

Mini-Conference: The Pleasant Bay Ecosystem: Past, Present and Future

Organizers: Owen C. Nichols^{1*}, Sarah Griscom², Carole Ridley³



1. Center for Coastal Studies, 2. Pleasant Bay Community Boating, 3. Pleasant Bay Alliance

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Forty-six people attended a workshop held Saturday 3/26/2022 at the Chatham Community Center, which featured a keynote address, twelve oral presentations, two panel discussions, and a poster session.

The mini-conference was followed by a closing social at Pleasant Bay Community Boating, including a campus tour and viewing of the solar-powered research vessel R/V Friend of Pleasant Bay. Attendees highlighted the value of monitoring more than single ecosystem components, noting the need to examine the relationships between components and how those change over time, especially in the context of multiple stressors like climate change and nutrient pollution, and to measure success of our efforts to repair damage caused by anthropogenic impacts as well via habitat restoration and conservation. Participants noted the importance of community involvement and citizen science, and the need to foster collaboration around the Bay in both science and education.

The workshop provided a foundation upon which to develop a long-term, interdisciplinary monitoring program as an essential component of a holistic, ecosystem-level approach to conservation, research, education and management as we maintain our relationship with this dynamic ecosystem in a changing climate.

Mini-conference, "The Pleasant Bay Ecosystem: Past, Present and Future," Saturday 3/26/22, Chatham Community Center

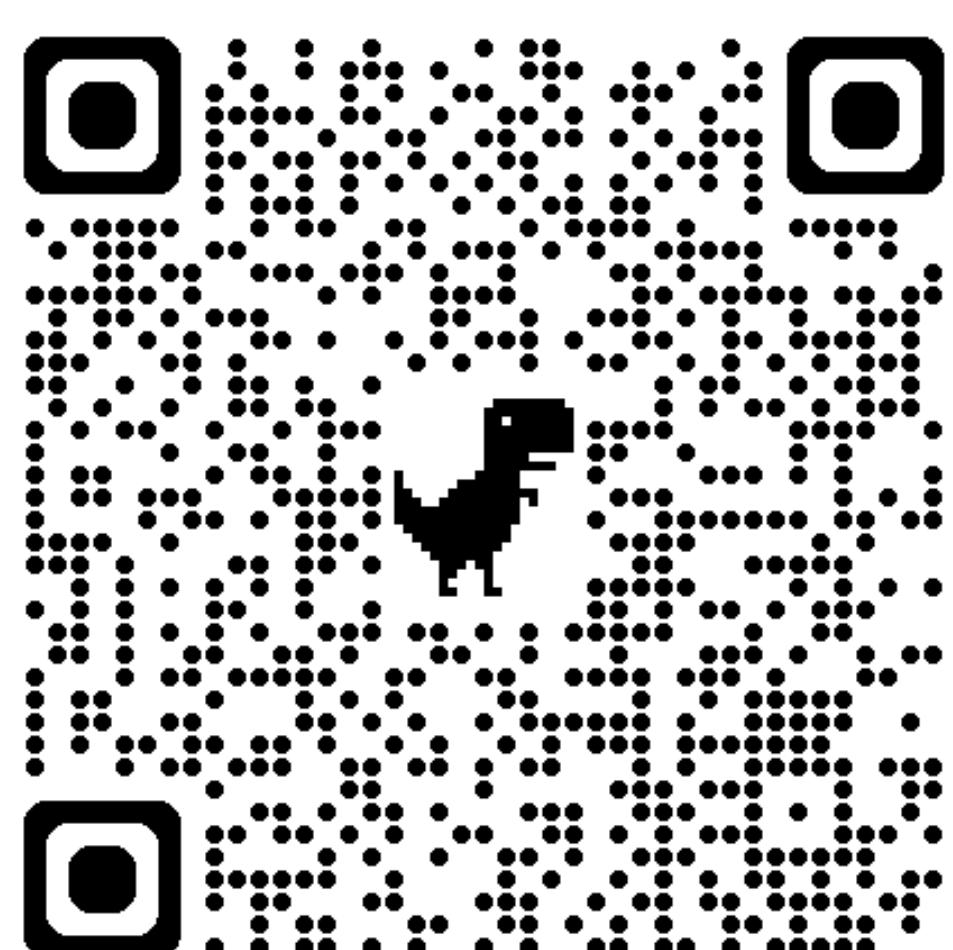
****Coffee and light refreshments will be provided, please bring a lunch and reusable water bottles/coffee mugs!

| Time | Event | Speaker/Panelist(s) | Presentation/Panel Title |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:30 AM | Coffee and Registration | | |
| 9:00-9:15 AM | Introductory Remarks | Sarah Griscom, Owen Nichols, Carole Ridley | |
| 9:15-9:30 AM | Keynote Presentation | Alan McClennen | Sutcliff's Inlet to a Friend of Pleasant Bay--How Has Our Bay Changed Over the Last 400 Years? |
| 9:30-9:45 AM | Oral Presentation Session 1 | Mark Borrelli | Understanding Sediment Transport on the Outer Beach and its Implications for the Future of Pleasant Bay's Barrier Beaches |
| 9:45-10:00 AM | | Graham Giese | Long Term Tidal Studies in Pleasant Bay and Adjacent Areas |
| 10:00-10:15 AM | | Greg Berman | Living Shoreline Suitability Analysis for Pleasant Bay |
| 10:15-10:30 AM | Coffee Break and Poster Session | Coffee/Light Refreshments Provided | |
| 10:30-10:45 AM | Oral Presentation Session 2 | Holly Plaisted | Predicting Seagrass Vulnerability to Environmental Conditions Under Changing Temperature Regimes in Pleasant Bay |
| 10:45-11:00 AM | | Agnes Mittermayr | Getting to the Bottom of it - the Sediments and Benthic Invertebrates of Pleasant Bay |
| 11:00-11:15 AM | | Sophia Fox | Towards Understanding Relationships Among Ecosystem Components: a Submerged Habitat Study in Pleasant Bay, Cape Cod National Seashore |
| 11:15 AM-12:00 PM | Panel Discussion 1 | Bob Duncanson, Chris Miller, Heinz Proft, Geoff Sanders (moderator: Charlie Sumner) | Science to Support Natural Resource Management in Pleasant Bay |
| 12:00-1:00 PM | Lunch and Poster viewing | Bring a bag lunch! | |
| 1:00-1:15 PM | Oral Presentation Session 3 | Bob Duncanson | Pleasant Bay Water Quality |
| 1:15-1:30 PM | | Josh Reitsma | Ups and Downs in Almost Two Decades of Oyster and Quahog Seed Growth and Survival Data from Pleasant Bay |
| 1:30-1:45 PM | | Owen Nichols | Fisheries Habitat Research in Pleasant Bay |
| 1:45-2:00 PM | Coffee Break and Poster Session | Coffee/Light Refreshments Provided | |
| 2:00-2:15 PM | Oral Presentation Session 4 | Carole Ridley | Climate Resilience in Pleasant Bay: A System-wide Approach |
| 2:15-2:30 PM | | Bob Duncanson | Pleasant Bay Habitat Restoration - Muddy Creek Bridge Project |
| 2:30-2:45 PM | | Sarah Griscom | Marine Science for All: Building Affordable, Accessible and Timely Community Programs at Pleasant Bay Community Boating |
| 2:45-3:30 PM | Panel Discussion 2 | Rachel Hutchinson, Ted Keon, Agnes Mittermayr, Carole Ridley (moderator: Pat Hughes) | The Future of Ecosystem-Level Monitoring in Pleasant Bay |
| 3:30-3:45 PM | Closing Remarks | Owen Nichols | |

The mini-conference will conclude with an informal closing social held on the Pleasant Bay Community Boating (PBCB) campus, featuring a campus tour, including a look at the solar-powered R/V Friend of Pleasant Bay. The "Friend" is a unique, cutting-edge research vessel and educational platform that was designed with future monitoring of the Pleasant Bay ecosystem in mind. Light refreshments will be served - the PBCB campus is at 2287 Route 28, Harwich, MA 02645.

This mini-conference is supported by a Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Watershed Grant which is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through a collaboration with Restore America's Estuaries (RAE).

Organizers:
Owen Nichols (Center for Coastal Studies)
Sarah Griscom and Ali Hogue (Pleasant Bay Community Boating)
Carole Ridley (Pleasant Bay Alliance)



Scan the QR code to view and download the workshop report.



Acknowledgements: Ali Hogue and volunteers from PBCB assisted with conference and meeting-related tasks, service members from AmeriCorps Cape Cod assisted with conference execution, and Town of Chatham staff provided facilities and A/V support and a video recording of the conference. The idea for this workshop was in part inspired by Herb Heidt and Mon Cochran of the Friends of Pleasant Bay, who suggested the idea of sharing the results of CCS research in the Bay with the local scientific community and the public, and more recently Bob Granger and others on the FOPB ad hoc science committee, asking important questions while working to define priorities for future funding. This workshop and the project, "Ecosystem Research in the Pleasant Bay Watershed: The State of the Science and the Future of Monitoring," was supported by a Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Watershed Grant. SNEP Watershed Grants are funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through a collaboration with Restore America's Estuaries (RAE).



Scan the QR code to view a recording of the meeting (courtesy of the Town of Chatham).