

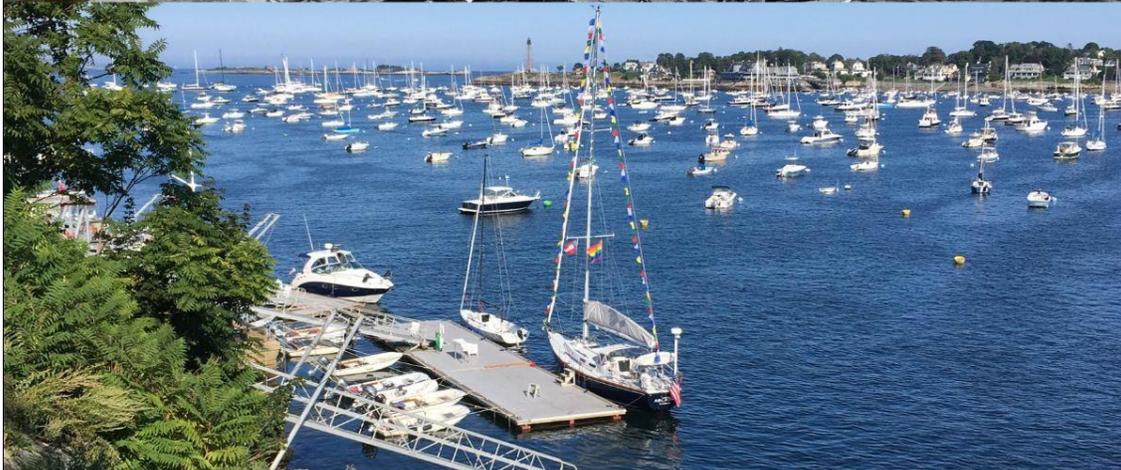


# April Newsletter

*Preserving Our Past by Protecting Our Future*

## Marblehead Harbor: Past and Future

**Join Us on April 28 for a Conversation with  
Bill Conly and Hugh Bishop**



“The Harbor is our town’s greatest asset,” says Bill Conly, author of *Marblehead’s Waterfront*. “We must preserve it for future generations to enjoy.”

On April 28 at 7pm at the Old Town House, Sustainable Marblehead will host a talk by Conly and fellow Marbleheader Hugh Peabody Bishop, co-author, with Brenda Bishop Booma, of *Marblehead’s First Harbor: The Rich History of a Small Fishing Port*. They will discuss their respective books, which focus on the history of our coastline, and engage the audience in considering ways we can all work to protect and preserve our harbor and waterfront from the dangers posed by climate change.

Conly and Bishop have been working in and around the harbor since right after WWII – with a combined experience of 145 years. Bill will discuss the working history of the harbor in our lifetimes – the Marblehead Transportation Company, ferries, police boats, harbormasters, and storms. Hugh will focus on the commercial history in the same time period – fishermen, lobstermen, and the need to sustain what’s left of a commercial presence. Both will entertain and educate with stories of personalities, events, and debates around projects like building breakwaters and the causeway.

Although violent storm surges, flooding and property damage around the harbor have been the rule, not the exception, for more than a century, the [2020 Marblehead Harbor Vulnerability Assessment](#) conducted on behalf of the town warns us that flooding will only increase in the coming years as a result of sea level rise and unpredictable and erratic weather.

Please join us as Bill and Hugh answer questions on the past, present, and future of the town’s greatest asset and the need to sustain and protect the treasure we all enjoy.

To register click [here](#), or go to [Events](#) on our website. Tickets are \$15 per person. Students are free.

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## **Marblehead Veterans Middle School Starts Composting**



It's been two years in the making, but students' vision of a composting program at the Marblehead Veterans Middle School has finally become a reality. The school's Green Team (pictured above) was set to launch school composting just before Covid hit, says science teacher and Green Team Advisor Kate Reynolds, but was forced to delay the start of the program because of the pandemic.

The Green Team, which meets as an after-school club, followed a thoughtful, step-by-step process to get the program up and running. Students first sought the advice of school administrators, Black Earth Compost and the High School National Green School Society (NGSS) to find out what materials were needed and how to run a successful program. They then contacted Marblehead Public Health Director Andrew Petty to see if the town would pay for the program. He was very supportive and, according to Kate, "everything we needed to compost just appeared!" The team is very thankful for all the support it received.

To convince the school administration, the team prepared a PowerPoint presentation for Principal Matt Fox and Assistant Principal Julie Ferreira, explaining the plans and the roll out process. This gave them excellent public speaking and presentation experience. Once approvals and materials were in hand, the Green Team could publicize the program and

educate fellow students. They presented to the student body and hung posters to spread the word. Kate also discussed the science of composting and explained the plan to the other science teachers, who then relayed the information to their students in class.

The team followed Julie's advice to "go slow to go fast" and implemented composting one quarter of the school at a time. First, they removed several trash cans so that kids would need to walk to the correct compost bin. They also stationed students at the compost bin to let everyone know what food items could be composted. Student volunteers in the school's Cornerstones leadership group also helped.

Green Team members say that monitoring what students throw in the garbage can be awkward, since they have to give direction to their peers. But one team member said, "When we're feeling stressed, someone is always ready to step up and help at the station."

Now that the whole school is composting, the kids are focusing on data collection. One student said she finds it jarring to learn just how many pounds of food are thrown out each day and end up in a landfill. On a recent day, students measured 27 pounds of food scraps thrown in the bin. The group is also conducting a daily food audit to determine which foods are thrown out the most. Topping the list – vegetables.

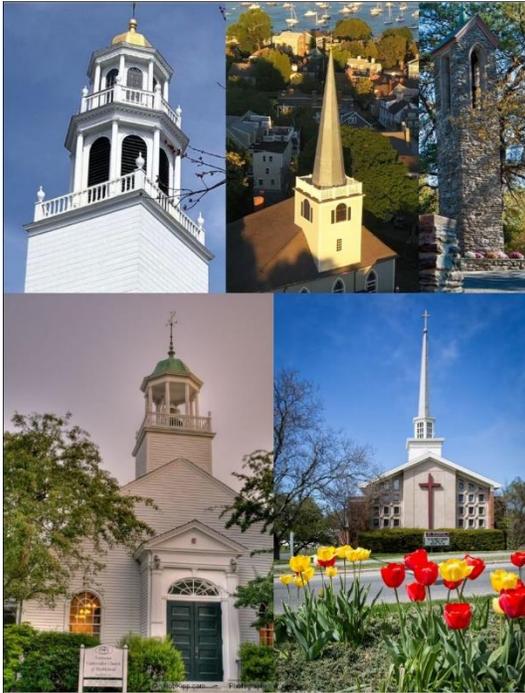
Given how labor-intensive a new composting effort can be, Kate hopes to get more volunteers to help sustain the program. Parents, other club members, and members of Sustainable Marblehead are all welcome to volunteer. Over time, the hope is that it will become automatic.

Congratulations to Kate and the entire Green Team of 7th and 8th graders on a job well done!

For more on composting, read this [article](#) and go to the [Conservation Group page](#) on our website and scroll down to composting.

(Content contributed by Elaine Leahy, Education Group Co-chair.)

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## **Marblehead Churches Ring Bells to Raise Climate Awareness**

Beginning in April, several churches that are part of the Marblehead Ministerial Association will ring their bells at 11am on the 11<sup>th</sup> of the month for 11 minutes to call attention to the need to take 11<sup>th</sup> hour action about the climate crisis. They will be joining an initiative started earlier this year by churches in Cambridge and Cape Ann to ring their bells on the 11<sup>th</sup> of each month.

The following Marblehead churches will be participating in this monthly bell ringing to sound the alarm: Old North Church, Church of St. Andrew, the Unitarian Universalist Church, St. Michael's Church and St. Stephen's United Methodist Church. The Lutheran Church and

Christian Science Church also support this effort but don't have bells.

The United Nations Climate Report issued in February said that climate change is happening even faster than anticipated and drastic action is needed. Coastal communities such as ours are especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

How you can make a difference:

- Contact your elected officials and urge them to support climate action initiatives.
- Research the environmental records and positions of candidates this fall. Vote accordingly!
- Walk, bike, carpool and use public transportation whenever possible.
- Turn off your computer and appliances when not in use.
- Reduce. Reuse. Recycle.
- Go to our website and click on [Take Action](#) for more ideas for reducing your carbon footprint.



## On May 4, Walk, Bike, and Roll to School

Sustainable Marblehead's Education Working Group has facilitated the development of Marblehead's Safe Routes to School Task Force. The mission of the task force is to positively impact student safety and student active transportation through a sustainable, collaborative and community-focused approach.

On Wednesday, May 4, the Glover, Brown, Village, Charter and Tower Schools have all agreed to participate in a Walk, Bike, and Roll (think wheel chairs, skateboards, roller blades, etc.) to School Day. This is an annual event sponsored by the Massachusetts Safe Routes to School program and held on the first Wednesday of May. Students and families across Massachusetts walk, bike and roll to school to enjoy a safe, healthy and active lifestyle. Participants will receive stickers (photo above) and bookmarks

upon arrival at school.

Students at participating schools can:

- At school: walk, bike, or roll from home to a designated meeting spot, or at school and take pictures.
- At home: walk, bike, or roll at home or around your neighborhood and take pictures.
- Share and Celebrate: #iwalked, #ibiked, #SafeRoutesToSchool, #YourSchoolName.

Follow Massachusetts Safe Routes to School on [facebook](#).

Click [here](#) for more information, including a Safe Routes to School Virtual/At Home Activity Book.

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## Email Us Your Pollinator Plant Questions

Despite the recent windy, chilly weather, crocuses and snow drops are blooming. Spikes of daffodil leaves are poking up from the ground.

Soon, once the temperatures stop going below freezing at night, garden cleanups can begin. Beneficial pollinators hiding in the fallen leaves appreciate having a place to live until it is warm enough to emerge.

As you plan your spring garden, please visit our [Conservation Group web page](#) and consult the materials the Pollinator Action Plan team has assembled.

If you need guidance on native plants and pollinator gardens, please send your

questions to the new dedicated email address:

[pollinators@sustainablemarblehead.org](mailto:pollinators@sustainablemarblehead.org). Our volunteers are standing by to respond.



## **Sustainable Marblehead Receives Grant Funding for “Water Monster” Hydration System**

Sustainable Marblehead has received grant funding from the Bonnell Cove Foundation for the purchase of a Water Monster, a 125-gallon portable water filling station with touchless filling which provides the drinking water equivalent of 1,000 16-ounce water bottles.

The Bonnell Cove Foundation is part of the Cruising Club of America and focuses its grant giving on three of the important interests of the club: experiencing the water in small boats, respecting the environment of the sea and promoting safety at sea. In March, foundation

trustees reviewed 14 applications and awarded nine grants, including for the Water Monster.

Sustainable Marblehead plans on setting up the Water Monster at regattas, festivals and other high-traffic events this summer as a sustainable alternative to single-use plastic water bottles. Publicity for the events will encourage participants to bring their own reusable water bottles.

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## Upcoming Events



### **Ask Chip: Pesticide 101 Webinar**

**Tuesday, April 5, at 6:00pm**

Chip Osborne, President of Osborne Organics and Past Chairman of the Marblehead Recreation and Parks Commission tells us why you can no longer wait to provide a safer and healthier landscape from both an environmental and human health

perspective.

Click [here](#) to register.



## Green Heating Webinar

**Wednesday, April 13, at 7:00pm**

To meet our greenhouse gas reduction targets, we must convert home heating systems that run on oil or natural gas to electric systems. Heat pumps are one option. Stephen Shinopoulos of HomeWorks Energy will discuss how they work, how you can get one, and the new rebates available.

Click [here](#) to register.



## Explorers Club Nature Walk

**Monday, April 18, 10:00am**

**Seaside Park**

The Education Group will be taking a walk through the trail at Seaside Park and enjoying a plant identification activity. All skill levels welcome!

Click [here](#) to register.



**Marblehead Harbor: Past & Future Book Talk**

**Thursday, April 28, at 7:00pm**

**Old Town House, Town House Square,  
Marblehead**

Join Sustainable Marblehead for a conversation on how we can preserve Marblehead Harbor's past by protecting its future, with Bill Conly, author of *Marblehead's Waterfront*, and Hugh Bishop, co-author of *Marblehead's First Harbor*.

Cost: \$15 per person. Student Price: Free.

To register, click [here](#).

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## Did You Know?

Meat-eating is having a significant impact on the planet. Forests are being destroyed to make more space for grazing cattle. Each year a single cow can belch up to 220 pounds of methane, a particularly potent greenhouse gas.

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## What Can You Do?

Short of giving up meat altogether, each of us can make a positive difference to the planet by regularly swapping just one meat dish for a plant-based one. That saves greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to the energy used to charge your phone for two years.

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## Support

Sustainable Marblehead is a community organization working to reduce waste and achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2040. Our work is important, and we can't do it alone. Please join us by donating today.

[Donate Today](#)



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