



Plastics and an Imperiled Planet – Part II: What You Can Do.

LOCAL SOLUTIONS TO A GLOBAL PROBLEM – Panel Discussion and Exhibits Eldredge Library, Chatham

Moderator

Laura Ludwig, Marine Plastics Program Coordinator, Center for Coastal Studies

Laura Ludwig's work with the Center for Coastal Studies in Provincetown focuses on derelict fishing gear (DFG) and marine plastic debris initiatives. Since 2009, following a decade of work in Maine on fishing gear and whale entanglement issues, she has directed derelict fishing gear recovery programs in Maine and Massachusetts, working with fishermen to collect, return and/or dispose of thousands of lobster traps and more than 80 tons of DFG. From 2006-2012, Ludwig managed the \$4.6 million, federally-funded Gulf of Maine Lobster Foundation groundline exchange program through which over two million pounds of used floating ground line was removed from active use, diverted from the waste stream, and recycled or re-purposed. Since 2010, she has purchased over 300,000 pounds of used sinking groundline from lobstermen in the Northeast for use by New York artist Orly Genger in creating massive woven rope sculptures.

As a member of the Provincetown Recycling and Renewable Energy Committee, Laura spearheaded the first plastic bag ban and first cigarette recycling program on Cape Cod.

Panelists

Phil Goddard, Manager of Facility Compliance & Technology Development, Bourne Integrated Solid Waste Management Bureau

Phil is a self-described wearer of many hats. He has served as treasurer of MassRecycle, president of the Southern New England Chapter of SWANA (Solid Waste Association of North America), and chairman of the Massachusetts Product Stewardship Council (part of MassRecycle). Involved with many grassroots actions, Phil was a founding member of Bourne's Recycling Commission and instrumental in the recent passage of a town bylaw banning plastic bags. As a consultant and employee, he helped develop the Bourne facility through financial modeling, permitting and public processes, and was part of the team that converted Bourne to single-stream recycling.

Philip will speak to solid waste infrastructure issues in southern New England and will offer a broad perspective on the developing world and its relevance to local plastics pollution and recycling efforts.

Chris Powicki, Executive Committee Member, Cape Cod & Islands Group, Sierra Club

The Sierra Club in Massachusetts is among the most active and successful chapters in the country in the effort to minimize and/or ban plastics uses. Chris will discuss the four plastics-related pieces of state legislation Sierra MA has prioritized for 2017, including a polystyrene foodware ban, sustainable foodware act, bottled water act and plastic bag ban. He'll also discuss the positions of the Massachusetts Delegation on these issues and ways in which to connect with them.

President of Water Energy Ecology Information & Design Services and an adjunct professor at Cape Cod Community College, Chris has collaborated with local organizations, agencies, and businesses to organize and host several zero waste forums/workshops. He was instrumental in obtaining Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection funding for a "regional recycling coordinator" position through the Barnstable County Cooperative Extension Program. With Phil Goddard, Chris will review the Cape's waste management/recycling practices, associated impacts on the region's overall carbon footprint, and progress over the last few years. These topics can be tied to individual reduce/reuse/recycling behaviors and to state, county, and local decision-making, which creates opportunity for citizen activism.

Nita Tallent, Ph.D., Chief of Natural Resource Management and Science, National Park Service, Cape Cod National Seashore

Dr. Tallent joined the National Seashore in mid-2016, having served as program manager for the National Park Service (NPS) in Boulder City, Nevada. Her 20+ year career as a field ecologist has provided her with wide experience in the applied science and ecology of floodplain ecosystems, forest, high elevation montane, rangelands, and deserts. Most recently, she led a team of natural resource scientists and professionals in the inventory and monitoring of natural resources at the nine national park units comprising the Mojave Desert Network, which efforts are similar to ongoing efforts initiated over the past few decades at Cape Cod National Seashore. She is committed to working with scientists, educators, and managers, both within and outside the Seashore in the sustainable use and protection of the natural and cultural resources of the national seashore, and will provide insight into initiatives at the federal level to address the subject issue.

Meredith Kinkade - 6th Grader/Co-Founder, "Skip the Straw" Campaign, Falmouth Water Stewards

Every week in the United States, people use several hundred million plastic straws and then, after a just few minutes of use, throw them away. Many of these straws go into landfills and some of them make their way into our environment, polluting waterways, forests, marshes, beaches and eventually our oceans. Scientists estimate that the amount of plastic garbage in the ocean will double by 2025 if we keep using and throwing it away at our current rate. Plastic does not biodegrade — at least not for many hundreds of or perhaps even a thousand years. That means that the plastic straw used yesterday will likely be around fifty generations from now, though it will have broken down into tiny, but still harmful, bits.

Meredith Kinkade is one of five (then-) fifth graders who—in cooperation with Falmouth Water Stewards—launched a campaign to educate people about the plastics problem on beaches and in the ocean, and offer a simple way to help address it – by "skipping the straw." They also work to keep area beaches clean by organizing "beach sweeps" in and around Falmouth. Meredith and other Skip the Straw co-founders will have an exhibit table at the library and be happy to share tips about launching similar movements with young panel attendees.

Shayna Ferullo - Co-Owner, Snowy Owl Coffee Roasters & Cafe, Brewster

Snowy Owl Coffee Roasters & Cafe is located at 2624 Main Street (historic Rt. 6A) in Brewster. Founded in 2013, the Snowy Owl has quickly become a central gathering spot for residents and visitors to the Lower Cape. While creating a successful business, co-owners and husband and wife Manuel Ainzuaín and Shayna Ferullo have aimed to raise consciousness about direct trade, organic and environmentally sound coffee-growing practices, and sustainable business practices including an operational ban on plastic bottles and an energetic, proactive recycling program involving composting and initiatives to reduce plastic waste.

Jesse Mechling, Director, Marine Education Program, Center for Coastal Studies

The Marine Education Program at the CCS offers a broad range of programs for audiences of all ages, school groups and the general public. Its programs incorporate cutting edge CCS research and an introduction to the natural history of coastal and marine environments of Cape Cod. CCS partners with local schools to develop hands-on classroom activities and field visits, offers free nature walks, and sponsors coastal cleanup sweeps to rid the coastline of marine debris.
