

Chathamwaterways.org



FRIENDS of
CHATHAM WATERWAYS

FRIENDS OF CHATHAM WATERWAYS was founded in 1983 as a non-profit organization committed to the protection, wise use and enjoyment of Chatham's fresh and salt waterways and adjoining lands.

We serve as an informational resource regarding the condition, development, preservation and enhancement of our waterways and adjoining lands, and take action on these issues.



Defining Issues of Public Concern for Discussion and Debate: FCW prepares informational materials, sponsors forums; and works with town agencies to achieve common goals. We express FCW positions at public hearings and town meetings and take such other actions as Directors determine to be necessary to support our mission. We provide information to our members and the public through our newsletter, website, and other publications.

Chatham Water Watchers: Since 1994, the Chatham Water Watchers, in cooperation with the Town of Chatham and the Pleasant Bay Alliance, collect and test water samples in Chatham's estuaries six times each season. Volunteers are trained by Town staff to measure water clarity, salinity, temperature and dissolved oxygen content and take water samples at varying depths. Collected samples are analyzed by the UMass Dartmouth School of Marine Science and Technology. These efforts were instrumental in providing critical input for the Massachusetts Estuaries Project for Chatham and the data was used to guide our sewerage and wastewater planning efforts.

More than 40 volunteers monitor 15 stations in Chatham estuaries. Now in the 21st consecutive year, they continue to assess progress against algae, low-dissolved oxygen and decayed bottom sediment which contribute to the loss of plant and animal species in our waterways.

CoastSweep: For 31 years, FCW has organized volunteers for an annual beach cleanup in conjunction with the Office of Coastal Zone Management and the Ocean Conservancy.

Herring Run Volunteers: FCW volunteers conduct a yearly spring herring run count at the herring run between Ryder's Cove and Lover's Lake. Data is used to determine the health of the herring population.



Pond Study Group: This group works to improve the health of our fresh water ponds and to educate Chatham residents about the importance of fresh-water resources. We collect data from Stillwater, Lovers, Emery, White, Barclay and Schoolhouse ponds and monitor for levels of cyanobacteria.

Barbara Streibert Environmental Education Grants: Grants are awarded to teachers in the Monomoy School District for special projects that instill students with an appreciation of Cape Cod's unique and fragile environment.

Lewis E. Kimball Scholarships for Environmental Studies: Our scholarship recipients are college or graduate students enrolled in programs related to marine and environmental sciences.

Captain's Award: Annual recognition to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to protect to protect and preserve Chatham's vital environmental resources. Recipients are listed on our website and on a plaque located in Town Hall.



Our Board of Directors consists of 20 plus individuals who share a passion for the environment and especially the unique issues facing Chatham. We share skills in many business, professional and academic fields to tackle problems and increase public awareness/ understanding of the importance of our waterways.

Our members hail from 21 states but all have a connection to Chatham and a desire to protect this beautiful part of the world. Members and other volunteers are involved in water testing of ponds and saltwater estuaries, and beach clean-up efforts. Membership dues allow FCW to host public forums about important issues, publish newsletters and special advisories, and work with environmental and legal consultants about the challenges we face.

Join us! We welcome enthusiastic supporters of Chatham's beautiful waterways and environment. Visit www.chathamwaterways.org for membership information.



Chatham has 66 miles of shoreline on the Atlantic Ocean, Nantucket Sound, Pleasant Bay, and interior shoreline such as Stage Harbor, Oyster River and Oyster Pond. It also has 24 freshwater ponds which are an important part of our ecological landscape and provide recreational opportunities and important animal habitat.



FCW works to protect all of these resources and to keep our citizens apprised of problems that need to be addressed.

PRESERVING and PROTECTING CHATHAM'S MOST PRECIOUS NATURAL RESOURCE



FCW
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