

# 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.*

## Spring 2025



### Chatham Earth Week

FCW along with many groups and businesses are participating in Earth Week celebration from April 21 to April 27, 2025. [Schedule of Earth Week Events](#)



**Save the Date** Wednesday, April 23rd at the Chatham Orpheum, 10:00-11:30 a.m. [Saving Chatham's Waters.](#)

Friends of Chatham Waterways is hosting this free event, featuring a showing of the WHOI videos, *Saving Our Ponds*, which will be followed by a panel discussion with Kristin Andres, Association to Preserve Cape Cod, Susan Bauer, Old Ladies Against Underwater Garbage, Renee Gagne, Chatham Shellfish Constable, and Rob Faley, Chatham DPW Director. Natalie Coleman-Fuller, Friends of Chatham Waterways board member, will be the moderator.

**Join us at the Orpheum where FCW will be launching the Chatham Water Pledge!**



## Pledge to Preserve Chatham's Water

- Skip the fertilizer
- Avoid pesticides
- Conserve water
- Grow a Cape-friendly lawn

The Chatham Water Pledge campaign aims to improve the health and quality of our fresh and salt water by raising public awareness to conserve water and reduce the use of fertilizer and pesticides.

Individual homeowners are the largest users of both pesticides (more than 80%) and fertilizers (69%). Each action we take will make a difference and improve water quality.

For information, resources, and to take the water pledge, click [Join the H2O pledge](#).

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### Scholarship Announcement.

Application deadline March 31

Every year Friends of Chatham Waterways awards scholarships to Cape and Island residents studying marine or environmental sciences at undergraduate or graduate levels.

Please spread the word as applications close March 31! Find more information and apply here:

[Scholarship – Friends of Chatham Waterways](#)

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### FCW awards Barbara Streibert Environmental Education Grant to Sturgis West Charter School.

We are pleased to announce an award to the science department of Sturgis West High School for \$1,995 for the purchase of scientific equipment that allows students to use various probes and sensors to collect and analyze data across as many as 100 different variables. Current use examples include oxygen demand, dissolved oxygen concentration, nitrogen, phosphorus, and pH.

The built-in GPS allows students to document the precise location of each piece of data collected. In addition, it can generate instant graphs, so that students can examine patterns across multiple variables.

Thanks to this partnership, 800 students across all grades now have access to this state-of-the-art technology. Whether at the school campus vernal pool, on a science field trip, or for higher level science students creating experiments, collecting, analyzing and reporting out on data, access to reliable real-time data gathering will revolutionize the way that classes approach environmental learning and independent research.

Through this grant award, in keeping with our mission, FCW is helping prepare local students to think critically, analyze evidence, and be better prepared to make cognitive connections between cause and effect that will



FCW President Kristin Andres and Sturgis West Lead Science teacher Kristina May testing water in Turtilini's aquarium

help them become more environmentally conscious citizens in the future.

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### **FCW Receives Grant to Produce Video**

Friends of Chatham Waterways is pleased to announce receipt of a \$3,000 grant from the James Holland Davis Fund of the Cape Cod Foundation for the production of a video about Chatham's natural resources. FCW plans to show the film at its annual meeting this August and is grateful for the support.

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### **Part-time Administrative Assistant**

FCW is seeking a part-time administrative assistant to support a variety of tasks to help us better achieve our mission. For more information and to apply, please follow the [link](#).

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## **Water Monitoring Programs**

### **Cyanobacteria Monitoring Program**

The cyanobacteria monitoring will begin in late May or early June with volunteers taking samples every other Tuesday morning. We need volunteers to take biweekly water sample, for information or sign up to volunteer go to [cyanobacteria program](#) or [email](#).



In 2025, all the Chatham ponds and lakes sampled were at the acceptable level for cyanobacteria. APCC report recommends that both nitrogen and phosphorous levels must be reduced to continue to keep the cyanobacteria at the acceptable level.

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### **Water Watchers**

The FCW water watchers have collected data on coastal waterways for 25 years. Sarah Griscom, PhD presents coastal water quality trends [here](#),

The program continues to provide critical data on general water quality, conditions, and trends in nitrogen loading. The data is used by the town of Chatham, APCC and Cape Cod Commission.

We are looking for volunteers and individuals with a boat for sampling. To become a volunteer Water Watcher for 2025, contact [email](#) or go to [Water Watchers](#) for program information.

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## **Please Join or Renew Your Membership**

We thank you in advance for giving to FCW either by check to FCW, P.O. Box 472, Chatham, MA 02633-0472 or by safely giving online at [ChathamWaterways.org](https://ChathamWaterways.org).

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

Donate



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

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