



www.SafeHarborEnv.com • December 1, 2009 • No. 15

OUTER CAPE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS NEWSLETTER



This e-newsletter was created to provide collaborative links between Outer Cape environmental groups, individuals and towns. We share many of the environmental problems. We should be sharing the solutions. Collaborative efforts protect our natural and financial resources. Thank you to our readers, who pass on this newsletter and support our efforts to protect natural resources through education. We would like to thank Whitney Johnson of London, England for her generous contribution of effort and talent in the production of our newsletter.

~ Gordon Peabody, Editor

CHINESE TREE PROVERB

The Chinese have a proverb that says “The best time to plant a tree, is 20 years ago.”



WHAT IS PERMEABLE PAVING?

Permeable paving is a method for paving roads, parking lots and walkways that allow the movement of water and air around the paving material. Permeable pavement is asphalt or concrete mixed with fewer fine particles to create more air space which allows rain water and snow melt to infiltrate through it to be filtered and recharged into

the ground as groundwater. An underlying layer of fine sediment filters water and below it a bed of uniform-grade stones stores water as it infiltrates into the ground. Permeable pavement is ideal for use in parking lots, walkways and low-traffic roadways. Areas that are paved with traditional, non-permeable pavement are a significant source of polluted stormwater runoff. The use of permeable pavement can greatly decrease stormwater runoff. We believe this system will have more applications as it is developed. More information is available on the links below.

www.sierraclubgreenhome.com/go-green/landscaping-and-outdoors/permeable-paving/

www.millermicro.com/porpave.html

www.toolbase.org/Building-Systems/Sitework/permeable-pavement



ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSOCIATED WITH PLASTIC MESH

Environmental risk associated with plastic mesh. Erosion control products are site specific and should always conform to Best Management Practice (BMP). A good many products utilize plastic mesh. Some sizes of mesh can trap snakes and should be used with caution on snake habitat sites. We recommend a larger plastic mesh or jute netting, ground stapled over straw.

More information can be found through this link: www.cnah.org/khs/JKH_16.pdf



DISPATCH FROM LONDON



Whitney Johnson does the layout and formatting for OCEAN Newsletter, telecommuting from London. Since we feel England may

be targeted to experience some climate change events, we asked Whitney to keep us posted on “Headline” weather events. Suffice it to say that parts of England have suffered and the storm season is just beginning. Parts of England have received up to a foot of rain in one 24 hour period.

www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/environment/article6927001.ece

www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/environment/article6927000.ece

<http://uk.news.yahoo.com/4/20091113/tuk-weekend-to-witness-worst-storm-of-th-dba1618.html>

THE OYSTER IS OUR WORLD

www.friendsofherringriver.org/news.htm

OCEAN Newsletter supports Cape Cod salt marsh restoration. Healthy salt marshes generate diatoms and other phytoplankton that feed shellfish. Visit Friends of Herring River, to find out what’s going on locally.



A LOOK AT SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING

Single stream recycling refers to the simultaneous collection of glass, newspaper, plastic and cardboard, mixed together in a single container. Single stream could provide significantly higher levels of participation than the current multi stream system. Single compartment vehicles are less expensive to purchase and use. Collection time and costs would be lower. Household participation and volume of recyclables would be increased.

The link below discusses more details:

www.recyclingtoday.com/Article.aspx?article_id=25326



INVASIVE PLANTS

If You Can't Beat 'em, Eat 'em!

Garlic Mustard is a successful, unwelcome European invasive. Americans have tried burning it, pulling it up by the roots, cutting it and spraying it with herbicide. Now they are trying a new idea: Eating it. The Richmond Land Trust in Vermont, developed this idea while weed pulling along the Winooski River. Cleveland's Shaker Lakes Nature Center holds an annual "Garlic Mustard Festival" for local restaurants to prepare various dishes featuring garlic mustard. The Kalamazoo Nature Center in Michigan had the best idea, a cookbook: "Garlic Mustard, From Pest to Pesto."



STUDENT INTERNS ARE AVAILABLE

OCEAN Newsletter is supporting Cape Cod Community College's Student Intern Program. If your organization is interested in hosting an intern for a specific project from 70-210 hours which would relate to the environmental or clean energy fields, please contact Valerie Massard, Program Coordinator, Environmental Technology/Clean Energy at Cape Cod Community College. Email: vmassard@capecod.edu

EROSION CONTROL NOTES

We wanted to share some of our notes on erosion control.

Biologs (jute netting filled with bulk straw), can be made in portable sections. Lacing with jute twine secures the roll for travel. Ground staples are used every foot to make a good connection

Continued

EROSION CONTROL NOTES *Continued*

with grade. For short term projects of just a few weeks or a month, the biolog can be removed and re-used.



Silt fencing uses a semi-permeable geo-textile filter fabric, stapled to wooden stakes every ten feet. Especially in cases where 36" high fabric has been used instead of 24" high fabric, this is a recipe for environmental risk. We recommend using only the 24" fabric and adding extra stakes every five feet. Winter winds over 25 knots can rip this fabric from the stakes. We have been using



Continued

EROSION CONTROL NOTES *Continued*

canvas gaskets, double stapled over the silt fence fabric, to increase wind resistance to 50 knots.



Erosion control depends on straw, not hay. We recommend checking through the straw flakes to remove seed heads that we don't want proliferating on sensitive sites.



We also recommend keeping tabs on the colored plastic twine wrapping the bales.