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Orleans Pond Coalition
Advocating for Clean Waters Since 2003

Summer is Here!

Upcoming talks, programs, and more

It's July and summer has officially arrived in Orleans. Our Nauset Concert Series has begun. The Firebirds are playing baseball. Family BBQ's abound. It's time to go outdoors and enjoy the waters around us. Summer on Cape Cod is truly heaven on earth! So please enjoy our waters. Here's a list of Orleans Town Landings for easy coastal access.

As you enjoy this time, we'd also like to share a few insights to help keep you pond smart.

Education Seminar: *The Climate-Conscious Landscape*

Join us to learn how to make your home landscape more sustainable and climate friendly.:

Friday July 14th, 10AM. Snow Library Crane Room. 67 Main St, Orleans, MA.

OPC and co-sponsor the Mayflower Point Ecology Committee will offer an educational opportunity to learn more about Climate Wise Landscaping. The talk will be led by Kristin Andres, Education Director at the Association to Preserve Cape Cod. As the weather continues to become hotter and drier, learning about how to create beautiful landscapes while becoming a good steward of your property is more important now than ever before.

This education seminar, will teach you the important things you can do to make your home landscape more sustainable by being climate-conscious in your choices: reduce your carbon footprint, support biodiversity, and adapt to extreme weather events of drought and deluge.

This is a Free event - No Registration is required.

Want to learn more about sustainable management of your property?

Download our new bulletin titled “Redefining Green Landscapes.”

We live on Cape Cod because we enjoy being near the water. Our marine and fresh water resources are essential for a healthy ecosystem, our quality of life, and the local economy. Yet these resources are being threatened by overuse of fertilizers, storm water runoff, wastewater and climate change. If you own or care for property on Cape Cod, it is incumbent on all of us to be good stewards of the land and adapt our behaviors to this unique part of the world. Together we can change perceptions about what makes a yard beautiful while protecting our Cape Cod environment.

Checkout these tips and new resources to help you care for your Cape property.

OPC Land Stewardship Brochure

More OPC Land Stewardship Resources

Cyanobacteria Monitoring Update:

Our June Bulletin pond announced the May 30th monitoring kick off with APCC. We are happy to report no cyanobacteria blooms have been reported after three testing cycles in the ponds we monitor.

We encourage you to check our website regularly here or APCC's monitoring page here (for all of Cape Cod). Please remember condition can change. If you see a potential bloom,contact us. Some cyanobacteria blooms can look like foam, scum, or mats, particularly when the wind blows them toward a shoreline.The blooms can be blue, bright green, brown, or red.

A huge shout out to this year's monitoring volunteers: Lisa Allen, Carolyn Auty, Karen Back, Dave Betts, Louise Betts, Judith Bruce, Carol Counihan, Elizabeth DeLima, John Dugan, Dick Ingwall, Joanne Ingwall, Jamie Demas, Bob Warneke, Ed Hafner, Jane Hull, John Hull, Fitz Pannill, Janice Patel, Steve Shervanian, John Smith, Eric Spengler, and Susan Vogel. Monitoring our ponds is so important and could not happen without you generously donating your time. Thank you!

New Title Septic Regulations
Approved and Go Into Effect July 7, 2023

Last month, Governor Maura Healey signed into law the updated DEP's regulations governing septic systems and watershed permits. This is a huge milestone for clean water on Cape Cod! If you are interested in more details regarding the updated Title 5 regulations, here's a Fact Sheet and Summary.

Key elements of the new regulation:

- We now have watershed permitting regulations that incentivize and empower towns to obtain permits that let them shape the right mix of nutrient-reducing approaches best suited to their community on an enforceable schedule.

- Local governments whose jurisdictions contain a nitrogen sensitive area (i.e., pollution, including sewer systems, alternative septic systems, and nitrogen removal through aquaculture. If a town does not secure a watershed permit after two years, individual homeowners will have to upgrade septic systems with "enhanced nitrogen reducing treatment technology (A/I)" within five years.

The good news is:

Orleans has only one watershed currently identified as"impaired" by the new state regulations, Pleasant Bay. Under the umbrella of the Pleasant Bay Alliance, the four towns of Orleans, Chatham, Harwich, and Brewster have a comprehensive watershed permit in place – the first in the state. Orleans will begin construction of Phase 2(Meetinghouse Pond) of our Comprehensive Wastewater Plan this fall, moving us toward our nitrogen reduction requirements. Phase 3 (Lakes and Ponds) is in the planning stage and will move us even closer to our reduction requirements, with the added benefit of removing phosphorus from Crystal and Pilgrim Lakes.

The Nauset Estuary/Town Cove watershed will, in the future,be identified as impaired. The Town recently signed a Memo of Understanding with Eastham, with the intent of working cooperatively to obtain a comprehensive watershed permit for that area.

Orleans Wastewater Management Advisory Committee is working on revising our Comprehensive Wastewater Plan to map our future sewer phases,and will include Permeable Reactive Barriers, and aquaculture to further reduce our nitrogen loads. At this moment in time, assuming continued progress, no homeowner in Orleans will be required to install and IA septic system.

OPC's 2023 Annual Appeal is Open:
Please renew your membership or join today.

This is truly a special year for the Orleans Pond Coalition as it marks our 20th anniversary. Whether you are new to OPC or a long-time member, we are grateful to celebrate with you.

We are also celebrating the opening of the town's wastewater treatment plant. This is a huge step forward for Orleans' clean water mission! Our ponds, lakes, shorelines, marshes, and estuaries are Orleans' most precious resource – and more needs to be done to protect and enhance these waters.

We hope you will join us in celebrating OPC's impact through our advocacy, education, programs, and research.

As a member of the Orleans Pond Coalition, you will be the first to receive invitations to our events - such as our Celebrate our Waters and our education programs.

To Renew or Join please click below:

Join or Renew your OPC Membership

SAVE THE DATES:
September 15-17:
Celebrate Our Waters – A town-wide celebration.

Mark your calendars for Celebrate Our Waters, OPC's signature event of the year, now bigger and better than ever! We're offering dozens of events around Orleans to celebrate the beauty of our environment and our

Tour our new wastewater treatment plant, bring your family to our Rock Harbor family fun tent, go on eco hikes, kayak tours, sailing,sunset paddle boards, and much, much more!

This year we are offering early registration opportunities to current 2023 OPC members for events with limited space. These extremely popular events include the Sipson Island Kayak &Hike tour, sunset paddles, and more. You won't want to miss these extraordinary activities.

October 17th. The OPC Annual Meeting

This year we decided to hold our Annual Meeting on 'Founders Day.' Twenty years ago, on October 17, 2003, the Orleans Pond Coalition held its first meeting, and this year, to the day, we will host our 20thanniversary gathering. We will mark this occasion with a few fun and informative activities. If you are in town, please plan to attend.

We are excited for you to join the Orleans Pond Coalition during this very special year - our 20th anniversary - by becoming a member, volunteering, participating in our programs and events, or telling your friends about us. With your help, we will safeguard Orleans's most precious resource: our waters.

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Orleans Pond Coalition
Advocating for Clean Waters Since 2003

www.OrleansPondCoalition.org

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