



OUTER CAPE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS NEWSLETTER

This e-newsletter was created by Safe Harbor to support our goal of creating collaborative partnerships between Outer Cape towns, individuals and organizations that share similar environmental challenges. Collaborative efforts protect financial as well as natural resources. Gordon Peabody, Editor.

SOURCE FOR GREEN OFFICE SUPPLIES

www.wbmason.com has recently added a green product link to their web site. Heather Eldredge, Heather.eldredge@WBMason.com is the Outer Cape representative and has worked with Safe Harbor to provide green choices in office supplies. Heather provides free consultations and free delivery.

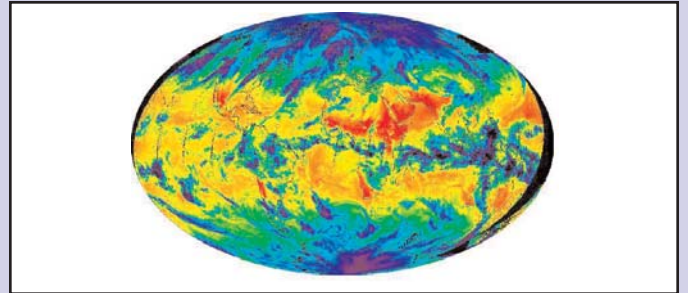
RUNNING OUT OF TIME AFTER 450 MILLION YEARS?

Audubon's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary is seeking volunteers for a Horseshoe Crab census Wellfleet@massaudubon.org.

Dr. Dan Gibson (dgibson@wpi.edu) has been studying the biology, development, and ecology of these ancient survivors.



SEMINAR SCHEDULE



Safe Harbor and OCEAN newsletter are co-sponsoring Climate Change seminars for each town on the Outer Cape. Background dynamics impacting world climate change are explained using incredible satellite photos. Projected changes, which are already beginning, are discussed including temperature, precipitation, terrestrial and marine habitats and storm characteristics. Town by town sea level changes over the next 90 years are shown.

Wednesday, April 23, Truro Public Library at 6:30 PM

Thursday, April 24, Chatham Eldridge Library at 7:00 PM

Wednesday, April 30, Orleans Life Center (47 Main St. across from Whole Food Store) at 7:30 PM

Thursday, May 1, Wellfleet Public Library at 7:00 PM

Tuesday, May 6, Provincetown Unitarian Universalist Meeting House (236 Commercial St.) at 7:00 PM

These seminars are presented as part of our environmental education initiative. We need to make educated choices about energy use because the children will inherit our decisions.

Contact Elspethsafeharbor@yahoo.com for additional information, or call Gordon Peabody at (508) 237-3724.

CONSERVATION OF BIOMASS, INNOVATIVE CONCEPT FOR NATIVE VEGETATION

What if we used the same excavation equipment that would normally destroy construction site vegetation, to first carefully remove the vegetation for replanting later? Safe Harbor is currently exploring the potential to remove and reuse indigenous vegetation as a component of sequenced construction. We are also experimenting with on-site nursery areas for healing in native vegetation over longer time periods. Removing vegetation groups with a sufficient soil mass will contribute to a better survival rate. We believe native soil, with intact soil chemistry, vegetation, microorganism and micro invertebrate communities are a natural resource worth saving. We have posted photos showing our results so far on our web site's IMAGES page.

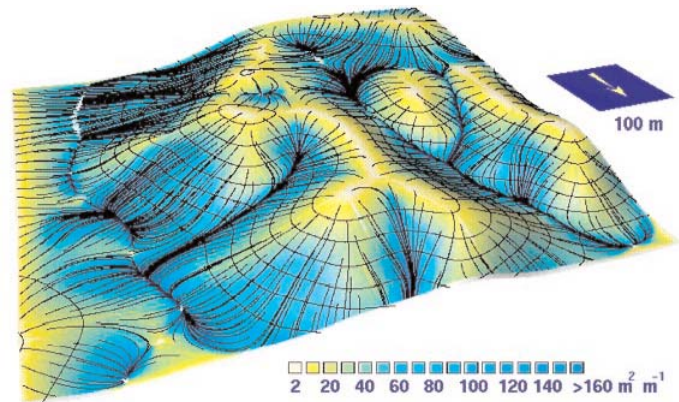


Left to right: Kevin Rose, excavator; Bob Bacon, contractor; Elspeth Pierson and Gordon Peabody, Safe Harbor.

SUSTAINABLE WIND ENERGY INITIATIVE

Safe harbor is beginning a two year sustainable wind energy initiative to support the residential use of vertical axis wind turbines (VAWT). Grants and low interest energy loans are two incentive avenues we are researching. We believe VAWTs are a practical alternative to louder, more intrusive, propellor driven turbines. By the end of 2008, these fast payback and bird friendly sustainable energy systems with modest height requirements (including rooftop models) will be available for Outer Cape residents.

We are also advocating exploration of protecting "windsheds" as natural resource areas requiring protection from wind altering intrusions. Check our **ADVOCACY** page on our web site under **SUSTAINABLE WIND ENERGY CHOICES**. We will be providing regular updates in **OCEAN** and future Cape wide seminars.



BEETLE BATTLES

Updates on the recent surge in world tree mortality from boring beetles is not reassuring. Warming temperatures associated with climate change have drastically reduced beetle mortality while increasing their range. Winter temperatures have been elevated by +2-3 degrees F on the Outer Cape. This change increases pine borer beetle survival rates. Warming temperatures also stress native pines. Stressed, damaged and weakened pine trees produce chemical signals that attract pine borer beetles. Beetles bore a hole in the lower trunk to lay their eggs. Dripping sap on the lower trunk of your pine tree attracts more beetles and is a signal. The eggs hatch and larvae interrupt sap flow to the branches. Browning needles are a warning.

The greatest threat to pine trees comes from how we have been dealing with the problem. Infected trees are cut down and chipped. This activity preserves eggs and allows larvae and hatching beetles to move elsewhere. Countries such as Japan, with limited wood resources, have mandated immediate burning of trees infested with beetles having a similar life cycle. Safe Harbor is advocating the cut and burn policy for the Outer Cape.



BEETLE BATTLES (CONTINUED)



OCEAN FRIENDLY SEAFOOD

Our friend Loree Burns tracks sneakers and plastic bath tub toys lost from trans Pacific shipping containers, around the world's ocean currents. Hundreds of broken containers may be lost in ocean storms annually. Loree (Loreegriffinburns@yahoo.com) describes her unusual quest tracking these unusual castaways and the unusual people who helped, in her book "Tracking Trash," published last year by Houghton Mifflin Co. in Boston, MA. Loree just sent us an Ocean Friendly Fish link that provides ecological information on our seafood choices. www.blueocean.org/seafood/

Thank you to Whitney Ward of Perth, Australia and Boston, USA, and soon to be London, England. Whitney has promised to continue sharing her technical and creative skills in producing OCEAN. Whitney works professionally in the publishing field. doppiavu@yahoo.com.