



S.W.I.M. = Safer Waters in Massachusetts

Dear Friends,

December 2013

We invite you to become a member of **SWIM** and thereby support our efforts to protect the beautiful beaches and clear waters which surround Nahant. Our official name is Nahant SWIM Inc.

2014 will mark **SWIM**'s 30th anniversary. We have been working with the community to protect and preserve our local environment for a long time. Thanks to our volunteers, **SWIM** continues to be a monitor and one of the first responders whenever situations have arisen that threatened our local environment. We work in partnership with other local organizations, with our elected officials, and in collaboration with the scientists at the Northeastern University Marine Science Center (MSC) here in Nahant. Together, we generate and carry out effective efforts to protect the beautiful surroundings we call our home.

This past year:

- **SWIM** celebrated the third anniversary of its successful Adopt-A-Beach program. Over 20 volunteers monitored and cleaned our beaches monthly. About 80% of debris which washes up on our beaches could be recycled. This information stimulated us to focus our education program on recycling this year.
- Over the past three years **SWIM** has grown into a public information resource about our environment by gathering and spreading information. We now have 314 contacts in our email distribution list who receive regular reports on what is going on in Nahant's environment.
- **SWIM** volunteers monitored reports and sightings of discharge in our local waters in 2012, reported them to the appropriate agency/office and in 2013 sought legislation directed at discharge by ships. We testified at a hearing at the State House November 6th to support a bill enlarging no-discharge areas in our region.
- **SWIM** offered its second annual children's educational program in cooperation with the Nahant Recreation Department and the MSC, to help insure that the next generation continues our efforts to protect our community and its environment. We focused on how recycling protects sea life which is threatened by trash (especially plastics) and gave the children cloth bags to decorate. A skit was created by volunteers which you can view on the Town website. We created the enclosed recycling information card as a gift to all townspeople. They are available at Town Hall and there is a web version on the Town website.
- **SWIM** funded tests on a street drain pipe constantly flowing onto Tudor Beach and learned that the water is clean, probably from a spring. That is good news.

Next year:

Although dedicated and loyal volunteers staff all our programs, we do incur costs associated with our activities, educational programs and advocacy. **SWIM needs your help** to continue these important initiatives. In 2014 we plan to bring a new educational resource to Nahant. We will tell you all about it when it is ready!

We are writing you today to ask you to please consider making a gift to support **SWIM**. Your contribution will help provide the resources we need to continue our efforts to inform and represent our community whenever situations arise that threaten our fragile, natural surroundings.

In advance, thank you for your generosity.
Sincerely,

Vi Patek, President

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Please make checks payable to: Nahant SWIM Inc. Mail to: 430 Nahant Rd., Nahant, MA 01908
Or go to our website www.nahant.org/swim and look for the golden rectangle "DONATE NOW" and click it.
Nahant SWIM 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.

Name _____
Address _____
Email (write CLEARLY) _____
Phone _____

Please indicate your donation amount:
___Supporter \$25. ___Benefactor \$50. ___Steward \$100.+

Would you like to join us in our efforts? We need volunteers! Tell us what you would like us to focus on.

Do you know how long it takes for trash to break down in the sea?
Glass bottle...1 million years. Monofilament fishing line...600 years. Plastic beverage bottle...450 years.
Aluminum can...20-200 years. Foamed plastic cup...50 years. Plastic bag...10-20 years