FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sixteen North Shore Communities participate in Greenscapes Program

The Greenscapes North Shore Coalition is pleased to announce that 16 communities on the North Shore have joined this year’s Greenscapes program. Greenscapes are environmentally-friendly lawn and yard care practices that create healthy and attractive lawns and gardens which can be maintained with very little water and chemicals.

The cornerstone of the Greenscapes program is a colorful yard care pocket calendar filled with easy to follow lawn and yard care tips. The calendar, which starts in April and runs through March 2010, will be available free to residents of participating communities.

Other services provided by the Greenscapes program include discounts on drought tolerant plants at several area nurseries; a monthly email newsletter; a website filled with yard care information; discounted private consultations with a professional landscaper; sales of discounted sprinkler timers; and more.

“We are very excited about the number of communities participating in the Greenscapes program,” said Barbara Warren, Executive Director of Salem Sound Coastwatch.

“Contaminated runoff is the largest source of pollution of our local waters,” she continued. “By following Greenscaping practices, homeowners can prevent chemicals such as fertilizers and pesticides from fouling our waters.”

“Greenscaping practices also help homeowners reduce water use, saving them money on water bills and leaving water in our rivers and wetlands to the benefit our local ecosystems and wildlife,” adds Kerry Mackin the Executive Director of the Ipswich River Watershed Association.
The following communities are participating in Greenscapes: Andover, Beverly, Boxford, Danvers, Georgetown, Marblehead, Merrimac, Middleton, Newbury, Peabody, Rowley, Salem, Salisbury, Topsfield, West Newbury and Wenham.

The Greenscapes North Shore program is coordinated by Salem Sound Coastwatch, the Ipswich River Watershed Association, and Eight Towns and the Bay. Communities from across Massachusetts, including the North Shore, South Shore, and Connecticut River Valley are participating in the 2009 Greenscapes program.

For more information visit www.greenscapes.org or contact Salem Sound Coastwatch, 978-741-7900 or email info@salemsound.org.

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