

MARBLEHEAD REPORTER

SUSTAINABLE MARBLEHEAD: Our harbor

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Sustainable Marblehead is proud to introduce its newest working group: Our Harbor, One Ocean! Under the leadership of Marblehead resident James Ashton, the group's mission is to work with the Marblehead community "to generate awareness and inspire action to protect our harbor and ocean." In addition to his work as a life coach, James is the founder of Marblehead-based Sail Satori. He and his dedicated committee of volunteers have been working to educate and engage all those who enjoy being on or near the water — which in Marblehead is nearly everyone!

Our Harbor, One Ocean began its work by engaging individuals and organizations who have commercial and/or recreational interests in the health of our harbor and surrounding seas. The group plans to use these conversations to inform its future goals, while further clarifying how it can best serve the community. For example, the working group team made inquiries at local boatyards about the availability of recycling bins for marine shrink wrap. Through this effort, they were pleased to learn that there is a new recycling bin for boat shrink wrap at the Transfer Station.

"While we continue to encourage boat owners to consider using reusable coverings to protect their boats during the winter months, this is, nevertheless, a great development," Ashton says.

Our Harbor, One Ocean has also launched a summer campaign aimed at beachgoers, boaters and sailors to build awareness of the new group and educate and engage the community about the importance of protecting the ecology of our beaches, harbor, and seas. Sustainable Marblehead formed this group because we recognized that we were missing a critical opportunity if we did not include a specific focus on our beloved harbor as we promote sustainability within the community.

A key component of Our Harbor, One Ocean's summer campaign is offering boaters and sailors practical green boating related content, including a free download of the Green

Boating Guide available to Marblehead residents through the group's partnership with Sailors for the Sea (<http://sailorsforthesea.org>). The group has created posters that they plan to display at town landings, beaches and area yacht clubs reminding residents that when they "love the beach" and "love the ocean," we have a responsibility to take care of them together! They have also developed informational flyers on avoiding fuels spills at the pump, using the boat head responsibly, and using green cleaning products. The campaign will be promoted through social media and on our website, <http://sustainablemarblehead.org>.

Sustainable Marblehead wishes all Marblehead residents a safe and happy summer! We hope your enjoyment of our beaches, parks, harbor and surrounding seas is enhanced by knowing that your stewardship of these precious resources benefits everyone. If you would like to get involved with Our Harbor, One Ocean or learn about Sustainable Marblehead's weekly summer beach cleanups, please email us at sustainablemarblehead@gmail.com.

Lynn Bryant is the executive director of Sustainable Marblehead.