



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

Dear Friends,

Autumn 2014

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 marks **SWIM**'s 30th anniversary. Thirty years is a very long time for a local organization to be working with the community to protect and preserve our environment. Thanks to our volunteers, **SWIM** continues to be a monitor and a first responder whenever situations arise that threaten our local environment. We work in partnership with other local organizations, with our elected officials and in collaboration with 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. Communicating with the public is one of our most important goals.

2014 SWIM NEWS:

- **SWIM** celebrated the 4th anniversary of its successful Adopt a Beach program. Over 20 volunteers monitored and cleaned our beaches monthly. Much of the debris they collect washes down directly from the land and through storm drains to our beaches, so our focus this year is to educate the public about stormwater runoff by including the colorful card in this envelope as a gift to the citizens of Nahant. Last year you received an informational card about recycling in Nahant.
- **SWIM** donated a membership in the Greenscapes program to the Town of Nahant. This program focuses on debris, bacteria and poisonous materials which pollute our beaches. It helps Nahant meet public education and outreach requirements under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Stormwater program required by the EPA as well as water conservation measures required under the Massachusetts Water Management Act. Every year, Nahant is required to complete a permit for its NPDES Phase II Small MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems) System. The materials and services provided by the Greenscapes program help satisfy requirements in this permit thereby helping the Town and its residents protect our island environment. One component of the program is a November 22nd fifth grade classroom event at the Johnson school entitled "Keeping Water Clean". Learn all about Nahant's Greenscapes program by going to www.greenscapes.org
- **SWIM** continues to grow as a community information resource via the 342 contacts in our email distribution list who receive regular reports about what is going on in Nahant's environment and use SWIM as an information source.
- **SWIM** generated letters from the public and Town officials last February in support of the new enlarged No Discharge Area designation of the marine waters of the Commonwealth which became law in June. This is extremely important for the ecology of the region and for the health and recreation of its residents. Residents of Nahant experienced the washing up of macerated boat sewage in August of 2012 onto Pond Beach. This new designation offers much needed protection, not only for Nahant, but also for Salem Sound and the Lower North Shore and Boston Bay. See the greatly enlarged area at <http://www.epa.gov/region1/eco/nodiscrg/ma.html>

- **SWIM** created its second annual educational program: a presentation by Salem Sound Coast Watch Executive Director Barbara Warren followed by a nature walk at Short Beach on October 18th entitled “The Secret Lives of Short Beach”. We invited people of all ages and over 40 people of all ages attended.

Next year:

SWIM will partner with the “01908” volunteer community group in organizing the third annual Nahant Cleanup scheduled for April 11, 2015 at the Nahant Life Saving Station. Part of our Greenscapes membership includes a major “Greenscapes 101” presentation on that day and distribution of materials. We will invite organizations committed to the environment to attend and Coastsweep will provide support and supplies.

- **SWIM** has several new projects in sight, including: working with the Town on various volunteer projects; working with our school children to create a new field guide (the topic is a secret); working on a useful new insert for next year’s mailing to you. There will be even more!

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. 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

Nahant SWIM Inc., 430 Nahant Road, Nahant, MA 01908

www.nahantswim.org 781-598-1060 nahantswiminc@gmail.com



Please make checks payable to: Nahant SWIM Inc.

Mail to: 430 Nahant Rd., Nahant, MA 01908

Or go to our website www.nahantswim.org 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! Please tell us your concerns.
