



OUTER CAPE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS NEWSLETTER

This e-newsletter was created by Safe Harbor to encourage collaborative partnerships between Outer Cape towns, groups, and individuals seeking innovative solutions to shared environmental issues. Collaborative efforts save financial as well as natural resources. Information in this newsletter should be considered public domain and may be shared. We believe in protecting natural resources through education. Thank you for supporting our efforts.

Gordon Peabody, Editor

USING CONSTRUCTION WASTE AS A RESOURCE

Safe Harbor recently created a Reallocation of Resources Initiative (RRI) as a pilot project in response to our involvement in the complexities of today's building activities and the growing mandate for resource recycling. RRI's main goal is to decrease the volume of our building resources being diverted to landfills. We are currently developing a communications network connecting local communities and green builders with available resources from ongoing demolition and construction projects. Reclaimed resources save financial resources as well. One success from the RRI program has been reallocating biomass for the new wood fired kiln at Castle Hill Center for the Arts. More information is available on our web site.



Reuse biomass locally

Continued

CONSTRUCTION WASTE—Cont.



Castle Hill wood kiln

CONSERVATION COMMISSION DIRECTORY

2009 Edition of Outer Cape Conservation Commission Directory is now available on our web site and also in pdf format for downloading and printing.

It contains important Conservation Commission schedules, deadlines, contact information and submission requirements from Chatham and Brewster to Provincetown.

OCEAN newsletter would like to thank Whitney Ward of London, England for her generous contribution of effort, talent in the production of our newsletter.

SCREW PILES

Low Impact Construction Alternative

Joy Cuming of Architects Studio Ltd of Wellfleet MA, www.archstudioltd.com (soon to be Aline Architecture in Orleans MA) often collaborates with Safe Harbor to research innovative, low impact construction techniques. Screw piles are a low impact system Joy advocates and utilizes. A hydraulic torque device is used to insert steel, helical piles. Each pile takes just a few minutes. They offer a thoughtful alternative to standard excavation activity for pilings in sensitive environmental areas.



Joy Cuming watches the installation process.

Continued

SCREW PILES—Cont.



BUY LOCAL THROUGH SEMAP

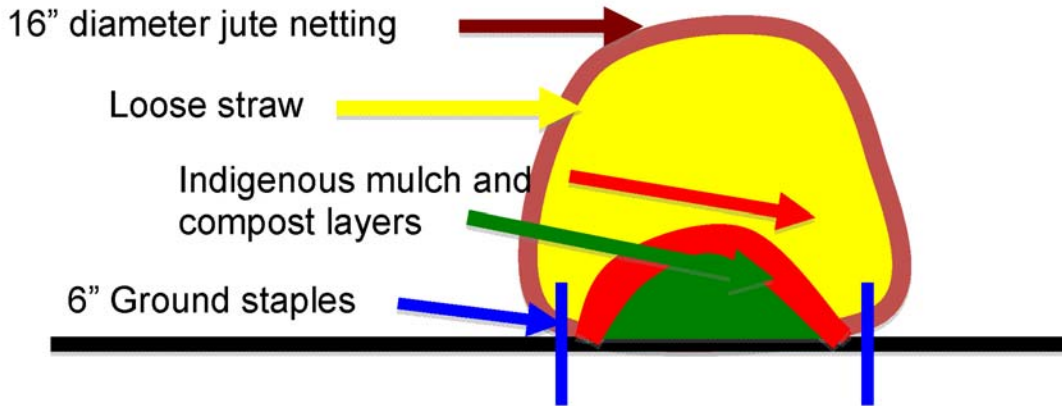
This non-profit South Eastern Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership, affiliated with University of MA, lists local farm, shellfish and fish suppliers.

When we buy local, we know where our food is coming from. Buying local also reduces demand for products trucked in from out of state, supports local jobs and keeps the money in our community. Google SEMAP.



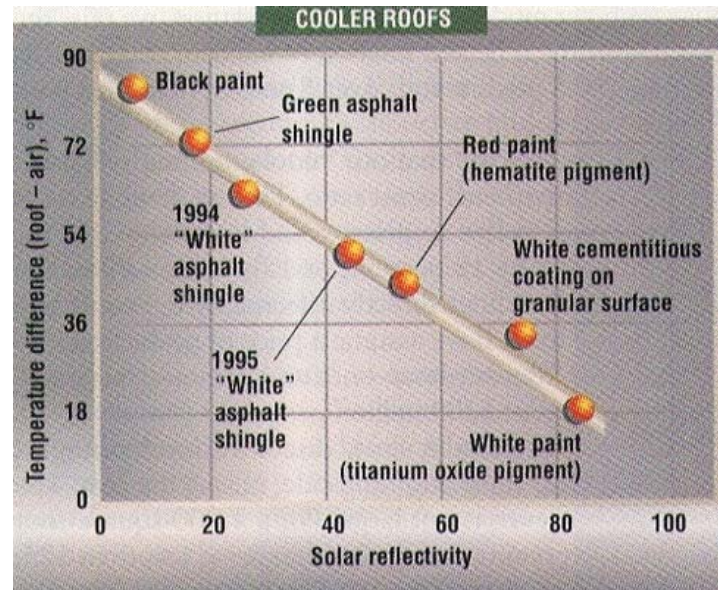
INNOVATIVE “SEED CATCHER” COLLECTS AND GERMINATES INDIGENOUS SEEDS

Safe Harbor is experimenting with an innovative device for habitat restoration. Lines of straw filled seed catchers use jute netting to trap wind blown seeds from adjacent habitats. Wind vibrates the loose straw, directing seeds onto a surface with poor nutrient and low pH values similar to indigenous soil. Indigenous seeds germinate in this environment. The straw moderates temperature and moisture spikes. Most invasive seeds fail to germinate. Native seeds, like those of us who live here, seem to thrive on poor nutrients.

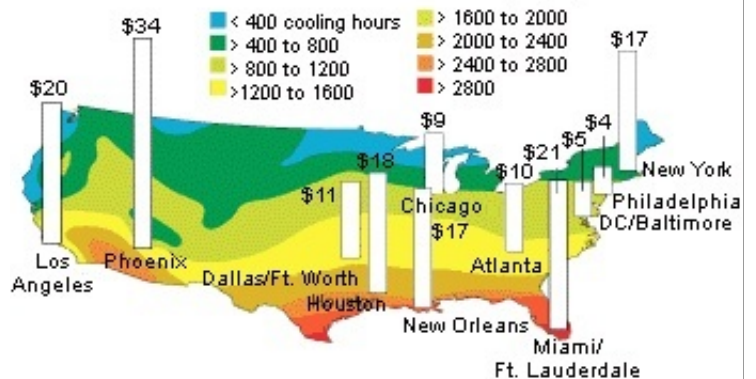


WHITE ROOFS SAVE MONEY

Recent research has shown reduced cooling costs in buildings using white roofs. Savings in our latitude would be \$17 for every thousand square feet of roof/per year. This should be a consideration in carbon footprints. Collectively, white roofs also make a critical contribution to reducing our planetary temperature by reflecting short wave light radiation before it becomes absorbed as heat.



Metropolitan-scale savings per 1000 ft² of roof area of air-conditioned buildings (\$).



SOFT SOLUTION COASTAL EROSION ALTERNATIVE

Safe Harbor advocates “soft solutions” to coastal bank erosion on the Outer Cape. There are no truly simple solutions and engineered solutions often contribute to secondary issues of seasonal nourishment, end scour and turtle barriers.



Erosion created by beach steps.



Eroded grades re-connected.



Over bank nourishment.



Indigenous vegetation transplanted.

FRIENDS OF HERRING RIVER

www.friendsofherringriver.org

Friends of Herring River provide opportunities for shell fishermen, residents and students to support Wellfleet’s Herring River salt marsh restoration. Progress and information is updated through their email newsletter.



Salt marshes feed oysters.



The oyster is our world.

INVASIVE SPECIES UPDATE

This mussel shell is covered with didendum, a yellow/orange tunicate (from the word tunic, as in wrapped around) that has been migrating into New England with warming sea temperatures and abundant nutrients which support its phytoplankton food source. Once a colony finds a support surface, it seriously takes over. We have a video on our web site showing fishing grounds carpeted with tunicates. The only known local predators are periwinkles, which feed on didendum when its body pH changes in the winter, possibly from low food supply stress.

Didendum is killed by exposure to sunlight for several hours. Scraping off living colonies into seawater will produce multiple new colonies.

Thousands of these small, green algae balls arrived on Provincetown beaches one morning last summer. Chaetomorpha sp. (a spaghetti like algae) is usually found in warmer waters. The structure of this algae provides a handy transport mechanism for other species from its home habitat.



Tunicates are killed by exposure to light.



Mystery balls identified