



CAPE MAY POINT
TAXPAYERS
ASSOCIATION

Fall 2025 Newsletter

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In our digital era

By Katie Huber, Editor

Welcome to the first digital issue of the CMPTA Newsletter! In an effort to maximize content and minimize environmental impact, the CMPTA Newsletter team decided to move to a new publishing platform. The same great content will continue to arrive twice a year - now in your inbox instead of mailbox. The newsletter is now interactive - click on hyperlinks to explore! For more regular updates on all things CMPTA, keep an eye out for the BULLETIN as usual. Thanks as always to our editorial team and contributors for making this issue a robust review of summer highlights and a preview of what's next at The Point. Six years ago I joined the CMPTA Newsletter team, and I'm excited to launch this digital era! Thanks for your open minds and grace in this transition.



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Message from the President

By Andy Rusnak, President, CMPTA



Welcome to the first online Cape May Point Taxpayers Association (CMPTA) newsletter. We are very excited about this new format- it is more flexible, more interactive and kinder to the environment. I hope you enjoy this and future issues.

Fall is a time of transition at the Point. The Monarchs start to fly, crowds dissipate, and the warm summer weather becomes slightly cooler and more enjoyable. It is also a time of transition for us at CMPTA. In our September annual meeting we elect new officers and board members. I thought I would provide you with a quick summary of these changes.

First, a note about our outgoing officers. Many thanks to our outgoing President **Hope Luken** and our outgoing Secretary **Arleen Buchanan**. Hope and Arleen both have many years of service to CMPTA and have made immeasurable impact on our community. If you see Hope and Arleen around town, please stop for a moment to thank them for all their efforts.

Next comes some new roles for existing board members. I have taken over the role of President from Hope Luken. I previously served as Vice President, learning about CMPTA from Hope and our entire board. **Courtney Leo** will be our new Vice President, stepping up from her role as a resident director. I am very excited about working with Courtney in both of our new roles.

Finally, an introduction of our new board members.

Bridgett Bates will be joining the board as our new Secretary.

David deBear will also join the board as our newest resident director. We welcome Bridgett and David to the team, and I look forward to working with them in the coming year.

The year ahead is shaping up to be very exciting. We will add a new event to our calendar to dedicate the Veterans Memorial. This will be a great time to honor those Point residents who served our country and recognize the generous gift given to us by Marc Wrotny. Event details will be shared in the BULLETIN.

As always, we will have a full slate of events for 2026. The summer begins with the Ice Cream Social and comes to a wrap with the second annual Point Fest celebration. We will have other great events, including a summer concert and a beach party. There are also two days of service planned. First comes Mulch and More, which is our annual spring gardening event. The next service event is our annual Dunes and More day, where we fortify and beautify our dunes. We all look forward to seeing you at these events.

In closing, the CMPTA Board looks forward to working with the Borough team and all our community organizations to make Cape May Point an even better place to be. On behalf of our Board, I wish you all a great Fall!

**CMPTA is happy to introduce
two new members to our Board!**

Bridgett Bates
Secretary

Hello CMP taxpayer members. My husband, Marty, introduced me to Cape May Point as the final stopping place on our honeymoon after a visit to Africa. Wrapping up our celebrations here for the Fourth of July 2001 was a nice finish. We bought our Ocean Avenue house five years later in 2006. We live in Pittsburgh and try to spend as much time as possible at The Point. Both of our daughters have held summer jobs here since they turned 14 and we have cherished our time here with them. It is definitely our beloved second home. The Circle Games played a large part in their summer fun growing up and I am very happy to be part of keeping that tradition alive now. I have volunteered with the Taxpayers Association events for a while, and am happy to finally serve in an official capacity. Here's to many more fun years to come!



David deBear
Resident Director

I moved to Cape May Point full time in 2023 with my wife, Mary Lynn MacKenzie, and retired from the flooring industry in late 2024. I have two adult children in the Gloucester County area. We live on Lighthouse Avenue and had been coming to Cape May Point for many years prior to our full time retirement. We love The Point for its serenity, unique beauty and the people who live here. It is such a spectacular place to live, I want to give back as much as I can to the community. I am a board member for The Friends of Lake Lily and joining the CMPTA board is a great opportunity. Thanks to all and I look forward to working with everyone.



**CMPTA board candidates were
unanimously approved at the
CMPTA Annual Meeting on
September 12, 2025. More
information can be found [here](#).**

Message from the Mayor

By Anita vanHeeswyk, Mayor, Commissioner of Revenue & Finance

As another Summer at Cape May Point winds down, I want to take a moment to thank you, our residents and property owners, for the many ways you contribute to our special community. Whether you live here year round or seasonally, your care and commitment help preserve the character and natural beauty that make The Point so special all while strengthening the bonds that hold us all together all year.

This year we have continued to balance our budget carefully, investing in infrastructure improvements while keeping our tax rate stable. We remain focused on protecting our shoreline, maintaining our stormwater systems, and addressing the challenge of flood insurance and climate resiliency.

Although we are small we are mindful of ensuring that Cape May Point remains a welcoming and sustainable place for generations to come.

As we move into the quieter months, your Borough staff will be preparing for the year ahead as we are beginning to work on next year's budget, planning projects, seeking grant opportunities and staying focused on responsible stewardship. On behalf of us all we thank you for your support, trust and partnership.

As the air turns crisp I hope everyone can be here during, arguably, the best time of the year to enjoy our little corner of the world...here on the edge of the continent....to experience the golden sunsets, the migrating birds and butterflies and the quiet beaches.

I wish everyone near and far a peaceful autumn and beautiful holidays.

I look forward to working together as we continue to protect and cherish our beloved Cape May Point.

And, as always, if you need me here are my personal contacts:

Anita vanHeeswyk
CMPNJ@comcast.net
609-425-0829 (text please)



Beach Bash!

Sun, Sand and Smiles All Around

This summer, the Cape May Point Taxpayers Association turned up the fun with its 2nd annual Beach Party—and what a splash it was! Held on a golden August evening, the shoreline came alive with laughter, music, and the unmistakable joy of neighbors reconnecting under the sun and stars.

Families arrived with beach chairs and sandcastle gear, kids darted between sandcastle contests and scavenger hunts, flying kites and airplanes, and the music kept everyone swaying. The "Beach Party" team offered colored leis (to identify your favorite beach), soft pretzels, popsicles, and water.

As the sun dipped below the horizon and the stars blinked on, Cape May Point felt more connected than ever. The beach party wasn't just a celebration—it was a reminder of what makes this community so special: shared joy, open arms, and a whole lot of heart.

Here's to next year's bash—may it be even brighter, louder, and sandier!



*Volunteers made it all happen
—from setup to cleanup, from
welcoming newcomers to
organizing games. Their
warmth and energy turned a
simple gathering into a
memory-making masterpiece.*



**Come and be a part of our vibrant
community by participating or
volunteering at our many events!
Learn more [here](#).**



Dune Day

Pointers Get the Job Done

Gray skies and morning drizzle didn't dampen the effort or the spirits of Cape May Pointers for Dunes and More Day 2025 on October 11. About 35 friends and neighbors gathered at the Firehouse and Triangle Park to beautify and fortify what nature has provided. Organized by Jonathan Westcott, teams were dispatched to Whilldin, St. Pete's, Cape, Brainard and Stites beaches to spruce up the entrances with pollinator-friendly plants and add anchor plantings to our dunes. The Triangle Park team created an autumn bouquet in the lifeboat and added crushed shells to the parking area. Afterward, the entire group gathered to enjoy lunch and community at the CMP Firehouse. Thanks to everyone who supported the effort with financial donations and especially those who donated their time and effort.



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Cape May Point Beach Patrol Summer Highlights

By Chief Ben Swan, CMPBP

Another enjoyable summer has come to an end and the lifeguards at Cape May Point Beach Patrol would like to thank the community for its continued support. The beaches were guarded from June 14th through September 1st. During the season, lifeguards reported 11 rescues, 598 first aids, and 347 water assists.

Average water temperature for the month of July was 5 degrees warmer than the previous summer at 75.1 degrees. This increase in water temperature led to more jellyfish seen earlier in the season. The three types of jellyfish most commonly seen in Cape May Point are sea nettles, lion's mane, and cannonball jellyfish. Cannonball jellyfish are large in size but do not cause a painful sting. Sea nettles and lion's mane can cause a painful and irritating sting but rarely require medical attention. In most cases, the best treatment is to remove the tentacles by rubbing wet sand on the affected area and then applying a vinegar solution to neutralize any stingers left behind. Lifeguards carry this vinegar solution at every stand.

The Beach Patrol welcomed two new lifeguards this year, both graduates from Lower Cape May Regional High School - Gabe Donaghy and Chase Austin. They have proven to be valuable additions to our team and we hope to have them for years to come. We also had three of our senior guards obtain EMT certifications, making a total of four certified EMTs on our patrol of only 20 lifeguards. These EMTs will strengthen our response in emergency situations.

On July 23rd, we hosted the 17th Annual Cape May Point Women's Challenge. This event was created and is organized by senior lifeguard Kristen Moorby and invites the top female lifeguards from the mid-Atlantic region to compete in a grueling lifeguard triathlon consisting of a soft sand run, paddle, and swim. This event gains popularity every year and this year hosted 55 competitors to test their endurance and lifeguarding skills. Full moon tides combined with heavy surf to make this year's race especially difficult. Cape May Point's top finisher was Kacie Hymers with an impressive performance at 14th overall place. Kacie graduated Misericordia University in 2021 joined the Air National Guard based out of New Castle Delaware. She plays rugby for Philadelphia and the Air Force rugby team. We thank Kacie for her service to our nation and her dedication to our beach patrol.



2025 CMPBP

Samina Bhatia (L), Kacie Hymers (R)

Cape May Point Beach Patrol awards went to Chase Austin for rookie of the year. Gabe Sirven was voted competitor of the year for representing our patrol in the doubles row and the Superathlon. Matt Gibson has made guard of the year for the second year and has been promoted to Lieutenant. Commissioner Elise Geiger was given the unsung hero award for her support and work behind the scenes in advancing our program. Congratulations to these award winners, they are well deserved.

Information about the Beach Patrol including applications, tryout dates, and the Junior Lifeguard program will be made available on the [Cape May Point Borough website](https://www.cape-may-point-nj.gov/).



Follow [@capemaypointbeachpatrol](https://www.instagram.com/capemaypointbeachpatrol) on Instagram for more news and updates!

Environmental Commission

By Paula Massanari, Chair

The four new members of the Environmental Commission - **Sean Burcher, Rich Johnson, Mary Lynn MacKenzie, and Tom Reilly** - have already attended several Environmental Commission (EC) meetings. They, along with continuing EC members - **Sandy Allison, Emelia Oleson and Paula Massanari** - are making significant contributions to the work of the EC.

A primary responsibility of Environmental Commissions in New Jersey involves educating the public about important environmental topics. Therefore, one of our goals for this year is to increase the number of educational articles that we send to community members each month.

If you are not already signed up to receive emails from the EC, you will have missed several 2025 educational articles. We hope you will consider subscribing to future EC emails. Just follow the directions at the link below (be sure to check the Environmental Commission box).

SUBSCRIBE



After you have signed up to receive future emails, we encourage you to go to visit [The Environment page](#) on the Borough website. There you will find articles about the environment that have been shared with residents in the past.

The members of the EC recognize that community members here at The Point are committed to being excellent stewards of the environment, and we thank you for all that you do to protect this special place.

Commemorative Bricks

The holidays are just around the corner! Was there a wedding, a birth or a special anniversary in your family this year? Celebrate with a personalized brick in the Pavilion. Bricks can be ordered on the Cape May Point Taxpayers' Association website here:

ORDER NOW



Deb Johnson has initiated the '**Find a Brick**' project. Deb has nearly completed the project of mapping the bricks in the Circle and creating a way of searching for bricks by the name on the brick or by the purchaser. We hope to have this information available on the CMPTA website soon but until that time if you have a question regarding where a past order might be found reach out to Deb at djohnson62860@gmail.com.



Cape May Point Civic Club

*By Sandy Brethwaite,
Civic Club President*

The Cape May Point Civic Club is having another successful year. The Civic Club commenced the spring season with the Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Pavilion Circle in collaboration with the Cape May Point Volunteer Fire Company. The children demonstrated enthusiasm during the egg collection and very thoughtful consideration when selecting their toy prize, making the Easter Egg Hunt enjoyable for all.

Then planning for the 69th Annual Civic Club Bazaar geared up, which was held July 5, 2025, at the Cape May Point Arts and Science Center. The success of this event enabled the Civic Club to make generous contributions to various Cape May County charities, including the Cape May Point Volunteer Fire Department and the Cape May Point Arts and Science Center. The success of the Bazaar wouldn't have happened without all the volunteers and the many hours of planning, collecting, organizing, and partnering with the Cape May Point Arts and Science Center. **Thank you!**

We closed out the summer by partnering with the Cape May Point Taxpayers' Association and Cape May Point Volunteer Fire Company for the **First Annual Point Fest**. The desserts that our members provided were icing on a lovely summer evening.

Our Fall meetings began again in September. We have a membership of 69 individuals comprising both full-time and part-time residents. New members are welcome at any time. Membership offers valuable opportunities to engage with the community, participate in activities, learn from interesting programs scheduled throughout the year, and support local initiatives. Monthly meetings provide a forum for idea exchange, event planning, and social interaction among residents.

And to close out 2025, we will host our second annual **Lights and Libation** gathering at the Cape May Point Firehouse on Saturday, December 13, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

After that, we will recess over the winter months, with our Spring meetings resuming on March 12. All interested individuals are encouraged to join us at noon on the second Thursday of each month on the second floor of the Firehouse.



Upcoming Civic Club Events

What: Second Annual Lights and Libation

When: Saturday, December 13, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Where: Cape May Point Firehouse

What: Spring Meetings

When: Second Thursday of the month*, 12:00 pm

Where: Cape May Point Firehouse

*Resume March 12

Cape May Point Volunteer Fire Company

By Lance Lipset

Cape May Point Fire Company has been busy, with a 30 percent increase in emergency calls versus the same period the prior year. The nature of these calls included structure fire, chimney fire, brush fire, gas leak, motor vehicle collision, medical assist, and water rescue responses.

In between emergency calls and ongoing training, the fire company hosted several successful Spring and Summer events, including the **Pancake Breakfast, 5 Mile Run, July 4th Bike Parades, and the first annual Point Fest** in collaboration with the Cape May Point Taxpayers' Association and Cape May Point Civic Club. We extend our sincere gratitude to the volunteers of both organizations for bringing the idea of a "Summer Send Off" party to fruition.

Donations are a critical component of the fire company's annual budget. Whether from fundraising events like Point Fest or private donations, your contributions made your community and your firefighters safer.



With these funds, we recently acquired a rescue sled which is now attached to the fire company's jet ski. The sled further bolsters our water rescue response. And through a testamentary gift facilitated by the Cape May Point Taxpayers'

Association, the fire company is replacing the turnout gear (jacket and pants) of all responding members. Recently, national attention was given to the existence of potentially dangerous "forever chemicals" in the material used to make turnout gear for fire departments across the country. This basic gear costs more than \$3,000 per member to replace. With this purchase, we are leading the way in keeping firefighters safe.

As an all-volunteer organization, the fire company is a true community effort. We are happy to welcome back two fully certified members this year - Alice Gibson and Frank Eckel. We always welcome additional assistance, and not just that of certified firefighters. Behind every emergency response is a dedicated group of neighbors who keep the organization strong by helping with events, fundraising, and day-to-day operations.

Volunteering is a great way to meet neighbors, support your first responders, and be part of a long-standing Cape May Point tradition of service. Even a small time commitment can make a difference. If you'd like to contribute to the safety and spirit of our town without putting on the gear, consider joining us as a support member.

For more information, including our calendar of events and online donations, please visit www.capemaypointfire.org. We are grateful for your ongoing support.

Friends of Lake Lily

By Tom Reilly, FOLL President

Autumn has fallen upon the Point and the lake continues to show off its seasonal colors. The perennial flowers in the south end gave us a great show over the summer and now the native seaside goldenrod and winterberry holly are ablaze with color. The west garden beds were carefully planned by our dedicated bedfellows and we continue to enjoy an evolving kaleidoscope of color.

As previously reported, the borough has approved a plan to remediate the invasive vegetation in the south end of the lake. A system of muck mats will be placed on the lake bottom when all of the vegetation has gone dormant. Much of the invasive vegetation has already begun to recede back to lake bottom. The mats will prevent life giving sunlight from reaching the invasive roots and will hopefully restore the watery appearance on the lake surface. Also during the coming winter months, the invasive vegetation which has overtaken the island will be removed. The borough plans to eventually relandscape the island with native plants and Friends of Lake Lily and other volunteers will assist with the planning. Both Friends of Lake Lily and the Cape May Point Taxpayers Association have already pledged funds to cover some of the costs for these exciting projects.

We are committed to the ongoing beautification and health of the lake and we need your support. Friends of Lake Lily is in the middle of its annual fundraising campaign. You should have received in late August a letter asking for your financial support. You can also scan the below QR code and electronically make a donation. For those of you who have donated already this year, thank you for your support!



**Scan here
to donate to
FOLL!**



State-Mandated Climate Change Readiness Work Progressing

By Matt Brown, CCRHVA

At the September 12 CMPTA Annual Meeting, Matt Brown (Planning Board Chair) gave an update on progress made by the CCRHV Assessment Project Team (“APT”) to incorporate a **Climate Change-Related Hazard Vulnerability Assessment** into the CMP Master Plan, as mandated by the NJ legislature. The APT has met monthly to collect and analyze data on risks to specific CMP assets from 9 Hazard types:

- Extreme Temperature
- Drought
- Flooding
- Severe Weather
- Saltwater Intrusion
- Wildfires
- Vector-Borne Disease
- Ecological Disease / Agricultural Pests
- Shoreline Erosion

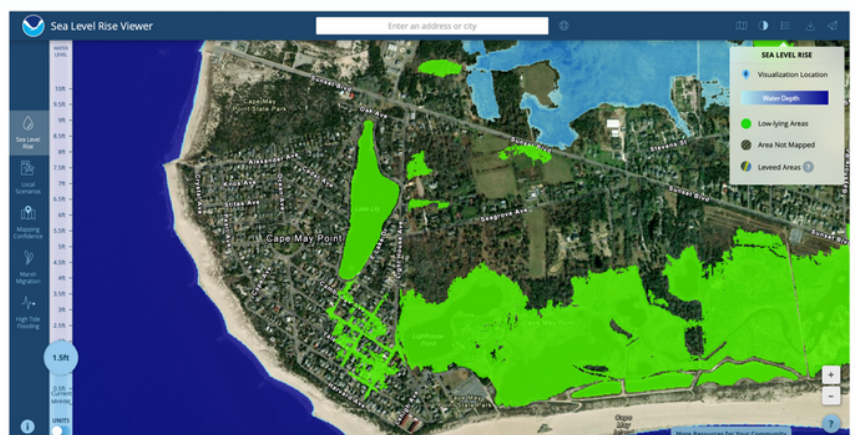
Members of the APT were on hand to field questions and comments from the public, including description of the scenario when sea-level rise of nearly 1.5 ft occurs, as forecast by Rutgers/DEP to take place by 2050.

The graphic below shows that scenario with blue representing permanent ocean water, encroaching on Sunset Ave, and light green showing temporary standing water, after storms or king-tides, in the southern part of CMP, near the intersection of Yale and Whilldin.

Posters from the project team were placed on display in CMP Borough Hall through the end of September. They contained a draft set of prioritized mitigation action proposals, to provide strategies and design ideas to reduce risks. Major objectives for the mitigation actions include:

- Strategically protecting life and property
- Managing the unwanted water that arrives
- Strengthening land resilience
- Protecting key utilities

You can learn more about the team’s progress and their proposals by clicking this [link to the summary update](#) posted at the CMP Planning Board site. The team plans to complete their work before the end of the year. Any Pointer who would like to provide comment to the team can email Matt Brown at mbrown2016@comcast.net.



Migration Monitoring Projects

Cape May Bird Observatory

Springwatch (March 1 - May 31)

Only one count takes place during the spring, appropriately named "Springwatch." This is the latest and also the most diverse migration count, which focuses on a few keystone species that we see in large volumes, such as Northern Gannets, loons, cormorants, waders, swallows, etc., but is designed to record a large diversity of both land and water birds. Starting in 2016, the project has recorded well over 300 species of birds, including a wide range of both insects and marine mammals.

Hawkwatches (September 1-November 30)

On September 1st, three more projects begin. There are two hawkwatches, which are the longest running counts for New Jersey Audubon. Montclair started in 1957 and the famous Cape May Hawkwatch that started in 1976. These projects focus on soaring birds, especially raptors in particular.

Avalon Seawatch (October 1-December 22)

Finally, on October 1st, the Avalon Seawatch starts, which focuses on waterbirds, especially seaducks.

The Cape May Bird Observatory is proud to oversee and coordinate six migration monitoring projects. Five of those are conducted during and at the margins of the fall months. Below is a timeline and outline of the projects. The next page includes highlights from this fall's projects, including the Cape May Monarch Monitoring Project (MMP)!

Morning Flight (August 1-November 15)

During the early fall, Cape May's "Morning Flight" count starts at Higbee Beach WMA with the focus of documenting largely neotropical songbird migrants.

Cape May Monarch Monitoring Project (September 1- November 14)

Also on September 1st, the Cape May Monarch Monitoring Project begins, which is the longest running research program on monarch butterflies in the world. Founded in 1990, the project lasts till November 14th. The program not only records data on monarchs, but on any migratory insects that we can record.

Keep reading for more information about this fall's MMP!



Fall 2025

Our counters and researchers have been hard at work. It has been a bit of a tough fall so far, as those classic northwesterly coldfronts that we hope for, which tend to bring in lots of migrating winged creatures to the coast of New Jersey and down to Cape May, have been very slim this year. We have had easterly wind types throughout most of September, which has included a lot of northeasterlies in particular. This has resulted in a relatively low-numbered season for **Morning Flight** at Higbee Beach, no especially big movements of monarchs, and not a ton of diversity at the **Hawkwatch**. However, it has been a promising start to the fall for Sharp-shinned Hawks and with lots of northeasterlies, it has been a good last few weeks for Peregrine Falcons also. **A few bird rarities have been seen in Cape May this fall** that have stirred excitement. There have been multiple days now that Roseate Spoonbill has been spotted soaring around the island, one day with an American White Pelican and Mississippi Kite. A Fork-tailed Flycatcher was present for a few days at Higbee Beach earlier in the month. A Townsend's Warbler seen briefly at Cape May Point which is a vagrant from the west. The **Hawkwatch** had their first Golden Eagle, which is very early and unusual to see in September.

Monarch Monitoring Project 2025

We have had a few nice flights of saddlebags dragonflies. This has included mostly Black Saddlebags, but also elevated numbers of Carolina Saddlebags, with an apparent irruption year for Red Saddlebags which is a rarer southern and western species. It has been a clear down year for a lot of typical southern migratory butterflies like Cloudless Sulphurs, Painted Ladies, and various skippers. It has, however, been a better season for Mourning Cloaks.

The "**MMP**" is the most self-involved project, as we have regular programs, a standardized migration count that is conducted three times a day everyday of the week, we do lots of upkeep in garden maintenance, and we also tag monarch butterflies to track them on their migration to Mexico from here.

How can YOU help?

There are lots of ways that homeowners around Cape May Point can help migrating wildlife and can help support our monitoring efforts.

- The biggest thing any one person can do is **create natural habitat** in their own backyards by leaving designated areas of your property "green" and planting native plants in your gardens. By having fall-blooming perennial nectar sources for migrating pollinators and songbirds, you're providing food for those species to build the fat reserves that they need to make their epic journeys. By having "green" areas of your property with trees and shrubs, you're providing a sanctuary for migrants during harsh weather and you are giving them a place to rest.
- **Pledge to not use harmful chemicals** in your yard for insects and wildlife such as glyphosates and pyrethroids and making sure you're purchasing plants that are neonicotinoid-free is a huge step in protecting migrating creatures.
- **Turn your outside lights off** at night to help species moving under the cover of darkness.
- **Donate.** New Jersey Audubon's Cape May Bird Observatory is a non-profit. Donations help us be able to continue to collect data in order to conserve these species. A fun way to donate to the Monarch Monitoring Project is that **you can actually "adopt" one of the monarchs we tag**. You'll get a certificate in the mail and if your monarch ends up elsewhere, or in Mexico, we will let you know!

Thank you all for being stewards of the environment and for supporting the Cape May Bird Observatory and its projects. We immensely appreciate all the invaluable contributions you make! If you're ever curious about how migration is going in Cape May, visit us at TrekTellen.org to see real time updates of what we're seeing in the field for all of our monitoring projects!





Cape May Point Taxpayers 2025 Garden Awards

Celebrating Garden Excellence

The Cape May Point Taxpayers Association recently held its annual Garden Awards, honoring creativity and environmental contributions in gardening. This year's event celebrated the hard work and dedication of our community members who have transformed their gardens into beautiful and sustainable spaces.

Award Categories and Winners

The awards were divided into several categories, each recognizing different aspects of gardening excellence.

A special thank you to our dedicated volunteers for their countless hours of planning and working in our community gardens. Your efforts have not only beautified our landscape but also created a welcoming habitat for birds, turtles, butterflies, dragonflies, Milkweed bugs, Monarchs, and people alike. We deeply appreciate all that you do to maintain and enhance our environment, allowing everyone to enjoy the fruits of your labor.

Congratulations to all the winners and participants for their outstanding contributions to our community's beauty and sustainability. We look forward to seeing even more stunning gardens in the years to come!

Grand Prize

Winner: 209 Lighthouse Ave

Spring Awakening

Third Place: 307 Oxford Ave
Second Place: 310 Alexander Ave
First Place: 218 Knox Ave

Endless Hydrangeas

Third Place: 305 Princeton Ave
Second Place: 504 Oak Ave
First Place: 515 Ocean Ave

Welcome Home

Third Place: 519 Pearl Ave
Second Place: 501 Cedar Ave
First Place: 301 Harvard Ave

Heatwave Harmony

Third Place: 300 Lincoln Ave
Second Place: 703 Cape Ave
First Place: 602 W Lake Dr

Shade Gardens

Third Place: 407 E Central Ave
Second Place: 521 E Lake Dr
First Place: 403 Coral Ave

The Quiet Architects

Third Place: 113 Harvard Ave
Second Place: 320 Alexander Ave
First Place: 426 Lighthouse Ave

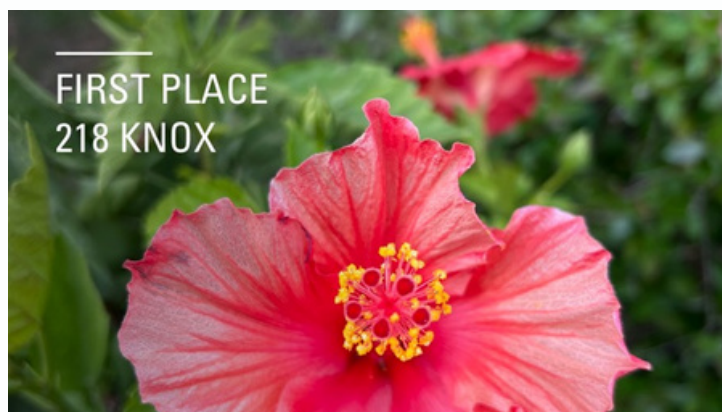
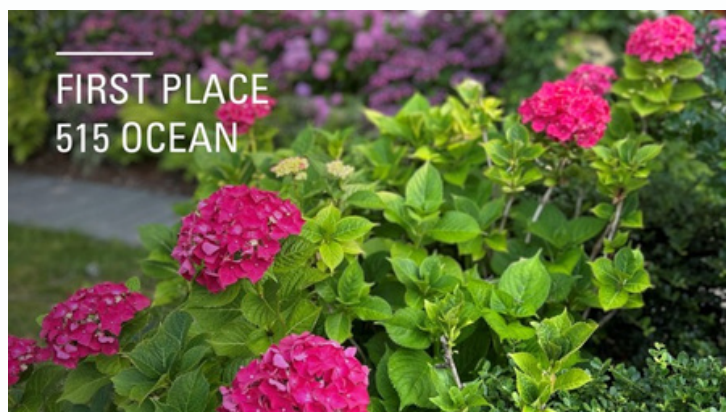
Community Gardens

Lake Lily: Bed 4 Circle Park: Bed 12



Cape May Point Taxpayers 2025 Garden Awards

Celebrating Garden Excellence



Remembering Nanine Lois Biliski Dowling 2/10/1937 - 2/5/2025

Nanine Dowling and her association with America the Beautiful started by Lady Bird Johnson, along with Genevieve van Bever, started the Cape May Point gardening tradition and founded our Annual Garden Awards.



Heritage Awards 2025

Stewards Circle Award

404 Holly Avenue

Janet Westcott

Year Built: Before 1908

The Westcott Cottage shows up on tax rolls in 1908—but its original location was on Brainard Avenue, in a spot that has since become sand dunes. Beach erosion prompted then-owner Anna Morrison to have the two-story summer cottage moved to Holly Avenue in 1944.

Photos show that the building was pretty weather-beaten by that time, and its original wraparound porch did not make the move to Holly Avenue.

Still, as Janet notes, “how cool is it” that nearly eight decades later Ms. Morrison’s great-great-great nephew, Jonathan Wescott, is so dedicated to improving and securing those same Cape May Point dunes.

Anna Morrison was the great-great aunt of Janet’s husband, Joe. And Joe’s parents, Earl and Marian Westcott, bought the cottage in 1969. The structure was by then badly in need of improvements, which Earl Westcott considered a challenge to be lovingly tackled and enjoyed.

Earl Westcott rebuilt a screened-in porch and made a host of other upgrades, while retaining much of the original woodwork and structure. You can still see the original flooring in the front room and some of the original beams and wainscoting in the home.

After Earl and Marian had died, Joe and Janet Westcott purchased the cottage in 1995.

Five years—and many round trips between the Point and their home in Lititz, Pa. later—the Westcotts decided to sell their Pennsylvania house and become fulltime Pointers. This would require significant renovations, as the summer cottage needed heat, A/C, insulation and other upgrades. The process took two years, but in 2002 the Westcotts were able to move to what was a “like new” cottage. They had managed to keep the original cottage appearance while adding with new dining and living rooms, and two new bedrooms.

The home accommodates the entire beach-loving families of sons Joe Jr. and Jonathan, both of whom married their wives on beaches at the Point. Although Joe has passed away, Janet is certain he joins her in “cheering on” the next Westcott generation enjoying the family cottage.



Heritage Awards 2025

Stewards Circle Award

401 Oxford Avenue

Kathy Hogarty

Year Built: 1922

When Kathy Hogarty purchased 401 Oxford Ave. in 1998, she saw it as a diamond in the rough. Its location was—and is—amazing, overlooking Lake Lily. And the cottage style, one-level home sat on a large lot. It had two bedrooms, kitchen and dining and living rooms.

Kathy knew from the start she wanted to add a second floor but to keep the cottage look and feel. There was an attic, but to reach it required a ladder—there were no pulldown stairs. Thus, building a staircase was her first step.

The second floor eventually was created, providing space for two more bedrooms, a full bath and guest closets. The dormers let in copious light and enabled Kathy to gain the additional space without changing the cottage's appearance, as a full second story would have done.

Kathy used architect Bob Bolton and builder Alex Toth to achieve her vision of an expanded home that “looks as if it was always there.”

And then there was the duck dilemma. Web-footed visitors from Lake Lily “virtually took over the front lawn,” Kathy recalled.

To deter the ducks—and allow for beautiful flower gardens surrounding the house—Kathy and landscaper Judith Bernard created curving brick paths and gardens. The gardens have won several awards and—importantly—are crowded with blooms, not ducks.

To create additional outdoor living space, Kathy added a sundeck and brick patio, so there are spots for relaxing in the sun or the shade.

The effect is an updated, larger cottage sensitive to the past of Cape May Point and the original craftsman-style of the home. The diamond has definitely been polished!



Heritage Awards 2025

Community Circle Award Friends of Lake Lily/Bedfellows

As every Pointer knows, Lake Lily is a treasured resource for the borough. The Friends of Lake Lily is a nonprofit devoted to protecting and enhancing the Lake and its environs. Working with dedicated volunteers, the Borough of Cape May Point, New Jersey Audubon, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Friends have for years worked to improve the water quality of the lake, to support wildlife that live there, and to remove invasive species along the shoreline and replace them with native plants.

One aspect of this ongoing mission is the support Friends of Lake Lily has provided for the volunteer Bedfellows who have created and continue to nurture beautiful flower beds on the west side of the lake.

The talented and hard-working volunteers at Lake Lily have expanded the Bedfellows program that began with the extensive beds planted and maintained around the Pavilion Circle. Friends of Lake Lily have supported the Bedfellows with donations for the watering system and plantings in the five beds. And this year, the Taxpayers' Association began to provide small stipends the gardeners can use for plants or other needs.

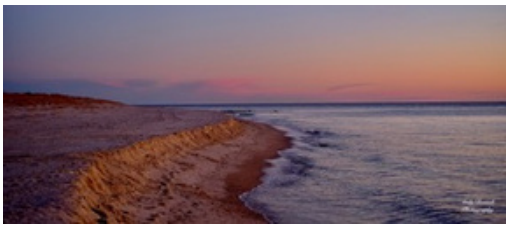
The Lake Lily Bedfellows are:

- Courtney Leo and Neal Apgar
- Ned Cancelmo
- Rita Wade and her twin, Anne Curtin
- Beth and Frank Colasuanno
- Karin King-Rigby

Friends of Lake Lily and the Bedfellows epitomize the community spirit that makes Cape May Point such a special place.



Snapshots Around The Point



Snapshots Around The Point



Above (L-R): Monarch Taggers: Anna Haggenjos, Jack McDonough, Alia Bacon



Elise Geiger receives Unsung Hero Award from CMPBP

