



# 2015

## ANNUAL REPORT

With over 2000 acres of ponds, Brewster has more pond acreage than any other town on Cape Cod. Brewster ponds are beautiful and provide incredible habitat and recreational value. Yet, 90% of Brewster ponds have impaired water quality.

The Brewster Ponds Coalition formed in October 2014 with a single mission: to preserve and nurture the beauty, healthy habitats, and recreational opportunities of Brewster's ponds, and to safeguard them for current and future generations.

*Together, we're starting to make a difference!*



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Karen Malkus-Benjamin  
PRESIDENT

*Thank you for your supportive actions that have made the first year of the Brewster Ponds Coalition such a success!*

*We have learned that ponds bring people together. Pond health connects us and influences all of our lives in so many ways. Our ponds reflect the history of our predecessors, the outcome of our daily practices, and the condition of the groundwater we drink. Each of us is important to nurture and protect Brewster ponds. We have made healthy steps in a short time, and we're looking forward to building on this year's accomplishments in 2016.*



## 2014-2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Organization and Communications

The BPC laid down its organizational roots this year: formed officially in October 2014; became a 501(c)3 tax exempt non-profit organization in December 2014, retroactive to November 2014; and held its first annual meeting in October 2015, with keynote speaker, Tom Cambareri, the Water Resources Program Manager for the Cape Cod Commission. It created a Web site, Facebook page, and Twitter handle; and published three newsletters.

### Education and Information Sharing

With the help of noted authors and experts—Robert Finch, Paul Gasek, Sue Phelan, and Tom Flannery—the BPC's educational programs discussed pond-related issues: weed workshop, pond-friendly landscaping, history and impact. The BPC participated for the first time at Brewster Conservation Day—where kids 'flushed' themselves in an interactive septic system exhibit—and Celebrate our Waters, thanks to invitations from the Brewster Conservation Trust and the Orleans Pond Coalition.





**Brewster  
Ponds  
Coalition**

## FINANCIAL

## STATEMENT

### Actual 2015

*2014 - Aug 31, 2015*

### Budgeted 2016

*Sept 1, 2015 - Aug 31, 2016*

Income	\$6,811	\$10,000
Expenses	\$2,540	\$13,000
Bank Balance	\$4,580	\$1,580
Membership	107	150

“Kettle ponds are part of what make Cape Cod unique. It is critical that we work on our ponds or we will lose a treasured resource.”

~ Tom Cambareri, Water Resource Program Manager, Cape Cod Commission

#### **Advocacy Work**

The BPC actively worked to protect Brewster ponds. Its volunteer team helped clean up Satucket and Slough roads on Brewster Cleanup Day in April. Board members commented on various Brewster pond-related issues throughout the year: the Mill Ponds study on recommended water quality action, undeveloped land protection/purchase, pond-related septic tank regulations, and landing improvements at Long, Sheep and Slough Ponds.

#### **Homeowner and Neighborhood Support**

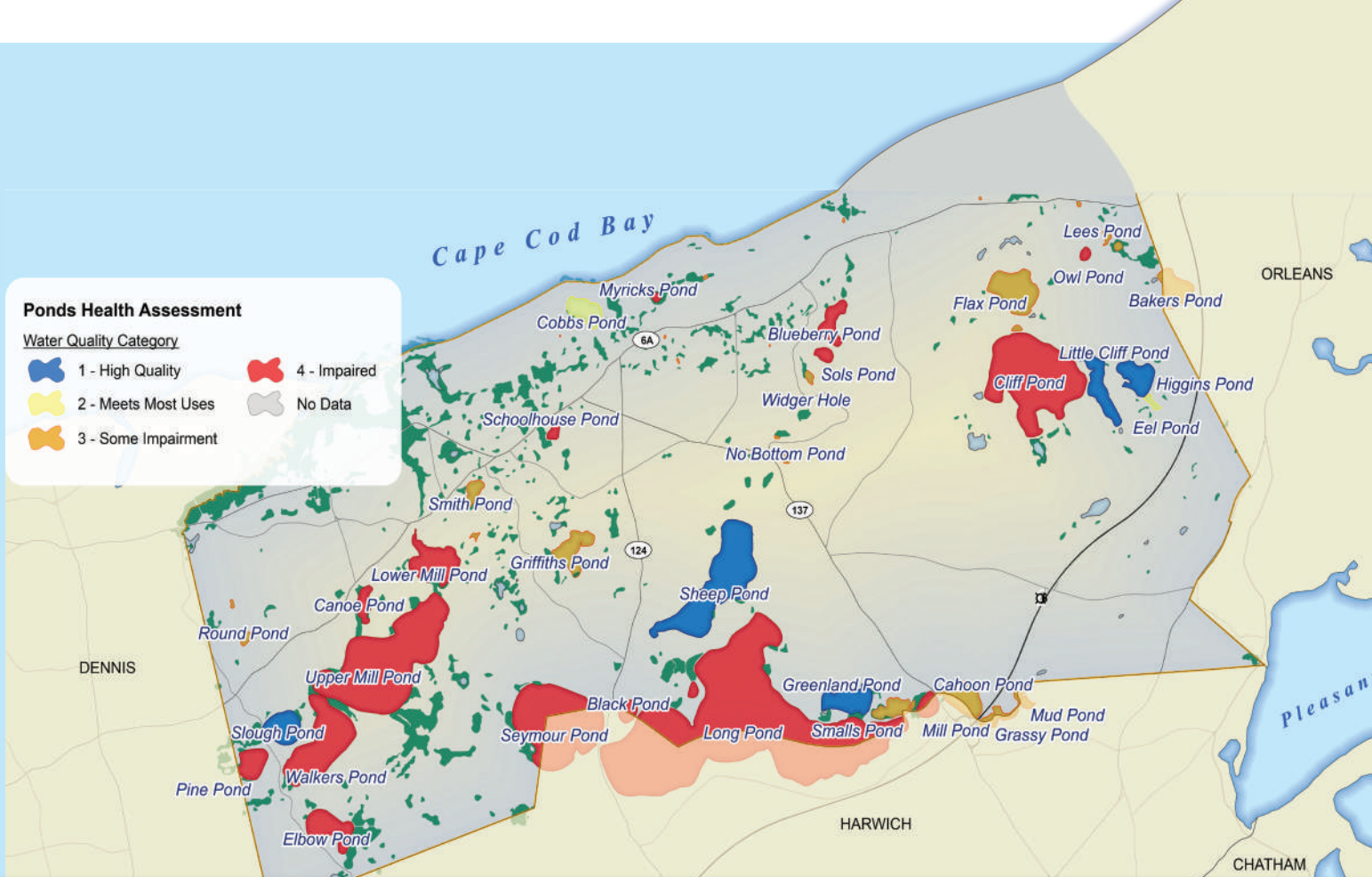
The BPC uploaded resources, including videos and links, to its website to help individuals and property owners understand pond pollution problems and prevention. Neighborhood outreach, like the Blueberry Pond Association member meeting in July, created direct, personal connections by discussing their neighborhood pond's health and possible remedial action.



# 2016 GOALS

- 🌿 Build the Brewster Ponds Coalition to a sustainable organization with active, focused work groups.
- 🌿 Develop practical models for pond remediation practices to improve water quality in Brewster's ponds.
- 🌿 Hold more educational series and community outreach events.
- 🌿 Develop closer neighborhood association ties through resource sharing and demonstration projects.
- 🌿 Continue pond advocacy.





**Only five of Brewster's Ponds** are considered to be of high quality when compared to Cape Cod Commission pond guidelines, Mass DEP water quality standards, and other general indicators of pond health. The vast majority of Brewster's pond suffer some impairment. Cape Cod's ponds serve as a looking glass into our drinking water's future, as Cape Cod's aquifer provides 100% of our drinking water.



Cliff, Elbow, Seymour, Smith and Walkers Ponds have ALL suffered toxic algal blooms in the past three years.





BPC Volunteers help out at Beautify Brewster day on April 25, 2015.

# 2014-2015 BPC Board Members



Board Member, Rick Kuzman, mans the BCP booth at Brewster Conservation Day.

Karen Malkus-Benjamin, [President](#)  
 John Keith, [President](#)  
 Tony Ortiz, [Treasurer](#)  
 Gwen Pelletier, [Clerk](#)  
 Rick Kuzman, [Membership](#)  
 Konrad Schultz, [Communications](#)  
 Tom Vautin, [Strategic Planning](#)  
 Dawn Walnut, [Education and Programs](#)

## **BPC Communications Team**

Judy Pirani  
 Sue Spencer



# Thank you to Our Supporters

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Tom Flannery, Aquatic Ecologist for the Mass Department of Conservation and Recreation- Lakes & Ponds Program leads the BPC Weed Watchers Program.



“The Brewster Ponds Coalition has had an amazing impact in its first year. It has jumped in to help protect one of Brewster’s most valuable resources our ponds. We should all support The Brewster Ponds Coalition.”

~ Hal Minis, President, Brewster Conservation Trust

# First Annual Appeal



2016 begins an exciting new phase for The Brewster Ponds Coalition – our first annual appeal for members and donors. Exciting, because there is so much to do and so much more potential to accomplish great things for our ponds.

Please become an annual member of The Brewster Ponds Coalition and give generously of both your funds and your time. Your contribution is valued and will be put to good use to support ongoing educational programs, advocacy, and pond and neighborhood association efforts to improve water quality in Brewster's ponds. To volunteer, simply click on the VOLUNTEER page of our website and fill out the contact form. Or you may tear off and mail the form below. THANK YOU!

*YES! I want to help too!*



*Make checks payable to: Brewster Ponds Coalition. Credit card payments: go to [brewsterponds.org](http://brewsterponds.org)*

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*Members and sponsors receive our quarterly e-newsletter, special reports, membership decal, and invitations to all events. Members and sponsors who contribute \$150 or more receive a BPC hat. Businesses may elect to receive a link to their website on the Sponsors/Members Page of the BPC Website.*

P.O. BOX 459, Brewster, MA 02631



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