

# Coastal Salt Marsh Symposium

## Science. Solutions. Stewardship

Protecting, Restoring & Monitoring Salt Marsh  
Change in Pleasant Bay & Beyond

Monday, March 30, 2026  
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
Chatham Community Center  
702 Main Street, Chatham, MA

## Why Salt Marshes Matter

Salt marshes quietly protect our communities every day. They absorb storm surge, filter pollutants, stabilize shorelines, support fisheries, and provide essential wildlife habitat. But across Cape Cod — including Pleasant Bay — marshes are struggling to keep pace with sea-level rise and increasing environmental pressures.

This symposium brings together scientists, engineers, and municipal leaders to translate cutting-edge research into practical solutions communities can implement now.

## What You'll Learn



### Understanding the Challenge

Understanding the Change

What is happening to Pleasant Bay's salt marshes — and why.

Learn how sea-level rise, sediment supply, and hydrology are shaping marsh health.



### Proven Restoration Strategies

Restoration That Works

Explore real-world projects like Muddy Creek, Frost Fish Creek, Namequoit River, and Living Shoreline projects.

Learn what measurable outcomes tell us about effective intervention.



### Tools for Action

Practical Tools for Communities

Clear guidance on thin-layer deposition, runneling, marsh migration planning, and new and evolving state regulations towns can implement today.

## Featured Speakers

### Sophia Fox, Ph.D.

Aquatic Ecologist  
Cape Cod National Seashore

#### Keynote Speaker

Overview of salt marsh function, stress response, and resilience.

### Catherine Ricks

Coastal Resilience  
Director  
Town of Chatham

Community-based sea-level rise planning.

### Katie Castagno, Ph.D.

Director of Land-Sea Interaction  
Center for Coastal Studies

Research on marsh change and coastal adaptation.

### Carole Ridley

Coordinator  
Pleasant Bay Alliance

Regional watershed collaboration.

### Amy Ball, PWS, CWS

Senior Ecologist  
Horsley Witten Group

Wetland restoration and applied ecology.

### Greg Berman

Director of Natural Resources  
Town of Chatham

Municipal coastal management and implementation.

### Tom Keras

Director of Land Management  
Orleans Conservation Trust

Land stewardship and habitat protection.

## Why This Matters

Communities are increasingly asked to make difficult choices about coastal management, restoration investments, and regulations. This program translates technical research into practical guidance that local officials, property owners, and residents can understand and use.

## What You'll Learn

You'll leave with a clearer understanding of:

- What is happening to our marshes
- Which restoration approaches are working
- What tools towns can implement today

## Who Should Attend

Conservation commissioners  
Town officials  
Coastal property owners  
Environmental professionals  
Residents who care about Pleasant Bay

## Join us in Turning Knowledge Into Action

Space is limited. Advanced registration encouraged.

[Register Now](#)