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Orleans Pond Coalition

protecting and enhancing our waters

Please attend the Orleans Fall Town Meeting



Monday, October 28th
Time: 6:00 p.m.

Nauset Middle School
Gymnasium

70 Route 28, Orleans, MA

A number of important issues will be brought to a vote.

OPC asks for your support with the following water-related articles:

Vote YES Article #8

Wastewater Management
Program Funds

Vote YES Article #15

Fund Conservation Fund

VOTE YES Article #12

Climate Sustainability, and
Environmental Action Funding

VOTE Yes Article #22

Fund Boland Pond
Management Plan

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

The Orleans Pond Coalition Annual Meeting

We hope you were able to attend the OPC annual meeting on October 16. The meeting featured updates on our annual activities including:

- The Pond Pledge
- Cyanobacteria monitoring
- The Mutt Mitts program
- Sarah's Pond research
- Celebrate Our Waters events



The featured speaker was Katie Castagno, Director of the Land-Sea Interaction Program at the Center for Coastal Studies, who spoke on "Monitoring, restoration, and resilience: a geologic perspective to coastal change on Cape Cod."

Celebrate Our Waters Highlights



OPC's signature event – **Celebrate Our Waters** - on September 13-15, was bigger and better than ever this year, with more than 50 events and activities. Highlights were the Sipson Island kayak and walk, wastewater plant tours, yoga on Nauset Beach with Orleans Yoga, the Pochet Island hike, sailing on Pleasant Bay with Pleasant Bay Community Boating, kayaking on Town Cove with Goose Hummock, the Bike Tour de Orleans, the Putnam Farm tour, the cranberry bog tour, the model boat regatta at Crystal Lake, the concert and bonfire at Nauset Beach, and the Family Fun Tent at Rock Harbor.

Thank you to Janice Donovan whose brilliant organizational skills brought Celebrate Our Waters to new levels, to the many volunteers who make Celebrate Our Waters possible each year, and for everyone who came out and joined in the fun.

[Celebrate Our Waters in Pictures](#)

Thank You to Cyanobacteria Sampling Volunteers

Every year, OPC volunteers test ponds and lakes in Orleans for cyanobacteria, and OPC shares the data gathered with the Association to Preserve Cape Cod. APCC then publishes a [map of data](#) gathered from across the Cape.

Thank you to the 20 volunteers who participated in the cyanobacteria sampling this year: Lisa Allen; Carolyn Auty; Karen Back; David Betts; Judith Bruce; Liz Delima; Jamie Demas; John Dugan; Ed & Merylyn Hafner; Jane & John Hull; Dick & Joanne Ingwall; Janice Patel; Steve Shervanian; John Smith; Eric Spengler; Susan Vogel; and Bob Warneke. In particular, thanks to Jamie Demas who led the effort for OPC.

Our committed volunteers took water samples every two weeks from May through October. In total, we took more than 200 samples at six locations this year. If you would like to join this incredible team and test local waters next year, let us know by emailing orleanspondcoalition@gmail.com.

OPC Cyanobacteria Program



OPC cyanobacteria test volunteers at a training program on Pilgrim Lake in May

Recommended Reading:

“Water, Water, Everywhere”

If you haven't read the latest issue of Exit89 titled, [Water, Water, Everywhere](#), that dives deep into questions about water in Orleans, we highly recommend you do. Exit 89's latest issue answers such questions as, “Where does (water) come from? How does it get into our homes and businesses — and where does it go when it leaves? What is the connection between the chemicals we use and the water we drink — or swim in and fish from? What — or who — caused the recent cyanobacteria blooms in Crystal and Pilgrim Lakes? How will our town wastewater collection system improve our water quality? And how soon? What else can we do to protect and restore our waters?”

We are big fans of Exit 89, written and researched by journalists Martha Sherrill and Emily Miller, with Elaine Baird and Lynn Bruneau as founding advisors.

“Can You Get Rid of Your Front Lawn Without Offending the Neighbors?”



Photo credit: Sara Weaner Cooper, New York Times

For everyone interested in “embracing a Cape-friendly lawn”, as recommended in the OPC Pond Pledge program, take a moment to read Margaret Roach’s article in the The New York Times titled, “Can You Get Rid of Your Front Lawn Without Offending the Neighbors?” Following are the opening paragraphs:

What will the neighbors think?

It didn’t take long for that question to become front of mind when Sara Weaner Cooper and her husband, Evan Cooper, bought their first home, in Blue Bell, Pa., in the spring of 2022.

One question that answered itself right away: From the first pass with the mower over their 5,000 square feet of turf grass, the couple knew that mowing a big lawn every week was not for them. But neither was the possibility of being seen as inconsiderate neighbors in their new community.

How could they reinvent their front yard without making an unwelcome impression?”

Native Plant of the Month

Every month, Meg Voorhies profiles a different native plant for the Mayflower Point Association in Orleans, where she lives. Thank you, Meg, for sharing this month’s native plant with OPC.



New England aster, *Symphyotrichum novo-angliae*.

New England aster ranges far beyond the region of its name: it is native to a broad swath of the United States sweeping west from the northeast and mid-Atlantic states to the eastern edges of Montana, Wyoming and Colorado and even to pockets in New Mexico. Its rich purple color, a vibrant complement to goldenrod, which also blooms in the fall, captures our attention in meadows, roadside verges and cultivated gardens.

New England aster prefers relatively sunny locations that retain some moisture. When these conditions are met, it can grow as tall as six feet. If that is too obstreperous for your garden, you can cut the plant back by half on Memorial Day and then again, if you’re so inclined, on July 4, to produce a bushier plant.

But you might want to go easy: the pearl crescent, a pretty orange butterfly with black edges on its wings, lays its eggs on the undersides of the leaves from spring through fall. Once New England aster flowers, its nectar attracts many other pollinators, including bees and the monarch butterfly.

Four other asters in the Symphyotrichum genus are native to Cape Cod and also beloved by pollinators: *S. cordifolium* (blue wood aster), *S. laeve* (smooth aster), *S. novo-belgiae* (New York aster) and *S. puniceum* (purple-stemmed aster). They, too, bloom in autumn but generally in paler tones of lavender and blue.

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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