

# 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 Fall 2023 Newsletter



## FCW Annual Meeting

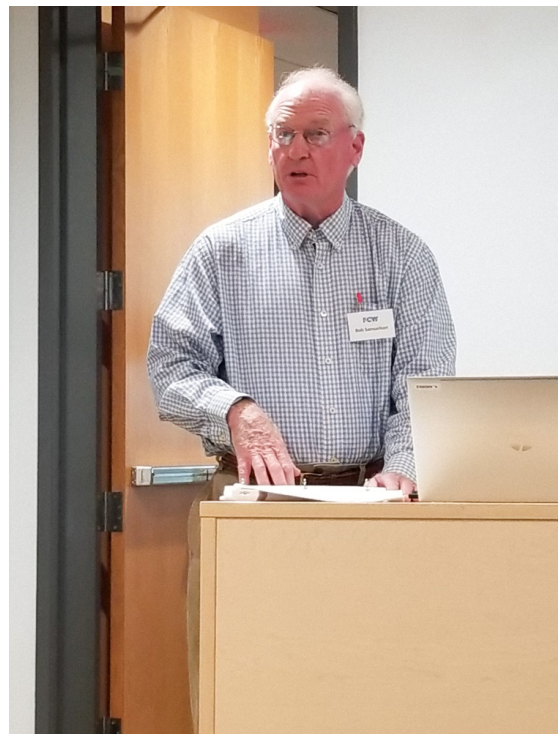


The FCW annual meeting was held Wednesday, August 16, 2023 at Chatham Community Center. The keynote address was by Erin Perry who is the deputy director of Cape Cod Commission. She spoke about the Cape Cod Freshwater Initiative. For info on the Freshwater Initiative visit

<https://capecodcommission.org/our-work/cape-cod-freshwater-initiative/>

Tom King was the recipient of the FCW Captains's Award. He served on the FCW board, as member and president, for many years. He was chair of the South Coastal Harbor Plan Committee. The FCW Captain's Award plaque hangs outside the town manager and select board office in the Town Hall at 549 Main Street.

<https://chathamwaterways.org/wp/annual-meeting/>



Photos by Joan-Ellen Messina

## Environmental Awareness Fair

FCW joins over 20 environmental groups for the first Environmental Awareness Fair hosted by the Chatham Conservation Foundation. The fair is being held at the Chatham Community Center on September 30th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be activities for all ages! It will be held

outside (inside if there is inclement weather). Hope to see you at the fair.  
[Chatham Conservation Foundation](#)

**Environmental Awareness Fair**  
**September 30th**  
**Chatham Community Center**

*"Preserve, Advocate, Volunteer: For a Greener Tomorrow!"*



sponsored by



**10AM-2PM**

*Come visit with over 25 local nonprofit and municipal organizations to learn how we are all working together to protect our fragile environment*



with generous support from  
Cape Cod Five and Eversource



## Water Monitoring Programs

### Cyanobacteria Monitoring Program

The five ponds being sampled for cyanobacteria (White, Lovers Lake, Stillwater, Goose, and Schoolhouse) continue to come back in the acceptable category. We will sample biweekly until the first week of November. **For regular updates on the ponds conditions, visit [APCC cyanobacteria](#).**



## Water Watchers

Friends of Chatham Waterways (FCW) Water Watchers have completed another successful season of the Coastal Water Nutrient Monitoring Program.

46 Water Watcher volunteers were out on the water five times during the summer between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m. sampling water from Stage Harbor estuaries, South Coastal embayments and Pleasant Bay.

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.

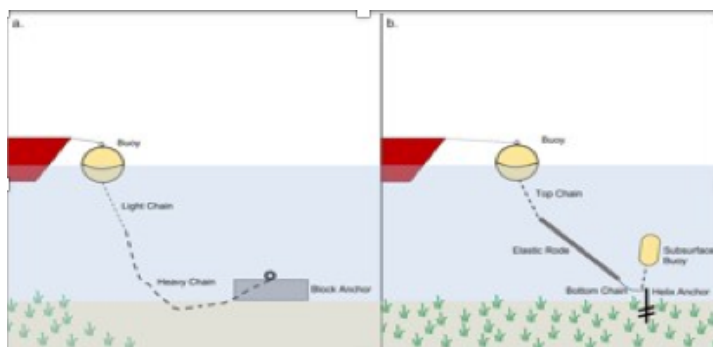
We are looking for more Chatham Water Watchers volunteers for next year. We especially need volunteers who have boats. For information, [email](#) or go to [Water Watchers](#).



Top: Lauren and Allie Thonus using Niskin water sampler in Mill Pond. Bottom: Sandy Giorgetti recording data from Stage Harbor.



## An Innovative Approach to Preserving Cape Cod's Marine Ecosystem



Eco-moorings are an alternative to conventional mooring tackle and they are showing significant promise in eelgrass conservation. With traditional mooring tackle, the chain drags on the harbor bottom and scars the benthic habitat, making it inhospitable for eelgrass. The block or mushroom anchor further takes up valuable seafloor space. With this innovative system, the heavy chain is replaced with a floating elastic mooring rode and is secured to a helical pile that is screwed into the bottom, thereby drastically reducing the impact.


Eelgrass is one type of subaquatic vegetation and is the cornerstone of Cape Cod's coastal ecology. Eelgrass is a critical nursery habitat for many marine species, including species such as scallops, lobsters and striped bass. It is also a critical front-line defense against climate change, given its ability to sequester and store carbon and buffer the shoreline from storm surge energy.

These eco-moorings have been shown to directly contribute to the preservation of this vital marine vegetation that is commonly destroyed by conventional anchor and chained mooring tackle and worth serious consideration.

Learn more about the positive ecological impact of eco-moorings. If you have a mooring please consider replacing the tackle with this technology, contact the [Chatham Harbor Master](#) for more information about your options based on your mooring's location.

- [Recovery of eelgrass \*Zostera marina\* following conversion of conventional block and chain moorings to conservation mooring systems in Massachusetts: context dependence, challenges, and management](#)
- [Conservation Mooring Study January 2013](#)
- [The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries Conservation Boat Mooring Recommendations in Eelgrass and Other Sensitive Aquatic Habitats June 10, 2019](#)
- [BoatMoorings.com](#)

## Pleasant Bay Climate Adaptation Forum



**TAKE  
ONLINE  
SURVEY**  
<https://pleasantbay.org/programs-and-projects/climate-resilience/climate-adaptation-action-plan/climate-adaptation-action-survey>

**IN-PERSON  
SATURDAY,  
OCTOBER 21  
9AM - 2PM**

**PLEASANT BAY  
CLIMATE ADAPTATION FORUM**  
**AT CHATHAM COMMUNITY CENTER**  
**702 MAIN ST., CHATHAM, MA**  
PLEASE TAKE THE ONLINE SURVEY,  
EVEN IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND THE FORUM.  
**REGISTER HERE:**  
[HTTPS://WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM/E/PLEASANT-BAY-CLIMATE-ADAPTATION-FORUM-TICKETS-710301770717](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pleasant-bay-climate-adaptation-forum-tickets-710301770717)  
**THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13**

**Logos:** Orleans Chatham Nantuxet Pleasant Bay Alliance, Sea Grant Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Friends of Pleasant Bay, County of Barnstable Atlantic Habitat, Pleasant Bay Community Boating, Cape Cod Climate Council, 20th Orleans Pond Coalition, FCW Friends of Chatham Watersheds.

The **Pleasant Bay Climate Adaptation Forum** will be held in-person on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Chatham Community Center.

Join us for a day of presentations and engagement about ongoing projects in Pleasant Bay, understanding the environmental threats, and how you can provide feedback on solutions.

Please take this [online survey](#) to provide your input, even if you cannot attend the forum.

FCW is one of the sponsors of this event and we hope you will join us. The deadline to [register](#) is Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>.



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

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