



Autumn 2020

SWIMNEWS

Volume 9 Issue 1

25 Ways to Reduce Your Carbon Footprint – see enclosure!

“Carbon footprint” is a relatively new term and with this document we learn how to live more sustainably with respect to our fragile environment. A major part of SWIM’s mission is to spread information so that we can act in ways that help our planet. Let us know if you would like more copies: nahantswiminc@gmail.com

Urban Trees: how we can help them survive and maybe even thrive!

Nahant is losing its trees to age, disease and storms at an alarming rate. Soon there will be very little shade in our town, so SWIM sponsored this event and we are very grateful to Sharon Hawkes for inviting us to the Library. On March 11 at 7 p.m. at the Nahant Public Library, Thomas Brady, Tree Warden, Town Arborist, and Conservation Administrator for Brookline MA made a presentation which explored the challenges of establishing trees in an urban environment. There are many tools and techniques one can use to mitigate some of these stresses and to assist in the critical period of time when a newly planted tree is becoming established. Tom also spent the afternoon working alongside our DPW employees and teaching them some techniques related to tree care and pruning.

“On Silent Wings: the Magic of the Snowy Owl”

On February 9th, wildlife photographer Peter Christoph of Lancaster, Mass made a presentation entitled “On Silent Wings: the Magic of the Snowy Owl.” The Nahant Public Library and Nahant S.W.I.M. Inc. jointly sponsored this event in conjunction with the Library’s **Nature in Nahant** initiative this year. Peter’s presentation was gorgeous and the large audience was in awe of his photos.

Virtual Arbor Day Celebration

On August 29th SWIM published a Powerpoint document inviting Nahant residents to celebrate their favorite trees by submitting photos, poems and stories expressing what these trees mean to them. This celebration is open-ended and we look forward to adding more messages about trees in the future. If you would like to add to the collection, contact nahantswiminc@gmail.com To view this wonderful celebration of our trees, go to our website www.nahantswim.org and click on “News”

North Atlantic right whales Visit Nahant

Beginning on March 21st Nahant was privileged to be visited by North Atlantic right whales very close to our shores for almost a week. Three were so close that the New England Aquarium could identify them from photographs of the patterns on their heads. We celebrated the beauty of whales named **Snoopy** <http://rwcatalog.neaq.org/#/whales/1056> , **Ergo** born 1983 <http://rwcatalog.neaq.org/#/whales/1317> , and **Aphrodite** born 1987 <http://rwcatalog.neaq.org/#/whales/1701> Maybe we will be graced by more visits next spring. Only about 400 of these beautiful beings exist in the world...

SWIM Sponsors Dune Grass Planting

Thanks to our collaboration with DPW Superintendent Zach Taylor, last spring SWIM paid for 3,300 dune grass seedlings which our DPW planted along Short Beach to help stabilize our fragile dunes. Our original plan was for volunteers to do the planting, but the pandemic made that impossible. We hope to do another planting next spring and maybe you can help plant these tiny powerhouses!

Consider Composting!

Composting is the biodegradation of organic matter into fertilizer. Why is composting important? The EPA reports that our nation generates over ¼ million tons of trash each year. Almost half of that trash could be turned into compost. Making compost keeps these materials out of costly landfills where they take up space and release methane, a potent greenhouse gas. You can compost all food, paper/cardboard and some yard trimmings. Please consider subscribing to the Black Earth Compost service, the only company that currently serves Nahant: <https://blackearthcompost.com> They make it really easy to compost!

SWIM Keeps Nahant's Beaches Clean

Many thanks go to our wonderful Beachkeepers who clean our beaches year round. On June 14th, SWIM led our eighth annual cleanup of our three largest beaches. Normally we do the cleanup in the spring, but we were delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic. On October 11th we cleaned those beaches again, observing all precautions to protect volunteers during these cleanups. We are happy to announce that across the years we are seeing a steady decline in trash on our beaches. We believe that we have gathered up old trash and are now collecting mostly new stuff – this is especially apparent on Tudor Beach, which also benefits from neighbors who clean daily as they see trash on the beach. Raising awareness is a powerful way of changing behavior and improving our environment. Our thanks go to our Nahant DPW who gather up all the bags of trash we collect.

Actions by SWIM

We have been deeply involved in issues related to the environment this past year: our president served for 6 months on the Wetlands Protection By-law Study Committee; we have worked long and hard on new programs to improve our urban forest; we participated in several webinars focused on North Atlantic right whales, our bays and estuaries, and eelgrass. We believe that collaboration is vital to our environment and we are grateful for our partnerships with the Nahant Public Library, the Nahant Garden Club, the Nahant Department of Public Works, our Selectmen, and Mass Audubon.

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

Because of your support, SWIM is able to continue its important work protecting our beautiful beaches, wild lands 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 and click "Resources" and "Archive". Thank you very much.

Vi Patek, President

Nahant SWIM Inc., PO Box 57, Nahant, MA 01908
nahantswiminc@gmail.com
781-598-1060 www.nahantswim.org

*****  *****

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 and click on the golden rectangle: **"DONATE NOW"**

Name _____

Address _____

Email (please write **CLEARLY!**) _____

Please indicate your donation amount: Supporter \$25 Benefactor \$50 Steward \$100 or more

SPSH SCA DEP TY NEW NEWe

Please add any comments/questions you might have: