



**Mashpee
Environmental
Coalition**



Environmental News

Upcoming Initiative - Mashpee Environmental Coalition (MEC)

Saturday, August 17, 2024 - 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, 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.

Due to the solid waste crisis in Massachusetts, it is now illegal for textiles to be discarded in the trash. This combined event will provide a convenient way for residents to keep harmful household hazardous materials out of our waters while, at the same time, keeping 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 at [here](#). General information as well as a full list of textiles that can be recycled is available on our homepage at www.mashpeemec.us. Questions may also be directed to info@mashpeemec.us.

Additional Events in August

Sunday, August 4, 2024 - 3pm to 6pm

Cookout on the Bay

Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, 131 Waquoit Highway, Waquoit

Learn more about WBNERR's programs while enjoying a free cookout overlooking beautiful Waquoit Bay. For additional information and to register, go to: <https://waquoitbayreserve.org/events/cookout-on-the-bay/>

Wednesday, August 7, 2024 - Starting at 6:30pm

Citizens for the Protection of Waquoit Bay's Annual Meeting

Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, 131 Waquoit Highway, Waquoit

Featured speaker, Mashpee Select Board Member **Michaela Colombo**, will share information on the status of the Waquoit Bay Intermunicipal Agreement between Mashpee, Falmouth and Sandwich, and Mashpee's recent efforts to address its water quality challenges. All are welcome to attend.

Thursday, August 8, 2024 - 6pm to 8pm

Cape Cod Ponds Network

Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, 896 Main Street (Rt 6A), Brewster

Co-sponsored by the Cape Cod Commission and Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC), this in-person meeting of the Cape Cod Ponds Network will feature a presentation by Steve Hurley, aquatic biologist for MassWildlife. Registration is required at:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScmCeKZxJwtzgSotu73SrVh6wth5Wbx0X8G7kLXJzISZ3w4RA/viewform>

Tuesday, August 13, 2024 - 2:30pm to 4pm

Massachusetts Environmental Education Society Listening Session

125 Manomet Point Road, Plymouth

MEC members and the broader Cape Cod community are invited to attend this hour-long, informal group discussion. This Listening Session is part of a statewide assessment effort, aimed at better understanding the needs and challenges of the environmental education community in Massachusetts. For additional information and to register, please go to:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe6Umm0wPVvkvjclLnJxEGyif5kg4y8YJEfQnTehh2jwWmWw/viewform>

Thursday, August 22, 2024 - 4pm to 5:30pm

Freshwater Pond Science 101 - via Zoom

The Falmouth Pond Coalition invites all to attend this free, online Webinar. Details about program topics, speakers and the Zoom link may be found at: <https://www.falmouthpondcoalition.org/>. While registration is not required, if you plan to attend, please email FPCwebinarevents@gmail.com and let them know.

Saturday Mornings Throughout August 2024 - Starting at 10am

Guided Nature Tours in Mashpee

Guided walks, sponsored the Mashpee Conservation Department, are offered free-of-charge and are posted at: <https://www.mashpeema.gov/conservation>. **Beginning Saturday, August 3, 2024**, five walks are planned this month, including the John Johansen, Jesse Bog and Pickerel Cove Conservation Areas, as well as the Childs River and Mashpee River Woodlands. Additional information and directions may be found at:

https://www.mashpeema.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif3426f/uploads/0824_nature_tour_press_release.pdf

Looking Ahead - Save the Dates

Wednesday and Thursday, September 18-19, 2024

Cape Cod Commission's 2024 OneCape Summit

Wychmere Beach Club, 23 Snow Inn Rd, Harwich Port

Registration is now open for this Cape Cod Commission Annual event. For more information and to register, go to: <https://onecape.capecodcommission.org/>

Sunday, October 13, 2024 - 11am to 3pm

Walk for the Wild 2024

Sponsored by the Friends of the Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge (MNWR), this 5k walk will start at Quashnet School in Mashpee, and walk through a variety of MNWR trails before ending at Naukabout Brewery by Attaquin Park. Additional details are available at:

<https://www.friendsofmashpeenationalwildliferefuge.org/2024/05/08/walk-for-the-wild-2024/>

Information Items

Waterways in the News

According to the Town of Mashpee website, as of August 1, 2024, the **Ashumet Pond** cyanobacteria advisory issued on July 19th has now been lifted. The prior advisory for **Johns Pond** was lifted on July 16th and the advisory for **Mashpee-Wakeby Pond** was lifted on June 26th.

So far this summer, **Santuit Pond** seems to have escaped a cyanobacteria bloom – which is good news indeed given its recent track record. In addition, at the June 27th Conservation Commission meeting, the Commission unanimously approved the Notice of Intent for Stormwater Improvements at the **Santuit Pond Boat Ramp**, 117 Timberlane Drive. The 15-minute presentation describing recommended changes may be viewed (starting at 2 hours and 45 minutes) at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=csNBtTVcrBg>

Regarding **Popponesset Bay** and **Waquoit Bay**, a Public Notice posted on the Town of Mashpee website on June 5, 2024 announced that Notices of Intent have been filed to apply for **Watershed Permits** for both bays. The notice states, "This is a pre-Watershed Application form that allows the Town to submit a proposed schedule for obtaining watershed permits for the listed watersheds. Filing

these Notices of Intent prevents commencement of the five-year time period in which Title 5 system upgrades would otherwise be required . . . " The full notice may be found at: <https://www.mashpeema.gov/home/news/notice-intent-file-watershed-permits-popponeset-bay-and-waquoit-bay>

And lastly, for now, as reported by the *Enterprise* on July 18, 2024, the MassDEP issued its final decision denying Holtec International a permit to release more than 1 million gallons of radioactive waste into **Cape Cod Bay**. If you do not receive the *Enterprise* and would like a copy of this article, please let us know at info@mashpeemec.us, and one will be emailed to you.

Cyanobacteria Pond Alerts Available via APCC.org

If you would like to stay informed about cyanobacteria alerts once they are known, consider signing up via APCC's alert program at: <https://apcc.org/our-work/science/community-science/cyanobacteria/cyanobacteria-alert/>

Now Available: Session Videos and Resources from the 2024 Cape Cod Coastal Conference

The June 18, 2024, full-day WBNERR conference entitled "**Collaborating for Solutions: Practical Sessions to Achieve Watershed Plans**" focused on ways that our Cape Cod communities can take action to restore water quality, reduce nutrients in our watersheds, and apply for funds to assist in implementing Watershed Plans. The full Conference Agenda, Session Videos, and a link to Grant Opportunities and Deadlines are available at <https://waquoitbayreserve.org/2024-cape-coastal-conference/>.

Please consider sharing this email 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 and the environment!

To Join or Donate

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 | 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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