



Jeff Mason, FCW President

We are pleased to announce Jeff Mason as the newly elected President of FCW. Jeff officially took the helm at our Annual Meeting in August and is well qualified to steer the organization in the right direction moving forward. Mason graduated from Dartmouth College's Geography and Environmental Studies Program and completed the MA Geography Program at UC Santa Barbara. He is the Chief Environmental Scientist and a Group Manager at Ecology & Environment, Inc. which will be merging with WSP Global, Inc. in 2020. He is a certified Professional Wetland Scientist and a Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner who works on a variety of public and private sector projects involving wetlands and waterbodies throughout the U.S.

Jeff is a FCW WaterWatcher and a member of the FCW Pond Study Group, collecting water samples for the Standard Pond Data and the Cyanobacteria Testing Programs. Jeff lives in Chatham and makes caring for our waterways a family affair by collecting water samples and data with the help of his wife and son!

## ANNUAL MEETING KEYNOTE

The Keynote address at the Friends of Chatham Waterways 36th Annual Meeting was given by Jennifer Francis, PhD, Senior Scientist at the Woods Hole Research Center in Falmouth. She spoke to a large audience August 27, at the Chatham Community Center on "The Arctic Meltdown and Extreme Weather: How Are They Connected?"



As an undergraduate student in the 1980's, Francis took a break from college and sailed around the world with her husband. This five-year journey instilled a curiosity about weather patterns and their underlying causes. She continued her studies and received a PhD in Atmospheric Science from the University of Washington. Later she taught graduate students at Rutgers University Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences until the fall of 2018. She is now at Woods Hole she focuses on her pioneering arctic research and how weather extremes and global warming are connected.

She presented her findings at the 2019 World Economic Forum and has been published extensively in scientific and educational journals. She has been interviewed on the PBS News Hour, and quoted in the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*. Her research is focused on the rapidly changing Arctic, what causes the changes, and how disproportionate Arctic warming is affecting temperate regions around the globe. Dr. Francis recommends starting now to dramatically limit green-house gas emissions. Hearing her findings one cannot deny that we need to act responsibly now with innovative ideas to halt the trend. Her complicated research was presented in a way that was understandable to a very receptive audience.

Interactive period followed when Dr. Francis was asked about her continued research and what we can do as citizens. She ended by saying that we need help from the government to encourage more research and action to stem the tide of extreme weather events. We have a calling to create innovative local, national and worldwide, programs to limit green-house gas emissions.

Dr. Francis shared a video of a similar lecture given at the Woods Hole Research Center for the FCW to post on our website. The video can be viewed on [www.chathamwaterways.org](http://www.chathamwaterways.org) Click on GENERAL INFORMATION and scroll down to the video "Rough Weather Ahead."

### *Friends of Chatham Waterways,*

*Season's Greetings! I am very excited about assuming the leadership role at FCW from Barbara Cotnam. She has done a great job guiding this organization to where it is today and I appreciate her assistance in getting me up to speed. I look forward to working with the rest of the Board of Directors to help promote the FCW and its stewardship efforts in a period of profound change in the water resources that it is tasked to champion and protect. As we learn to adapt and become more resilient in the face of evolving climatic conditions and sea level rise, we will need to work together to focus this group's efforts, amazing energy, volunteerism, and financial support and bring them all to bear to benefit Chatham's waterways. In this regard, I look forward to meeting you the FCW membership and hearing any ideas that you may have for the organization moving forward. Thank you all for your past and future volunteer and financial support of our local waterways and coastal way of life!*

*Best Regards,*

## 20th ANNIVERSARY YEAR for CHATHAM WATER WATCHERS



Pippin Griscom (l) and Drew Carey, loyal WaterWatchers enjoying monitoring at Stage Harbor this year.



L to R: Tom Parker, Carolyn Parker, Josh Coburn and Joe Roller  
*Photo by Bob Samuelson*

2019 marks the FCW program's 20<sup>th</sup> Year of providing and helping to train volunteers. Equipment and lab testing is provided by the town. As important now as in the beginning, our volunteers provide water samples that expand the data base for present and future comparisons. As we implement Chatham's waste water system the data will become more valuable for comparing base line values.

Our dedicated volunteers tested our waters every other week in July and August and once in September, a total of five times a season. To thank this year's volunteers they received an attractive blue metal thermos refillable water bottle with the FCW logo. Tom Parker is holding up a Niskin Water sampling equipment bottle. Other equipment used by the citizen scientist teams include: a refractor meter, Secchi disk and dissolved oxygen meters. Water depths, clarity, salinity, and temperature are also measured.

This team is enjoying being out on the water monitoring, PBA4, Crow's Pond & Outer Ryder's Cove - Photo by Bob Samuelson

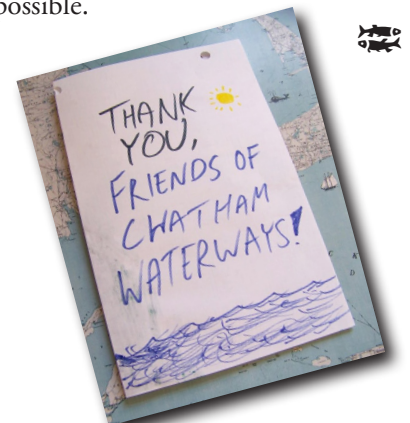
If you would like to help with the program or want to know more about the program the three coordinators are listed below. They would be happy to answer any questions you have. We monitor three areas – perhaps you live near one of the three and would be willing to help. If so, For the Pleasant Bay area contact, Bob Samuelson, [rjsamuelson@mac.com](mailto:rjsamuelson@mac.com).

Frank Messina coordinates the South Coastal Embayments, [franksmalabar@gmail.com](mailto:franksmalabar@gmail.com).

And for the Stage Harbor area E-mail Betsy Mosser, [betsymosser@aol.com](mailto:betsymosser@aol.com).

## BARBARA STREIBERT ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION GRANTS

This program began to honor Barbara's environmental work through her twelve years as a FCW Director. Betsy Mosser coordinates the program. The grants are awarded annually to teachers in the Monomoy Regional School District to K through 12 classes. Teachers in Science or the Humanities are eligible to apply. The grants make it possible for teachers to promote student awareness and appreciation of our fragile environment. Awardees for 2019 are: Middle school teacher Nancy Gifford who received funds for 7<sup>th</sup> grade field trips to Muddy Creek and the Cape Cod National Seashore. The grant awarded was for \$1,800. A second grant was awarded to Cherie Armstrong, middle school librarian and teacher for the school's annual weekend retreat. The award was for \$2,000. The third grant of \$200, was awarded to Monomoy Regional High School English teacher Lisa Forte-Doyle for her junior student's American Literature class. All together a total of \$4,000 was awarded. Students have written thank you notes to FCW in appreciation for the grants that make possible these extra-curricular opportunities. FCW thanks you our members for making the grants possible.



Your email will help us save money by communicating via ConstantContact

To be added to our email communications list, please send your email address in a message titled "FCW Email" to

[Watermark.chatham@verizon.net](mailto:Watermark.chatham@verizon.net)

Thank you for helping us save money and paper!

*Your email address will not be shared with ANYONE!*



## CAPTAIN'S AWARD 2019 – DEBORAH S. ECKER

The “CAPTAIN’S AWARD FOR CONSERVATION” was aimed at honoring individuals or groups for distinguished service in protecting local waterways and adjacent lands. Tom King did the honors of describing Debby’s achievements aimed at protecting our environment. FCW gave Debby a clock inscribed with her name as a recipient. In Rob Carlisle’s book “The Story of the Friends of Chatham Waterways” Decades of Dedication she is described as a dynamic Director. In her early years with degrees from Vassar College and Brandeis University, she and her husband Hoyt settled in Weston, Ma where she held leadership positions both locally and in the state house as an Associate Commissioner in the Commonwealth’s Tax Department. Ahead of her time she was a crusader for local Weston assessors to adopt computer-based assessment systems.

Hoyt and Debby enjoyed vacationing in the Stage Harbor light house which had been converted into a family compound by the Ecker family. Debby, her husband and family became full time Chatham residents in their home on Sears Point Lane overlooking Stage Harbor in 1998. She completed two economic studies for the Town of Chatham. The first was presented in 1997 to 120 people gathered at CBI for a sumptuous breakfast arranged by CBI General Manager, Chris Diego. Residents came to hear Debby report on *An Economic Study of Chatham Massachusetts*, a 75+ page booklet created by Debby during a year-long research project. Her report emphasized that **“you’ve got to protect the environment if you’re going to attract new residents to live in Chatham”**. Tim Wood recognized the importance of the research and covered the event with a long article starting on the front page in the CCC. Debby also wrote the economic section of Chatham’s Long Range Plan. She then created a Hotel/Motel tax that could be used to purchase property for open space. When the new source of revenue passed at Town Meeting it was placed in a general fund instead, and none of the tax was earmarked for land purchase.

Debby also found in her research that the Chatham Fishing Industry is another segment of the economy that is as important to Chatham residents as real estate. Debby found that Chatham and Provincetown combined accounted for 2/3 of all the fish caught on the Cape. FCW wanted to work with the Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen’s Association. John Pappalardo helped by becoming a Director who kept commercial fishermen’s activities on the agenda at Director’s meetings. An upshot of the connection was a FCW Annual Meeting centered on the Commercial Fishermen’s organization. Thus, educating Chatham residents about the importance of the fishing industry.

No review of Debby’s efforts to improve Chatham’s Quality of Life would be complete without telling the story of a zoning bylaw project. The rewrite began after FCW held a popular Quality of Life Conference which she helped organize at the Wequassett Inn. Debby’s work on improving Chatham’s zoning by-laws was a four year process. Beginning in 1999, working with John Geiger they steadfastly put in countless hours of ‘heavy lifting’ to improve the existing bylaw. Four zoning bylaw amendments passed at the May 2001 town Meeting a win for FCW Directors. However, due to the requirement for district maps the bylaws were not enforced. Next project, Article II, which gave protection



### CAPTAINS AWARD - Deborah Ecker

Right: Debby Ecker, a founding member of FCW is congratulated by President, Barbara Cotnam.

Below: Cotnam hung a new Captain’s Award Plaque with room for Debby’s name and future “Captains of Conservation.” Robert Stello donated the new wooden plaque.



for our part of the water and sewer rules and regulations, which dealt with sewer flow when the Town needed approval for the waste water treatment plant. Debby once more did heavy lifting helping to write the Article which passed at Town Meeting.

A new enlarged plaque with Debby’s name inscribed now hangs in the Chatham Downtown Offices.

## LEWIS E. KIMBALL ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOLARSHIPS 2019-2020

Co-Chairs, Theresa Sull and Barb Cotnam, committee members are Michele Moloney-Kitts and Lisa Cody.

### TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED IN 2019 was \$11,500

Six applicants were awarded scholarships: two graduate students and four bachelor degree students. Since we had a record number of worthy applicants the committee decided to award more than the usual three scholarships and lower the amount to each recipient and the full board agreed with the following awardees. At a regularly scheduled FCW meeting Directors voted to approve each applicant that the Scholarship Committee selected. We thank *The Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation* for their generous \$5,000 grant making the six awards possible.

One of the recipients wrote a note of appreciation to Friends of Chatham Waterways. "I am incredibly thankful that the Committee selected me, and I am excited to see what my next two years at Stonehill College and beyond hold in my continued path towards becoming an environmental educator. I have no doubt that this scholarship will play a major role in my ability to reach my goals." Directors thank all FCW members and to those who donate specifically to this program. Recipients for 2019-2020 are:

**Alexandra Cook – SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry - \$2,500.**

**Master of Science Degree, 2020. Major Fish & Wildlife**

Ms. Cook received a Scholarship from FCW in 2013 while attending @UMass Amherst. Miss Cook lives in Eastham. Goals are to receive her masters in Coastal Avian Conservation in 2020. Her Masters research project is on tidal marsh sparrows. - **\$2,500**

**Kathleen Mason – Duke, Nicholas School of the Environment. - \$2,500 Master of Environmental Management, 2021**

(MEM) Concentration – Coastal Environmental Management  
Lives in Barnstable. Future goals – Passion for estuaries and salt marshes providing coastal resiliency. Interned with Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve when at Colby College. She would like to work on projects that are part of the solution to our environmental problems of the day with an emphasis on coastal resiliency and water quality.

**Allison Carter - UMass, Amherst, - \$2,000**

**Expected graduation date, B.S. in Environmental Science – 2021**

Major, Environmental Science, Minor Biology  
Lives in Centerville, MA Village in Barnstable  
Future Goals - To obtain a Master's Degree and possibly a Doctorate and use my education to connect my knowledge of climate change and environmental science with the public. Ideally working on Cape Cod to change habits that rely on plastic to biodegradable and sustainable products. Allison started a Cape Cod web site that promotes sustainable products while in High School. She began a food waste reduction program at Barnstable High School in 2017. She has done research on turning a cranberry farm into a wetland. She had a glowing report from her professor of soil microbiology.

**Louisa Rossel - Stonehill College, Easton, MA \$2,000**

**Expected graduation date, Bachelor of Arts, 2021 Major in Environmental Studies + Education**

Lives in Dennis, MA. Her future goals: Working at a nature preserve to protect

Louisa Rossel (continued)

wetlands or to increase the populations of endangered species. Loves working with children and enjoys teaching. Experience working as a Farm Field trip leader in Dartmouth, MA. Excellent reports from her advisor and teachers.

**Benjamin Pickard - Roger Williams, Bristol, R.I. \$2,000**

**Expected graduation date, 2020 BA, Marine Biology and Aquaculture.**

Lives in Provincetown, MA

Mr. Pickard is a fourth generation Cape Codder, raised by "Old Salts." He has had a Commercial Lobster License, fishing out of Provincetown, since he was 16 years old. And received a shellfish license at age twelve. Ben works long hours but still has an impressive GPA. He has planted millions of clams. His goal is to own a shellfish hatchery, producing a sustainable source of oyster and quahog seedling for the farms of New England and beyond.

**Page Decker, Mass Maritime Academy, 101 Academy Drive, Buzzards Bay, MA 02532 - \$500**

**Expected graduation date 2020**

**- Marine Environmental Safety and Protection major.**

Enthusiastic student with good reports from her advisor. She lives on Nantucket and is currently employed part-time at Hyline Cruises. She has also worked on the Cape Cod Canal. Page strengthened her great love of the sea traveling on the Tall Ship Lynx. She has participated on the NHS Sailing team and MMA's crew team. She included a good recommendation from her Chemistry Professor.



## FOUR NEW FCW DIRECTORS

**We are pleased to welcome the following new Directors dedicated to the goals of the Friends and ready to work on projects that promote healthier fresh and salt waterways in Chatham.**



**Mr. Ian Hoffman-Terry** is an alumnus of Chatham High School, where he played soccer and basketball, and was a member of the National Honor Society. He received his B.A. degree in Government from Clark University, where he graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa. He received his Masters in Teaching History from

Clark University's Hiatt Center for Education, where he was mentored by Dr. Jim McDermott, former Massachusetts Teacher of the Year, and leading member of the Massachusetts Curriculum Framework Committee. Mr. Hoffman-Terry teaches U.S. History, Government, and Global Studies, and advises the "We the People" program, a competition team based on the We the People government curriculum. The "We the People" curriculum has been recognized as a leading civics and citizenship program. Ian loves engaging students (and adults) in history, global issues, and government, and spends as much time as he can in outdoor activities hiking, camping, sailing and travelling. He's biked across Alaska, Western Europe and Newfoundland.



**Sarge Slicer** and his wife are longtime residents of Chatham. He has been active in and a supporter of protecting and preserving the environment for many years. He has a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Northeastern University. He worked at FM Global and while there became a fire protection engineer. Now retired, he started his own fire protection engineering consulting

company. He is presently and has been a FCW Water Watcher program for many years. Sarge spends several winter months in Florida and is willing to work on FCW projects using his computer skills where needed.



**Michael Reilly** and his wife Elizabeth have been Chatham summer residents on Aunt Lydia's Cove from Hartford, CT since 2009. He is an avid boater, sailor, and rowing enthusiast. He has been an FCW member since 2016 and a water tester since 2018. Retired since 2017, Michael practiced law at a major global law firm in New York and Hartford for 40 years and headed its financial restructuring

unit the past 20 years. He currently is a Board member of the Hartford Golf Club and its Scholarship Foundation. Previously, he served for nine years on the board of the Kingswood Oxford School, West Hartford CT, for ten years on the non-profit board of Tina's Wish, an ovarian cancer research foundation in New York.



**Theresa Sull** supports FCW's goals of protecting its precious natural waterways and environment. She has a degree in American History and Literature from Harvard University. She and her daughter make up a mother/daughter team testing pond water for cyanobacteria concentrations. Her family has enjoyed vacationing in Chatham for thirty years.

They have been full time residents since 2012. She is the Co-Chairperson of the FCW Scholarship Committee and helped make the committee have its best year ever awarding six scholarships in 2019.



Editor's Note: Please consider using the attached envelope to give to the Scholarship fund or if you haven't yet done so, to the FCW Annual Appeal.  
*Thank You!*





## Pond Study Group Report - August 2019

The Pond Study Group was established in 2012 to begin a new program that would focus on our freshwater ponds and aquifer. The initiative began with testing six ponds, following a protocol similar to that used by FCW Water Watchers to test our saltwater estuaries. Our volunteers collect data on temperature, turbidity and dissolved oxygen levels to measure the health of six of the following ponds; Stillwater, Lovers, White, Emery, Schoolhouse and Barclay. In 2018 the PSG initiated and new program testing five ponds for levels of cyanobacteria, the program continued in 2019 with DeeDee Holt as Chair. Sandy Giorgetti is in charge of volunteers for the program, this year 22 volunteers became 'Citizen Scientists'. Plans are to continue the work long term. Other members include Kristin Andres, Barbara Cotnam and Jeff Mason. We thank Dr. Bob Duncanson, Director of Chatham's Department of Natural Resources, who purchased the equipment and helped make this program possible by financing a major portion of the expensive lab fees in 2019. Thank you to our members who also helped with lab fees by giving an extra amount at membership renewal in 2019 earmarked for cyanobacteria testing. We also thank the Credit is given to FCW Director, Sandy Giorgetti for working with pond study volunteers, training, scheduling and keeping volunteers informed during the testing season. We also received a \$1,000 grant from

*The Chatham Fund of the Cape Cod Foundation.* Partnering once more with Association to Preserve Cape Cod and with the Town of Chatham we will continue testing for the presence and concentration levels of cyanobacteria in Goose, Schoolhouse, White, Lovers and Stillwater ponds in 2020.

There's has been an increasing amount of press about blue-green algal blooms both on Cape Cod where in neighboring towns ponds have been closed due to highly toxic cyanobacteria blooms and also nationwide problems with toxic algal blooms. The cause on the cape is higher water temps from global warming, fertilizer use, septic systems and storm water runoff. The concern is that people or animals coming in contact with toxic cyanobacteria in ponds can sicken people and have occasionally killed dogs.

The summary from the Association to Preserve Cape Cod's 2018 Final Report states as follows: "we completed a valuable first assessment of cyanobacteria in five of Chatham's largest ponds and generally found little to be concerned about. White Pond was the only location where we found

a consistently significant population of the genus *Microcystis*, which produces significantly more cyanotoxin per unit biomass." However, important to note that levels of concern occurred only once, and that was after a heavy rain event that caused significant storm water runoff. As a result, the testing program of the same 5 ponds this year set White Pond as top priority.

Cyanobacteria are very common in low concentrations in fresh water, but if ponds receive enough nutrients from, for example septic systems or fertilizers they can rapidly increase in numbers to the point of requiring a public health alert or beach closing. Late August to early September is prime time for cyanobacteria blooms because of higher water temperatures and possibility of storm water runoff. So far this summer, cyanobacteria have been detected at various levels at all test sites, but not in concentrations that would warrant a health alert. In late June Stillwater did experience an algal bloom, possibly explained in part by the amount of heavy rain received that month. If you see a green or bluish scum on a pond, please alert the Chatham Health Department.

Finally, the PSG also published several articles in the Cape Cod Chronicle again this summer. We are also developing a public education initiative called "What You Can Do To Keep Your Pond Healthy" directed to property owners living on or around our ponds, encouraging them to follow practices that limit the damage to our ponds done by septic systems, fertilizers, and storm water runoff.



A solitary Bufflehead enjoying an autumn afternoon on Mary's Pond, Chatham, MA. *Photo by Cotnam*





Left to Right:  
Debbie Simmons,  
John and Pam King



## FCW COASTSWEEP PROGRAM

Left. Steph & Chuck Bartlett help pick up debris from our beaches during FCW's 31<sup>st</sup> consecutive year of helping with the International Program. FCW Director, Betsy Mosser, organizes 'Coast-sweep Chatham' held on September 21, 2019. Fifty-five volunteers participated in cleaning up twenty-one sites along Chatham's shoreline. Locally Coastsweep is run by FCW as part of the Mass Office of Coastal Zone Management's annual cleanup. Data from the cleanup is analyzed by the Ocean Conservancy and used to develop programs to help reduce marine debris worldwide.

This year 350 lbs were hauled away from our beaches. Most numerous items were plastic items - food wrappers, bottle caps, bags, plastic & foam packaging, fishing lines, some balloons and a Barbie doll. Large items were tires, a mushroom anchor, channel buoy, oyster cages, dock piling, and a boat hull. Coastsweep volunteers help to bring an awareness of the abundance of trash, especially plastic, on the town's beaches and the need for everyone to be aware and help by picking up trash on our beaches.



## FRIENDS OF CHATHAM WATERWAYS

### Report of Nominating Committee \ 2019 Nominations for Officers and Directors

Robert Montbach, Chair, Members, Ron Bergstrom and DeeDee Holt

#### OFFICERS

President - Jeffrey A. Mason

Vice-Presidents - Tom King and Frank Messina

Secretary - Kristin Andres

Treasurer - Bob Samuelson

#### Term Expiring 2022

Kristin Andres  
Ron Bergstrom  
Betsy Mosser  
Michael Reilly  
Robert J. Samuelson  
Ian Hoffman-Terry  
Sargent Slicer  
Sull, Theresa

#### Term Expiring 2021

Mike Page  
Robert Montbach  
Jeffrey A. Mason  
Michele Moloney Kitts  
Sandy Giorgetti  
Lisa Cody

#### Term Expiring 2020

Barbara Cotnam  
DeeDee Holt  
Tom King  
Frank Messina





*Happy Holidays!*



**NOVEMBER 2019 ISSUE - Barbara Cotnam, Editor**