



Autumn 2024

SWIMNEWS

Volume 13 Issue 1

## Explore the enclosed flyer about Eelgrass

We need to be concerned about eelgrass beds because they function as ocean nurseries, provide important protection to our shores and store large amounts of carbon dioxide. An excellent video has been created for SWIM by Phil Colarusso, who works in the Ocean and Coastal Protection unit of the Boston Environmental Agency Office. He has studied eelgrass for over 35 years. To see the video go to [www.nahantswim.org](http://www.nahantswim.org) under Resources and then Reference.

## Nahant Girl Scout Troop 62850 Creates Beach Cleanup Stations

SWIM was approached by our scouts seeking funding for this project. The stations are racks holding baskets for you to carry onto the beach for collecting trash at Short Beach and Tudor Beach. This creative solution to keeping our beaches clean sparked the interest of WBZ-TV who interviewed the troop and SWIM on August 14<sup>th</sup> – you can watch the interview at this link: <https://wbznewsradio.iheart.com/content/local-girl-scouts-create-clean-up-stations-for-beaches-in-nahant-mass/> Of course this is too long to copy, so just go to SWIM's website [www.nahantswim.org](http://www.nahantswim.org) and click "News" where you can find two other videos because WBZ-TV covered our Nahant Johnson School students' cleanup of Tudor Beach on October 6<sup>th</sup> under the guidance of Robin Lacey of Coastsweep. Here you can see students using the baskets. This video includes the heartwarming scene of Principal Kevin Andrews on his bicycle leading the students on their bicycles back to school! Nahant is a very special place.

## One Year of Free Composting Service for Nahant Residents

On August 7<sup>th</sup>, Nahant Selectmen allocated funds to extend the free composting program called Island Gold and SWIM donated funds to provide free stainless-steel countertop bins to those who enroll. If we reach a total of 200 customers of Black Earth Compost Company, the cost for all other composters will drop from \$3.08 per week to \$2.69 per week!! We have 155 composters now, just 45 to go! To learn all about it. Go to <https://nahant.org/compost/>

## Nahant Johnson School has joined the composting movement.

This summer SWIM suggested that the school start composting. Immediately Principal Kevin Andrews signed up and said: *"Black Earth Composting program is having a very positive impact on our school. Instead of sending compostable material to incinerators where it releases carbon dioxide, or to landfills where it could turn to methane, our students are able to help send it to a farm to be turned into a valuable soil component."*

## SWIM Monitors Swampscott's King's Beach Sewage Pollution

Last year we alerted and are now collaborating with our Selectmen and Town Administrator on the issue of contamination of our shores and Egg Rock (a nature preserve) by sewage pouring out into Nahant Bay north of Nahant. There is a disturbing proposal for a one-mile-long raw sewage outfall pipe which would end close to our northern shore. This is a regional issue, and SWIM will stay alert to news in its capacity of guardian of our fragile environment. Stay tuned for updates by requesting to be on our distribution list if you are not already receiving news: [nahantswiminc@gmail.com](mailto:nahantswiminc@gmail.com)

## Do not use poison to kill rodents!

If you are putting down poisons to kill rats and mice you might have already killed pets and wildlife because rodenticides are slow killers which cause internal bleeding and a slow and painful death, making them easy prey. Even worse, a small child could get hold of some of the poison. Animals and birds which eat poisoned rodents can also slowly bleed to death because the poison remains in the rodents' bodies. Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARS) are especially cruel. To eliminate rodents, we must eliminate trash. Bags of trash on the sidewalk invite rodents and coyotes to dinner. Trash should always be placed in proper trash barrels. Support Mass Audubon and New England Wildlife Centers in their support of State Legislation to control use of rodenticides. Here is the link to the proposed law which has been stuck in a committee for a year and a half: <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/H825>

## Techno Trash Cans at our Library – take advantage!

SWIM donated Technotrash Bins to our Library for public use. These are collection boxes for CDs, diskettes, DVDs, ink cartridges, cell phones, videotapes, pagers, PDAs, and all small technotrash. This is yet another way you can protect our environment from destructive trash. The bins are in the main entry area.

## SWIM Keeps Nahant’s Beaches Clean

Many thanks go to our diligent Beachkeepers who clean our beaches. Our May 19 Spring Cleanup was our eleventh! On October 6th we had our 8<sup>th</sup> annual Autumn Beaches Cleanup Day synchronized with the Ocean Conservancy’s International Coastal Cleanup program. Our beaches are beautiful – thank you to everyone who bends down and picks up trash! If you find anything unusual, just email [nahantswiminc@gmail.com](mailto:nahantswiminc@gmail.com)

## More Actions by SWIM: monitoring the Boston sewage treatment outfall – have a look at [www.mwra.com](http://www.mwra.com)

Our President regularly attends the Outfall Monitoring Science Advisory Panel (OMSAP) meetings whose purpose is to advise the EPA and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP) on scientific and technical matters related to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's Boston outfall and any potential impacts of the discharge on its receiving waters. Our President is also a member of the watchdog committee called Public Interest Advisory Committee (PIAC) which monitors OMSAP.

**We believe that collaboration is vital to our mission to protect our environment, and we are grateful for our partnerships with our Town Administrator, Selectmen, Library, Nahant Garden Club and Nahant Historical Society.**

**SWIM’s ongoing initiatives include** education of the public, participation in regional environmental seminars, standing up for the environment, acting as a first responder to threats to our beautiful environment here in Nahant, and serving as a resource for the public about environmental concerns. For more information, check out our website: [www.nahantswim.org](http://www.nahantswim.org)

Because of your support, SWIM can continue its important work protecting our beautiful beaches, open spaces and clear waters. We are proud of our growth as an effective local environmental organization and very much appreciate your commitment to our efforts.

Please consider making a gift to SWIM by using the form below and the enclosed blue envelope, or by donating online (see instructions below).

Nahant S.W.I.M. Inc. is a **nonprofit, tax-exempt charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.** Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Note: for copies of this newsletter go to [www.nahantswim.org](http://www.nahantswim.org) and click “Resources” and “Archive”.


Thank you very much.

Vi Patek, President

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Please make your check payable to **Nahant S.W.I.M. Inc.** and mail to **PO Box 57, Nahant, MA 01908.**

To donate by credit card, go to our website [www.nahantswim.org](http://www.nahantswim.org) and click on the **golden rectangle**:  
“DONATE NOW”

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