

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.

FALL 2024



Water Monitoring Programs

Cyanobacteria Monitoring Program

The cyanobacteria monitoring is finished for this year. We are pleased to report that all the tested ponds in Chatham had acceptable levels of cyanobacteria for the entire sampling period. We thank our cyanobacteria volunteers. The last sampling on October 28th had our dedicated volunteers walking into icy water. For information on the [cyanobacteria program](#).





The Friends of Chatham Waterways water watchers have recently completed the 25th season of Chatham's Coastal Water Nutrient Monitoring Program. At 16 testing sites in Stage Harbor Estuaries, South Coastal Embayments and Pleasant Bay, volunteers collected water samples and data five times during the summer. On testing days, volunteers collect water samples which will be analyzed at the University of Massachusetts School of Marine Science and Technology in Dartmouth.

The program continues to provide critical data on general water quality, conditions, and trends in nitrogen loading. This year's results, along with past data, will help determine the health of the town's estuaries and embayments and track changes as Chatham implements its wastewater management plan. FCW thanks the many volunteers.

To become a volunteer Water Watcher for 2025, contact [email](#) or go to [Water Watchers](#) for program information.

Coast Sweep

The Friends of Chatham Waterways (FCW) official Coastsweep day on Saturday, September 21 was a complete washout due to the nor'easter! However, all through September and into October Coastsweep volunteers swept the town's beaches from Jackknife Cove to Forest Beach during the annual cleanup.

FCW runs Coastsweep locally as part of the Office of Coastal Zone Management's (CZM) annual Massachusetts cleanup in conjunction with the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastsweep. Using grabbers provided by FCW, bags and latex gloves supplied by CZM and data cards from the Ocean Conservancy, 29 volunteers collected trash this year from 15 different town sites.



Volunteers record their findings on data cards which are sent to CZM and then forwarded to the Ocean Conservancy in Washington for analysis and publication. The data provided helps develop programs to reduce marine debris worldwide.

This year the most unusual items collected included a plastic gas can, hotel key cards, a metal sign, wooden oar, a paint roller, a buoy, shotgun shells, golf balls and a bike chain. The most numerous items found were cigarette butts, food wrappers, beverage cans, plastic beverage bottles and caps, and tiny plastic and foam pieces.

To volunteer for 2025 email [FCW Coastsweep](#).

Barbara Streibert Environmental Education Grants

Barbara Streibert Environmental Education Grants are available annually to all teachers in the Monomoy Regional School District, the Nauset Regional School District, the Cape Cod Lighthouse Charter School, the Sturgis Charter Public School, and Cape Tech. FCW allocates \$4000 each year for education grants which focus on Chatham's waterways: wetlands, fresh and salt water marshes and seashores.

A Barbara Streibert Environmental Education Grant project could include classroom instruction, fieldwork, research, professional development, or any combination of these activities.



Creative Writing

Monomoy High School Teacher Lisa Doyle took the Creative Writing students to Goose Pond, Hardings Beach and Frost Fish Creek to write reflections, poems and take photos or videos. Visit [this video](#) for one of the videos produced.

Monomoy Regional Middle School Seashore Stewards Project

With FCW's grant, 5th grade teachers took a field trip to Cockle cove, Lighthouse Beach and Harding Beach to collect trash for their ecosystem analysis study. The grant helped purchase booklets and supplies which aided in studying the local ecosystems.



Students wrote poetry and created art from by recycling collected material. They visited the Chatham Elementary School to teach younger students and share their projects.

For more information at [FCW grants](#).

Please support FCW's programs

We thank you in advance for giving to our FCW Annual Appeal, either by check to FCW, P.O. Box 472, Chatham, MA 02633-0472 or by safely giving online at ChathamWaterways.org

We appreciate those of you who have already donated and support the many FCW programs. See [our website](#) for more information.

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FCW



Friends Of Chatham Waterways | 6j Munson Meeting Way | Chatham, MA 02633 US

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