

[View this email in your browser](#)



## Welcome to Winter in Orleans



where we love water whether it's fresh, salty, flowing or frozen (as in the photo above of Skaket Beach taken on January 11, 2025).

---

## **Important:**

# **Phase 3 Sewer Project Community Meeting**

**When:** Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 5:30 - 7:30 PM

**Where:** Nauset Room, Orleans Town Hall, 19 School Road, 2nd Floor

Please mark your calendars and plan to join an important community meeting on Phase 3 of the Town sewerage plan. The meeting will be of particular interest to everyone who lives near Crystal Lake, Pilgrim Lake, Lonnie's Pond, or Arey's Pond. The Town invites you to attend in person or via zoom (a zoom link will be available on the Town website), or watch the live broadcast on Channel 8. The meeting will cover:

1. The properties to be included in Phase 3 sewerage
2. The roads that will be involved
3. The project schedule, including timing for approval, construction and connection
4. Where to get more information

---

## **Update on Town Sewering Phases One and Two**



### **Wastewater Update**

Why do this? (1) Environment = Economy; (2) MassDEP Compliance; (3) Save \$

#### **Phase 1 – Downtown**

- In-service Feb., 2023
- Connection deadline is March 16, 2025

#### **Phase 2 – Meetinghouse Pond Service Area**

- In-process
- Approx. 80% complete
- Connections expected to begin December, 2025

#### **Phase 3 – Lakes & Ponds Service Area**

- Design in-process
- Construction funding request at May, 2025 ATM
- Come to or zoom-in Community Meeting on Tues., Feb. 4, 2025, 5:30 pm

More info at: <https://town.orleans.ma.us/171/Wastewater-Infrastructure>

January 16, 2025

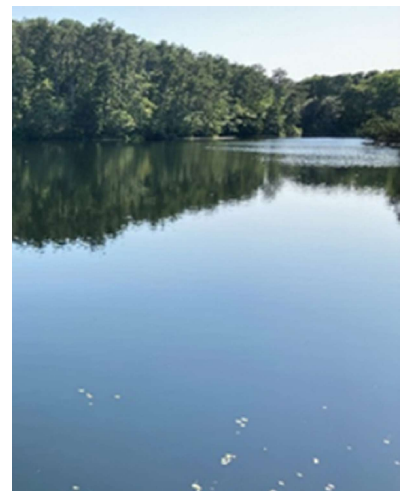
As most readers of our newsletter know, Phase 1 of the Town sewer project, covering downtown Orleans, has been completed. The deadline for all downtown properties to connect to the sewer is March 16.

For all Phase 1 property owners who have not yet initiated connection, please contact John Nelson, the Orleans Water/Sewer Program Coordinator at 508-240-3700, ext. 2319 as soon as possible to avoid significant fines. Information on connecting to the sewer line is available on the Town website. (<https://town.orleans.ma.us/1567/Need-to-Connect-to-Sewer>).

Phase 2, which covers Meetinghouse Pond, Uncle Harvey's Pond and Upper River, is well underway, with 80% of the pipes installed. Property connections will begin there in December 2025.



## Sarah's Pond Oxygen Demonstration Project Report Is Out



In 2017, the Orleans Pond Coalition began a research project on Sarah's Pond to test oxygenation to determine if a more sustainable alternative exists for remediating distressed freshwater ponds, especially from Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs).

During the first two years of the project, OPC tested a nano bubble system, but it failed to meet the project goals. After that, OPC installed an Oxygen Saturation Technology system (known as OST<sup>TM</sup>), making upgrades and improvements to the equipment and maintenance procedures each summer, and by 2023 it was producing better

results. OPC concluded its demonstration project in November of 2023, and worked with the property owners abutting the pond to allow them to continue to operate the system. The equipment operated without issue the entire 2024 season.

In 2024, the good news was oxygen remained high in the target area throughout the summer and clarity reached a maximum for the multi-year monitoring period.

That said, there were some low oxygen readings in shallower areas of the pond that were outside the area that the OST system was designed to address. This portion of the pond experienced a mild cyanobacteria bloom in late August and September.

According to Kenneth Wagner, Ph.D., president of Water Resources Services who consulted on the project, such conditions appear to be the result of prolonged hot, dry weather. Dr. Wagner suggests OST could be adapted or augmented to address these other areas of the pond, and recommends operating the OST system for at least three more years as ongoing improvement has been observed.

We encourage all citizen scientists interested in learning more about the oxygenation project to read the entire report, available at the link below:

[Oxygenation Demonstration Project Report](#)

We extend our thanks to Dr. Wagner for preparing this highly informative report.

Thank you to Judith Bruce for sample collection, Amy Costa at the Center for Coastal Studies for sample analysis, Keith Gazaille at SOLitude Lake Management for maintenance oversight, and to the abutting homeowners, Pleasant Bay Narrows Trust, Richard and Jeanne Berdik, and the Orleans Conservation Trust (OCT) for leading operations in 2024.

---

## Volunteer Opportunities - Please Join Us!

**The Orleans Pond Coalition needs your expertise to help us fulfill our mission to preserve and protect our shared waters.**

If you'd like to get more involved in our work to protect our shared waters, please let us know. We'd love to hear from you. Listed below are two examples of volunteer opportunities.

**Website support.** If you have interest in helping transform how residents think about protecting our shared waters and have some website management experience, we'd love for you to get involved! Here's where we could use your help: publishing our monthly newsletters via mail chimp; updating content on our website and potentially assisting in

migration of content to a new platform. We are looking for people with a combination of technical and software skills, a familiarity with HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. Additionally, if you have skills in graphic design, either Photoshop or Gimp, and either Illustrator or Inkscape, please let us know.

**Education & Communication Support.** We are seeking individuals who'd like to join our [H2Orleans Pond Pledge](#) team. We need help with communicating the benefits of our Pond Pledge program, including content development, designing/implementing workshops, and distributing materials to 'pledgers'. Knowledge of sustainable gardening techniques is desired but not necessary.

If interested in volunteering, please reach out to us via the [link](#) below. Or just reply to this email.

**Volunteer Today with OPC**

## Recommended Activity: Baker's Pond Self-Guided Walk



It's a perfect time of year to bundle up and get outside for self-guided pond walks. This month, we recommend walking the trails near beautiful Baker's Pond, the deepest pond in Orleans at 60 feet deep, and one of the largest.

The conservation area around Baker's totals more than 100 acres, most of which is in Orleans, with the western edge straddling the Brewster town line. The pond itself is 32 acres, 28 acres in Orleans and 4 acres in Brewster. The trail length varies depending on the loop, but is up to 3 miles long.

Parking is available at 80 Baker's Pond Road (10 car limit) and 110 Baker's Pond Road (4-6 car limit).



---

## Events:

### “Edible and Native Landscaping” Lecture

**Date:** January 22, 2025

**Time:** 6:30 pm

**Location:** 3 River Road, Orleans, MA

Join **Dave Scandurra** of Edible Landscapes and Food Forest Initiative for a workshop about nature-friendly landscaping. Dave has spent the last 12 years helping people build a deeper connection with nature in their yards through edible and native landscaping. He believes that the more we learn about the plants and natural world around us, the more we will appreciate and protect it.

The lecture is sponsored by Orleans Conservation Trust and will take place at the CHO Meetinghouse, 3 River Road, Orleans. Doors open at 6pm; lecture starts at 6:30pm. To register, click the link below:

[Register for “Edible and Native Landscaping” Lecture](#)

---

### “Little Bee, Big World” Lecture

**Date:** February 6, 2025

**Time:** 6:30 pm

**Location:** 3 River Road, Orleans, MA

Our little bees live in a big world rife with challenges and constant pressure to survive.

Massachusetts is home to at least 365 species of native bees. Each of these has unique requirements, behaviors, and seasonality. If we truly want to help bees, we need to start thinking more deeply about our uniquely American bees. These bees have evolved alongside our native plants for millennia.

**Blake Dinius**, entomologist, will share research on:

- The myriad lifestyles of our native bees
- The intimate relationship forged between native bees and native plants over millions of years

- Challenges native bees face in quickly changing human landscape
- Gardening tips to help support our native bees

The lecture is sponsored by Orleans Conservation Trust and will take place at the CHO Meetinghouse, 3 River Road, Orleans. Doors open at 6pm; lecture starts at 6:30pm.

[Register for “Little Bee, Big World” Lecture](#)

---

## Recommended Reading: Exit 89 “Water Water Everywhere”

Isn't January a perfect time to curl up with a good read? If you didn't catch the [Exit 89 deep dive into Orleans water](#) that came out in October, take a look. Exit 89 gives a fascinating and detailed history of water usage and management in Orleans, current issues, and plans going forward. We highly recommend it for everyone interested in the health and well being of Orleans's 60 freshwater ponds and 53 miles of coastline.



---

## 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.

**Inkberry, *Ilex glabra***

o a positive resolution for the new year, consider adding inkberry to your garden.

Inkberry's evergreen leaves and relatively compact form make it an excellent substitute for boxwood and Japanese holly. Compared with these non-native shrubs, the leaves of this native holly are slightly longer and shinier, and the overall plant has a fresher and more winsome appearance.



As William Cullina writes in *Native Trees, Shrubs and Vines*, inkberry “has a certain billowy, mounded character that is wild yet formal at the same time.”

The straight species, *Ilex glabra*, can grow up to eight feet tall, but cultivars such as “Compacta” and “Shamrock” will top out at five feet.

Moreover, inkberries are not difficult. They prefer full or part sun but can handle shade. They like moist soil and therefore supplemental watering during droughts. Even so, the Native Plant Trust says they are drought tolerant. In the wild, the Missouri Botanical Garden database notes, inkberry “is most commonly found in sandy woods and peripheries of swamps and bogs” along the coastal plain from Nova Scotia to Florida and the Gulf Coast west to Louisiana. Here on the Cape, we've got the "coastal" and "sandy woods" requirements covered.

Like other hollies, inkberry shrubs are either male or female. Both sexes produce inconspicuous white flowers in May beloved by honeybees, but only the females produce the small black berries in the fall that give the species its name, and only if a male is nearby. Birds, especially robins, eat the berries in the winter.







**And join us on Social Media**



*Copyright (C) 2025 Orleans Pond Coalition. All rights reserved.*

Our mailing address is:

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)



---

[www.OrleansPondCoalition.org](http://www.OrleansPondCoalition.org)