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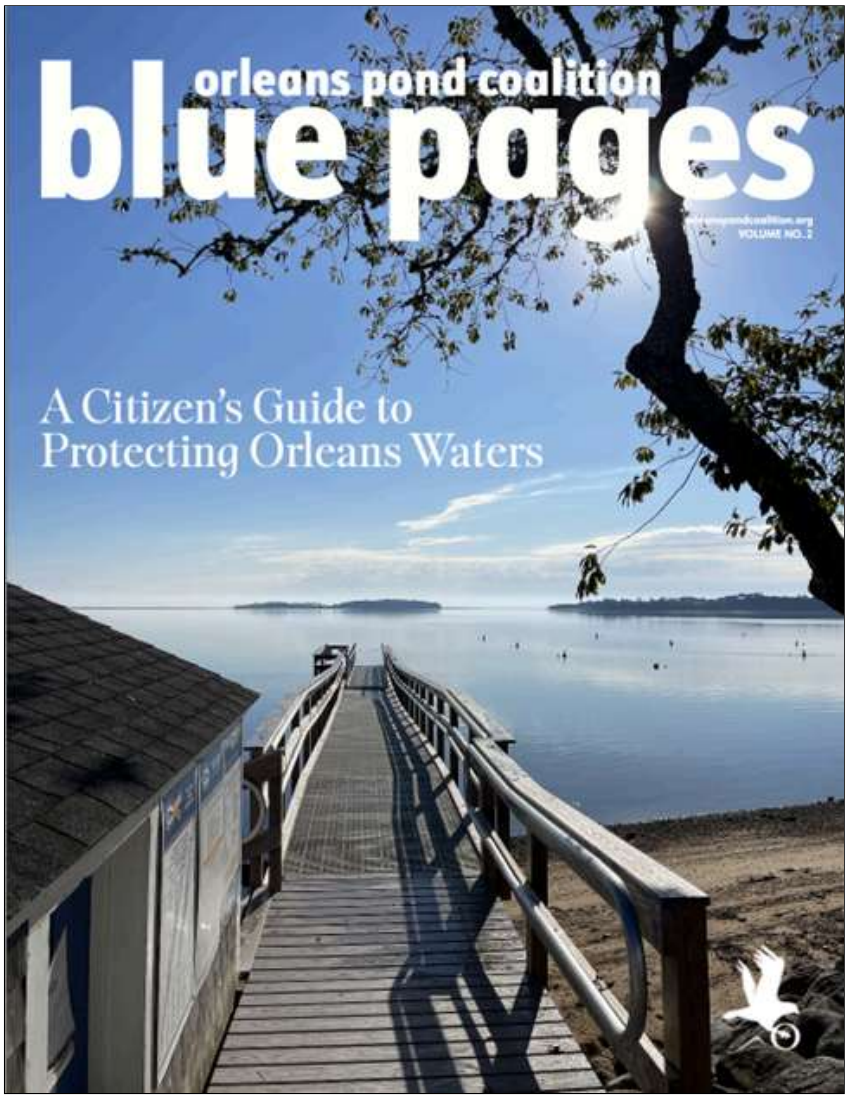
ORLEANS POND COALITION

The New OPC Blue Pages!



The Orleans Pond Coalition is very pleased to announce the publication of the new Blue Pages, our signature guide for protecting Orleans waters. OPC published its first Blue Pages in 2008, and the publication has been distributed at Orleans Town Hall and around town for fifteen years.

OPC updated the Blue Pages with new topics including important information on protecting against cyanobacteria blooms, Orleans' sewering plans, best approaches to native landscaping, managing mosquitoes, steps to take to protect salt and fresh water, and much more. Additionally, the new Blue Pages includes useful information to help

both residents and visitors enjoy our waters, including for example, a pull-outsection on the 20 named ponds in Orleans.

The new Blue Pages is available in Orleans at Town Hall, Snow Library, Whole Foods, and Savvy on Main. Please pick up multiple copies and share them with friends, family, neighbors, renters, and others. You can also read the Blue Pages on the Orleans Pond Coalition website:

The New OPC Blue Pages

The Orleans Pond Coalition Annual Meeting

Date: October 15th, 4:00pm - 6:00pm
Location: Orleans Yacht Club, 39 Cove Road, Orleans

Be sure to mark your calendar for the Orleans Pond Coalition annual meeting on Wednesday, October 15th, at the Orleans Yacht Club.We look forward to updating you on OPC's initiatives in the past year. Additionally, we will vote on new board directors and the 2026 Nominating Committee. For information on our new directors, the nominating committee, and minutes from last year's meeting, please visit the OPC website:

Additional Information on OPC Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting Keynote: *How to Love Your Pond*

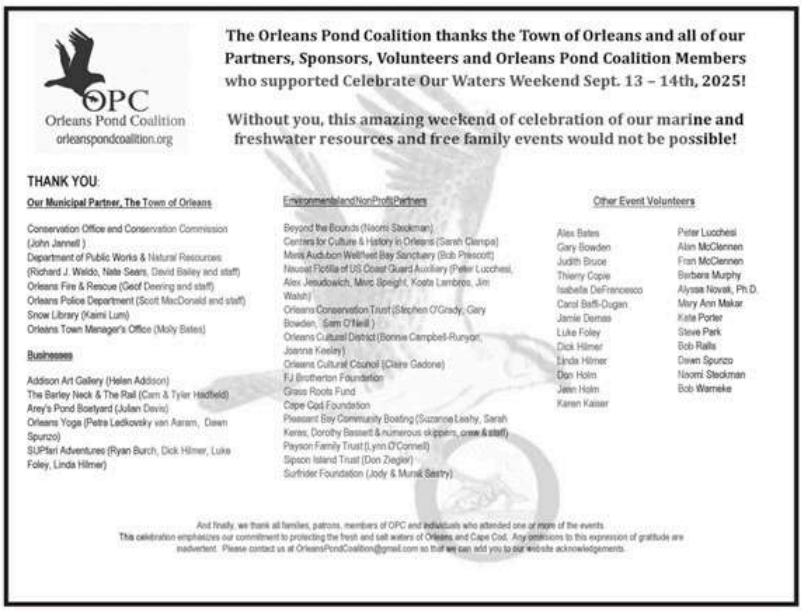
The keynote speaker will be Kristin Andres, who will speak on "*How to Love Your Pond."* to give us an expanded understanding of complex pond ecosystems that are connected to our groundwater and need special care.

Kristin is the director of education and outreach for the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC), the region's environmental advocacy non-profit. Before joining APCC, she worked for the town of Chatham as its first conservation agent for more than 15 years. Kristin is a former board member of the Ecological Landscape Alliance, current president of the Friends of Chatham Waterways, serves on the advisory board for Chatham Friends of Trees, has a seat on the Pollinator Pathway Cape Cod steering committee, is the regional liaison for Grow Native Massachusetts, and an honorary trustee of the Chatham Conservation Foundation. She writes a biweekly column for the *Cape Cod Chronicle* on natural history topics and conservation issues.

Celebrate Our Waters Highlights

OPC hosted a successful *Celebrate Our Waters* weekend on September 13 and 14. Highlights were the talk by Boston University coastal ecologist Alyssa Novak, PhD, who discussed her research on eelgrass resilience in Pleasant Bay; kayak trips to Sampson Island and the Orleans Conservation Trust's newly-acquired Namequoit Wood property; sailing on Pleasant Bay, offered by Pleasant Bay Community Boating; a reception and painting demonstration hosted by the Addison Gallery; yoga on Nauset Beach led by Orleans Yoga; and the Mike Block and the Biriba Union Band concert,sponsored by Beyond the Bounds; and the Paul Fulcher memorial bonfire, co-sponsored by the Town of Orleans.

Thank you to the Town of Orleans, the sponsors, the many volunteers who make *Celebrate Our Waters* possible each year,and for everyone who came out and joined in the fun.



Mark Your Calendars:

Talk by Dr. Casey C. Thornbrugh

Date: Wednesday, October 8th, 10:00am - Noon
Location: Snow Library, Orleans

Tribal Nations Leading the Way in Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience

Be sure to join us for this talk at Snow Library on October 8th. The speaker will be Casey C. Thornbrugh, PhD, who is the co-founder of Just Collective, the author on the northeast chapter of the Fifth National Climate Assessment, and a citizen of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe.

Dr. Thornbrugh will discuss climate change impacts and adaptation, and the challenges faced by Tribal Nations and Indigenous Communities, with an emphasis on East Coast and coastal regions.

Tribal Nations and Indigenous Communities have witnessed changes in the climate since time immemorial. However, anthropogenic climate change and the climate crisis coupled with the impacts of institutional barriers pose unique challenges for Tribal Nations. Despite these challenges,Tribal Nations are leading the way in climate change adaptation planning and resilience.

Webinar with Doug Tallamy

Date: Thursday, October 16th, 7:00pm
Location: YouTube chat (link will be sent after registering)
Register: https://wildones.org/next-steps-for-nature/

Next Steps for Nature

Join renowned entomologist and wildlife biologist Doug Tallamy for a free webinar titled "Next Steps for Nature".

The webinar will build on Tallamy's newest book, ***How Can I Help?: Saving Nature with Your Yard***, offering real-world solutions to the challenges people face when turning their landscapes into functional ecosystems. In his book, he addresses 500 of the most frequently asked questions about ecological landscaping. Topics include biodiversity, invasive species control, native vs. non-native plants, oak biology, monarch butterflies, urban habitat restoration, and more.

Whether you're wondering which plants are truly native to your region, how to reduce your lawn's impact responsibly,or how to support pollinators and birds throughout the seasons, this session will help clarify your next steps. With a mix of science-backed answers and practical encouragement, Tallamy will empower all of us to become agents of ecological change.

About the Presenter: Doug Tallamy, entomologist, ecologist, and author, has transformed the native plant movement through his research and advocacy. A professor at the University of Delaware, he is known for showing how native plants support biodiversity and food webs.

Can't make it live? Register anyway, and they will send the recording link after the premiere.

Native Plant of the Month

Every month, Meg Voorhes 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 the Orleans Pond Coalition.

Virginia Creeper, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*

Virginia creeper gently knits the woods and fields of Cape Cod together. During

the growing season, this vine is in the background, its green five-pointed leaves spreading to form a drought-resistant ground cover or hiding among the foliage of the trees it climbs.

In September and October, though, Virginia creeper's leaves turn orange, deep red and a hue approaching Day-Glo pink. Its blueberries, enjoyed by numerous bird species, also appear.

Virginia creeper supports local wildlife as well through its leaves, which host the caterpillars of the Virginia creeper moth and Pandora sphinx moth. Chipmunks, mice and skunks nibble the leaves, too.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service recommends Virginia creeper asa substitute for English ivy and vinca, two non-native vines increasingly recognized as invasive. Unlike English ivy, Virginia creeper is deciduous, so it doesn't add dangerous water weight from winter storms to native trees.Compared with vinca, which over time forms a dense mat that wildflower seeds cannot penetrate, Virginia creeper has a looser habit.

Virginia creeper can grow more than four feet a year, so it may not be welcome where space is limited. Nonetheless, it is relatively easy to control since it attaches to surfaces by adhesive tips on its tendrils rather than by penetrating rootlets. One can simply lift and cut back any advancing strands. Virginia creeper can be deployed to add a leafy screen to a fence or trellis, but should not be allowed to climb house walls, where it can damage gutters or painted surfaces.

The common name is an understatement. The eastern edge of Virginia creeper's native range extends from Vermont and New Hampshire through Florida. Its western boundary runs roughly from Minnesota south through Texas. Clearly, Virginia creeper flourishes in many conditions and habitats.

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