



Harwich Ponds Coalition

Protecting and advocating for Harwich ponds and freshwater resources

Annual Kickoff – Saturday June 14, 2025

10:00am Harwich Community Center



www.harwichwaters.org

Agenda

- Introduction of the HPC Board
- Expert Panel
- Alerts
- Testing
- Pond Pages
- Pond Pledge
- Committees

Harwich Ponds Coalition - Proposed Board Slate

- Susan Cyr
- Ann Frechette
- Erik Skramstad
- Hallie Vitolo
- John Ketchum
- Scott Norum
- Diana Preston
- Rich Walker
- Donna Connolly
- Patrick Otton

President

Vice-President

Treasurer

Secretary

Webmaster

Board Member

Board Member

Board Member

Board Member

Board Member

So what have we done since last summer?

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Formally established HPC as 501(c)(3) and created the Articles of Organization & Bylaws
- Created website.
- Developed pond pledge & sourced amazing yard sign.
- Worked with the Board of Health to create Pond Alerts.
- Mobilized to support Phase 3A(GLSA) Sewer ballot question which passed on May 20.
- Bookmarks!

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Testing training **6/24**
- **Organize 2025** testing team.
- Complete Pond Pages
- Build out the different committees with volunteers
 - Finance
 - Membership
 - Education
 - Science
 - Environmental Advocacy

Finance Update

Erik Skramstad – HPC Treasurer

Activity from inception 9/5/2024 through 5/31/2025:

Dues received **\$575**

Expenses:

Filing fees -\$316

Meeting room - \$80

PayPal fees - \$3

Balance available **\$176**

Dues and Fee Schedule for 2025/2026:

HPC Member \$ 25

HPC Pond Pledge Sign \$ 20

Our Expert Panel!

Michael Lach – Executive Director, Harwich Conservation Trust

Sophia Feuerhake – Freshwater Science Coordinator, APCC

Amy Usowski – Conservation Agent, Harwich Conservation Dept

Carrie Schoener – Health Director, Harwich Board of Health

Pond Alerts!

- Click on **Notifications** button on the Town of Harwich Home page and then click on “**sign up for notifications**” on that next page.
- **Sign in or create an account.** You NEED to set up an account!
- There will be two categories – First category is **Agendas & Meetings**. Scroll town to second category of **MA-Harwich website**.
- Scroll to the bottom of the page to **Public Water Body Notifications**. Check off the **Email and/or Text** notification toggles.

This will push any pond/beach closures or advisories to you via email or text. We also encourage you to sign up for the APCC newsletter which has great information regarding their efforts as well as Cyanobacteria alerts for Harwich and other Cape Cod towns as identified.

Pond Testing (PALS) 2025

Pond And Lake Stewardship

Scott Norum - HPC Board

- Hinckleys
- Bucks
- John Joseph
- Aunt Edies
- Skinequit
- ***West Reservoir (new 2025)***
- ***Sand Pond (new 2025 – public beach)***

Pond Testing (APCC/CCC) Freshwater Pond Monitoring Program

- Hawksnest
- Cornelius
- Walkers
- Sand Lake

This program is funded to continue through summer of 2025 at this point.

The Cape Cod Commission just released their final Cape Cod Freshwater Strategy (ponds and lakes). Link to this is on the HPC website.

So Who is Testing What?

Cape Cod Pond Testing

June 2025

	Organization that Performs the Testing			
	PALS	APCC	APCC	
	Umass/ SMAST	Cyanobacteria	50 Ponds Project (Cornelius, Hawksnest, Walker, Sand Lake)	Barnstable County
Tests Performed	Temperature, Dissolved Oxygen, Water Clarity (Secchi Disk), Chlorophyll, Nitrogen, Phosphorous	Cyanobacteria	Temperature, Conductivity, Salinity, Dissolved Oxygen, Water Clarity (Secchi Disk), Alkalinity, Chlorophyll, Nitrogen, Phosphorous	Indicator Organisms E Coli & Enterococci
Field Personnel	Volunteers	Interns & Individual Volunteers; Harwich Conservation Dept	Employees & Volunteers	Employees
Partners	Harwich Department of Natural Resources	Pond Associations and Towns		Harwich Health Dept
Test Frequency	Biweekly	Biweekly / Monthly	Monthly	Weekly
Testing Season	July - September	May - August	April - October	June - September
Website		https://apcc.org/our-work/science/community-science/cyanobacteria/	https://apcc.org/our-work/education/freshwater-ponds/cape-cod-pond-monitoring-program/	https://www.capecod.gov/departments/health-environment/programs-services/water-and-wastewater/beach-sample-results/
Criteria for Closure/Warning #1			No single E. Coli sample shall exceed 235 colonies per 100 ml. and the geometric mean of the most recent five E. Coli samples within the same bathing season shall not exceed 126 colonies per 100 ml	
Criteria for Closure/Warning #2			No single Enterococci sample shall exceed 61 colonies per 100 ml. and the geometric mean of the most recent five Enterococci samples within the same bathing season shall not exceed 33 colonies per 100 ml	

Pond Pages

Here is an example of what we would love to provide for every pond in Harwich!

Ann Frechette – VP, HPC

Bucks Pond



Location: Route 39 and Queen Anne Road, Part of Great Sand Lakes Community

Size: 34.37 acres

Max Depth: 23 feet

Public Access: Town Beach at end of Bucks Pond Road

Recreation Activities: Swimming, Fishing, Sailing

History: One of the Massachusetts Great Ponds, Bucks Pond has had many names over its history, including Mill Pond and Great Sand Lake in addition to Bucks Pond. It once had a mill and a duck hunting lodge and is now surrounded by private homes. There is a town beach at the east end. A recent biological survey found several endangered plant species including Plymouth gentian (*Saxifraga canadensis*), Puritan smartweed (*Panicum puritanicum*), and Terete Arrowhead (*Sagittaria teres*). Aquatic vegetation is dense. The bottom is sand and rock.

Neighborhood Association: <https://gsia-harwich.org/>



Pond Pledge

- **REGULARLY MAINTAIN SEPTIC AND SUPPORT SEWERING** : I commit to having my septic tank pumped every 2 to 3 years and to support town sewerage efforts.
- **USE MORE ECO-FRIENDLY CLEANING PRODUCTS** : I commit to decreasing or eliminating phosphate-containing cleaning products.
- **EMBRACE CAPE-FRIENDLY LAWN AND LANDSCAPING** : I will include more native plants and trees, minimize invasive species, minimize landscape watering and avoid using fertilizer and pesticides.

Yard signs are available for \$20! (on top of the \$25 membership dues)

Committees *we need volunteers!!*

- **Finance** – Financial planning, fundraising, grant writing, preparation of the annual budget.
- **Membership** – driving new membership in HPC, maintaining a roster of current and potential members.
- **Education** – Developing educational programs on relevant topics (ie. Invasives/native plants/water quality); pond tours; pond pages)
- **Science** – Solicit, aggregate, analyze and disseminate data on water quality.
- **Advocacy** – establish and maintain relationships with other pond organizations, town employees, environmental scientists and Harwich property owners/residents to advocate for policies that protect and promote the health of ponds and freshwater resources. (ie. Preparing in advance for next year's Town Meeting)

Questions?

