



Sound Waves

A Monthly Newsletter from Save Our Sound

MARCH 2024

Alliance News & Notes



I hope you are well and getting ready for some spring weather soon! It has been a promising start to 2024 for the Alliance in our efforts to bring permanent protection to Nantucket Sound. First, our diverse coalition of support—which includes elected officials, environmental groups, tribal governments, municipalities across the Cape and Islands, historic preservation groups, chambers of commerce, and many others—continues to grow. We have recently added **Cape Cod Community College**, the **Maria Mitchell Association**, **Nantucket Preservation Trust**, and **Surfrider Foundation** (both the Massachusetts and Cape & Islands chapters) to our

list of nearly 100 stakeholder groups representing tens of thousands of individuals who support designation of Nantucket Sound as a **National Historic Landmark** (NHL).

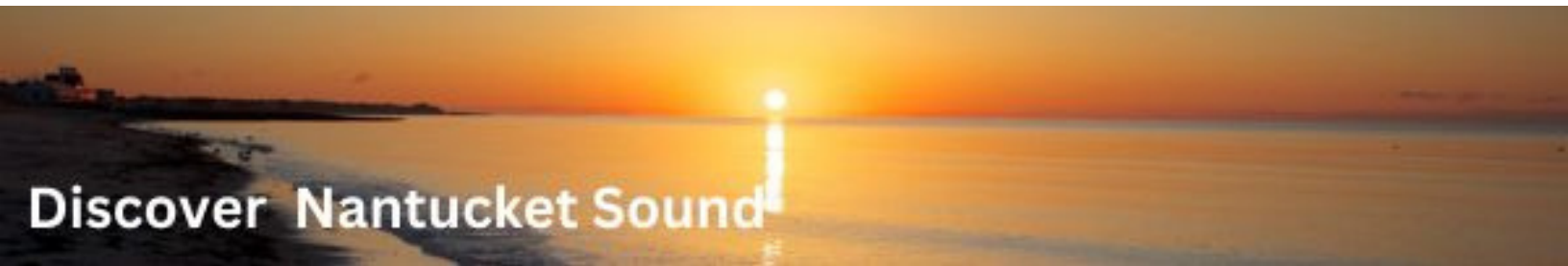
Last month, we had a productive visit to Washington, DC to promote our federal bill—the Nantucket Sound National Historic Landmark Act. We met with staff representing our Massachusetts Congressional delegation as well as the Senate and House Natural Resources Committees. These continued discussions are essential to protecting Nantucket Sound through legislation. We also continue to pursue NHL designation administratively through the U.S. Department of the Interior.

On March 21 at 6pm, the Alliance will be hosting author and historian Don Wilding as part of our **ACONS** (*A Celebration of Nantucket Sound*) webinar series. Don, whose fifth book,

Historic Storms of Cape Cod comes out this May, will present us with an overview of some Historic Storms on Cape Cod and Nantucket Sound.

Finally, we just mailed out our latest status report providing a more detailed update (along with a graphic) outlining the key steps in both legislative and administrative paths to permanent protection. You can view it on our website by [clicking here](#).

- **Audra Parker, President**



Discover Nantucket Sound

Mashpee River Woodlands

If hiking or taking an outdoor stroll with spectacular views of Nantucket Sound are your thing, this hidden gem is definitely worth a visit. There are a fun variety of beginner trails to pick from and for those who want to take their furry loved ones out for some exercise, it is dog-friendly as well. It's also a great place to bird watch.

Pristine shoreline and natural spawning areas make this one of Massachusetts' finest sources of rare, sea-run brook trout. Since at least 1915, spirited

conservation efforts have protected this tidal river, which begins at Mashpee/Wakeby Pond and empties into Pirate's Cove on Popponesset Bay.

For a great hike, from the **Mashpee River Woodlands** parking area on Quinaquisset Ave. follow the trail down to the river. Cross the Mashpee River on the "Great Bridge," the old NH-28 layout, and follow the scenic old River Road down to Mashpee Woodlands West.

Most of the Woodlands trails are singletracks. The most scenic trails wind through the woods on ground that's high above the Mashpee River. In all there's about 15 miles of trails here. Make sure to look out for wildlife as you lose yourself in its peaceful surroundings (osprey have been known to nest here).

Click [here](#) for more information, including a property map, directions and hours, and ideas for your next visit!

Sound Spotlight



*This month, we put a spotlight on **Isabella DeFrancesco**. Isabella is the Northeast Regional Manager for the **Surfrider Foundation**, a new stakeholder of the Alliance. With experience in grassroots advocacy, volunteer organizing, strategic communications and a passion for the environment, Isabella uses her expertise to lead and grow the Surfrider Foundation's Chapter Network across Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine.*

1. What does Nantucket Sound mean to you?

Nantucket Sound is a vibrant and beautiful ecosystem that connects so many people across the Cape & Islands. To me, Nantucket Sound is a refuge; a place to go and feel more connected to our waterways, to recreate in, and to create memories with family and friends. The Sound is also a place of diversity and life, home to a variety of sea creatures, birds, plants and more. It is a place to protect and enjoy.

2. Can you share with us what the Surfrider Foundation does and what its overall mission is?

The Surfrider Foundation is a national nonprofit dedicated to protecting our nation's ocean, waves and beaches, through a powerful activist network. We have chapters across the entire country that fight for plastic pollution reduction, ocean protection, preservation of our coasts and climate, clean water and beach access for all. We do this through on-the-ground programs like beach cleanups, water quality testing, supporting ocean friendly restaurants and gardens, and by supporting campaigns at the local, regional, and federal level.

3. How does Nantucket Sound fit into the Surfrider Foundation's mission?

Nantucket Sound fits seamlessly with our mission at Surfrider, as it is a beautiful example of the type of environment we work hard to protect. The issues that are threatening our ocean are the same issues that are threatening Nantucket Sound; coastal erosion, plastic pollution, poor water quality and the effects of a changing climate. Surfrider's fight for a clean, healthy ocean goes hand in hand with fighting to protect the Sound. Our local chapter currently holds cleanups across the Cape & Islands to protect the Sound from plastic pollution, and we will be launching other exciting initiatives related to coastal resilience and water quality in the coming months.

**If you'd like to reach out to Isabella, email her
at idefrancesco@surfrider.org.**

The Cape & Islands Surfrider Chapter just launched last summer. They are always looking for more volunteers, so whether you want to join the chapter's executive committee, come out to an event, help clean the beach, or work on a local campaign, there are many ways for you to get involved.

Help us preserve Nantucket Sound

Visit our website and sign the petition supporting the
Nantucket Sound Historic Landmark Act

PETITION. PRESERVE. PROTECT.

www.saveoursound.org/petition



[The Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound](http://www.saveoursound.org)

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