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**Orleans Pond Coalition**

*protecting and enhancing our waters*

**It's June and at long last summer weather has arrived.**

Let's get out and enjoy! We hope the June Monthly Newsletter provides useful insights to help with your clean water journey outside!

## **2024 Cyanobacteria Monitoring Program Launched May 29th: Boland Pond issued Public Health Advisory**



OPC, in partnership with APCC and the Town of Orleans, kicked off this year's cyanobacteria monitoring program on May 29th. This year we are monitoring six ponds in Orleans. These include Crystal & Pilgrim Lakes, Boland, Cedar, Bakers, and Uncle Harvey's Ponds. We are thankful for the army of volunteers who help make it happen. It's a highly coordinated effort. All sampling occurs in the same manner at each pond at the same time. Samples are then transferred to APCC for analysis and reporting.

**May 29 test results reported elevated cyanobacteria levels at Boland Pond.** As a result, the Orleans Board of Health issued a public health advisory for Boland Pond. The water may be unsafe for people and pets, so please do not swim or play in the water at this time. If you come into contact with the water, rinse off. Please click [here](#) to view the advisory. This advisory will remain in place until two consecutive good results are reported. Next update by

**PUBLIC  
HEALTH  
ADVISORY**

the Orleans BOH is scheduled for Thursday June 13th.

Testing on all six ponds will continue biweekly through October. You can follow progress on the OPC website [here](#). You can also monitor progress on the APCC webpage [here](#). Sign up for cyanobacteria alerts and receive an email from APCC when a pond anywhere on the Cape is found to have a potentially toxic cyanobacteria bloom.

## Save the Dates!

### September 13-15: Celebrate Our Waters – A Town-Wide Celebration.

Please mark your calendars for Celebrate Our Waters 2024. This is 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 waters. Tour our new wastewater treatment plant, bring your family to our Rock Harbor family fun tent, go on eco hikes, kayak tours, sailing, and much, much more!



This year we are offering early registration opportunities to current 2024 OPC members for events with limited space. These extremely popular events include the Town Cove Kayak tour, the Sipson Island Kayak & Hike tour, Sailing, and more. You won't want to miss these extraordinary activities.



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### Plus we are adding a Concert to our Saturday Evening Bonfire.

To help make the weekend extraordinary, we have partnered with Beyond the Bounds to bring you a very special concert on Nauset Beach with special guest the grammy award winning artist **Mike Block and Biribá Union**. If you've not heard them, you're in for a

special treat. They are a dynamic trio that blends original music with global influences, creating a fresh and accessible sound. Pair that with a summer evening at Nauset Beach, and it will be a memorable evening for sure. Click [here](#) for more information about Biribá Union.



**This will be an evening not to be missed!**

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## October 16th. OPC's Annual Meeting

We're thrilled that Katie Castagno, Ph.D., Director of the Land-Sea Interaction Program at the Center for Coastal Studies in Provincetown, MA will be our guest speaker. Katie's topic will be "Monitoring, Restoration, and Resilience: a Geologic Perspective to Coastal change on Cape Cod"

Katie Castagno, Ph.D., is the director of the Land-Sea Interaction Program at the Center for Coastal Studies in Provincetown, MA. Katie's research interests focus on the intersections among coastal resilience, salt marsh restoration, and sediment transport. Katie received a PhD in Geological Oceanography from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Joint Program in Oceanography. Katie also holds an MA in Marine Affairs from the University of Rhode Island and a BA in Environmental Geoscience from Smith College. Katie has previously worked as an environmental educator and elementary school science



teacher across Cape Cod.

**Please mark your calendars and join us  
at 4 p.m. at the Orleans Yacht Club on October 16th.**

## **Water Conservation in Orleans - Voluntary Limits Established**

**A message from the Orleans Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners:**



The Orleans Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners and The Orleans Water Department request that between May 1 and September 30 all non-essential outdoor water use be limited to TWO DAYS per week, only before 9:00 am and after 5:00 pm.

Though we have seen much rain recently, the groundwater levels remain low. Should conditions become dryer and the State declares a drought these voluntary restrictions will become mandatory.

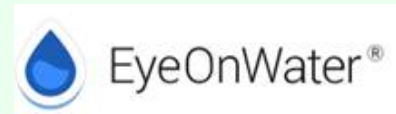
### **Non-essential uses are:**

- irrigation of lawns, gardens or shrubs via sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems
- washing of vehicles, except in a commercial car wash or as necessary for operator safety
- washing of exterior building surfaces, parking lots, driveways, or sidewalks

### **The following uses are allowed:**

- irrigation to establish a new lawn and new plantings during the months of May and September
- irrigation of public parks and recreation fields by means of automatic sprinklers outside the hours of 9am-5pm
- irrigation of gardens, flowers and ornamental plants by means of hand-held hose or drip irrigation systems
- irrigation of lawns by means of hand-held hose

Water is our most precious resource. Please consider how you can help preserve our resource. To help track your usage, we recommend you download an APP called [Eye on Water](#) and register. It helps you control how you consume water by tracking your daily usage, detecting leaks and providing alerts when usage is high.



## Please check out our website for newly updated Freshwater Pond Fact Sheets.

Later this month, OPC will be updating fact sheets for 17 Ponds in Orleans. This information can be found under the **“Our Waters’ tab – Fresh Water Ponds”**.

Each fact sheet gives insights on pond location, size, water access, recreational uses, fishing, and other fun facts. We hope you find this updated information insightful, useful, and fun! Check it out:

[Fresh Water Ponds](#)



## Other Interesting talks by our partners:

### June 14th Panel Discussion:

**Water and Climate Change on Cape Cod; What You Should Know**

**When:** Friday June 14th 2:00 - 4:00pm

**Where:** Snow Library Crane Room

**Or join via Zoom:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85682954829> ID: 85682954829:

**Organized by the Orleans Marine and Fresh Water Quality Committee.**

**Panel:**



**Rich Delaney**, Executive Director, Center for Coastal Studies

**K.A. Castagno**, Ph.D, Director, Land-Sea Interaction Program for the Center for Coastal Studies

**Mark Reil**, Assistant Town Manager, Town of Orleans

**Moderator:**

**Shelly McComb**, Coastal Resilience, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Sea Grant

**Topics:**

- Overview of climate change big picture.
- What are the specific impacts of climate change on marine and fresh water in Orleans and on the Cape?
- What is the Town of Orleans doing in response?
- What should you be doing as an individual



Orleans has 54 miles of coastline.



Orleans Yacht Club post storm surge 2024, photo by Rob Moodie

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**June 18th,  
Cape Coastal Conference is Back!**



**Collaborating for Solutions:  
Practical Sessions to Achieve Watershed Plans**

*Case studies that apply traditional and alternative methods  
to reduce nitrogen and improve water quality*

**JUNE 18, 2024**  
THE EMERALD RESORT & CONFERENCE  
CENTER, HYANNIS

The Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve announced that the Cape Coastal Conference is back! In the tradition of this popular regional event, they are looking forward to welcoming decision-makers, managers, researchers and interested individuals to learn about and discuss the best available science-based solutions to address coastal challenges that we face in the Cape and Islands region. This year's conference will focus on action to restore water quality and highlight local case studies that evaluate both traditional and alternative methods to reduce nutrients in Cape Cod watersheds.

**Where:** Emerald Resort & Conference Center, Hyannis on June 18, 2024

**Registration:** There is no cost to attend but registration is required. [Please register by Thursday, June 13, 2024.](#)

[Register for Coastal Conference](#)

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**Saturday, July 7th,**

**Annual Blessing of the Fleet; 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm**

The Annual Blessing of the Fleet is held at Rock Harbor in recognition of the fleet's commercial contributions and to mark the beginning of the summer season.



## OPC in the news!

Earlier this month OPC's President, Eric Spengler was interviewed by Joe Stickles of Cape Radio FM 88.7. The interview explored how OPC's mission is working to help protect our shared waters. Click below to listen:

A screenshot of a radio player interface. On the left, there is a play button icon, a title bar with the text "Cape Cod Current Segment-June 2nd,2024- Eric Spengler - President of The Orleans Pond Coalition", and a "Track station" button. Below the title bar is a circular progress indicator showing "1 TRACK 12:04". On the right, there is a logo for "MVRADIO" with the tagline "MARTHA'S VINEYARD &amp; THE WORLD".

**Your support makes everything we do possible.**

Please consider making a donation, becoming a member, volunteering, and participating in our programs and events.

Tell your friends about us, and with your help, we will safeguard Orleans' most precious resource: our waters.

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**And join us on Social Media**



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