



Environmental News

Upcoming Events

Saturday, March 7, 2026 - 8:30am to 3:30pm

Cape Cod Natural History Conference 2026

Tilden Arts Center, Cape Cod Community College, 2240 Iyannough Rd, West Barnstable

Sponsored by Mass Audubon, this 29th Annual Conference will feature a series of presentations on diverse natural history topics including coastal resilience and bog restoration. Cost is \$25 with a discounted rate for current students. Program information and the registration link may be found [here](#).

Thursday, March 12, 2026 - 3pm to 5pm

The Unseen Lifeline: Groundwater's Role in Cape Cod's Ecosystem

Massachusetts Alternative Septic System Test Center, 4 Kittridge Road, Sandwich

Join the Barnstable County Clean Water Center for a special National Groundwater Awareness Week Event featuring Denis LeBlanc, Scientist Emeritus, and Marcel Belaval, Deputy Director, both with the U.S. Geological Survey's New England Water Science Center. Click [here](#) to register and for additional information.

Saturday, March 14, 2026 - Check-In 10am to 10:45am; Start Time 11am

Polar Plunge (rescheduled from January 1st)

Mashpee-Wakeby Pond at Attaquin Beach, Check in at Naukabout Brewery, 13 Lake Avenue

Hosted by the Mashpee Recreation Department and Naukabout Brewery, the Polar Plunge begins at 11am. Cost is \$25 per person, with proceeds benefiting the Kiwanis Club of Mashpee. Details may be found [here](#).

Monday, April 13, 2026 (9am to 5pm) - Tuesday, April 14, 2026 (9am to 11am)

2026 Cape Coastal Conference: Shared Solutions for Stronger Coasts and Communities

Margaritaville Resort, 1225 Iyannough Road, Hyannis, MA 02601

This year's program, sponsored by WBNERR, will focus on examples of coastal restoration, climate adaptation, and resiliency. Optional tours of restoration sites are available Tuesday afternoon. For additional information and the link to register, click [here](#).

In Celebration of Earth Day 2026

Saturday, April 18, 2026 - 11am to 3pm

Honor the Earth Fair

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Government Center, 483 Great Neck Road South, Mashpee

Co-hosted by the Native Land Conservancy and the Mashpee Wampanoag Natural Resources Department, this event is free, open to the public, and features **vendors and exhibitors (including MEC)** with a shared mission of protecting and preserving the ancestral homelands of the Wampanoag. Festivities will include opening remarks by **Mashpee Wampanoag Chief Earl Mills Jr.**, **cultural**

crafts, traditional singing and dancing, and activities for children. More information is available [here](#). If you attend, please stop by the MEC table and say hello.

Saturday, April 25, 2026 – 9am to 1pm

Textile Recycling, Secure Shredding, and Composting Event

Location in Mashpee still to be determined - see NOTE below

MEC, in collaboration with Mashpee's Department of Public Works, will hold its **3rd Annual Earth Day Event**, featuring **Textile Recycling, Secure Shredding, and Composting** Containers and Information. The **Full List of Textiles** that may be bagged and dropped off for recycling is available [here](#). Additional details will be shared in the next newsletter. Questions may also be sent to info@mashpeemec.us. **NOTE: Due to upcoming construction projects, the Mashpee event location is still to be determined. Go to www.mashpeemec.us for updates.**

Let's Take a Hike

Saturday, March 7, 2026, John Johansen Conservation Area, 9am

Saturday, March 14, 2026, Lowell Holly Reservation, 9am

Saturday, March 21, 2026, Mashpee River Woodlands Cottontail Trail, 9am

Saturday, March 28, 2026, Mashpee River Woodlands (West), 9am

Guided nature tours, sponsored by the Mashpee Conservation Department, are offered each month free-of-charge. Registration is not required, but stormy weather may cancel. For directions and 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/1456/conservation-commission> or call (508) 539-1400, ext. 8538.

Saturday, April 11, 2026, 10am to 12noon

Quashnet River Hike, 62 Martin Road (Trailhead parking lot), East Falmouth

Join the Southeastern MA Walking Club for a 3-mile hike along the Quashnet River. Terrain includes flat, open spaces and some hills. Rain cancels. Information is available [here](#).

Environmental Scholarship for MMHS Seniors

For the 7th straight year, MEC is pleased to offer the **Mashpee Environmental Coalition Scholarship** to one or more qualified Mashpee High School seniors. This scholarship aims to assist students who are dedicated to helping the environment and who plan to continue their education beyond high school. Past scholarship recipients have pursued degrees at Amherst College, Boston University, Northern Arizona University, Tufts University, and UMass-Amherst in programs such as environmental science, forestry, and marine science.

Scholarship qualifications, applications, and deadlines are available through the Mashpee Middle High School scholarship website and Guidance Department. Questions may also be sent to info@mashpeemec.us.

Information Items

Waterways in the News

According to the Town of Mashpee website, the Boat Ramp at **Mashpee-Wakeby Pond** is now closed for the stormwater retrofit project. The ramp will remain closed through mid-May, with the exact reopen date to be determined. For questions, contact the DPW at 508-539-1420 or dpw@mashpeema.gov.

At the Freshwater Ponds Committee meeting on January 20th, Water Quality Coordinator, Ashley Fisher, shared that the **diagnostic study** proposal for **Johns Pond** and **Moody Pond** will not appear on the May 2026 Town Warrant, as had previously been reported, due to budgetary constraints. Funding opportunities may be sought elsewhere. Also announced, construction continues at the **Santuit Pond** town landing, with improvements expected by this summer.

Phase 2 Funding Assistance Approved

At its January 16, 2026 meeting, the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust approved a 0% interest loan for **\$32,770,000** to help fund Mashpee's **Phase 2 Wastewater Treatment and Collection System**. The full press release may be read [here](#).

Cape Cod's Drought - Still at Level 2

As of February 11, 2026, Cape Cod remains at a **Level 2 "Significant Drought"** status. Hopefully, the melting snows from the 2026 Blizzard will bring some relief. In the meantime, residents are urged to continue conserving water, both indoors and outside. Latest drought updates may be found at the [MA Drought Status website](#).

MEC's Chemical-Free Yard Sign Campaign

Since April 2025, MEC's **Chemical-Free Cape Cod Yard Sign Campaign** has been in full swing, 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, Pocasset, and Sandwich. 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!



Information on how to join our campaign may be found [here](#).

Reminders

Cape-Wide Conservation Calendar of Events

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.blc.org/capeconservationcalendar.

Cape Cod Freshwater Strategy Report - Ponds and Lakes

The Cape Cod Commission released its final **Cape Cod Freshwater Strategy Report** last summer. This guide outlines a data-driven approach to evaluating, protecting, and restoring Cape Cod's ponds and lakes, and a framework for improving their overall health. Additional information and the report itself may be found [here](#).

State of the Waters: Cape Cod 2025 Report

In December, the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) released its latest data regarding Cape Cod's **State of the Waters** in our estuaries, ponds, and municipal water supplies. Details may be found at: <https://capecodwaters.org/>.

Textile Recycling is Now Mandatory - It's the Law!

Due to the solid waste crisis in Massachusetts, effective November 2022, it is **now illegal to discard any clothing or other textile item in the trash**, even if stained, ripped, threadbare, or one of a pair. This includes footwear, bedding, table linens, accessories such as belts and scarves, and even stuffed animals for children and pets. The full list of textile items that must now be recycled is available [here](#), courtesy of Bay State Textiles. To assist residents in complying with this law, **MEC now sponsors textile recycling drives twice each year** — in **April** as an Earth Day event, and in **August** alongside the County's Hazardous Waste Dropoff. Exact dates and times for each April and August event, once known, will be posted in our newsletters and at www.mashpeemec.us.

River Restoration Projects

Under the program name, "**Source to Sea**," projects continue which aim to help restore the health of the **Mashpee River, Quashnet River, and Red Brook**. To learn more, information may be found at:

<https://waquoitbayreserve.org/coastal-training-programs/source-to-sea>

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 our natural resources for over 25 years.

info@mashpeemec.us | www.mashpeemec.us

See what's happening on our social sites:



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

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