

WATERWAYS

FRIENDS OF CHATHAM WATERWAYS NEWSLETTER

The mission of Friends of Chatham Waterways is to promote the protection, wise use and enjoyment of Chatham's fresh and salt waterways and adjoining lands.

FCW August 2024 Newsletter



Sign up to join us at our Annual Meeting

Friends of Chatham Waterways' Board of Directors
cordially invites you to attend

FCW's
Annual Meeting
Wednesday, August 21, 2024
5:00 - 7:30 PM
the Chatham Beach and Tennis Club
14 Main St

Space is limited. **Register here.**
or email **president@chathamwaterways.org**

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**Join us as we celebrate our volunteers!**

**Social Hour 5-6 pm**  
Complimentary beverages and appetizers

**Business meeting 6-7:30 pm**  
Report of the Treasurer  
Report of the Nominating Committee  
Election of members to the Board of Directors:  
New Directors: Sherrie Burson, Ron Holmes, Doug Fields, E.J.  
McKenna-Hieb

**Special Guest:** Owen Nichols, Marine Fisheries Research Director at the Center for Coastal Studies and past FCW scholarship awardee

**Guest speaker:** Greg Berman, Chatham's Natural Resource Director

## Captain's Award

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### Water Monitoring Programs



#### Cyanobacteria Monitoring Program

We want to thank our cyanobacteria volunteers for going out 12 times from the end of May into October, in all sorts of weather conditions and being so reliable. We appreciate their efforts which provide valuable information about these ponds. We are pleased to report that Chatham continues to have acceptable levels of cyanobacteria. For current status of ponds being monitored for

cyanobacteria blooms and for more information about cyanobacteria, visit APCC's [interactive map](#).

#### Baseline study **Need Volunteers!**

We are looking for volunteers with a canoe or kayak to do a one time water sampling end of August in one of the following ponds: Barclay, Lover's, Schoolhouse, White and Stillwater. Volunteers will be trained on the sampling procedure mid-August. To sign-up or information [email here](#).



#### Water Watchers

**Remaining sampling dates:** August 12 and 26, and September 9th. For information go to [Water Watchers](#) or to sign-up please [email](#).

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### Summer Intern



**Meet our 2024 FCW Summer Intern!**

**Alexa Lim** is our 2024 summer intern. She is a rising senior at Colgate University studying environmental studies, she anticipates graduating in 2025. In past summers, she has worked at the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation and Wild Care Cape Cod. She hopes to pursue a career in wildlife conservation. Alexa worked on FCW social media, education material and the 4th of July float.

## FCW Scholarship

### FCW 2024 Lewis E. Kimball Jr. Scholarship

The scholarships are awarded to students majoring in marine or environmental studies. The grants provide an opportunity to enable and encourage students to commit to environmental careers.

Bios of 5 recipients



**Kenaan Yakola, Eastham  
Oregon State University  
Wildlife Science**

Kenaan is a graduate student working towards his PhD at Oregon State University researching the GPS tracking of sea birds. After completing his PhD in 2025/2026, he plans to work for NGOs to aid in research and education efforts. He has completed impressive research on seabirds, from studying their diet in Maine to using newly developed GPS tracking to look at their migration patterns. The data he collected from the tracking systems was used to inform the construction of wind developments off the

coast of Maine. Kenaan's research emphasizes that seabirds migrate throughout New England's coast and heavily depend on the resources Cape Cod has to provide, utilizing the Cape's ecosystems as breeding sites. Thus, it is important to conserve the waterways and resources of the coast.

**Sarah Thieler, Falmouth  
Smith College  
BA Environmental Geoscience  
Minor: Education & Child Study**

Sarah is a rising junior at Smith College, studying environmental geoscience, and is anticipated to graduate in 2026. Growing up in Falmouth, Sarah is dedicated to continuing to raise awareness about environmental issues in her community. Growing up in Falmouth has given Sarah a firsthand understanding of the challenges the Cape's waterways face. She has witnessed the detrimental impact of numerous blooms on the scallop population in West

Falmouth Harbor. Sarah recommends the continuation of water testing efforts to monitor pollution hotspots. Identifying these hotspots will enable the development of management plans targeting high contributors. Moreover, Sarah proposes testing wastewater to identify specific contaminants and their sources. She aims to collaborate with local communities and organizations to promote the health of waterways.







**Gina Pezzella, Buzzards Bay  
Cape Cod Community College**

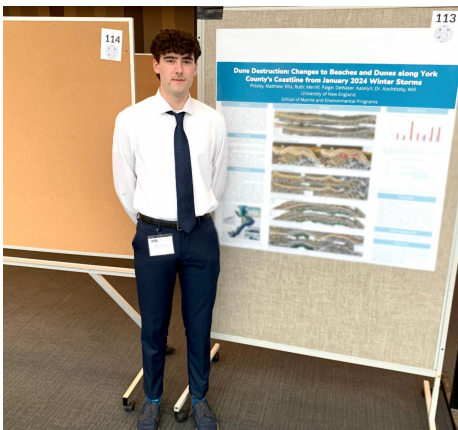
**Associate Degree, Environmental Science Tech**

Gina is a rising senior at Cape Cod Community College, studying environmental science & Technology; she is anticipated to graduate in 2024. After graduation, she plans to continue to protect wetlands, while educating the general public about the importance that wetlands play in the health of the coast. She believes that at the local level, education and monitoring efforts will lead to sustainable conservation.

**Evangeline Gosselin, South Chatham  
Mass Maritime**

**B.S. Marine Sci/Safety/Environ Protection  
(MSSEP) Dual major: Facilities Engineering**

Evangeline is a rising senior studying environmental protection and facilities engineering at Massachusetts Maritime Academy and anticipates graduating in 2025. She was also a 2023 scholarship recipient. She plans to pursue a career in renewable energy and sustainability. Evangeline already has several ideas for improving local waterways, such as implementing nutrient monitoring at industrial sites, controlling fertilizer use, limestone treatment, biological controls, and vegetation buffers. Along with local and community engagement, Evangeline is optimistic that the local waterways in Cape Cod can be protected.



**Mathew Pittsley, Barnstable  
Univ. New England  
BS Environmental Science Minor:  
Marine Biology, GIS**

Mathew is a rising senior at the University of New England, studying environmental science, and is anticipated to graduate in December of 2024. He has plans to complete a master's or certification program in GIS after graduation. Using his GIS skills, he has created a map of the trophic status of

Chatham's Waterway. Mathew cut out red meat entirely from his diet in 2021 for environmental reasons. The production of red meat is one of the leading causes of deforestation and methane release. Cutting out red meat may feel like a small change, but it can make a significant difference in the long run.

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## **Environmental Fair**

August 16th from 10 am-2 pm  
(Rain date is Monday August 19th)  
Chatham Community Center

Chatham Conservation Foundation has organized environmental groups for a family event with the



theme: Refuse-Reduce-Reuse-Recycle-Reeducate

For a second year, FCW is participating and will have a booth. Join us and bring your family.

The Cape-wide **Shrink Wrap Recycling Program** coordinated by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and Cape Cod Cooperative Extension successfully diverted over 46 tons of plastic from ending up in landfills. To learn more about the program and its ongoing efforts to battle plastic pollution, [click here](#).

Visit FCW Website





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