

Monitor



LANDSCAPING WITH THE THREE BAYS & THE WATERSHED IN MIND

It's evident that spring has once again made it to Cape Cod. Landscaping crews are seen in a flurry of "clean-up" projects and on planting and fertilizing sprees that will soon produce the beautiful visual effects that our hungry eyes are conditioned to expect and desire. But, the question arises: is your landscaping being done with the Three Bays in mind?

No matter where you might live in the mid-Cape area, the actions you take on your landscape can have far-reaching effects on water quality. Why? Since we all live in a watershed, the surface area and underground of all properties within it drain into the same water body. In our area, these are the Three Bays—North Bay, West Bay and Cotuit Bay — the coast-

al estuary that is the eventual depository of all groundwater and the pollutants it carries with it. Landscaping choices clearly affect the contents of groundwater. Ecologically-based design and low-impact maintenance practices can protect — and even improve — the quality of these water resources.

The choices a property owner makes in deciding upon landscape design and maintenance are crucial to minimizing the impact upon the ecology of the area. At Three Bays Preservation, we continue to advocate for the implementation of water-friendly landscaping techniques, particularly in those areas adjacent to the water's edge.

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THREE BAYS
PRESERVATION, INC.

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Planting a buffer strip along the water's edge and abandoning a mown lawn offers many advantages. Native plants provide wildlife habitat and help filter contaminants from water leaving the property and entering our streams, coves and bays. In addition, their deep root systems minimize erosion. And, you won't have to mow again!

But, one of the greatest steps to "green" landscaping lies in your choice of fertilizing products for planted beds, open

the Three Bays watershed. Organic fertilizer products — rather than synthetic — are the wisest choice.

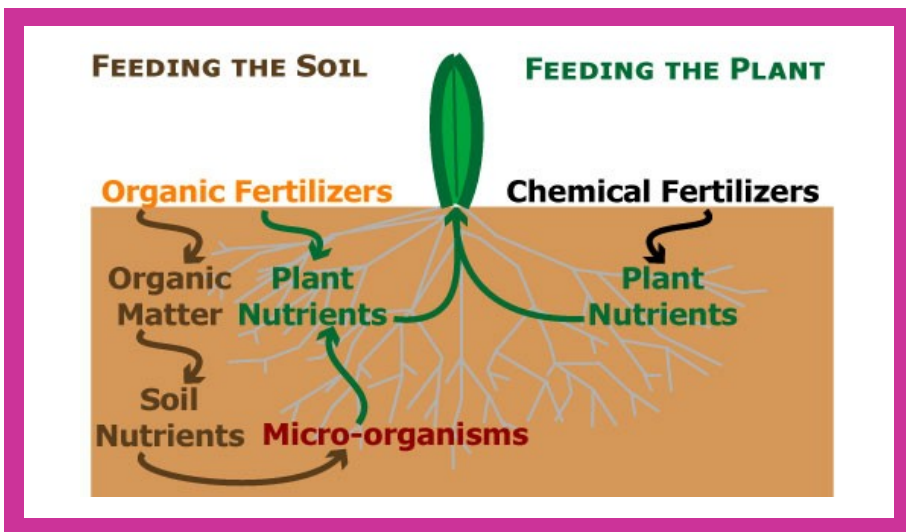
Synthetic fertilizers are high in nitrogen content while organic fertilizers use very low amounts of buffered nutrients. Everything in the organic product is useful to the plant, including the 'filler' with trace minerals which translates to much better stimulation of biological activity in the soil. All kinds of problems can occur with synthetic, high-nitrogen fertilizers — primarily

terial is so raw and so bare that it grabs and locks onto magnesium, manganese and all sorts of other trace minerals, tying up these nutrients and making them unavailable to plants.

And, a 3rd concern is potassium. The source of potassium in most synthetics is muriate of potash or potassium chloride. Potassium chloride is harmful to certain plants and harsh on the soil. A better source is potassium sulfate.

Choosing a fertilizer product that is "organic" can not only return soils and lawns and gardens to a natural healthy state — but contribute enormously to the health of the groundwater and, eventually, the entire watershed linked to it. The nitrogen-rich compounds found in synthetic fertilizer run-off are the primary cause of a serious depletion of oxygen in many parts of our bays. The resulting lack of dissolved oxygen is greatly reducing the ability of many areas in the bays to sustain its natural life — both flora and fauna. Visually, our waters have become cloudy and discolored and we all are witness locally to some critical situations.

This condition can be reversed. And one of the most effective steps we can take in that direction is "going organic" with fertilizers — with the Three Bays in mind. The Cape Cod Cooperative Extension Service offers a wealth of resources, as does NOFA, the Northeast Organic Farming Association, concerning this issue. Your local landscaping company and garden center can also offer information and consultation on the subject, so vital to the future of the bays.



lawns and trees, no matter where your property lies within

an unbalanced situation of nutrients in the soil and in plants. High levels of nitrogen and low levels of trace minerals force fast growth that results in very weak watery cell growth in plants and turf. This imbalance and the watery cells bring on insects and diseases. As it's very soluble, rain after an application will wash the fertilizer away and leach through the soil into the water stream — creating further problems in the aquatic environment.

A 2nd problem is the phosphorous source. As most synthetic fertilizer manufacturers use triple super phosphate, problems occur since the ma-

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A FULL CALENDAR OF EVENTS AWAITS YOU THIS SUMMER AT THREE BAYS

It promises to be one of the most exciting summer calendars of activity in many years: the summer of 2011 is designed to bring you, with family and friends, closer to the water and closer to the Three Bays.

Our 2011 annual membership request, “Come, get to know us!”, is an invitation fulfilled by the many events planned all summer long to explore and learn more about the vital waterways of our community — and to have fun along the way.

In our 5th year of offering eco-adventure tours of the bays, we’ll return to the Cotuit Town Landing with 90-minute cruises, guided by ecologists and historians. And, each week in July and August, we’ll conduct an outing along the shores for all our *Bayside Explorers*, young and old.

A grand day for all is anticipated at the first “Paddle for the Bays” — a unique way in which all can join together with paddles, family and friends, to salute the glory of our waters. Planned in collaboration with *Stand Up & Paddle Cape Cod*, of Osterville, the event promises to excite and entertain, while giving Three Bays’ supporters yet another opportunity to explore and discover our waters.

With all this... plus a trip to “Chicago”... it’s indeed a summer with plenty of ways to “Come, get to know us!”

SUMMER 2011 WITH THREE BAYS PRESERVATION :

ON-GOING EVENTS

ONE OR ANOTHER
we'll get you to the water
THIS SUMMER

Whether by land or by sea, come discover the bays with us this summer. We've got water landfilled and adventures to be had from the water to experience the scenery and excitement of this exciting summer in support of our community.

Get on the Boat! Bayside Explorers

Each Wednesday in 2011, we'll offer a "Bayside Explorers" tour of our waterways. The tour will be held on the Cotuit Town Landing, and will include a 90-minute cruise to the bays, a guided walk along the shore, and a picnic lunch. The tour is scheduled each Wednesday from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, and is FREE for all. Call us at Cotuit Town Landing, Adults \$25 & Children (under 12) \$15. For more information, contact our membership, website, or call us at 508.420.0780 or visit our website at www.3bays.org.

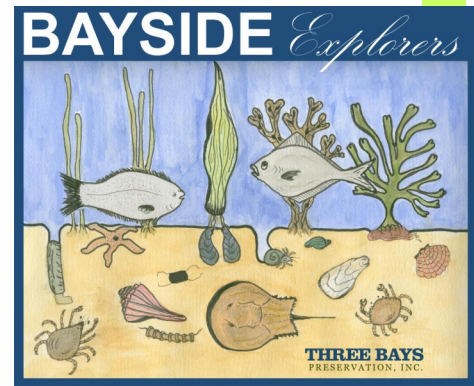
THREE BAYS PRESERVATION, INC.
We are the Three Bays. Come, get to know us!

In 2011 we offer *three* exciting summer Saturdays with *three* EcoAdventure Cruises each day: July 9th, July 30th & August 20th with departures at 10am, 12:30pm & 3pm from the Cotuit Town Landing. Tickets required: Adults \$25 / Children (under 12) \$15.

Get on the Boat!

BAYSIDE Explorers Outings in 2011 (Wednesdays—Rain or Shine!) DOWSES BEACH—OSTERVILLE

- July 6 - 10:00 am
- July 13 - 3:00 pm
- July 20 - 9:00 am
- July 27 - 3:00 pm
- August 3 - 9:00 am
- August 10 - 3:00 pm
- August 17 - 9:00 am
- August 24 - 3:00 pm
- August 31 - 9:00 am



SPECIAL EVENTS

Paddle for the Bays

DOWSES BEACH OSTERVILLE

Wednesday July 20th 8-12

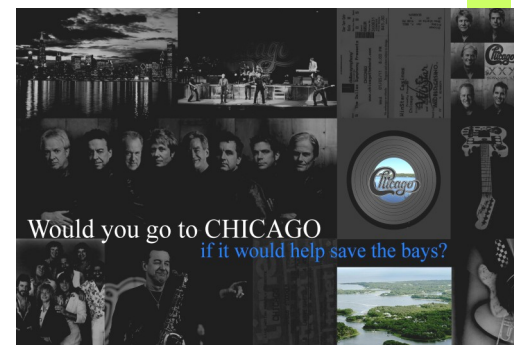
Boards, Kayaks, Canoes available for rent

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A “Call to Arms” is made to paddle your heart out for the Three Bays. On Wednesday, July 20th, from 8 to 12, at Dowses Beach, Osterville, our first “Paddle for the Bays!” Featuring kayaking, canoeing and paddle-boarding events all to benefit our organization. Tickets: Adults \$15 / Children \$8

Would you go to CHICAGO... if it would help save the bays? Relive the days, and help the bays! In concert in Hyannis at the Melody Tent, a group of Three Bays’ friends will enjoy the fun and hospitality and some of *Chicago*’s greatest hits, to benefit Three Bays Preservation.

Thursday, August 18th
Hospitality Tent 7:00pm—Concert 8:00pm
Tickets Required in advance thru Three Bays



More information & tickets for all of these events :
508.420.0780 or info@3bays.org

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THREE BAYS PRESERVATION



SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Three Bays Preservation's Board of Directors has announced the establishment of a Scholarship Fund at Cape Cod Community College. The fund will finance two scholarships annually in the amount of \$1,500 each for two students of environmental science. The first winners of the Three Bays Scholarship will be announced in May, 2011.



HOW'S YOUR MEMBERSHIP? ARE YOU WITH US IN 2011?

It's time to join us, or renew your annual membership in Three Bays Preservation for 2011.

Barnstable's Three Bays are beautiful, they are historic, and they're endangered. The rapid growth of our region has placed undue burdens on the capacity of these waters to renew and revitalize themselves, unless we intervene. The programs of Three Bays Preservation over the last 15 years have made great strides in restoring the bays to health — but we have much more to do.

Please join us in this effort. We invite you to become a member — or renew your affiliation with us — so that we can continue the work of our organization: to preserve, maintain, protect and enhance these waterways, the fabric of our community.

Your membership can be transacted easily and securely via our web site at www.3bays.org.

We are the Three Bays... Come, get to know us.



Three Bays Preservation extends appreciation to Paul Rifkin, of Cotuit, Mass., for photography used in this 2011 membership campaign.

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