



BAYWATCH

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CITIZENS FOR THE PROTECTION OF WAQUOIT BAY CPWB

CPWB a Story of Preservation.

For your interest as to how Washburn Island, South Cape Beach became protected we are republishing the history of CPWB as written by Winnie Woods for our 10th Anniversary in December 1991.

CITIZENS FOR THE PROTECTION OF WAQUOIT BAY began on December 1, 1981. That night the developers of Washburn's Island were to present their preliminary plan at a public hearing before the Falmouth Planning Board. We had no money, no steering committee members, no organization, no credibility. We were also facing failed attempts by both the State and the Town of Falmouth to acquire the Island for public conservation and recreation.

What we did have is Waquoit Bay, incredibly rich in natural resources, relatively unspoiled, and vitally important on a deep, personal level to literally thousands of people. Deborah Moore Williams and I had only telephone contact on opposite sides of the Bay, we believed that people would rally to the cause of protecting it, and together we were totally committed to providing the leadership needed to make the previous attempts at conservation of Waquoit Bay a reality.

Going into the hearing on the preliminary plan for Washburn's Island, CPWB was so far behind the developers, that we were forced to take some big chances and work very hard to meet the instant and nearly insurmountable hurdles facing us. On the promise of a \$2,100.00 loan, we hired a highly regarded specialist in environmental law, Attorney Gregor McGregor, and the firm of Boston Survey Consultants to act as our technical advisor. (They were the only people who received financial compensation, and even they worked at bargain rates.)

In the beginning and seemingly all at once, we had to thoroughly educate ourselves, educate the public, round up a committed and wholly representative steering committee, raise funds to meet our expenses, prepare for the fights before permit-granting agencies, put on a comprehensive public relations campaign, work with governmental representatives and bureaucrats, incorporate. For at least the first year, the officers and Steering Committee members had more tasks to do than time to do them. Time was in even shorter supply than money, which was spent as soon as it was received.

The Steering Committee was forced to meet every 2-4 weeks, with the agendas usually taking about 3-4 hours to cover. Important public comment periods and other events were happening so quickly, that as soon as one newsletter was sent, we had to hurry to write and distribute the next one. The original Steering Committee members were: Carole Benson, Bill and Joe Lynch, Milt Minto, Bill Overholtz, Phyllis and Norm Philibotte, Len Rose, Linda Tobey, Bunny and Bill Turner, Ann Verissimo, Debbie Moore Williams (Treasurer), Nancy Zalenski, and me (Chairman).

While we were trying to save Washburn's Island, we also had to face the daunting challenges of: (a) securing approximately 1,200 acres of land surrounding Waquoit Bay for public conservation and recreation (Washburn's Island, South Cape Beach, Swift Estate, and Quashnet River Valley); (b) changing federal, state and local laws to better protect the Bay's environment (with spin-off protection for other areas); (c) establishing the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve; (d) providing on-going support and advice to many agencies involved in maintaining the environmental integrity of the Bay; (e) continual public education.

CPWB was officially incorporated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on May 12, 1982. Its incorporators were Winnifred Woods, Deborah Moore Williams and Geraldine E. Lynch.

We initially received non-financial aid and support from the Massachusetts Audubon Society and the Association for the Preservation of Cape Cod. That kind of help was passed on to many groups, including The 300 Committee and the Friends of Pleasant Bay. CPWB can be justly proud of its direct accomplishments and its indirect but wide-ranging public benefits. For “dedication to the preservation and protection of the natural resources and the environmental integrity of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts”, CPWB was awarded the first annual Secretary’s Commendation from the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs on August 19, 1983. In 1984, Deborah Moore Williams and I received the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions’ Environmental Service Award “for outstanding contributions to the environmental protection of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts” in the category of Natural Resource Protection.

It would be impossible to properly thank everyone who was vital to CPWB’s astounding success, but I cannot let the opportunity pass to name at least some of the many who deserve much more credit than they received: Debbie Moore Williams (without whom, CPWB would not have existed), the late Jerry Cahir (we couldn’t have asked for a more responsive representative) Gerry & Joe Lynch, Don Bourne, Phyllis & Norm Philibotte, Harry Dodson, Dan Blackwood, Steve Bliven, Dave & Trish Palmer, and later, Tom Cahir (who succeeded his father as one of the best representatives to grace the halls of the State House) and Matt Patrick. There are so many other individuals who sacrificed great time, effort and money to make our dreams a reality, and I apologize for not being able to name them here. Certainly their efforts will always be remembered and appreciated by those of us who had the great privilege of working with them.

To say the first year of CPWB was an exhausting, stressful time is a gross understatement. However, the support from all quarters was more than we believed possible. We asked people to contribute their money, time and letter-writing efforts in manageable doses, and they responded to an extraordinary degree,

including touching notes of moral support at just the right times. Wealth, education and power were not the necessary hallmarks of CPWB’s members, rather, it was a general and enthusiastic willingness to listen, learn and contribute whatever each could afford.

We began with the hope that Waquoit Bay could somehow be protected from the destructive forces of greed, ignorance and apathy; that our governmental bodies could be made to be truly responsive to the needs and will of the people. We continue in the same way. Unfortunately, the ultimate question of whether Waquoit Bay will survive environmental destruction is still not answered. That will depend on the willingness of leaders and members of CPWB to continue its tradition of hard work and honest public representation. The first ten years have truly been successful and rewarding. The next ten years will either build on our previous accomplishments, or render them fairly meaningless. CPWB CONTINUES TO DEPEND ON YOUR INPUT AND YOUR WILLINGNESS TO HELP. PLEASE DO MORE THAN JUST THINK ABOUT IT.

So, Happy 10th Anniversary, CPWB, and Best Wishes to Waquoit Bay and the people who care enough to preserve it!

Winnie Woods (Co-founder and first Chairman/President)

Climate Change Film Discusses Effects on Cape Cod

A local environmentalist, Maxine Wolfset, filmmaker and member of CPWB has produced a documentary that discusses what will happen to Cape Cod’s coastal lands in 50 to 100 years and illustrates other climate change happenings in the United States and other areas of the world. The film entitled “Global Warming is Real”, demonstrates that climate change is real and that action from government leaders and from ordinary Americans is needed before a disastrous “tipping point” is reached.

Striking images of Alaska’s glaciers and other scenic photographs taken by Ms. Wolfset are intertwined throughout the film. Footage from a climate change rally in Falmouth at which Woods Hole scientists

speak passionately about impending catastrophic impacts to our environment and includes their observations and recommendations.

The film has been shown on Channel 13, Falmouth Community TV, the documentary is 21 minutes in length. If you have missed the film, you can request to have it rescheduled by calling FCTV at 508-457-0800.

CPWB Members Visit Rachel Carson Exhibit.

In the Fall, Nancy Church invited CPWB members and WBNERR volunteers to visit the Rachel Carson exhibit at The Cape Cod Museum of Natural History. Nancy is the Volunteer/Interpretive Coordinator at the reserve. In the exhibit there was a quote I would like to share:

“Trusting so-called authority is not enough. A sense of personal responsibility is what we desperately need,” Rachel Carson warned in 1962, planting the seeds of the modern environmental movement even as she was dying of cancer.

This quote may express why we are drawn to be members of CPWB and supporters of WBNERR.

Our day was filled with enthusiasm for the exhibits at the museum and a guided walk by Nancy through the marsh and aspen grove. Please watch for other opportunities to join one on Nancy’s excursions as she is a wealth of naturalist information.

Urine-Diverting Toilets Workshop held to Explore Sewage Treatment Options for Towns’ to Reduce Nitrogen Pollution Problems.

CPWB sponsored the program with WBNERR, Representative Matthew Patrick (D-Falmouth), and George Heufelder, Barstable County Dept of Health and the Environment in an effort to assist Mashpee and

Falmouth town employees along with other state and county officials to assess the viability of urine diversion and composting as waste treatment methods on Cape Cod.

Guest speaker Carl Etnier, of Peak Oil Awareness, has followed the development of modern urine-diverting toilets in Scandinavia since early 1990’s. He lives with a urine-diverting toilet and sawdust (bucket) toilet.

Urine diversion has been pioneered in northern European countries of Sweden and Denmark. It is estimated to be about 20% of the cost of a complete sewage treatment system per household. It is simple and it can remove up to 80% of the nitrogen and 50 % of the phosphorus that is in urine from waste water.

The group focused discussion on:

- Economic feasibility
- Nitrogen reduction issues
- Research and data availability
- Barriers related to the use of urine diversion and composting use
- Public acceptance, participation and education
- Information gaps
- Follow-up study

The reality of high wastewater treatment costs necessitates looking at what these new technologies can offer. There are other issues to be explored e.g. health issues. To increase public awareness and acceptance of urine diversion toilets more test cases (pilot sites) are needed in public areas. Regulatory changes would be needed in order to move ahead with using urine diverting toilets. It appears the best use would be in outlying areas of towns. Sewage treatment would be required in more densely developed areas of town.

It was general agreement that a demonstration project would help determine how it would be accepted by people and how much nitrogen and phosphorus would be removed. Matt Patrick will discuss the concept and funding for a demonstration project with Ian Bowles, Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

This workshop was a beginning to examine non-traditional wastewater treatment options that could potentially have application on Cape Cod. If you would like to learn more about this subject a few articles available from the web are listed.

1) The 2006 report, *Urine Diversion: One Step Towards Sustainable Sanitation* - this provides state-of-the-art information about urine diversion. While it is directed towards developing countries, it is based primarily on Swedish experiences, which are described. It is aimed at both policy makers and technical workers.

http://www.ecosanres.org/pdf_files/Urine_Diversion_2006-1.pdf

2) *Urine Separation – Closing the Nutrient Cycle*
http://www.stockholmvatten.se/pdf_arkiv/english/Urineseperering.pdf

3) *Onsite Water Treatment: The Journal for Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Solutions*

http://www.erosioncontrol.com/ow_0509_golden.html.

Generous Gift is Funding Renovation and Update to Visitor Center

Thanks to a generous year end donation from Joe and Lee Feinstein, the Waquoit Bay Reserve will undergo some needed updates and renovation in 2008. The front room of the visitor center will receive a fresh coat of paint, new shelves, some updated exhibits and large scale aerial photos of the watershed and Reserve property that will grace the walls giving visitors a sense of this unique landscape. The professionally enlarged and framed photos will provide a beautiful backdrop for community meetings and workshops while serving as high quality educational materials to use as points of reference. In addition, original artwork by Bob Golder, created for the Quashnet River kiosk, will be framed and hung over one of the fireplaces. This colorful rendering of brook trout and other wildlife depicts the results of conservation and restoration work along the river.

On hearing of renovation plans, volunteers Caroline and Harold Goldstein redesigned a three by six foot watershed resource map that they originally produced 15 years ago. The map, done in black and white, includes illustrations of the fin and shellfish species that thrive in nearby rivers, ponds and waters of Waquoit Bay. Covered with Plexiglas and hung, this dramatic piece will be used as a valuable educational tool for visiting schools and the general public.

Caroline's artistic talents have also contributed to production of a wayside exhibit outside on the bluff featuring a panoramic view over the bay identifying various landmarks and locations. This added funding allows for a copy of the interpretive sign to be installed under the windows inside the visitor center providing the same perspective and information for our guests during inclement weather.

WBNERR staff and volunteers will install new shelving to enhance exhibits and hang display racks for hand-outs, eliminating the need for tables full of papers around the room. The chairs in the exhibit room have been cleaned and many of them fitted with new rubber tips to protect the floor. Glass cabinets will be filled with new material focusing on local species.

Another priority for updating the visitor center is installing a new sliding panel in the *Changing Land Use over Time* map exhibit. This display currently illustrates changes in development within the watershed from 1951 to 1990 with overlying panels. Plans are to install an additional map panel representing land use today. Coincidentally, the state of Massachusetts will be creating a series of revised land use maps for the entire Cape in 2008. The new panel will be produced once this data is made available.

CPWB Steering Committee wishes to thank Lee and Joe Feinstein for their gift. The funds have acted as a catalyst to creative ideas that will be seen at the Visitor Center this Spring.

Reserve Cup Connection Nets Donation

One of the unexpected outcomes of this year's Waquoit Bay Reserve Cup Regatta was a \$10,000 donation to CPWB from the Fleetwing Charitable Foundation Trust. One of the trustees, Sudie Fay, learned about the Reserve's educational programs during the cooperative sailing event held this past July and asked the Reserve staff to submit a proposal detailing projects that needed funding. The foundation decided to support the purchase of laptop computers for the WBNERR classroom to allow students, teachers, scientists and workshop participants, access to real time environmental data in support of the program administered by CPWB.

Pat Harcourt in particular will make use of the new equipment for teacher training and to enhance the educational opportunities for school groups visiting the Reserve. Summer Science School will also be able to access data and compare the findings of researchers across the country with their own research in the bay. Laptop computers will allow teachers and students to access the internet for research and other educational materials during their classroom time. These portable computers will enhance workshops and public programs by allowing presenters to tap into the latest data.

WBNERR is celebrating 20 years of supporting Coastal Communities through science.

The staff is looking to offer more activities through walks and speakers. A brochure **20 Walks 20 Talks** will be mailed to CPWB members in March to describe events.

As a fundraiser this year CPWB will support WBNERR by holding a *Taste of the Bay Gala* on August 16th from 2:00-4:00pm, with a live auction at 4:00pm. The funds raised will be used for education, research and stewardship efforts. We will need prizes for a silent auction and live auction. Please if you would like to donate an item contact: Maureen Jankauskas at 508-477-9463.

CALENDAR

Earth Day Coffee House Saturday, April 19th
Music and refreshments

Washburn Island Clean-up Saturday, June 14th or June 21st Call Jane Abbott for more details at 508-540-1948

CPWB Annual Meeting Friday, June 27th at 5:30pm
Social event for members - wine and cheese

Annual Reserve Cup Regatta Wednesday, July 23rd

WBNERR Block Party Tuesday, August 5th
An afternoon on the bluff

Taste of the Bay Gala August 16th
Social, fundraiser and silent auction

Check out waquoitbayreserve.org in early Spring to plan your Summer calendar.

WANT ADS

CPWB sponsored events need volunteers to bring these projects to a successful Summer Season. Give a few hours to assist at one or more of the events listed:

Annual Reserve Cup Regatta Wednesday, July 23rd
- Greet the sailors registering in the morning at the Waquoit Yacht Club
- End of the sailing day barbecue and awards
Call Don Lunn 508-540-4893

WBNERR Block Party Tuesday, August 5th
- Could you help serve ice cream or watermelon?
Assist with children's arts and craft table.

Taste of the Bay Gala August 16th
- There will be several committees formed to assist with invitations, collecting prizes or auction items, selling tickets.
- Donations for auction. Do you have Red Sox or Patriots tickets to donate for a game you may not be able to attend.
Call Toni Grady 508-548-9457, Maureen Jankauskas 508-477-9463

Renew your membership CPWB Dues Notice is attached for your convenience.

Our membership year runs from July 1st through June 30th. Please check to see if your membership is current. CPWB dues notice is included to assist members.

Your \$10.00 membership fee supports educational programs. Is your neighbor a member? We are working to grow our membership, the CPWB brochure with application is available at WBNERR.

CPWB thanks the members who give additional contributions. CPWB is a non-profit organization concerned with the health of the area's waters. CPWB serves as the Friends Group for the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, supporting their educational programs and seminars. We are committed to providing critical support through our membership base to support WBNERR.

Please mark your calendar to attend the CPWB Steering Committee meeting.

Meetings are held every other month on the first Monday at 7:00pm at the reserve. CPWB's next scheduled meeting is March 3, 2008.

RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP. (Please make checks payable to CPWB, P.O. Box 3021, Waquoit, MA 02536)

\$ 10.00 Membership \$ _____ Contribution

Names: _____

Address: _____

Summer Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address _____

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JANUARY 2008 NEWSLETTER

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Generous Gift is Funding Renovation and Update to Visitor Center

Reserve Cup Connection Nets Donation

Are you a member? For \$10.00 you can be a member and receive our newsletters.

**Citizens for the Protection of Waquoit Bay CPWB
P.O. BOX 3021
WAQUOIT, MA 02536**

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