

Water Watchers 2023



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 or Pleasant Bay. On testing days volunteers first observe and record weather conditions, wind force and direction and water clarity. Next they use a refractometer to determine salinity values, a Secchi disk to measure the testing station depth, and a dissolved oxygen meter to record oxygen saturation. Finally, using a Niskin, they collect water samples to be tested for nutrient and chlorophyll content. The samples and data will be analyzed at the University of Massachusetts School of Marine Science and Technology in Dartmouth.

The Coastal Water Nutrient Monitoring Program is organized and supervised by Dr. Robert Duncanson, Director of the town's Department of Health and Natural Resources. Dr. Duncanson certifies Water Watchers every season in the use of water testing equipment and water sampling protocols.

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.

The following Water Watchers helped out this season: in Stage Harbor Estuaries, Betsy Mosser, Noah Fleischman, Lauren Thonus, Allie Thonus, Luke Dougherty, Sandy Giorgetti, Sarah Wilsterman, Randy Fusaro, Douglas Fields, Janet Fields, Susan Weinz, Marianne Nover, Pippin Griscom, Jeff Mason, Stuart Deadrick, Cam Koblish, Wendy Koblish, Bill Horrocks, Larry Capodilupo; in South Coastal Embayments, Dick Hosmer, David Miller, Roger Donald, David Holden, John Garey, Sherrie Burson, Ron Holmes; in Pleasant Bay, Bob Samuelson, Charlie Goheen, Carolyn Parker, Dick Hoyt, Joe Meeks, Bob Wilson, Patrick Otton, Michael Reilly, Elizabeth Reilly, Carole Ridley, Scott Ridley, Natalie Coleman Fuller, Dick Ingwall, Joanne Ingwall, Sue Machie, Charlie Worrick, Patricia MacNaughton, Jack MacNaughton, Don MacNaughton, and Steve Dorus.



To become a volunteer Water Watcher for 2024, contact: Betsy Mosser / Bob Samuelson waterwatchers@chathamwaterways.org.