

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As our town's 300th anniversary festivities come to a close, we have much to celebrate. Chatham has 66 miles of coastline, one of the longest in the Commonwealth. Our many marine embayments, tidal rivers, marshes, beaches and freshwater ponds have their own character and natural beauty. We all have favorites that make Chatham a special place. We've tried to give you a sense of how dynamic the configuration of Chatham's shores are in our tercentennial publication, *Chatham Waters and Shorelines. Then and Now. 1712 - 2012.*

Thanks to your continued generous support, 2013 will mark the 30th year since a small group of concerned citizens formed Friends of Stage Harbor Waterways, renamed and incorporated in 1985 as Friends of Chatham Waterways. FCW has worked hard to serve as an information resource regarding the condition, development, preservation and enhancement of Chatham's waterways and adjoining lands, and to take action on these issues.

A primary interest for FCW is ensuring that the management of Chatham waterways for recreational and commercial purposes is accomplished in ways that are compatible for the conservation of the community's natural resources and the character of the area. In addition, FCW helps define issues of public concern for public discussion and debate, prepares informational materials, sponsors public forums, monitors and works with town agencies to achieve common goals. Please stay tuned for more information regarding our upcoming Public Forum on the topic of "Flow Neutral, Water and Sewer Regulations" to be held in the Spring of 2013.

Each year FCW budgets funds to be granted to Chatham's primary school teachers who need travel monies to take the kids to Pleasant Bay and the south coastal embayments to study natural history at our shores. Formally, FCW gave Lew Kimbal Environmental Scholarships of \$2,500 to college Juniors and Seniors who intended to work in environmental fields. This past year we gave Lew Kimball Scholarships, of \$2,500, to each of three graduate students, residents of Brewster, Dennis and Wellfleet. Their Power Point presentations of their

research interests at our August 2012 Annual Meeting were the highlights of the meeting.

We're always in need of your participation as Summer Water Watchers to monitor water quality in our marine embayments and as volunteers at the annual Coastsweep, usually held on a Saturday morning in September after Labor Day. Volunteer Contact: chathamwaterways@gmail.com.

If you've already renewed your FCW membership for 2013, we thank you. By joining, you're committed to the protection, wise use and enjoyment of Chatham's fresh and salt waterways and adjoining lands. We always are accepting of your generous donations to ensure that we'll be able to monitor and maintain Chatham's waterways for future generations. Without your help, our volunteer organization would be unable to fund initiatives that *help* accomplish our community, educational and environmental goals. We thank you for your support.

Best wishes in the New Year,

Thomas G. King
President

NEW BOARD MEMBER

DEAN ERVIN is a graduate of the U.S. Navel Academy and Harvard Business School. He had a successful business career with Corning, Pitney Bowes, and NL Industries and was a personal consultant to senior executives. Dean and his wife Cynn timer have been Chatham residents for 12 years. He is the current Chairman of the South Coastal Harbor Planning Committee (SCHPC) and has been a member of the committee for six years. The SCHPC recently proposed a town by-law amendment to restrict construction of new docks and piers along Chatham's south coastal estuaries that was passed by Town Meeting. The committee has also been involved in several issues of interest to FCW such as eelgrass propagation, coastal erosion and the infrastructure of town landings. He is also an active Water Watcher responsible for measurements at Buoy 23. In addition, Dean was a temporary member of the Chatham Conservation Commission for a year.

POND STUDY GROUP

FCW recently formed a new subcommittee to study waterways and freshwater ponds. Some questions it may consider are: What can be done to improve water quality of these sometimes forgotten waterbodies and are new regulations needed?

Chatham has seven 'Great Ponds' defined as freshwater bodies whose surface areas are 10 or more acres. They are: Goose Pond, White Pond, Lovers Lake, Mill Pond, Stillwater Pond, Schoolhouse Pond and Emery Pond. Maps, GIS ID's and bathymetry for these ponds and some of lesser size are online at: www.capecod-groundwater.org/PALS.html. More information about most of Chatham's ponds is available at: "Cape Cod Pond and Lake Atlas, Final Report, 2003 prepared by the Cape Cod Commission Water Resources Office.



Samuel Hawes Pond, West Chatham

Public use of the waters of Great Ponds is under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth which stipulates that the public at large has the right of use. Access to all of Chatham's Great Ponds is problematic, however. Whether some of the Great Ponds can be accessed via Land Bank purchased properties needs to be investigated.

Water quality improvement in many ponds may be achieved by 'adaptive management' involving vegetative buffers with native plants, limiting lawn fertilizer and discouraging the feeding of wildlife. The Orleans Pond Coalition website www.orleanspondcoalition.org is a model for education about adaptive management, approaches. Check it out!

FCW Directors on the Pond Study subcommittee are: Kurt Hellfach, Martha Stone Barbara Cotnam, Barbara Holden and William Coleman.

FCW's 2012 ANNUAL MEETING

Our 2012 Annual Meeting, held on the evening of August 15, differed from all previous meetings. First, under the direction of outgoing Director, Dick Evans, FCW awarded this year three \$2,500 Lew Kimball Environmental Scholarships to graduate students: Meridith Atwood (Dennis), Holly Bayley (Wellfleet) and Owen Nichols (Brewster). Previously, recipients of environmental scholarships were Junior or Senior year college students.

Because of their advanced studies, and knowing that graduate students must be adept at Power Point presentations and the art of conveying information under the ten minute rule of scientific meetings, FCW asked them to be our Keynote speakers under the same rule. They were the highlight of the meeting. As one FCW Director said afterwards, "they all hit 'home runs'". Ms. Atwood, a Yale Ph.D. student studying wetland ecology, talked about her research on Vernal Pools. She showed wonderful photos of the many animals and plants that depend on these transient water bodies for their reproduction and survival.

Holly Bayley, a Master's Degree candidate at the University of New Hampshire, presented her results on the genetic diversity of eelgrass populations from Long Island, N.Y. to Monomoy, Chatham. This is important work, since

eelgrass restoration is considered the 'gold standard' of water quality improvement. Many attempts to transplant eelgrass, however, have failed. Her research shows that there are major differences in the genetic diversity of eelgrass populations in New England's estuaries that may be related to their ability to survive transplantation.

Owen Nichols, finishing his Ph.D. work at U. Mass. Dartmouth, is well known locally for his work with Earnie Eldredge on Gray seals and Trap fishing. He spoke about his interest in coordinating marine science with the practical knowledge of the fishing community. He has a position, now, at the Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies.

As many of you know, Bill Appleyard passed away after a brief illness on February 11, 2012. For the first time, your Directors voted to award, posthumously, the Captain's Award to Bill Appleyard. A plaque listing Captain's Award recipients hangs outside the office of the Town Manager in Chatham's Town Hall.

As a footnote of sadness and hope, Lew Kimball, Emeritus Director of the Friends of Chatham Waterways, passed away on August 16, 2012, a day after our Annual Meeting. His wife, 'Lee' was in attendance at the meeting and reported to him the success of the graduate student presentations.

COASTSWEEP 2012

FCW wishes to acknowledge those who 'swept' twenty shoreline sites along Chatham's waterways in the annual Ocean Conservancy sponsored **Coastsweep'12**.

On Saturday, September 22nd, an estimated 65 volunteers gathered up debris in 37 large trash bags that were taken to Port Fortune landing and loaded onto a Chatham DPW truck. Approximately 300 lbs. of trash were collected and tabulated on data sheets provided by Mass. Coastal Zone Management. Data cards were sent to the Ocean Conservancy to be analyzed to develop programs aimed at reducing marine debris, worldwide.

We thank the following individuals for their labor and Dan Tobin, Town of Chatham, for arranging the disposal of the collected debris. The sites 'swept' and volunteer teams were::

Nantucket Sound Beaches:

C. Knight, C. Dynes, P. Carlton
A. & B. Carlson, S. & G. Stearns
J. Stone, M. Bradlee
J. Gillis, E. Bourget
F. Messina, R. Kallstrom, R. & E. Swatton

Oyster River/Pond:

M. & A. Westgate, D. Carey, N. Mason
S. Plum, S. & C. Bartlett
E. & P. Mullen
D. & J. Swenson, D. Quinones, M. Cambell.

Stage Harbor/Morris Island/Crescent Beach/ Mitchell River/Mill Pond:

D. & H. Ecker, A. Griscom, D. Lovett, B. Hayes,
C. Rader
J. Stahl, W. Jostrand
J. Fugekstad, B. Anderson
S. Collins, G. Nickerson
P. & J. King, G. & N. Doggett,
D. & N. & C. Alger
G. Olmsted
N. & D. Pinkert, B. Fleishmann, L. Mack
P. & T. & S. King

Chatham Beach Club/Fish Pier/Cowyard Landing:

D. & L. Edge, the Eaton Family, G. Cooper,
B. & J. Schaller

Pat Tarnow & Martha Stone coordinated the distribution of data cards, collection supplies and the reception at Port Fortune Landing



BEST USE of a SCENIC, HISTORIC WATERSHED

FCW Directors recently voted to support creating a park on the upland portion of the three acre Ryder's Cove waterfront Marconi Wireless Station triangle. FCW is not in favor of the parking lot/park concept landscape plan which the Waterways Advisory Committee (WAC) approved and represented as a compromise with park advocates. The proposed new plan would leave only a small portion of the land for a walking trail. Most of the existing wooded land with its free filtering system, mature native trees and shrubs would be gone forever to make way for two parking lots and new roadways.

This expensive construction plan will permanently and dramatically alter an important part of our shoreline in order to ameliorate, but not solve, the needs of mostly out-of-town boaters. And for a very limited period of time during the summer. The land is within Pleasant Bay's ACEC (Area of Critical Environmental Concern) and presently serves as a free filtering system in the bay's watershed.

The town has already added parking next to Ryder's Cove Road to serve the adjacent town landing. Adding more parking and roads, cutting down trees, etc. will significantly downgrade

the historic, aesthetic and environmental value of the land, while serving only one group of constituents - many not local. When originally purchased from MCI in 1999, the pledge at Town Meeting was to benefit ALL Chatham residents..

It is the recommendation of the FCW that Chatham residents take steps to preserve this special part of Ryder's Cove's shoreline. Alternatives for additional parking for boaters have been proposed by park advocates on a number of occasions, but dismissed by the WAC. FCW Directors are encouraged that the Selectmen will take this proposed plan for new parking lots to Town Meeting in spring 2013 as a warrant article. Informed residents will then have a chance to vote down this expensive construction project - for the second time (a similar proposal was defeated at Town Meeting in 2006).

A Woodland Trail on the upland, recently created by AmeriCorps Cape Cod and volunteers from a number of community groups, was opened and marked this Fall. The Trail begins between the two brick buildings off of Ryder's Cove Road. Please take the time to walk and appreciate its value and beauty.

Barbara Cotnam

FCW Membership Renewal Form

Return to FCW, Box 472, Chatham MA 02633

\$25 individual \$40 family Additional donation \$ _____

Name/s: _____

Street/P.O. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: _____

Email* _____

Cape Residence _____

Please make checks payable to FCW.

Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

FCW is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization

Thank you for your support.

Contact me about becoming an FCW volunteer

*Your email is important to us as we are now starting to communicate via Constant Contact!

Use the enclosed envelope . . . and share this form with a friend.