



**Mashpee  
Environmental  
Coalition**



## Environmental News

---

### Upcoming Events

**Friday, June 13, 2025 - 10am to 12 noon**

**Freshwater Pond Weed Watchers Workshop (repeat of July 18th program)**

**The Koppel Center at APCC, 482 Main Street (Rt 6A), Dennis**

This program, hosted by the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC), will feature a presentation by a MA Dept of Conservation and Recreation representative on how freshwater pond groups can learn to monitor their ponds for invasive plants and develop an early-action removal plan. Space is limited and registration is required at: <https://apcc.org/news-events/weed-watcher-training-workshops/>

**Friday, July 18, 2025 - 10am to 12 noon**

**Freshwater Pond Weed Watchers Workshop (repeat of June 13th program)**

**The Koppel Center at APCC, 482 Main Street (Rt 6A), Dennis**

Same description as the June 13th program. Space is limited and registration is required at: <https://apcc.org/news-events/weed-watcher-training-workshops/>

**Looking Ahead - Save the Date:**

**Saturday, August 16, 2025 - 9am to 1pm**

**Upper Cape Hazardous Waste Collection, Textile Recycling, and Secure Shredding Event**

**Mashpee High School, 500 Old Barnstable Road, Mashpee**

This event, co-sponsored by Barnstable County, Mashpee DPW, and Mashpee Environmental Coalition (MEC), is **FREE** for all **Upper Cape residents**. Non-Upper Cape residents are invited to participate, but a fee will be charged for their hazardous items. Additional details to follow.

### Let's Take a Hike

**Saturday, June 14, 2025, Mashpee River Woodlands North**

**Saturday, June 21, 2025, Mashpee River Woodlands South**

**Saturday, June 28, 2025, Pickerel Cove Conservation Area**

**All walks start at 9am**

Guided nature tours, sponsored by the Mashpee Conservation Department, are offered each month free-of-charge. Registration is not required, but rain may cancel. For information about these walks and those in the coming months, click on the "Guided Nature Tour" link along the left-hand margin at <https://www.mashpeema.gov/conservation> or call (508) 539-1400, ext. 8538.

**MEC on the Move**

Throughout April and May, Board Members were busy taking part in a wide variety of events on behalf of MEC:

- April 9th - An hour-long **Presentation and Discussion** about MEC's history, mission and current activities was held for 20+ Southport residents with an interest in the environment
- April 12th - MEC was pleased to participate this year in the **Honor the Earth Fair** at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Center
- April 19th - The Mashpee DPW/MEC-sponsored **2025 Earth Day Recycling Event** was a huge success, with over 250 households dropping off 6,500 lbs. of textiles to be recycled, 4,056 lbs. of paper for shredding, and 463 lbs. of media storage devices for recycling - a very good day for our landfill!
- May 8 - At the MMHS Scholarship Night, a **Mashpee Environmental Coalition Scholarship** was awarded to an exceptional senior who plans to continue her education next year in Marine Science
- May 15 - While meeting with Science Teacher, Shona Vitelli, and **MMHS Environmental Club students**, ideas were exchanged about how the MMHS Recycling Program could be strengthened
- May 31 - Volunteer assistance was provided to members of Falmouth's DPW and Solid Waste Advisory Committee at their **Styrofoam Collection Event**

Our sincere thanks to all who participated at each of these events!

## MEC Launches Its Chemical-Free Yard Sign Campaign

Also in April, MEC launched its new **Chemical-Free Cape Cod Yard Sign Campaign** -- aimed at promoting Chemical-Free Yards that are safe for our Children, Pets, Waters - and Nature as a whole.

Already, our signs are proudly being displayed in yards across Cape Cod, including Dennis, Falmouth, Mashpee, and Pocasset. Thanks to all who have chosen to set an example for their friends, neighbors, and local associations - by helping to save our environment, one yard at a time!



## A Mashpee Middle-High School Shout-Out

Thanks to a number of articles in the *Mashpee Enterprise*, it recently came to our attention that exciting initiatives are happening at the Mashpee Middle-High School. Not only has the school cafeteria gone back to using **Reusable Trays** (and no longer Styrofoam), but students are also helping to compost their **Food Waste** by placing it in containers picked up and processed by the company, Black Earth Compost. Both initiatives are greatly reducing the amount of trash generated at the school. In addition, a grant-sponsored **Vernal Pool** may soon be constructed on school grounds, which will provide students with an excellent opportunity to learn by observing a "living lab." Our congratulations to Science Teacher, Shona Vitelli, the Environmental Club, the Cafeteria Services Department, and all others at MMHS who have helped in these efforts!

## Information Items

### Waterways in the News

As posted on the Town of Mashpee website, due to recent heavy rains, as of May 23rd and until further notice, all areas in Mashpee are closed to shellfishing, including **Waquoit Bay, Little River, Hamblin Pond, Great River, and Jehu Pond.**

Mashpee officially has a new **Freshwater Ponds Committee**. To date, the following committee members have been approved by the Select Board:

**Ashumet Pond** Representative: Diane Phillips

**Johns Pond** Representative: Amy Dufault

**Mashpee-Wakeby Pond** Representative: Susan Dangel

**Nonprofit/Environmental Organization** (i.e. MEC) Representative: Irene Checkovich

**Members at Large:** Linda Farricy, Laurel Francke, and Jonathan Small

The applicant representing **Santuit Pond** has not yet been approved by the Select Board, and the committee is still seeking a **Technical Expert**. Information about the committee and application process may be found [here](#). The committee's first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 10th at 6pm.

Under the program name, "**Source to Sea**," projects are currently underway to help restore the health of the **Mashpee River, Quashnet River, and Red Brook**. Members of the community are still being sought to assist in these efforts. If interested in any of these projects, or if you wish to know more, information may be found at: <https://waquoitbayreserve.org/coastal-training-programs/source-to-sea>

Massachusetts **fish consumption advisories** for 2025 are now posted on the Department of Public Health's website. In Mashpee, due to PFAS and Mercury levels, advisories are currently listed for **Ashumet Pond, Johns Pond, and Mashpee-Wakeby Pond**. Details for these and other ponds across Massachusetts are available [here](#).

### **APCC Cyanobacteria Alerts**

Sadly, **cyanobacteria alerts** have already been issued by APCC for ponds in Brewster, Centerville, Marstons Mills, and Orleans. This summer, APCC's pond testing program In Mashpee will include **Ashumet, Johns, Mashpee-Wakeby and Santuit Ponds**. If you would like to be notified by email as soon as a pond alert has been issued, you are urged to sign up with APCC at: <https://apcc.org/our-work/science/community-science/cyanobacteria/cyanobacteria-alert/>

### **Cape Cod's Level 2 Drought**

Despite our seemingly endless rainy weekends, all of Cape Cod is still listed as experiencing **Level 2 "Significant Drought"** conditions. As outlined at the [MA Drought Status website](#), residents are encouraged to conserve water use, both indoors and outside, until these conditions improve.

### **Public Hearing on Draft 8 of Regulation 25**

On May 22, 2025, the Mashpee Conservation Commission held a public hearing on Draft 8 of **Regulation 25, Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage (LSCSF)** If interested, the meeting recording is available [here](#), starting 1 hour and 27 minutes into the meeting. The Draft 8 text, in full, may also be downloaded from the [Conservation Department's website](#).

### **Ospreys Rachel and Carson are Back!**

If you like ospreys, please be sure to check out the live **Osprey Cam**, thanks to Friends of the Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge. As you can see for yourself, Rachel and Carson have returned -- and for a front-row seat, click [here](#).

### **Cape-Wide Conservation Calendar of Events - Reminder**

The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts and its nonprofit members publish updates to their **Regional Calendar of Events** on an ongoing basis. This Conservation Calendar includes programs from villages and towns across Cape Cod, encouraging both visitors and residents to take part in nature and environmental events. The wide list of current programs may be accessed at: [www.blt.org/capeconservationcalendar](http://www.blt.org/capeconservationcalendar).

---

**Please share this newsletter with your friends, colleagues, and neighbors who may have an interest in this information.**

**Our thanks to each of you for your own efforts on behalf of our town, our region, and the environment!**

To Join or Donate

---

***Our Board meets the 2nd Thursday of each Month (January - November) via Zoom starting at 4pm, and our Annual Meeting immediately precedes the September Board Meeting. All are welcome.***

***The Mashpee Environmental Coalition (MEC) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization – dedicated to educating and advocating on behalf of Mashpee's natural resources for over 25 years.***

[info@mashpeemec.us](mailto:info@mashpeemec.us) | [www.mashpeemec.us](http://www.mashpeemec.us)

See what's happening on our social sites:



Mashpee Environmental Coalition | PO Box 274 | Mashpee, MA 02649 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!