



Mashpee
Environmental
Coalition



Environmental News

Upcoming Events

This Week, Later This Month, and Beyond

Thursday, August 6, 2026 - 5:30pm to 7:30pm

Citizens for the Protection of Waquoit Bay's Annual Meeting

Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Boathouse, 131 Waquoit Hwy, E Falmouth

CPWB's Annual Meeting will feature a panel discussion on the local **aquaculture programs** with Chris Avis, Mashpee Shellfish Constable, Chuck Martinsen, Falmouth Deputy Director of Marine and Environmental Services, and a representative of the Mashpee Wampanoag First Light Shellfish Farm. Details are available [here](#). All are welcome.

Thursday, August 6, 2026 - 6pm to 8pm

Cape Cod Ponds Network In-Person Meeting

Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, 869 Main Street (Rt 6A), Brewster

Co-sponsored by the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) and Cape Cod Commission, speaker Blair Nikula will speak about Cape Cod dragonflies and damselflies, with time for networking at the end of the meeting. If you are not currently part of this **Cape-Wide Ponds Network** and would like to sign up for their email list, you may do so [here](#).

Saturday, August 22, 2026 - 9am to 1pm

Upper Cape Hazard Waste Collection, Textile Recycling, and Secure Shredding Event

Mashpee Middle-High School, 500 Old Barnstable Road, Mashpee

This combined event will provide a convenient way for residents to **keep harmful household hazardous products out of our waters** and, at the same time, **keep textiles out of our landfills**. In addition, a **secure shredding** company will be on-site. Information regarding the county's Household Hazardous Waste program may be found [here](#). The full list of textiles that can and cannot be recycled is available [here](#). Questions may also be emailed to info@mashpeemec.us.

***Note:** This **FREE Event** is co-sponsored by Barnstable County, Mashpee DPW, and Mashpee Environmental Coalition (MEC). However, while textile recycling and secure shredding are **FREE** to everyone, non-Upper Cape residents will be charged a fee for hazardous items as outlined [here](#).

September 13 - 19, 2026, Cape Cod Clean Water Week

Hosted by the Barnstable County Clean Water Center, this community-centered celebration will bring together residents, visitors, scientists, policymakers, non-profits, pond groups, land trusts, students and more to raise awareness about water quality issues, while inspiring meaningful action. Throughout the week, attendees can participate in a range of activities at the Clean Water Center and at partner sites, including educational workshops, guided nature walks, panel discussions (Zoom and in-person), art

exhibits, and volunteer clean-up efforts. Event hosts are currently being sought. Additional information is available [here](#).

Let's Take a Hike

Saturday, August 8, 2026, Mashpee River Woodlands, Cottontail Trail - 10am

Saturday, August 15, 2026, Child's River Conservation Area - 10am

Saturday, August 22, 2026, Pickerel Cove Conservation Area - 10am

Saturday, August 29, 2026, Mashpee River Woodlands, North - 10am

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 Schedule" link along the left-hand margin at <https://www.mashpeeema.gov/1456/conservation-commission> or call (508) 539-1400, ext. 8538.

Mashpee's Ponds Now Have a Voice

The ***Mashpee Enterprise*** recently launched a new column, called "**Pondemonium**." You guessed it, it's **a column all about Mashpee's ponds**. Columnist and Mashpee Freshwater Ponds Committee Member, Amy DuFault, describes it as follows:

"Pondemonium" is a monthly dive into the ponds that define Mashpee and an attempt to understand the confusion surrounding the ecological and social forces affecting each pond and its future. We'll take a look at the people who cherish them, work to protect them, and the stories that ripple out from their many shores. Each column will explore the beauty, complexity, and challenges of these cherished places, from seasonal shifts to conservation efforts, technology to community voices. Here, you'll meet the stewards working to protect these fragile ecosystems, learn about the history and traditions tied to each pond, and discover what's at stake if we fail to care for them. At its core, "Pondemonium" is about awareness and action and a reminder of what we stand to lose, and what we can still protect together.

If you have a story to share, please contact Amy at hello@amydufault.com.



Additional Information Items

Waterways in the News

Both **Ashumet Pond** and **Santuit Pond** currently have a cyanobacteria "Potential for Concern" advisory, issued by APCC - Be safe and avoid contact with the water! On the good news front, the prior advisory for **Mashpee-Wakeby Pond** was dropped in late June.

Santuit Pond Town Landing Update

Details and photos of the Santuit Pond Town Landing improvements were presented to the Select Board at its July 13th meeting. Although an official grand opening will be coming soon, many new features are already available for public use. To get a sneak preview, the presentation is available [here](#), starting at minute 22.

Upper Cape Regional Composting Facility in the Works

As reported in the *Mashpee Enterprise* on July 24, 2026, Barnstable County is continuing plans for the development of a regional composting facility at Joint Base Cape Cod. According to Kari Parcell, the

county's Regional Waste Program Manager, compostable materials such as food and yard waste "make up 30% to 36% of our waste stream." The ultimate goal would be for compost to be processed on Cape, which could then be used to enrich public spaces.

Cape Cod's Drought - Still at Level 2

As of July 9, 2026, Cape Cod remains at a **Level 2 "Significant Drought"** status. Residents are urged to continue conserving water, both indoors and outside. Latest drought updates may be found at the [MA Drought Status website](#).

In Case You Missed It

State of the Ponds Presentation - Recording now available

Learn about the current state of Mashpee's four major ponds, as presented on July 21, 2026, sponsored by the Mashpee Freshwater Ponds Committee. Speakers include Town Officials Ashley Fisher and Dan Kent, along with Julie Hambrook from APCC, Ed Eichner from SMAST and TMDL Solutions, and Danica Belknap, the Mashpee Wampanoag Liaison from SNEP (Southeast New England Program). The recording is available [here](#).

Mashpee's Stormwater Management Program Update

The Town's ongoing Stormwater Management Program was highlighted at the June 1st Select Board Meeting by DPW Director Catherine Laurent and a consultant from Tighe & Bond. Current stormwater projects at **Mashpee-Wakeby Pond** and **Santuit Pond** were reviewed, and next steps were discussed. The recording of this 35-minute presentation is available [here](#), starting just past minute 45.

Cape Cod Groundwater Presentation

As part of Groundwater Awareness Week this past March, MASSTC (The Massachusetts Alternative Septic System Technology Center) recently hosted a talk on **Groundwater's Role in Cape Cod's Freshwater Resources**. The video of this informative program may be viewed [here](#).

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

Pond Cyanobacteria Monitoring and Alert Program

APCC has been busy managing its **Summer Cyanobacteria Monitoring Program**, which includes testing the waters of Mashpee's **Ashumet, Johns, Mashpee-Wakeby, and Santuit Ponds**. To receive **email alerts** as soon as they are issued, and to view the interactive map with up-to-date findings, please go to apcc.org/cyano.

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.blr.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

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