Association to Preserve Cape Cod

2012 Annual Report

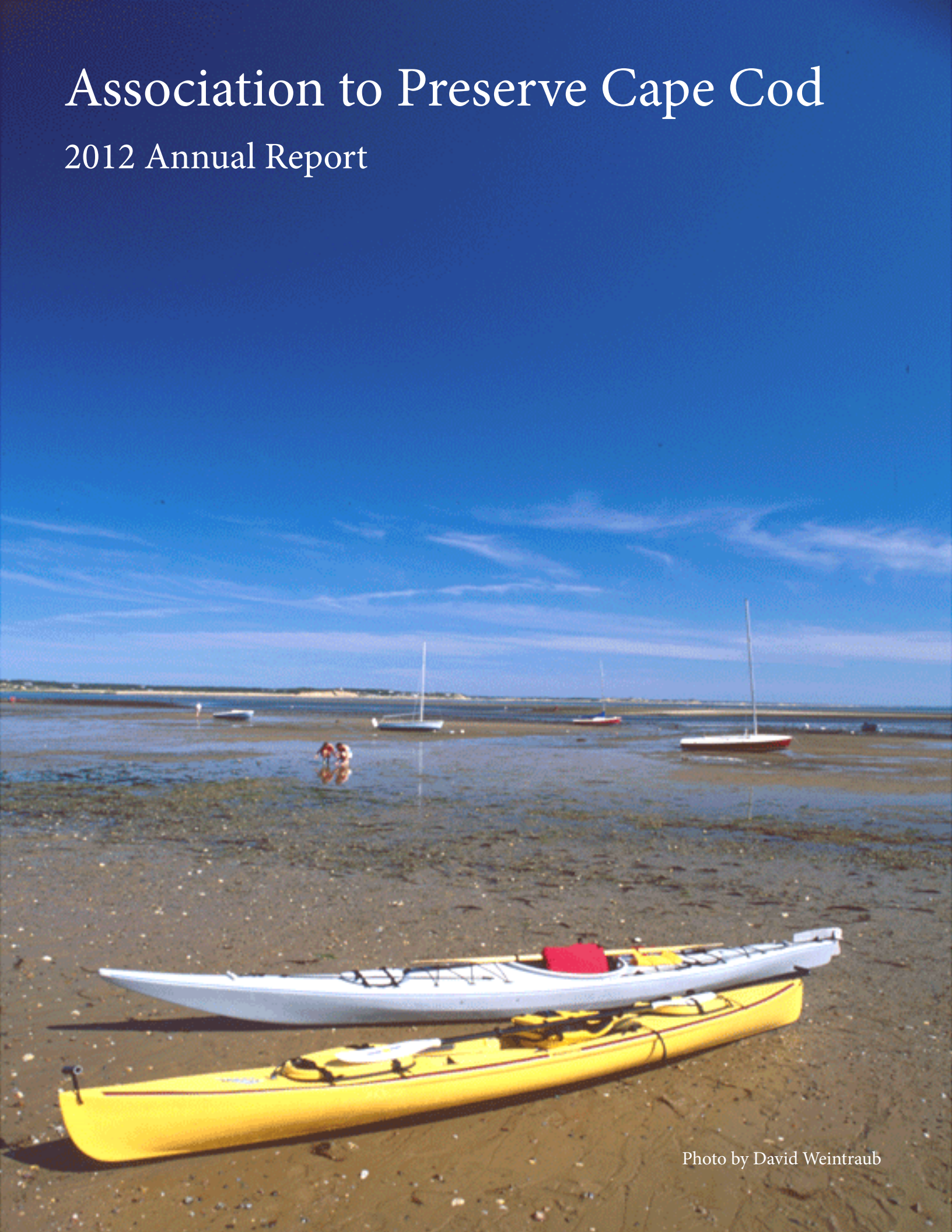


Photo by David Weintraub

APCC Annual Meeting

APCC held its annual meeting on Tuesday, October 2, 2012 at the Sea View in Dennisport. Several Cape Cod environmental heroes were formally recognized.

- Sandwich science teacher, Gilbert Newton, was added to APCC's Honor Roll for his years of promoting environmental stewardship and conservation through education.

- Claire Roycroft was recognized as the APCC Volunteer of the Year for her work with the organization's salt marsh monitoring program.

- The APCC Special Recognition Award went to the Dolphin Trust for its commitment to protecting Cape Cod's natural resources.

- The APCC Paul Tsongas Environmental Excellence Award was presented to the town of Brewster for adopting a number of progressive initiatives that advance environmental protection, preservation and restoration within the town.

APCC also inducted new members into our Scallop Society for their 25-plus years of support to the organization.

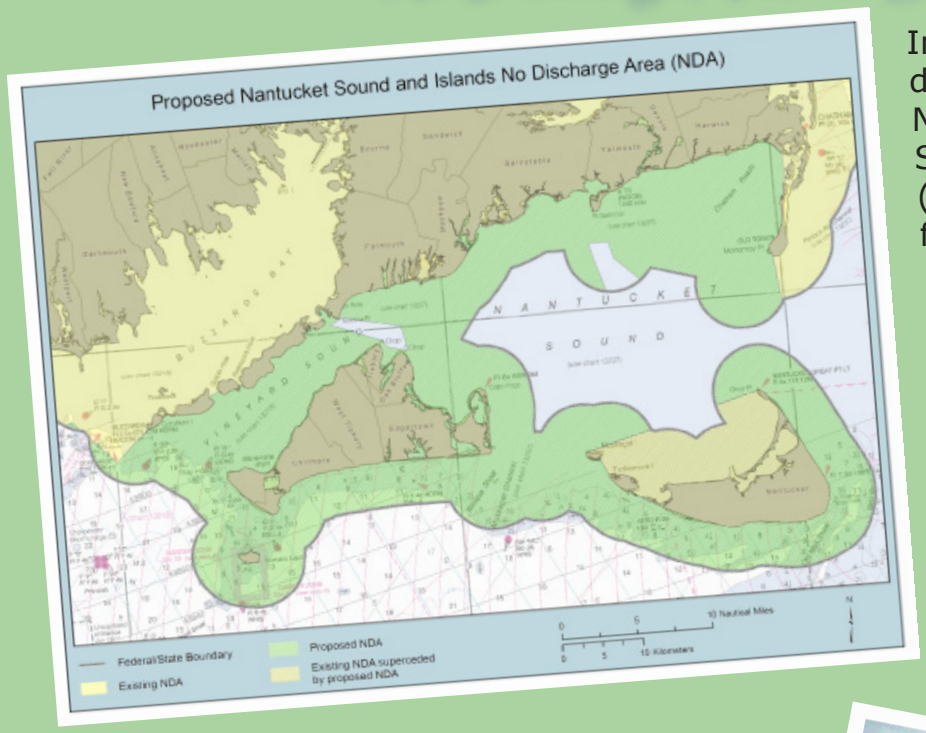
Cape Cod's Environmental Protector

From the Cape Cod Canal to Provincetown, APCC serves as the region's watchdog against potential harm to the Cape's environment and quality of life. APCC's vigilance in 2012 was no exception. Throughout the year, APCC reviewed proposals, submitted position statements, testified at hearings and alerted our members concerning proposed commercial developments, public sector projects, government programs and other proposed policy changes and projects affecting Cape Cod.

Cape Cod Water Resources Restoration Project

APCC worked with the state's U.S. Senators and Congressmen on strategies to secure funding for the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Cape Cod Water Resources Restoration Project, which would restore thousands of acres of shellfish, salt marsh, and migratory fish spawning habitat. APCC's outreach also extended to other NRCS project sponsors in Massachusetts, building an advocacy network that is pushing for revival of the NRCS's federal watershed restoration program.

Designation of the South Cape Cod and Islands No Discharge Area for Boat Sewage



In July 2012, the U.S. EPA designated the state waters of Nantucket Sound and Vineyard Sound as a No Discharge Area (NDA) for boat sewage. This followed a nomination by the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management, supported by APCC. Discharge of all boat sewage, treated or untreated, will be prohibited. NDAs protect water quality for shellfishing, swimming and aquatic ecosystems. This closed the last gap in NDA protection for Massachusetts coastal waters.

Coastal America Partnership Award

In September 2012, the Presidential Coastal America Partnership Award was awarded to the project team and partners of the Stony Brook Watershed Restoration Project in Brewster. Awardees included the Town of Brewster, APCC, Mass Bays Program, Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration, NOAA's Restoration Center and many partners. The project will restore 41 acres of salt marsh, improve fish passage to 386 acres of spawning habitat, improve water quality and ecosystem health and provide jobs.

Farmland Preservation

Farmland preservation remains a top priority for APCC. In 2012 APCC focused our efforts on Windstar Farm in Sandwich. Windstar is the largest agricultural parcel on Cape Cod (228 acres of prime agricultural soils) and it sits fallow. APCC organized a broad coalition of organizations and government agencies to work with the owner to bring Windstar back into agricultural production.

Cape Cod Leads in Volunteer Herring Count Programs

Cape Cod now has the greatest number of citizen-monitored herring runs in the state, thanks to efforts by APCC and the Mass Bays Program to promote volunteer counts of herring. The number of monitored runs rose from three in 2007 to 13 in 2012. We work with many partners and volunteers to provide training and technical support. Volunteer counts of river herring help managers to assess population size to improve protection.

Salt Marsh Preservation Program

APCC expanded its Salt Marsh Program to include marsh marsh migration mapping in anticipation of climate change, which involves mapping the boundaries of marshes, identifying barriers to migration and assessing which marshes will be able to migrate landward in response to sea level rise. Mapping marsh boundaries will support valuable climate change research that will guide regional efforts to address climate change impacts on sensitive ecosystems.

A new site, Eagle Neck Creek in Truro, was added to the program in 2012. Located south of Pamet Harbor, 16.2 acres of salt marsh are restricted by a two-foot diameter culvert.

Herring River Restoration

APCC facilitated the completion and submission of the Herring River restoration draft environmental impact statement/report under both state and federal law. When completed, the dike replacement will restore more than one thousand acres of salt marsh, making it the largest salt marsh restoration in the northeast.

Promoting Smart Growth

APCC advocates for the adoption of planning that directs growth away from natural resource areas and into mixed use village centers supported by infrastructure. In 2012, APCC collaborated on proposed zoning changes in East Harwich, co-sponsored a planning workshop in Chatham, and helped organize a coalition of land-use professionals and legislators to draft a state land-use reform bill for 2013.

Saving the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act

If allowed to pass, a 2012 bill in the state legislature would have gutted rare species and habitat protections in the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act. Moving swiftly and in concert with other state environmental organizations, APCC sent action alerts to our members and reached out to the legislature's leadership to help stop this harmful bill in its tracks. Thanks to these efforts—including phone calls and emails sent to legislators by outraged APCC members—the bill's forward progress was halted in time.

Internship Program

In 2012 there were four internships at APCC; two interns with the salt marsh program, one Whitlock intern and one newly funded Maggie Geist intern.

Carl DePuy and Corrine King were the salt marsh interns in 2012. They monitored six marshes, including the new pre-restoration site in Truro, Eagle Neck Creek, the new pre-restoration site in Truro.. They also mapped boundaries of high and low marsh, upland boundaries and the presence of invasive plants and species of concern.
In Corrine's words *"My time with APCC gave me an entirely new understanding about how important marshes and wetlands are to the ecology of Cape Cod… I have a new love of the coast and wish to attend graduate school for marine conservation so I can continue to protect these special habitats."*

Lindsay Cook, the Whitlock intern, mapped natural communities to help update our Critical Habitats Atlas. Natural communities are assemblages of plant species that occur in characteristic habitats. Lindsay visited 52 sites and mapped nine different natural community types.

Aaron Bryant, the Maggie Geist intern, interviewed municipal staff to find out how towns manage stormwater, needs, challenges and successes. The 12 towns surveyed manage runoff from 3,000+ miles of roads, half use green infrastructure, and challenges include insufficient resources, planning, and site constraints. APCC plans to use results to build public support for stormwater management.

Mass Bays Program

APCC again won a state contract to serve as Regional Service Provider for the Massachusetts Bays Program, which works to protect and restore the coastal ecosystems of Massachusetts and Cape Cod Bays. Achievements included helping partners win grants for the Herring River restoration, and modeling sediment budgets in Truro; surveying municipal stormwater management needs; expanding APCC's herring monitoring program; assisting the Barnstable County Coastal Resources Committee; and applying for grants to model the effect of sea level rise on the Cape's groundwater.

Environmental Summit

In September, APCC convened a summit of Cape Cod's environmental nonprofits to discuss the region-wide problem of wastewater. This first-of-its-kind summit reached consensus on a set of core principles centered around the impacts of wastewater on Cape Cod's water resources. Attendees drafted a consensus statement that identified wastewater as "the region's number one environmental priority," saying that "immediate action on the part of government, business, and every citizen" was needed to find effective solutions to the problem. The complete text can be viewed at www.apcc.org.

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*** Scallop Society recognizes 25 or more years of membership**

A Special Thank You

APCC had the good fortune to receive the generous donation of more than 2,800 photographic images capturing the majestic and natural beauty of Cape Cod from Wellfleet summer resident David Weintraub. David, who has visited the Cape since 1951, is a full-time instructor at the University of South Carolina's School of Journalism and Mass Communications. APCC will digitize the images and use them in our outreach and education programs. Here is a sampling of the images (also see the cover of this report). Thank you, David!

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Dolphin Trust/General Support
Hermann Foundation/General Support
Horizon Foundation/Cape Cod Water Resources Restoration Project Advocacy Campaign
Prospect Hill Foundation/General Support/Cape Cod Regional Wastewater Management Plan
The Friendship Fund/Cape Cod Critical Habitats Atlas/Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring/Intern support for Herring Monitoring Program
Eddy Foundation/Critical Habitats in Brewster/Monitoring Equipment/Climate Assessment and Salt Marsh Protection, Brewster

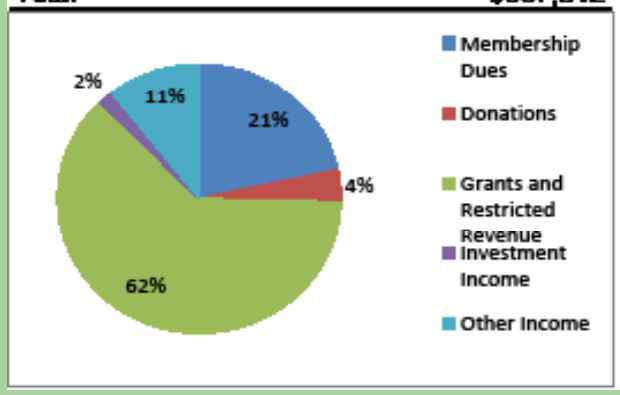
Contracts

Cape Cod Conservation District/Herring River Restoration Project/Salt Marsh Monitoring Project
Division of Ecological Restoration/Salt Marsh Monitoring/Technical Support Services
Massachusetts Bays Program/Regional Technical Support Services
Massachusetts Environmental Trust/Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring Program
Town of Brewster/Stony Brook NOAA Monitoring and Restoration

2012 Financials (Unaudited)

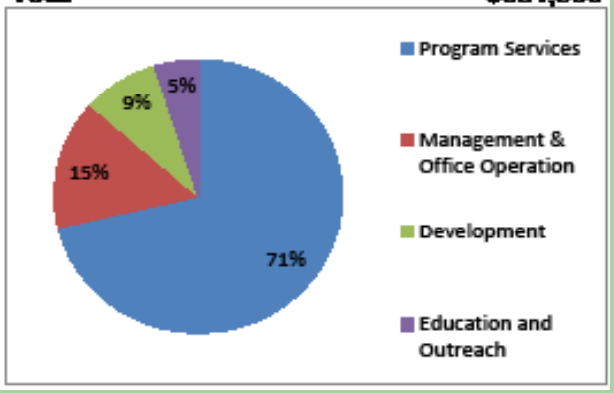
Revenue

Membership Dues	$148,305
Donations	$26,334
Grants and Restricted Revenue	$427,814
Investment Income	$12,459
Other Income	$72,900
Total	$687,812



Expenses

Program Services	$485,838
Management & Office Operation	$104,402
Development	$57,967
Education and Outreach	$33,162
Total	$681,369



Staff

Ed DeWitt - Executive Director
Don Keeran - Assistant Director
Jo Ann Muramoto - Senior Scientist/ Mass Bays Program Regional Coordinator
Tara Nye - Staff Biologist
Laura Curry - Information Services Director
Lauren Powers - Grants Manager
Patrick Frye - Membership Field Coordinator
Bridget Renaud - Bookkeeper
Carl De Puy - Summer Salt Marsh Intern
Corinne King - Summer Salt Marsh Intern
Lindsay Cook - Whitlock Intern
Aaron Bryant - Geist Intern

Board of Directors

Kristin Andres, Chatham (*2015)
Sandy Bayne, Eastham (*2013)
Elliott Carr, Brewster (*2015)
Michael Corrigan, Chatham (*2013)
Robert Cunningham, Vice President, Orleans (*2013)
Anne Ekstrom, Bourne (*2014)
Katherine Garofoli, Hyannis (*2015)
Paula Miller, Brewster (*2014)
Mark Nelson, West Barnstable (*2013)
Donald Palladino, Wellfleet (*2015)
Erica Parra, Orleans (*2013)
Mark H. Robinson, Cotuit (*2013)
Susan L. Shephard, Clerk, Falmouth (*2013)
Roert Summersgill, Treasurer, Orleans (*2014)
Janice Walford, President (*2014)
Daniel Webb, Falmouth (*2014)

Retired 2012

John Parker, Cummaquid
Jean Mangiafico, Chatham
Jonathan Moore, Orleans
Jean A. Young, North Chatham

***Year Term Expires**

APCC
Association to Preserve Cape Cod

Association to Preserve Cape Cod, Inc.
P.O. Box 398, 3010 Main Street
Barnstable, MA 02630

Please help APCC put check marks next to these important projects on our summer "To Do" list.

- ☐ Continue monitoring salt marsh health, map for salt marsh ability to adapt to sea level rise.
- ☐ Safeguard Cape Cod - Stand up against threats to environment and community character, including proposed Lowe's in Dennis.
- ☐ Develop Next Generation of Ecologists - Train four summer interns.
- ☐ Identify and map the Cape's exemplary natural communities and update APCC Critical Habitats Atlas.
- ☐ Clean Up Water - advocate for regional wastewater solutions, seek sustainable funding for Cape Cod Water Resources Restoration Project and promote great ponds protection.
- ☐ Promote local agriculture, including restoring the Cape's largest farm to active agricultural production.

Donate to Our Summer Appeal!