Dear Friends,

This 2010 annual report marks the end of the first decade of the 21st century. For APCC it is an opportunity to reflect on the past, remembering our aspirations and celebrating our accomplishments, while we prepare to tackle emerging challenges.

Ten years ago APCC identified the two most critical issues confronting Cape Cod—outmoded land use laws and inadequate wastewater infrastructure. We knew these were monumental problems—controversial, complicated, and in the case of wastewater infrastructure, very expensive. But, we also knew that it is APCC’s charge to take on the tough, complex issues. For this reason, APCC has been called “The Conscience of Cape Cod.”

And so over the next decade we worked hard with our members and partners and made real progress. Early in the decade, no Massachusetts town had enacted low-density zoning to protect natural resources. In 2009 Brewster became the first on the Cape to do so. Likewise, there was seemingly little willpower to address coastal water quality deterioration; today the region is fully engaged in this issue.

We also decided that offering internships and volunteer monitoring opportunities were the most effective way to instill a sense of environmental stewardship in young people and adults. Ten years later, more than two-dozen summer interns have had the life-changing experience of working under knowledgeable mentors at APCC and some 200 salt marsh and fish run volunteer monitors have become captivated by the riches of the natural world.

The future brings new challenges. Rising seas, clean energy, pure water and healthy foods are interrelated issues that will require difficult decisions. APCC has begun mapping an approach to addressing these problems.

You may have heard that in September I will step down as executive director after almost 12 years. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to be part of APCC, the defender of Cape Cod’s environment and quality of life. All of the work we have undertaken, all of the successes, are the result of the generosity of our members. On behalf of the APCC family, thank you for your support.

With gratitude,

[Signature]

PS. The series of reusable prints in this annual report represents some of APCC’s projects. I hope you will enjoy them, frame them, pass them on to friends or download copies from our website for children and grandchildren to color.
RIVER HERRING:

Despite what the calendar says, many Cape Codders mark the start of spring with the arrival of river herring. Each year these anadromous fish leave the Atlantic Ocean where they spend most of their lives to return to the ponds or rivers where they hatched. Arriving at the coast they locate their natal streams and swim upstream, often over natural obstacles and man-made fish ladders, to fresh water where the females will lay up to 100,000 eggs. The adults will rest for a time and then return to the sea. Their eggs, meanwhile, sink and settle to the bottom. In late summer and autumn, the newly hatched herring make their own journey to the ocean.

The presence of herring has always been connected to the health and well-being of communities up and down the East Coast. Native peoples, the pilgrims and those who followed have relied on herring as a direct and indirect source of food. A steep decline in numbers of river herring has resulted in laws that protect the herring during spawning season to help ensure that this fish of historical, agricultural and economic importance will continue to thrive and grace our waterways for years to come.
APCC PROGRAMS

MIGRATORY FISH RUNS

Magic abounds on Cape Cod as the river herring return each year, mysteriously finding their way up their natal streams to spawn...

Sadly, river herring populations are in steep decline from causes as yet unclear, with the result that a moratorium on the taking of river herring has been in effect in Massachusetts since 2005. To better understand the status of herring, APCC works with partners and volunteers to conduct fish count programs at Herring River in Wellfleet, Stony Brook in Brewster, Pilgrim Lake in Orleans, Herring River in Harwich and Coonamessett River in Falmouth. In 2011, five additional runs will be added to APCC’s network of herring count programs. The data will provide important information for resource managers. As with our salt marsh monitors, our herring monitors become faithful stewards of their runs, returning, like the herring, year after year.

SALT MARSH RESTORATION

Soft buffer between land and sea, the kidneys of the Earth, our salt marshes are emblematic of the Cape Cod landscape...

APCC has a long record of interest and activism in restoring our salt marshes. Only a few years after our founding, APCC was calling for the restoration of saltwater flow at the Herring River salt marsh in Wellfleet and Truro. Following decades of research, the work of restoration has commenced and APCC is coordinating the efforts of the committee charged with developing the restoration plan for this 1,100-acre marsh.

APCC and its cadre of volunteers have monitored the restoration of more than a dozen salt marshes all across Cape Cod for almost a decade. This important program provides critical information to resource managers, and equally important, has created hundreds of citizens stewards who are committed to protecting our marshes.

WATER QUALITY

Cape Cod is a land of sand and water. Keeping our waters clean means healthy habitats for all the animals and plants that depend on water...

Maintaining and restoring good water quality in our coastal bays and inland ponds is a priority at APCC. Beginning with a 2003 “Water Quality Call to Action,” APCC and the Cape Cod Business Roundtable urged creation of a regional authority to address the issue of inadequate wastewater infrastructure, the main cause of deteriorating water quality. The Call to Action was followed by an intensive multi-year educational effort to help residents understand the causes and potential solutions to this problem.

In 2010, as Cape communities began to struggle with the high costs associated with providing wastewater infrastructure, APCC cosponsored the development of a detailed report, “Comparison of Costs for Wastewater Management Systems Applicable To Cape Cod: Guidance to Cape Cod Towns Undertaking Comprehensive Wastewater Management Planning.” This report provides information on a wide range of sizes and types of wastewater treatment and disposal systems to help towns compare options and identify which systems are best for their situation.
EASTHAM TURNIPS

The Eastham turnip is a rather funny looking plant. With an often large and bulbous white and purple body, it lacks the grace of an eggplant or the vibrant color of a tomato. But looks aren’t everything. The Eastham turnip has a perfectly sweet taste that sets it apart from most other varieties of turnips which has won it legions of fans all over the country. The survival of the Eastham turnip, which has been around these parts for more than 100 years, is proof of the power of one. Legend goes that Eastham farmer Art Nickerson single-handedly rescued the turnip from extinction by preserving and producing the seeds. Due to his careful stewardship and perseverance, those heirloom seeds are now available to farmers on the Cape and beyond. But does a turnip raised anywhere but Eastham deserve the name? Nickerson, who died in 2008 at the age of 93, wasn’t so sure. He believed that Eastham’s well-drained, sandy soil—packed with nitrogen fed to it by groves of locust trees—produces its memorable taste. Regardless of where the turnip originates, look for a pale green band around the top of the turnip. That’s how to tell it’s an Eastham.
AGRICULTURE PRESERVATION

Could there be a more powerful action to reconnect us to the bounty of the Earth than growing and eating healthy local food...

Once a peninsula replete with farms and farmers, Cape Cod’s agricultural heritage has dwindled, especially over the past fifty years. APCC recently completed an inventory of agriculture on Cape Cod, identifying about 4,200 acres in agriculture and 600 acres of aquaculture grants. We estimate that there are about 300 farms on Cape Cod and about 300 aquaculture license holders. About one-half of Cape Cod’s farms are protected to some extent under state programs. Our report identifies several impediments to farming on Cape Cod and provides numerous recommendations on the local, regional and state level to improve the future of agriculture.

OPEN SPACE PROTECTION

Providing home and sanctuary for wildlife, recreation and solitude for human residents, open space also protects drinking water supplies...

APCC has long maintained that zoning can be an effective tool to preserve critical habitats, water supplies, agricultural lands and landscapes. And in 2009, APCC worked with the town of Brewster to be the first town on Cape Cod and the second in the Commonwealth to use low density zoning to protect natural resources. APCC believes the Brewster bylaw is the most important zoning bylaw passed on Cape Cod in decades, opening up as it does a new way for our communities to preserve critical natural resource areas.

In 2010, APCC recommended that Harwich consider a similar kind of zoning for East Harwich to protect critical resources. The resulting plan calls for a vibrant mixed-use village center in the existing East Harwich commercial district balanced with a Natural Resource Protection District that would reduce density, preserve open space and help protect the town’s drinking water, the Pleasant Bay watershed and vulnerable freshwater ponds.

ADVOCACY

APCC works regionally to protect our communities and works in our communities to protect our region...

From establishing the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve to designation of Cape Cod Bay as a No-Discharge Area, to passage of the Clean Water Act and authorization of the Cape Cod Natural Resources Restoration Project, APCC is the sole organization looking after ALL of Cape Cod.

Promoting compact town centers, open space preservation, and local bylaws that protect community character, APCC has helped all Cape communities enhance their environment and quality of life.
BAY SCALLOP

Imagine taking an underwater viewfinder in search of bay scallops. One might expect that this bivalve would be a somewhat sedentary animal. But not the bay scallop. Using its inner muscle to clap its shells back and forth, the bay scallop can jump and swim. This ability to move about allows the bay scallop to migrate sometimes miles from where it was born in search of the perfect habitat. Bay scallops have 30 to 40 bright blue eyes on the inner edge of the shell, which allow them to recognize changes in light intensity. Their eyesight may not be 20/20, but they are able to see predators coming toward them.

Bay scallops are seldom exported out of New England because there are just not enough of them and they are difficult to harvest and fragile to handle. The bay scallop lives only 12 – 18 months and rarely grows more than 2 inches wide. And yet, the cold, clean water in which they live gives them a fresh and delicate taste unlike any other seafood.
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* Scopello Society recognizes 25 or more years of membership
SHARP-TAILED SPARROW

Timing is everything for the little sharp-tailed sparrow. The female builds her nest in the stiff grass stems just above the average high tide line in salt marshes. With an incubation period of just 11 days, she can hatch her young between the highest tides of each lunar cycle. Still, this delicate bird needs luck on her side. A coastal storm or even a new moon can wipe out the nest in a blink of an eye. If so, she must rebuild straightaway to ensure her nestlings survive.

Until recently, little was known about the sharp-tailed sparrow. It even shared, with the Nelson’s sparrow, an identity as the saltmarsh sharp-tailed sparrow. Scientists finally discovered that these were two distinct species in the mid-1990s. The sharp-tailed sparrow is difficult to study because it’s a secretive bird that lives deep within mostly inaccessible salt marshes. The unfortunate diminishment of salt marshes over the last 50 years has given scientists a better view into their fascinating world. Sadly, with the loss of their habitat comes the reduction of their numbers.

Even so, you can find this tiny bird during the summer in the salt marshes of Cape Cod. Allow yourself to be very still, then listen for a high, raspy trill. With luck, this shy sparrow will give you a song and then flutter out from the marsh grass with a crew of its playmates.
**FINANCIALS 2010**

**REVENUES**
- Dues: 3% (195,333)
- Donations: 32% (35,858)
- Grants and Restricted Revenue: 6% (366,561)
- Investment Income: 59% (17,240)
- **Total**: 614,992

**EXPENSES**
- Program Services: 10% (653,360)
- Management and General: 7% (82,521)
- Fund Raising: 7% (54,810)
- **Total**: 790,691

* Unaudited

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- Margaret Geist - Executive Director
- Don Keenan - Assistant Director
- Tara Nye - Staff Biologist
- Jo Ann Muramoto - Senior Scientist/Mass Bays Program Regional Coordinator
- Katherine Beauchamp - Project Specialist
- Laura Curry - Database Manager
- Everett Kiefer - Clerk and Receptionist
- Lauren Powers - Executive Director’s Assistant
- Nathan Robinson - Community Planning Intern
- Patrick Frye - Membership Field Coordinator
- Tawnya Menesale - Bookkeeper
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** Retired from Board in 2010

**THE APCC ENVIRONMENTAL LEGACY SOCIETY**

Bequests to the Association to Preserve Cape Cod ensure that our work will continue for generations to come and help us to protect this fragile peninsula. APCC greatly thanks supporters who have already advised us of their estate intentions, and honors them with membership in the esteemed APCC Environmental Legacy Society.

The greatest benefit of belonging to APCC’s Environmental Legacy Society is the satisfaction of knowing that your long-range financial plans will make it possible to continue our efforts to speak out for Cape Cod and fight for the protection of our environment, just as we have done since 1968.

We appreciate your considering the Association to Preserve Cape Cod in your estate plans.

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod is honored to dedicate this Annual Report to Maggie Geist in recognition of her 12 years of dedicated leadership.