



In this issue:

- **Announcing SSCW's exciting new program: "Adopt a Beach."** [Read on](#) to learn more about it and an upcoming information session.
- On Tuesday, January 12 there is a [free lecture](#) on the **giant floating garbage patch in the Pacific** by a researcher who's been there and studied it.

Learn About SSCW's Exciting New Program-- [Adopt a Beach!](#)

**Information Session:
Wednesday, January 20, 7:30-8:30 pm
Beverly Library, 32 Essex St, in the Barnet Gallery**

First it was highways, then it was traffic islands, and now it's beaches! Yes, now through Salem Sound Coastwatch, you can Adopt a Beach.

The first of its kind in our area, Adopt a Beach volunteers will become "beachkeepers." The program is year round, and the volunteers will look for sources of contamination (including pet waste), observe conditions such as erosion and the influx of invasive plants, and of course, clean up trash and debris--especially after storms.

The goal of this program is to create a community effort and a "ready-response" to help protect our coastal habitats and waters.



Here's how it will work:

- Each adopted beach will have a team of volunteer beachkeepers.
- Beachkeepers will be trained on how to identify nonpoint source pollution, the impacts of climate change, how coastal pollution affects wildlife, how to identify invasive species, and more.
- After the training, each team will work with SSCW to conduct a visual survey of their adopted beach and develop an action plan.
- Volunteers get to choose which beach they'd like to work on.
- To ensure the longevity of the program, underwriters, including businesses and corporations, will be solicited. Please let us know if you would like to help with this aspect of the program, or if you know of any potential underwriters.
- Initial funding has been provided by the **Massachusetts Environmental Trust through the sale of environmental license plates**. (A new land & water conservation plate will soon be released. [Be the first on your block to get one!](#))

The beauty of this program is that the volunteers can respond to problems as they arise, in places that they care about.

Next Steps:

Sound interesting? Come to the information session at the Beverly Library, Thursday, January 20, 7:30 pm. Concerned that you're not part of a group? Don't worry--SSCW will bring people together to create the teams. Have a group that you would like to get involved? That's good too. Feel free to contact us if you have questions. 978-741-7900 or info@salemsound.org.

"A sea of Simmering Synthetic Soup...The Plastic Concoction that is Poisoning Our Oceans, Our Planet, Ourselves."

This is the topic of a **free lecture** sponsored by the Marine Science Center in Nahant. You've probably heard about the enormous swath of garbage floating in the Pacific....

The presenter, Charles Moore, has recently completed a 7-week journey to document this phenomenon. He is the founder of the Algalita Marine Research Foundation which is mapping plastic pollution in the ocean.

This should be an interesting evening!

Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at the Marine Science Center, 430 Nahant Rd, Nahant, MA 01908.
Refreshments 6:30 pm; Program 7:00 pm.

For more information contact mscinfo@neu.edu or call Carole McCauley, 781-581-7370, ext 321

In closing, we applaud the US Coast Guard for investigating SSCW's concerns with the Rockmore Company's illegal dumping of raw sewage which has contaminated our beaches and the waters of Salem Sound.

[Click here](#) to read the in-depth article in the Marblehead Reporter.

Barbara Warren, Executive Director
Susan Yochelson, Outreach Coordinator

ps--Thank you to everyone who generously donated to SSCW's year-end appeal. It was our most successful yet, and we are deeply appreciative.