

## Half Staff – Chip Norton

**January 13, 2014**

Rockport, MA - Chip Norton, 56, of Rockport, passed away of natural causes on January 13, 2014. The son of Frederick Norton Jr. and Janet (Smith) Goddard, Chip was raised and lived all of his life in Rockport, which fostered his love and respect for nature.

As a boy, Chip enjoyed working on the family farm in Annisquam with his grandfather, Frederick Norton Sr., as well as sailing on the waters of Cape Ann.

He attended the University of Maine where he attained a degree in Forest Management, furthering his love for and commitment to the outdoors. In his work, Chip pursued many environmental projects that led to him being appointed as Watershed Manager for the Cambridge Water Department in 1991, a position he held until his passing. Chip championed many projects with the Cambridge Water Department that resulted in vast restoration and improvement of the Cambridge watershed area.

People who knew Chip admired him for his unwavering dedication to family and community, a love of the outdoors, humor and friendship. He always had a project to work on, from clearing out trails on Thacher's Island in his younger years, to protecting public rights of way in Rockport as an adult, to building a strip-plank kayak just last year. He enjoyed rowing with the Gloucester Maritime Heritage Center Gig Rowers, biking and walking the trails of Dogtown. He often volunteered at various events around Cape Ann, was a mentor for the Backyard Growers Program and paddled more than ten times in the Blackburn Challenge.

Chip was a loving husband to his wife, Hope Norton, whom he married in 1985. He was an amazing father to his children, Corey, Julia and Grace as well as a beloved grandfather to Thatcher and Andrew. He spearheaded annual family camping trips to Rangeley, Maine, and could be found at any and all sporting, school or life events supporting and cheering on his family. He was Chip's Taxi, Chip's Moving and Storage Co. and Chip's Catering and Event Planning – he did it all.

Chip is survived by his wife, Hope; his children, Corey, Julia and Grace; sister, Debi; Corey's wife, Cheryl Mackay; two grandsons, Thatcher and Andrew; and many relatives throughout Cape Ann. He was predeceased by his parents, Frederick Norton Jr. and Janet (Smith) Goddard and sister, Wendy Johnson.

A memorial service was held on January 20, 2014, at the First Congregational Church of Rockport where he was honored by over 400 friends and family members. Chip was a mentor and friend to many. His memory will live forever through the impact he had on all of us. ARRANGEMENTS: A memorial service will be held on Monday, January 20, at the First Congregational Church of Rockport at 11 a.m. with a reception to follow. Flowers may be sent to the church prior to the service. Arrangements are by the Burgess & Mackey Funeral Home, 201 Main St., Rockport, MA. Online condolences may be given at [www.burgessandmackey.com](http://www.burgessandmackey.com).