



APRIL 2026

SAVE THE DATE: Annual meeting-Sat, June 6, 2026; 10 am at the Harwich Community Center!

It's officially Spring! I'm not sure Mother Nature was on board last week but today is beautiful!

Town Meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 4 at 6pm in the Harwich Community Center gym. We encourage those of you who are registered Harwich voters to read through the warrant in advance of the meeting. <https://www.harwich-ma.gov/1141/Harwich-News>

There are 62 warrant articles to review in total so please schedule some time to review and educate yourself on those petitions regarding environmental actions that could keep our ponds and waterways healthy!

Pond Testing

- Thanks to those folks who have re-committed to testing or raising their hand for the first time! As shared last month, we will continue PALS testing for the following ponds on April 23 and August 27(still confirming dates/times): Hinckleys, Bucks, John Joseph, Skinequit, Aunt Edie's, Sand Pond, West Reservoir.
- We are putting together two teams for our new cyanobacteria testing that will be done every other Tuesday starting in June through the end of October. After meeting with APCC and Stephanie Ridenour from Harwich's Dept of Natural Resources, we have landed on the following:
 - Two testing kits will be purchased.
 - Team #1 will test Bucks, John Joseph and Skinequit and then deliver the samples to APCC.
 - Team #2 will test Hinckleys, Sand Pond(the public beach) and West Reservoir every other Tuesday and Long Pond monthly - and then deliver the samples to APCC.
 - We are hoping to get enough volunteers to staff two groups for each team so we have back-ups to provide some flexibility to the bi-weekly commitment if needed.
 - There will be a virtual training for all Cyanobacteria testing volunteers on Tuesday, April 21 at 5pm. Link and invite have been sent to the volunteers but here it is if you are interested!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81280258044?pwd=LThGSS7JsFou0NWcpkw8I9rerxByzr.1>

- The in-person training for our Harwich volunteers here in Harwich with APCC will be on Thursday, May 14, from noon to 1pm at 120 Clearwater Dr on Bucks Pond.
- And if anyone else is interested in volunteering – please respond to this email!

Cape Friendly Lawn in Spring

There have been a number of webinars and in-person workshops on creating that “Cape friendly lawn” we discussed in last month’s newsletter. As the weather warms and you or your landscaper are determining how to approach your spring clean-up, here are a few suggestions to consider.

1. **Leave the Leaves** – When you leave them through the winter, they provide a natural mulch that retains soil moisture and fertilizes as they decompose. They are also home to butterflies, moths and pollinators so your “spring clean-up” may impact their habitat if done too early!
2. **No Mow May** – it’s a conservation movement encouraging homeowners to skip mowing in May to support early-season pollinators like bees and butterflies. By allowing “flowers” like dandelions and clover to bloom, it provides vital nectar and pollen when food is scarce in early spring. No need to go a full month with “No Mow May” – even a reduction in mowing would help!
3. **Stormwater runoff** – I had the opportunity to attend a lecture in Brewster by Peter Jensen of TerraFirma. <https://www.thisisterrafirma.com>. While the website shares some of his international work, he has some very creative ideas for mitigating any stormwater runoff issues or challenges that you may have in your own yards. Check out the Take Action section for creating mini gardens to absorb the runoff proactively from all those heavy rains we have been having!

As shared in last month’s newsletter, we would love to highlight some examples of a Cape friendly lawn at our annual meeting on June 6. If you have a yard that you would love to share with us in pictures or video, please let us know and we can make arrangements to highlight you and your yard at the annual meeting! Please reply to this email and we will be in touch to coordinate how best to share your success story!



Happy Earth Day on April 22!! Till next month!