

# Salem SoundNet

November 2008 Newsletter



## Join us for the SSCW Annual Meeting – November 13

You are invited to attend SSCW's Annual Meeting, Thursday evening, November 13 at the Phillips Library of the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem.

Our guest speaker, Dr. John Hayes, Professor of Geography at Salem State College will be talking about "**Climate Change and New England.**" He will address the following questions:

- **What are some of the coastal and land-based impacts?**
- **Why climate scientists are increasingly worried about the geography of and rate of these changes?**
- **Are we building momentum for change that will not stop?**

Please join us for an interesting and informative evening.

### Where and When:

Thursday, November 13.

Phillips Library, 132 Essex Street in Salem

**6:30 pm** for Informal Reception with Refreshments; **7:00 pm** - Program Begins

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## Ready or Not, Climate Change is Happening

Rising sea levels eroding our shoreline, warmer water temperatures threatening coastal habitats, increased flooding from storm surges and more frequent storms .....

These are just a few of the impacts we can expect from our changing climate. Coastal communities are vulnerable, and local communities need to start planning to address these increased risks.

SSCW's newest initiative is to partner with the Massachusetts Bays Program to bring EPA's newly created **Climate Ready Estuaries** program to our watershed. Mass Bays is one of six National Estuary programs nationwide selected to participate in this pilot project.



Climate Ready Estuaries' goal is to help communities understand and adapt to climate change through pro-active planning by looking at sea walls, salt marshes, flood plains, and other vulnerable areas.

Adapting to climate change is different from mitigating climate change, but both are necessary. Mitigation works to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that advance climate change. Adaptation starts with the assumption that our climate is already shifting and that we need strategies that will keep our communities resilient, safe and sustainable in the face of change.

As the Climate Ready Estuaries program develops and we learn what is needed to protect at-risk areas, SSCW will help our local communities address these new concerns.

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## Turn Those Golden Leaves into "Black Gold"

### Don't bag 'em--compost 'em.

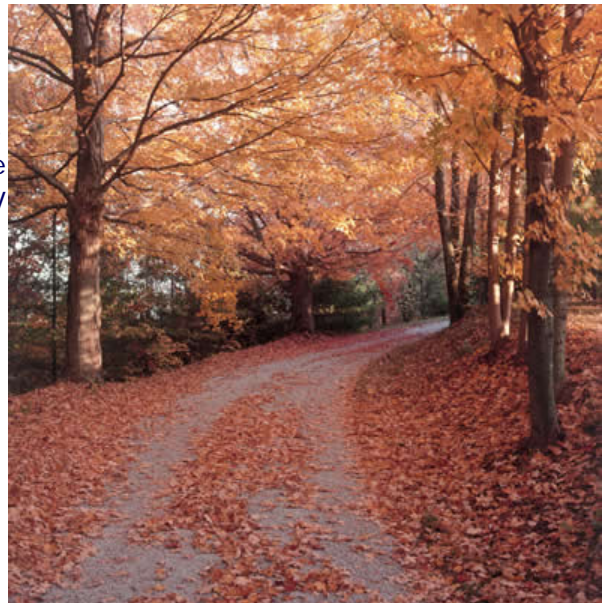
Forget fertilizers. The best way to have healthy plants (including lawns) is to enrich your soil with the minerals and nutrients found in high quality compost. It's easy to make and saves you money.

### How to begin?

You don't need a composter, but if you have one, fill it 3/4 full of leaves (they provide the needed carbon). Then as you get them, bury uncooked kitchen scraps and coffee grounds (no meat, dairy or oils) in the leaves--they will provide the needed nitrogen.

### The ratio is three parts leaves to one part kitchens scraps and coffee grinds.

Throw in some soil, make sure everything is kept moist, wait patiently, and voila--you will eventually have wonderful compost for your lawn and garden.



### No compost bin? No problem.

- Fill a plastic garbage bag or trash barrel with leaves and vegetable kitchen scraps or grass clippings or coffee grinds (which are readily available at Starbucks). You need both for the right balance of carbon and nitrogen.
- Poke some holes in the bag or barrel and wet the leaves so they're damp, not soaking. Close the bag/cover the barrel.
- Add some soil, mix it up, keep the leaves moist, and shake it up every now and again. You will be rewarded

For more information on composting, consult the Greenscapes Guide at [www.greenscapes.org](http://www.greenscapes.org).

## Attention State Employees:

[COMECC](#), the state employee charity campaign is in full swing. **Salem Sound Coastwatch's number is:**

**793522** (page 41 of the brochure).

Spread the word. Help support Salem Sound Coastwatch. Thank you.

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We'll close by announcing we just learned that the City of Salem has been awarded a \$500,000 grant to make improvements at Furlong Park, which is on the North River on Franklin Street. SSCW and residents of the surrounding neighborhood helped make this happen. Thanks to all who have been involved!

Sincerely,

Barbara Warren, Executive Director,  
Susan Yochelson, Outreach Coordinator