



Autumn 2018

*SWIMNEWS*

Volume 7 Issue 1

### **Raingardens – what are they? - see enclosed flyer**

A rain garden is a selection of plants growing in a shallow depression, generally formed on an existing slope. It is designed to temporarily hold and soak up rain water that flows off of roofs, driveways, patios or lawns. A rain garden is a simple, cost effective tool for homeowners and municipalities to combat flooding. [The beautiful enclosed flyer explains it all.](#) You could build your own or sponsor one at a community building. Let us know if you need help with this. Just contact [nahantswiminc@gmail.com](mailto:nahantswiminc@gmail.com) Together we can make a difference.

### **Nahant Rocks! Fair at the Johnson School**



SWIM will sponsor and help celebrate the first **Nahant Rocks! Fair** on Tuesday, November 27th in the Johnson School Cafetorium. Twelve hands-on science and history centers focused on geology will be available for students in grades kindergarten through sixth. The origin of this event was last year's publication by SWIM of *A Guide to Exploring The Rocks of Nahant: and How to Become a Rock Detective*. We are so pleased that our little book is generating interest in our local geology, especially among children. If you would like to buy a copy at our cost of \$10.00, just stop by the Nahant Library or contact us at [nahantswiminc@gmail.com](mailto:nahantswiminc@gmail.com)



### **SWIM's Plant a Tree Program**

This year we tried something new – we gave 20 trees to residents to plant in their own yards. These trees came from the National Arbor Day Foundation and all are natives. Only 3 trees died and we have ordered replacements for planting this fall. Although the trees are just little twigs, they grow very quickly since their tiny root systems can adapt better than the root ball of a larger tree. They also require less watering. **Why plant trees?** They are good for our health and that of our environment: they improve air quality, reduce air temperature, absorb noise, provide food and shelter for birds, and their roots absorb flood water and pollutants - plus they dramatically reduce erosion. They cool us with their shade and calm us with their beauty. **Would you like a free tree next spring?** Contact [nahantswiminc@gmail.com](mailto:nahantswiminc@gmail.com) One SWIMmer donated a large number of trees for our Johnson School students to plant. This gift is helping our environment and giving lasting memories to our children.

### **Johnson School Classroom Event**

On September 27<sup>th</sup> the Johnson School enjoyed its fifth annual Greenscapes classroom event “Keeping Water Clean” to help children understand why water runoff is a critical issue for our own health and that of the ocean.

### **SWIM Keeps Nahant's Beaches Clean**

Thanks go to our wonderful Beachkeepers who clean our beaches year round. In May, SWIM led a public effort with the assistance of our DPW to clean our three largest beaches and we will do it again this spring. On September 16<sup>th</sup>, joining the COASTSWEEP worldwide cleanup, we brought Short Beach back to its beautiful, natural state.

### **SWIM Stands Up for the New Wetlands Protection Law**

Most coastal MA communities have their own wetlands protection laws tailored to their local needs and Nahant has joined them. In these times of frightening destruction by more frequent storms, severe flooding and rising sea levels (the New England coast is experiencing one of the most severe situations on the planet), we are wise to have this extra protection and also support for our Conservation Commission.

## SWIM Opposes Northeastern University's Expansion Plans

From the very beginning it was clear that the University's plans to build a 60,000 square foot building were seriously out of proportion to the previous biological and wetland resources of the Marine Science Center on East Point. At the very first meeting on the topic on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Marine Science Center, SWIM's response was to request a moratorium on Northeastern's expansion plans and we continuously repeated this request to executives of the Marine Science Center and the University. A moratorium with a pledge to sit down with the townspeople and discuss the issues might have brought us to a compromise. Instead we now feel that the University does not care about Nahant's concerns and needs. We have lost our treasured relationship with the Marine Science Center. We hope that Northeastern University will reconsider its inappropriate expansion plans in light of the passion our residents feel for our precious open land on the edge of our beautiful ocean.

## SWIM'S Scholarships for Three Nahant Students

SWIM continued its annual program this year by providing scholarship funds for two middle school students and one high school student to attend the Northeastern University Marine Science Center's Coastal Ocean Science Academy summer program. We are grateful that your generous donations allow us to make this opportunity available to our young people interested in ocean science.

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

Because of your support, SWIM is able to continue its important work protecting our beautiful beaches 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 envelope. 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.

Thank you very much.

Vi Patek, President

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Please make checks 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 look for the golden rectangle "DONATE NOW" and click it.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Email (please write CLEARLY!) \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your donation amount: \_\_\_Supporter \$25      \_\_\_Benefactor \$50      \_\_\_Steward \$100 or more

**Join our efforts!**

**Volunteer!**

**Tell us your concerns!**

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