCC internship while studying for his Masters in environmental science at Green Mountain College. Carl says the internship helped him discover his passion for salt marshes. He completed his thesis on salt marsh dieback in the Cape Cod National Seashore, and hopes to teach students about the nature of Cape Cod while also researching salt marshes.



APCC
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Preserve Cape Cod

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Dear Friends,

As some of you know, I will step down as executive director of APCC in September of this year. I have been privileged and blessed to be part of Cape Cod's flagship environmental advocacy and education organization for the past 11½ years, and to work with such a terrific staff, boards of directors, colleagues, and members on so many vital issues. I am very grateful to all of you.

Much has been accomplished through the years and every victory has been the result of the sustaining generosity of our members whose support makes our efforts possible.

To highlight just a few of the many achievements made possible by your contributions:



- ☞ The defeat of the CanalSide Commons proposed development at the Bourne Bridge.
- ☞ The designation of the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve at the Massachusetts Military Reservation.
- ☞ Promotion of compact town centers and protection of open space.
- ☞ Advocacy for a comprehensive watershed-based solution to the need for wastewater infrastructure.
- ☞ Passage of the Clean Water Act of 2008 that provides interest-free loans for wastewater infrastructure that addresses eutrophication.
- ☞ Designation of Cape Cod Bay as a No Discharge Area for boat sewage.
- ☞ Authorization of the Cape Cod Water Resources Restoration Project, a \$30 million 10-year program that would restore thousands of acres of salt marshes, fish spawning habitat and shellfish beds.
- ☞ Monitoring the restoration of more than a dozen salt marshes across Cape Cod, including the 1,100-acre Herring River in Wellfleet and the expansive Stony Brook salt marsh in Brewster.
- ☞ Initiation and management of herring count programs at numerous runs across Cape Cod.
- ☞ Passage of low-density zoning in the town of Brewster, arguably the most important zoning change on Cape Cod in decades.
- ☞ Designation as the host organization for the Massachusetts Bays Program, providing us with financial support to help the towns protect their coastal resources.

The list could go on and on. Just as the founders of APCC recognized, our members today understand the fundamental need for an organization that is devoted to the protection of all of Cape Cod, an organization that strives every day to promote policies and programs that safeguard the natural resources of the entire peninsula.

There is only one Cape Cod. APCC's mission is to protect all of it. I am proud to have played a part.

Thank you for your wonderful support through the years.

Maggie Geist
APCC Executive Director

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Carol Eastman: Carol is APCC's 2011 herring monitoring intern, but began as a salt marsh monitoring intern with APCC in 2008. As the herring monitoring intern, she is involved in management of herring count data collected by APCC volunteers in Wellfleet, Brewster, Sandwich, Mashpee, Falmouth and Bourne. Carol has an Associate in Science degree in environmental technology from Cape Cod Community College, and a Bachelor's degree in hotel, restaurant and travel administration from the University of Massachusetts, but she has since discovered her true passion in environmental science.



APCC herring count program Intern Carol Eastman.

Brenda Bechtel: Brenda is gathering local information on pesticide and fertilizer use as part of an outreach program APCC hopes to undertake with the Cape Cod Commission to reduce use of those chemicals on Cape Cod. Although now living in Maine, Brenda was a Cape resident from 2000-2006 when she was the learning strategist for Cape Cod Academy. A long-time educator, Brenda has had experience teaching environmental studies as well as English and writing. She presently teaches writing in the English Department at Saint Joseph's College of Maine.



Intern Brenda Bechtel.

Traci Rasmussen-Myers: Traci is conducting a literature review as part of the pesticide project mentioned above. She recently earned her M.S. in environmental policy and management – environmental sustainability from American Public University of West Virginia. She received her B.S. from Minnesota State University, majoring in biology and life science secondary education. Traci's previous experience includes teaching high school environmental earth science, and she has also been involved in a prairie and wetland restoration project in Minnesota for the past 10 years.



Intern Traci Rasmussen-Myers.

Salt marsh volunteers join APCC staff to collect data at Stony Brook salt marsh in Brewster, one of nine sites monitored by APCC.



The nearly 70 volunteers who participate in the program measure indicators of salt marsh health to gauge the effects of restoration efforts. The success of the program would not be possible without their assistance! To find out more about APCC's volunteer program, contact APCC staff biologist Tara Nye at 508-362-4226 or tnye@apcc.org. Pictured left to right are APCC intern Carl DePuy, Maxanne Most, Lindsay Spooner, Chuck Spooner, APCC staff biologist Tara Nye, and APCC intern Josh Helms.

Cape Cod farm inventory study

APCC's report looks at the state of Cape Cod agriculture and the challenges to its future

APCC has completed a comprehensive inventory of farms and farming activity on Cape Cod. The purpose of the study is to draw attention to the status of Cape Cod agriculture, identify impediments to farming, and offer recommendations for preserving and increasing farming on the Cape.

In the last half of the 20th century, the Cape lost thousands of acres of productive farmland, mostly to residential development. This change in land use has meant the loss of the Cape's cultural and historic heritage as a farming community, a decline in economic diversity, the disappearance of meadow habitats, the inability to purchase locally-grown food, and the further disconnection of people from the land.

The inventory showed that only about 4,000 acres of farmland (approximately 300 farms) remain on Cape Cod, in addition to 600 acres of shellfish aquaculture divided between 235 aquaculture license holders. Most of the land with soils characterized as Prime Agricultural Soils has been developed as residential subdivisions.

About 40 percent of the land-based agriculture is cranberry bogs. Another 35 percent is general farming activity (vegetables, livestock, pasture) undertaken by about 140 farmers. The remainder is wood lots, tree farms, garden centers and greenhouses. By and large, the smaller farms are those in the general farming category, while the larger farms are the cranberry bogs, tree farms and woodlots.

Despite renewed attention to local farming, many challenges remain for the farmer. APCC's makes recommendations in the study for improvements on the local, regional and state level that would help protect existing farms and encourage the creation of more agricultural uses on the Cape. These recommendations, plus statistics on the state of local farming and impediments to farming, are discussed in detail in the study, which can be downloaded from APCC's website, www.apcc.org.

Cape Cod Organic Farm in Barnstable is one of the Cape's successful working farms.





APCC launches marine invasives monitoring program

The initiative will help track down Cape Cod's undesirable invaders

APCC is pleased to announce that we have received a grant from the Massachusetts Environmental Trust (MET). This grant will enable APCC to set up a regional "first-alert" monitoring program to detect and monitor non-native marine invasive species along the Cape Cod coast. This early warning system is needed to alert coastal managers and scientists when non-native marine invasive species are found.

Non-native marine invasive species can cause severe damage to sensitive coastal ecosystems. In 2003, a rapid assessment survey on Cape Cod found 10 non-native invasive species.

One invasive species found in Cape Cod waters is the highly invasive tunicate *Didemnum vexillum*, or colonial sea squirt. This Pacific species was first discovered in the Gulf of Maine and in Cape Cod waters in the late 1980s. Since then it has spread rapidly and today covers much of the seabed on Georges Bank and other coastal areas of Massachusetts. Because of its aggressive and thick growth, it can impact shellfish beds, aquaculture, fishing and other coastal and offshore resources.

Over the next two years, APCC will set up a regional monitoring system, beginning with seven sites along the coasts of Cape Cod. Volunteers will be recruited to monitor docks and cobble beaches at these stations. The data will be entered into a state database and shared with coastal managers, scientists and the public through outreach workshops. Eventually, APCC hopes to monitor other sites on the Cape and will collaborate with other monitoring groups.

MET is funded in part by the sales of special environmental license plates. MET supports programs that protect or improve water quality and water resources.

For more information or to volunteer for monitoring, contact APCC senior scientist Dr. Jo Ann Muramoto at jmuramoto@apcc.org or 508-362-4226.

You have a say in Cape Cod's future

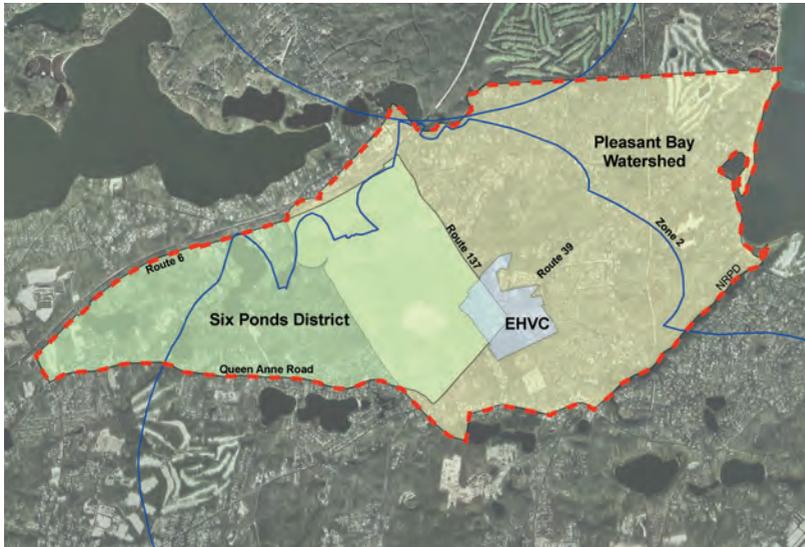
Without the generous support of concerned individuals like you, APCC could not continue the important work we do every day—protecting Cape Cod's fragile environment.

Please use the attached envelope to send in your donation today, or go to www.apcc.org to make a secure donation.

Thank you!

Innovative East Harwich zoning plan now available to the public for review

APCC and fellow members of the East Harwich Village Center Collaborative have developed a draft handbook for the East Harwich planning initiative.



The East Harwich initiative study area includes the East Harwich commercial district (EHVC) surrounding the intersection of Routes 39 and 137 and the proposed Natural Resource Protection District (red dash), which consists of the Six Ponds District (green), the Pleasant Bay watershed (yellow), and portions of the town's public water supply (blue line). Map courtesy of the Cape Cod Commission.

The handbook is the culmination of over five years of work on the part of the collaborative, which in addition to APCC also includes the town of Harwich, the East Harwich Community Association and the Cape Cod Commission. The handbook is available for download from the Harwich town website, <http://harwichma.virtualtownhall.net>. The planning board is currently seeking public input on the draft plan, which must be adopted by Harwich town meeting.

APCC is a strong proponent of the East Harwich draft plan, which can serve as a useful

model for other Cape Cod towns as they plan for the future. It is a true smart growth strategy that identifies appropriate areas for development as well as areas where resource protection and open space preservation are a priority.

For more information, and to view an illustrated summary of the East Harwich plan, visit www.apcc.org and select the "East Harwich Village Center / Natural Resource Protection District Initiative" link on the home page.

Stormwater LID Workshop Planned

APCC and the Mass Bays Program are partnering with a team of stormwater consultants to present a stormwater workshop this fall. The workshop date and location will be announced soon.

Stormwater runoff from streets, driveways and other impervious surfaces can pick up pollutants and discharge them into ponds, streams and coastal waters, significantly impairing water quality. Proper management of stormwater can greatly reduce the risk of contamination.

The workshop will cover Low Impact Design (LID) design and implementation, reducing pollutant loading, and stormwater retrofitting for LID. This workshop program is funded by a Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection grant to the consultant team of Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., the Center for Watershed Protection, Horsley Witten Group, Inc., and Stacey DePasquale Engineering.

For the date and location of the workshop, visit www.apcc.org.

Help APCC Keep Cape Cod Beautiful!

The list of participants in APCC's "Keep Cape Cod Beautiful" campaign continues to grow as more area businesses become involved in raising awareness about the vital work APCC is doing to protect Cape Cod.

- ☞ Coca Cola Bottling Company of Cape Cod is partnering with APCC to place red "Keep Cape Cod Beautiful" recycle bins in local businesses. Redeemable deposits collected from recycled Coca Cola product containers support APCC's efforts.
- ☞ Falmouth Toyota is donating a portion of the proceeds from the sale of each Prius hybrid to APCC. Falmouth Toyota Prius customers will also receive a complimentary one-year membership to APCC.

See a current list of businesses at the "Keep Cape Cod Beautiful" campaign link at www.apcc.org.

Remember, supporting the businesses that participate in the "Keep Cape Cod Beautiful" campaign also helps support APCC's efforts!



Sandplain Heathlands: a Cape Cod critical habitat

Summertime attention is naturally focused on Cape Cod's beaches. But consider for a moment the windswept expanses of open heathland now found mostly on the outer Cape. Sandplain heathlands are an iconic feature of the Cape's natural landscape.

The heathlands' quiet beauty belies the harsh conditions found there—poor soil and full exposure to the elements, including unrelenting sun, winds that carry in salt from the ocean and great shifts in daily temperatures. Still, heathers, bearberry, the rare broom crowberry and other hardy low-growing plants have adapted to the changing conditions.

Heathlands across the Cape are disappearing due to natural vegetative succession and encroaching development. What remains is a globally significant natural wonder that must be treasured and preserved.



Sandplain heathlands



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The Association to Preserve Cape Cod is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 1968 to foster policies and programs that promote the preservation of natural resources on Cape Cod.

Support comes from 5,000 memberships, and from gifts and grants from individuals, foundations and businesses.

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Newsletter Design: Lianne Dunn Design & Illustration



Leave a Lasting Legacy

Bequests from our members and friends help make it possible to continue our efforts to speak out for Cape Cod and fight for the protection of our environment, just as we have done since 1968. The sample language shows just how easy it is: I bequeath to the Association to Preserve Cape Cod, Inc. (APCC), a charitable corporation established by law in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the sum of _____ dollars (or percentage of estate) to be used for the general purposes of APCC at the direction of its Board of Directors or added to APCC's permanent restricted endowment.

Are you interested in setting up a charitable gift annuity? If so, please contact APCC toll-free at 1-877-955-4142 or info@apcc.org.

Printed in the USA using recycled paper and vegetable-based inks.

