



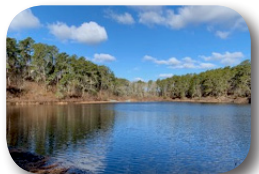
# BE A GOOD POND STEWARD

## How to help keep Your Pond Healthy

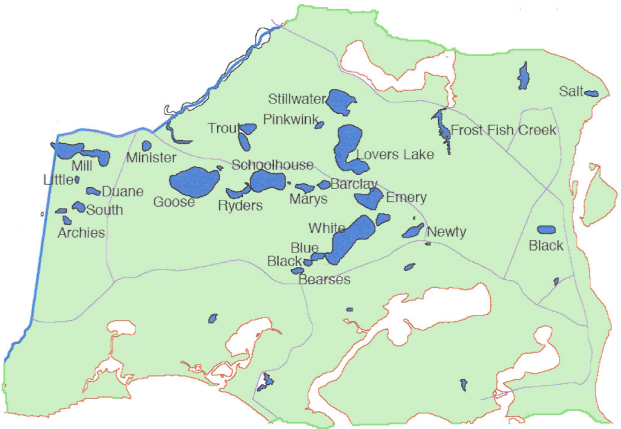
- **Avoid fertilizer and pesticide use.** Fertilizer fuels dangerous cyanobacteria blooms. Pesticides can harm pond life.
- **Maintain a native plant buffer** between your lawn and the pond. The vegetation will help trap sediments and pollutants from reaching the pond as well as absorb nutrients.
- **Don't feed waterfowl.** Their excrement can pollute the pond with excess nutrients (it's also against the law).
- **Don't flush medications.** What goes down the drain will ultimately leach into ponds and our drinking water. Dispose of medications at the special drop box at the Chatham Police Department.
- **Dispose of hazardous chemicals at Special Collection Sites.** Paint, cleaning fluids and pesticides need special handling. Never put down the drain or empty onto the ground.
- **Take care of your septic system.** Septic systems are the #1 cause of water pollution. Pump your system at least every 3 years; don't flush food waste or grease. Avoid use of harsh cleaning chemicals.

For more information on healthy ponds, safe drinking water, and what you can do to help, visit

[Chathamwaterways.org](http://Chathamwaterways.org)



# Friends of Chatham Waterways - Pond Study Group



Our ponds are connected to the Cape's aquifer, which is the source of our drinking water. Contamination in one area affects the region, including the recreational use of our ponds.

FCW assists the town with monitoring water quality to identify changes over time. Working with the Association to Preserve Cape Cod, we also assist the town monitoring for harmful cyanobacteria blooms.

**Join us. Volunteer. Donate.**

**Chathamwaterways.org**

