



From the Board

Spring greetings from Cape Cod. As the newsletter goes to press, the Osprey have just returned, daffodils are in bloom, and other encouraging signs of spring abound.

This edition is full of useful and hopefully interesting information:

Mashpee is moving full speed ahead on addressing the pollution of Popponeset River & Bay (and we're going to work hard to ensure it puts equal effort towards Waquoit Bay in the future).

You'll find a feature story about Win Munro of Waquoit. Win is our historian and a valued defender of the Bay. You'll also meet Kristen DeMoranville Weir who joins CPWB as our WBNERR Liaison. Joan Muller is retiring. Thanks goes out to Joan for all her help over the years and our best wishes for the future. Be sure to check out the extensive list of upcoming WBNERR events.

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) is moving forward with its plan to reduce road runoff going into the Bay from the Seapit Town Landing and 19 other priority sites around the Cape. This effort began at the end of 2021 and will likely run through 2027.

And there's an interesting piece on artists, Mike Palmer from the Waquoit Bay Fish Company (waquoitbayfishcompany.com) and Hannah Werdmuller (hannahwerdmuller.art). Look inside for more information.

A few other items of interest:

We're expecting that Falmouth will put funding for planning the next phase of its sewerage plan on the Town Meeting agenda next fall.

Hopefully the Falmouth Water Quality Management Committee (WQMC) will begin developing the watershed plans aimed at cleaning up our coastal bays

as required by the Massachusetts Department of Environment.

The recent town meeting did not approve further funding for a \$1.9M implementation study of household urine diversion systems. Among other comments, town officials indicated they wanted to see a more fully developed proposal. This also provides an opportunity to find financial support from other towns across the Cape that would benefit from the study.

We're planning to create a Moonakis/Quashnet River Trust similar to the Coonamessett River Trust (crivertrust.org) to raise funds and support the restoration and maintenance of the river. If you're interested in the future of this special place, please contact us at cpwb1981@gmail.com - we need your help.



If you have photographs of life on Waquoit Bay and would like to share them on our photo web site (www.photos.protectwaquoitbay.com)

We look forward to seeing many of you at our Annual Meeting on August 7, 2024. We will post more details on social media as the date approaches. In the meantime, please remember that there is much to celebrate and much work to be done to restore our beautiful Waquoit Bay. We have plenty of volunteer opportunities at CPWB and of course, we always welcome your financial support.

- Rick Otis, President

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram:
[ProtectWaquoitBay](https://www.facebook.com/ProtectWaquoitBay)

We're working on an update of our website, protectwaquoitbay.org. If you have suggestions, please contact us with your ideas.



CITIZENS FOR THE PROTECTION OF WAQUOIT BAY



Rick Otis, President
Patty Waltner, Treasurer
Boby Anderson
Mike Bingham
Eloise "Pam" Biscoe
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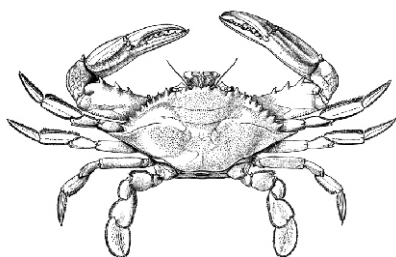
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Photos Courtesy of:

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Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Liaison

We are pleased to announce our new liaison from WBNERR. **Kristen Weir** is the Coastal Training Program (CTP) Coordinator and has agreed to participate in the monthly CPWB Board meetings to keep us abreast of the happenings WBNERR. As the CTP Coordinator, Kristen implements engaging trainings that deliver current science to coastal decision-makers to support them in their roles. The CTP trainings focus on emergent topics that fall under overarching themes like climate change, resilience, water quality, restoration, and environmental equity and inclusion. CTP trainings can take many forms that are influenced by the session's learning goals. Training forms range from workshops, and panel discussions to field trips and hands-on trainings using digital tools. Kristen capitalizes on field work at WBNERR when an extra hand is needed and luckily can enjoy research boat rides and listening for salt marsh sparrows among the grasses. We are fortunate to have her enthusiasm and knowledge at our Board meetings.



As we say 'hello' to Kristen, we are also saying goodbye to **Joan Muller** who has served on our Board as the WBNERR Liaison for the past few years. Joan is retiring this June and we wish her the best as she transitions into retirement. We are also sad to lose the extremely knowledgeable, long-time member, **Matt Patrick**, who has asked to step down from the CPWB Board.

CPWB is actively pursuing new members to its Board and some of its Special Projects. We have options for 'boots on the ground' assistance and for those long-distance members with a passion for the Bay. Drop us an email: CPWB1981@gmail.com or message us on Facebook or Instagram ([ProtectWaquoitBay](https://www.facebook.com/ProtectWaquoitBay))



WAQUOIT BAY NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE

Join us for upcoming programs at Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (WBNERR)

COASTAL TRAINING PROGRAMS

Cape Coastal Conference

Collaborating for Solutions: Practical Sessions to Achieve Watershed Plans

June 18, 2024 in Hyannis, MA

This year's Cape Coastal Conference will bring local decision-makers together to learn about and discuss the latest science and technology to improve water quality. The practical sessions will feature case studies that focus on guidance for submitting watershed permits and applying traditional and alternative nitrogen reduction methods. Visit WBNERR's event page for more information.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

WAQUOIT BAY RESERVE VISITOR GREETERS

Training session will be held on June 11th at the Reserve's Visitor Center.

WBNERR is seeking volunteer Visitor Greeters to assist staff with greeting the public in the summer months, June-August. Greeters are needed Monday through Friday; 10:00am-1:00pm or 1:00pm-4:00pm, and weekend mornings.

Greeters assist our interpretive staff with family programs, help keep the Visitor Center stocked with educational materials and help manage inventory of brochures and pamphlets. Greeters will also help with or support interpretive programs, estate tours, seining in the bay, story times, and arts and crafts projects as needed.

VOLUNTEER TRAIL MONITORS

WBNERR maintains more than 1300 acres of protected land with more than 15 miles of trails in Falmouth and Mashpee. To help us take care of the Reserve lands, we are looking for volunteers to assist with monitoring activities on our trails.

If you enjoy walking the trails at South Cape Beach, the Quashnet Woods, or other Reserve areas, then we would love to hear from you! We are looking for committed folks who would be willing to walk a section of trail on a regular basis.

BEACH AMBASSADORS

Do you love visiting and walking South Cape Beach as much as we do? WBNERR is looking for several volunteers who enjoy walking the beach and trails, observing wildlife, love being outside and are willing to engage with visitors.

Artists Around Waquoit Bay

The beauty and serenity of Waquoit Bay, the seasonal changes, the wildlife that uses it as a habitat, the drama of the changing weather, the movement of the wind on the waters, the plants that live in the open water or marshes — all of these things have a huge impact on those of us who pay attention to them on a daily basis. Now imagine people who are moved by this environment to use their artistic abilities to honor it in whatever way they can. There are several people in this local area who do just that and we are highlighting two of them here.

Mike Palmer of Waquoit Bay Fish Company and Hanna Werdmuller both have many skills and talents in their backgrounds but both have found inspiration from their surroundings and nature. Mike started his career as a fisheries scientist and after two decades of professional research and writing, he now devotes his time in more creative efforts which is displayed on his impressive website. Hannah Werdmuller is an ecologist, musician, and artist with long family roots in the Waquoit area and she uses her pottery and painting to express her connection with the ecology of the area. She is now studying pottery at the Cotuit Center for the Arts and feels the connection to the natural world through her art.



Enjoy the photos, their websites, and also their views of how they integrate their environment with their art.

In Hannah's words: I am an ecologist, musician, and artist originally from the UK, with long family roots on Metoxit Point, currently based in East Falmouth. Growing up, Waquoit Bay felt more like home than anywhere else, with my large family congregating there every summer; the rest of the world and time seemed like silly illusions. There is no doubt that spending my childhood with my feet in the mud and sand, all day outside observing and playing in the Bay, informed both my career as an ecologist and my art.



Most of my life I focused on painting, especially in gouache, and for the past year I've been studying pottery at Cotuit Center for the Arts, which has been transformative. Whereas the world and its demands tend to demand urgency and the scattering of attentions, pottery requires you to slow right down, focus, and move with intention. There is something deeply soothing about taking great care over a little clump of mud.

A lot of my art ends up emulating the organic forms and colors of the natural world. Sometimes that's a glaze combination with a chemical reaction producing an effect like bubbling eddies, or a mug covered in tentacles; there's definitely a playfulness to it, which I feel is important in both life and ecology. I wonder how many of us grew connected to and invested in our natural world as kids playing in the mud and the sand? (*hannahwerdmuller.art*)

In Mike's words: I am a scientist, artist, and business owner. Wherever I've lived, I've tried to explore each place — to learn its geography, geology, cultural history, and local flora and fauna. Through my art, I connect with, translate, and share what I'm experiencing and discovering about life and place. In my former life I was a fisheries scientist for the federal government with degrees in marine science and fisheries oceanography, having many articles published in numerous scientific journals. I am now devoting more time to my family and creative efforts.



My artistic style combines my scientific and creative sides in a “stylized realism” that balances scientific accuracy and aesthetics. My approach has been greatly influenced by the Japanese philosophy of wabi-sabi - I embrace the simple, beautiful, utilitarian, poorly defined, multipurpose, imperfect and ever-evolving. The website at the Waquoit Bay Fish Company is waquoitbaycompany.com.

- Boby Anderson

“The ultimate way to recycle this newsletter is to share it with someone who hasn't read it yet.”

- Anonymous

Around The Bay

An interview with people making a difference in the waters of Waquoit Bay.

For this edition, Bobye Anderson seized the opportunity to interview our long-time Board member, Win Munro. Read on to learn of his life experiences that brought him to be one of Waquoit Bay's great advocates.

If you live in Waquoit on the Seconsett peninsula, you have probably seen him. For many years, a man with a serious shock of white hair would slowly be jogging from his home on Metoxit Point down Meadowneck Road to Seconsett Island; now he walks the route when he has time but his footsteps are well established in both the path and the history of this area. Win's earliest memory is being two years old and playing with snails on the beach of his grandmother's summer home on Waquoit Bay, the same home in which he now lives. So as both a lifelong resident and now as an environmental activist, he has been using his significant knowledge and talents to improve the environmental health of his beloved area for future generations.

It is important to look at the fabric of Win's life by first looking at some of the threads of his core values. It is then possible to see how they are woven together throughout his years. The first and over-arching one is kindness; his caring nature and gentleness are immediately obvious. Another is his interest in and ability with all people; he has gone through his years forming small groups and connecting them with a common purpose. A third is his intense curiosity in all things – how they work, how they relate, and how they can be improved. Win would define this trait as a flaw, as his being distracted by his curiosity in details but that leads to his fourth thread – his humility. He sees the research not done, the articles not published, but it is obvious to others that a lifetime of accomplishments, growth, and serving others by his leadership has left the world a better place.



Win was born in Montgomery Alabama and brought north with him a lifelong Southern charm. One of his family's legacies was a talent for teaching college level History; his mother was a History professor, his father was a publishing agent of college texts, and a grandfather was the Head of a History Department. Win did major in History at Princeton but after graduation, he enrolled in the Army and was sent to West Germany to work as a Crypto Communications Specialist. He enjoyed making new friends in the German/American Friendship Club but especially a woman named Pia; when on a hiking outing with their group, he “knew he was a goner” over her. He learned to speak German so they could communicate and he asked her to marry him; she initially refused but after he went home for a summer and returned to Frankfurt to study economics, she accepted his proposal. Upon winning a Fellowship at the University of Michigan, he returned to the States with his bride and started working on an advanced degree in Economic Theory and Development, along with International Economics.

This love of economic research led to his years at universities where he both learned and taught. He taught Economics at Syracuse University but speaks most fondly of the almost three years spent in Nairobi; he worked through the Syracuse USAID program at the Kenya Institute of Administration teaching courses and seminars on Economics and Development Administration to Kenyans in their Civil Service. He also did the field research for his dissertation on the way price guarantees by the Kenya Maize Marketing Board resulted in black markets in maize. And he helped Pia with their three children under six years old!

The family returned to Syracuse University where he taught Economics and Public Affairs and then to Bucknell as an Assistant Professor where he again developed courses in economics. He completed his Doctorate degree and followed his interest in economics by teaching there, developing courses, and organizing seminars for a program to improve the area around Bucknell. And again, he organized a mid-day discussion group. Win transitioned to helping older students by developing business and economic learning modules as part of the Learning Resources Faculty of Empire State College in Saratoga Springs. He then joined Skidmore College as an Assistant Professor of Economics. There he also taught at Comstock Prison in Skidmore's University Without Walls Program. He then took a break to do independent research while also teaching part time at the State University of New York in Albany and Union College in Schenectady. In every setting he demonstrated his curiosity, his interest in learning and research, and his love of forming groups for self-improvement.

Win next segued away from college teaching to working in a more personal area of economics. He became a Certified Personal Planner; preferring a more one-to-one approach than his initial experience in a large company, he work for seven years in a private practice helping individuals and couples with their personal finances. Win finished his career working as a consultant for the State of New York: first in the State Energy Office, then in the State Department of Probation researching trials of a safety Ignition Interlock system, and finally as leader of a data-management project for the Division of Criminal Justice Services.

Win's real retirement started in August of 2000 when he and Pia decided to return to Waquoit and he followed his lifelong desire to help build a house. Their family summer home on Waquoit Bay had been built in 1900 but had no written plans. Win needed to reconstruct the original plans which he did, turned them over to an architect, and the renovations began for their year-round home in October 2001.

With his love for sailing and all things Waquoit Bay, Win turned his many abilities toward environmental causes. He was on the Board of FACES (Falmouth Association Concerned with Estuaries and Salt Ponds) and served on the Falmouth Friendly Lawns initiative. He joined CPWB (Citizens for the Protection of Waquoit Bay), worked with the local activist Jayne Abbott, and served on the Water Quality Management Committee with former State Representative Matt Patrick from 2011-2015. Win also continued to form small communities of people and created programs to enrich their lives: at the Unitarian Universalist Church, he worked on many committees and initiated a very successful Wednesday Adult Religious Education Committee. And when CPWB needed an influx of new energized members, Win personally recruited neighbors, friends, and other activists to give the organization the momentum it needed. Who could ever refuse his kindly request?

Now Win and Pia are enjoying their reading, walks, and family visits from children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren just as his own grandparents had. His joy of spending time with others is seen in his words "What people really love is sitting around with other people, kids running around, and a little bit of beer." If you see him walking down Meadowneck Road, stop and introduce yourself. In his gentle kindly way, he may recruit you into the environmental activism that means so much to him.



Win is passing his love of Waquoit Bay onto his Grandsons, Daniel and Nick

FAMILY EVENTS

NATURE JOURNALING SERIES

There is no better way to connect with the outdoors than nature journaling. We will observe nature up close, make sketches, and take notes on what we see, hear and experience. Each week we will focus on a different nature journaling technique from the micro environment to nature in flight. Please bring an un-lined notebook and some pencils. We will provide stools and any other tools needed. Audience: Best for adults 16+. Dress for the weather. Steady rain cancels the events. 9:30-11:00 am

May 11 – Meet at Waquoit Bay Visitor Center, 131 Waquoit Highway, East Falmouth

May 18 – Meet at Dead Neck Trailhead, Mashpee Beach Parking Lot, Beach Access Rd, Mashpee

LET'S GON' SEINE

All ages are welcome to come and explore the bay and see what is living here. We will wade into the estuary, use nets to catch critters and take a closer look at what we find. Please wear shoes that can get wet, no bare feet. Rain cancels the events. Meet at the Visitor's Center.

10:00-11:00 am

July 10-Aug 28, Wednesdays

July 6-Aug 24, Saturdays

WAQUOIT BAY SUMMER SCIENCE SCHOOL

A series of week-long learning adventures at WBNERR introduces kids and teens (grades 2-12) to coastal ecology while having fun and fostering new friendships. Full or partial scholarships are available. Visit the Reserve's website for more information about each program, to register your child, and to apply for scholarships. Waquoitbayreserve.org/education-programs/science-school



Mashpee Sewer Update

At its May 6, 2024 Town Meeting Mashpee will be voting on Article 4, funding for Phase 2 sewer construction. This will be followed by a Question 1 on the May 11th ballot for the local election.

First a recap of where Mashpee is today: Mashpee is currently in the middle of building Phase 1 of its sewer project, which when complete is expected to meet 13% of nitrogen removal goals for restoring water quality in Popponesset Bay. The project includes building the town's first treatment plant adjacent to the town transfer station and building a collection system that will connect 439 homes north and south of Rt. 28. The timeline is for the treatment plant to be operational in May 2025, and fully finished in July 2025. The first batch of homes would connect during the January to April 2025 timeframe with all Phase 1 homes on-line by November 2026.

Phase 2 aims to connect an additional 1288 homes farther north and south of Rt. 28, to install more equipment and to build additional discharge beds in the treatment plant area. In November 2023, Town Meeting approved \$7.5 million for designing Phase 2.

Phase 2 aims to reduce nitrogen loading to Popponesset Bay by an additional 29%. (Phase 1+2 = 42% of nitrogen load removal). The Northern part will include 12.6 miles of pipes, 5 pumping stations, and connect 747 parcels at an estimated cost of \$50.8 million and reduce watershed nitrogen by an additional 20%. The Southern part will include 7 miles of pipes, 3 pumping stations, and connect 393 parcels at an estimated cost of \$31.2 million and reduce nitrogen by an additional 9%.

The total cost of Phase 2 is estimated at \$96 million. The Phase 2 design should be finished by March 2025 and if funding is approved this May, construction could begin as soon as the summer of 2025.

Mashpee has been working diligently to reduce the burden on taxpayers and expects to receive a \$50 million interest free loan for the project from the State Revolving Fund, but only if the town appropriates the funds before June 2024. It is also taking advantage of the Cape and Islands Water Protection Fund, which has notified towns to expect a 12% subsidy for projects authorized in 2024. The trust is adopting a new procedure that could possibly increase the principal forgiveness to 25%. In addition, there is a 3.3% principal forgiveness from the MA Clean Water Trust. Overall, the town can currently see 28.3% of the project cost covered by external sources.

At a recent Selectboard meeting, Mashpee Town Manager Rodney Collins said, "The bottom line is that I expect the Phase Two property tax increase, averaged over the 30-year life of the SRF (State Revolving Fund) loan, to be about \$75 per year for the average residential valued home--To put it in simple terms, this is likely to cost less than an expensive cup of coffee per week."

Now, the rub for Waquoit Bay. None of the sewerage in Mashpee Phase 1 and Phase 2 is going to remove any nitrogen from the Waquoit Bay watershed due to the initial roll out being in the Popponesset Bay watershed. Despite this, CPWB supports Mashpee's Phase 2 Plan. The sooner Mashpee gets Phase 2 done, the sooner the town will start on the Waquoit Bay watershed. Mashpee, like all Cape towns, is subject to the 2023 MassDEP watershed permit regulations and will soon be presenting its plan for obtaining a Watershed permit. CPWB will be monitoring this process and working to ensure that Phase 3 is centered on Waquoit Bay.

- Glenn McCarthy

We Want YOU to KNOW

Faithful readers of this newsletter know that a plan has been in the works for better than two years to acquire the Servis Family property at **419 Waquoit Highway**, in hopes of avoiding its subdivision into three lots which would have likely entailed virtually clear-cutting woods that have not been touched for many decades. We are happy to report—as you may have read in *The Enterprise* and elsewhere—that a consortium of MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), The 300 Committee, the Falmouth Housing Trust, neighbors, and an anonymous donor have presented a successful bid to the family and expect the property transfer to close at the end of May. DCR through WBNERR will manage just under three acres of conservation land abutting Bourne Pond; the Falmouth Housing Trust will develop the other acre fronting Rte 28 for affordable housing. The plans for the affordable housing are not final and will be subject to neighborhood comment, as is always the case with any new construction. It is now our focus to be certain that the best available wastewater management options be included in the design for the affordable housing units.

- 🐚 Mashpee is voting **May 6** and **May 11** on Phase II Sewer funding.
- 🐚 On March 27, The Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) facilitated a Zoom meeting regarding the 25% Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) Designs for the **Waquoit Bay Landing** (also referred to as Seapit Landing). Several CPWB Board members attended. The proposed GSI includes the use of tree trenches, underground infiltration chambers, and bioretention. Attendees were able to voice concerns about the presented plans and organizers (APCC and Horsley-Witten Group) received good feedback as they continue to finalize designs. This project is expected to be completed in 2027. For more information go to apcc.org/stormwater-management-at-public-boat-ramps
- 🐚 On Monday, April 10, a petitioner's article, Article 22, was presented to Town Meeting for a vote on approval of \$1.9 million in funding for a **Pilot Urine Diversion Study**. Town Meeting voted the Article down after much debate. A majority of Town Meeting members were persuaded that the pilot project and its budget were not yet fully developed, but there were many strong expressions of support for urine diversion, including from town officials, and of the great urgency to get the project finalized and back to Town Meeting for what is expected to be a YES vote in November.
- 🐚 Save the Date: CPWB's Annual Meeting will take place **August 7**. More details to follow.
- 🐚 And lastly, a quote from APCC's Executive Director, Andrew Gottlieb:
“Green turf lawns don't want to be on Cape Cod. Our soils don't support turf grass, so to meet the suburban standards for lawns, yours has to become a chemically dependent junkie surviving on the next fix of fertilizer, herbicide, pesticide and copious volumes of drinking water.”



Mashpee Board of Health Regulation Update

During its first meeting of 2024, The Mashpee Health Board approved a requirement that all new septic systems within 1,000 feet of wetlands must be nitrogen reducing systems, commonly known as innovative/alternative (I/A) septic systems. This requirement will apply to new construction, increases in flow and any other installations or upgrades of a septic disposal system within 1,000 feet of wetland resource areas.

This is an increase from Mashpee's current regulation requiring I/As within 300 feet of wetlands that was approved in April 2023. Prior to that, I/A systems were only required within 75 feet of wetlands.

CPWB applauds this increase in protection on the Mashpee side of Waquoit Bay due to its expected positive impact on water quality and calls on Falmouth to follow suit.

- Glenn McCarthy



Citizens for the Protection of Waquoit Bay is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit organization dedicated to the preservation and protection of Waquoit Bay and its estuaries.

------(Tear here and send to: P.O. Box 3021, Waquoit, MA 02536)-----

Yes, I want to help restore Waquoit Bay!

_____ \$250 _____ \$100 _____ \$50 _____ \$35 _____ Other \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: Citizens for the Protection of Waquoit Bay (CPWB)
OR Donate securely online at ProtectWaquoitBay.org

Name:

Company/Organization:

Local Address:

Mailing Address:

Email:

Please send me more information on: _____ Volunteering _____ Planned Giving

Thank you for your support!

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM

*There is a lot of time and energy from many volunteers that goes into the production and distribution of our semi-annual newsletter. A key member of this group is **Sara Slaymaker**. She takes great effort in designing the pages to entice you to read every last word! Many of the beautiful photographs included in our newsletters come from Sara. We want to take this opportunity to publicly thank Sara-because, even though she will not physically be located on the Cape anymore (moving to Illinois to be closer to her daughter), she has agreed to continue her volunteer work to design this and the many newsletters to come in the future. It is with much gratitude that the Board of CPWB wishes you the very best in your new endeavors and thanks you for your ongoing commitment to the quality and beauty of our newsletter.*



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