



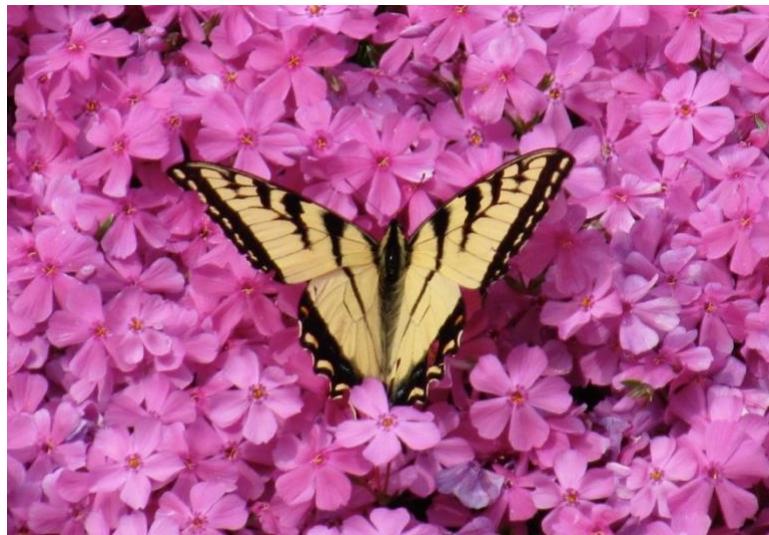
Helping to Preserve Our Quality of Life on Cape Cod

POCCA cares about water on Cape Cod and gives tips to protect it
By sharing ideas to 'do less and get more' out of what lives on your land.

Rewilding works!

It's a new season, let's introduce a new way of thinking when it comes to caring for our land.

Land has a right to 'live' to support oxygen for the microorganisms we can't imagine,
billions per teaspoon, land deserves to live *well* under our care.



Rather than backing away from new environmental changes of droughts occurring yearly, pour into a new attitude with a sense of duty to pollinators and wildlife who are doing their best to thrive in our trimmed yards. Wildlife needs a diverse plant selection. Non-native lawns that are groomed weekly offer nothing for species who depend on native flora here. If we rid the

very vegetation animals/insects depend on, the entire ecosystem can fall out of whack. Let's not create 'food deserts' for our backyard creatures, grow a diverse variety of native species each season to replace the areas we took for patios, buildings, and driveways.



If you could have a green lawn but not have to waste precious water and apply fertilizers, it would be a win-win situation. Having blends of grass involving turf type tall fescue mixed with clover is a great idea. The turf type tall fescue itself requires much less water than Kentucky bluegrass, it is resistant to many known turf diseases that people typically apply chemicals to prevent, and it can survive with no fertilizer. Mixed with clover, the area becomes self-fertilizing because the clover converts an incredible amount of nitrogen gas into plant accessible ammonium and nitrate — providing free natural fertilizer to the lawn.



You don't need to be lawn-less to make positive change. Have a bit of lawns for kids to play and pups to roam, but a big lawn becomes a serious water hog. Look into native ground cover options, and chose xeriscaping; choosing plants that don't require watering beyond the first year. And don't forget to add bird baths and bat houses and become a backyard beekeeper to help. Rewilding works. Plant the right plants and nature will come, you'll see. Leave habitat shelters of brush piles with last year's perennial cuttings, for many creatures are cavity nesters needing a safe space to dodge predators. Imagine all seeking dwellings? If you mow and blow and weed whack weekly, butterflies can't grow there. Of course, chemicals are not needed to grow grass, and use fertilizer as a last resort. These choices help protect the water we rely on, ponds to swim in and oceans from red tide.

So, set up your land to become a wildlife stopover!



In the fast-changing world we live in, small choices have a big outcome.

So often we need to look twice at our home, the Cape, to see how beautiful it is here naturally.

Treat it with less and receive more wildlife.



Remember, you are your garden angel so bring on the herbs, native flowers, edible plants, new garden designs, rotate your beds each year and add leaf compost to ground covers, lawns and gardens to keep your land fresh and exciting!

For more ideas how to protect our precious water on Cape Cod, visit:

~ POCCA Cape Cod ~

www.poccacapecod.org

~ All photos taken by:
Laura Kelley ~