

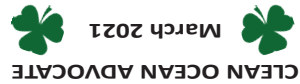


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Follow COA on Social Media For Ocean Updates!

LABEL

On February 26th Clean Ocean Action celebrated 37 years of events, programs, and actions to improve and protect the ocean with a Virtual "Under the Sea" Birthday Party for kids.



Clean Ocean Action  
49 Avenel Blvd.  
Long Branch, NJ 07740  
www.CleanOceanAction.org  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## Tributes

### In Memory of:

Priscilla Anderson-Molloy  
Robert Bennekamper  
Charles "Chip" Bruett

Peter Cauterucci  
Robert F. Connors  
Elaine B. Denman

Bernard Graebener  
Kathleen M. Martin  
Thomas W. Matchett

Carol Anne Ross  
Barbara Jane Thompson  
Gary Zweig

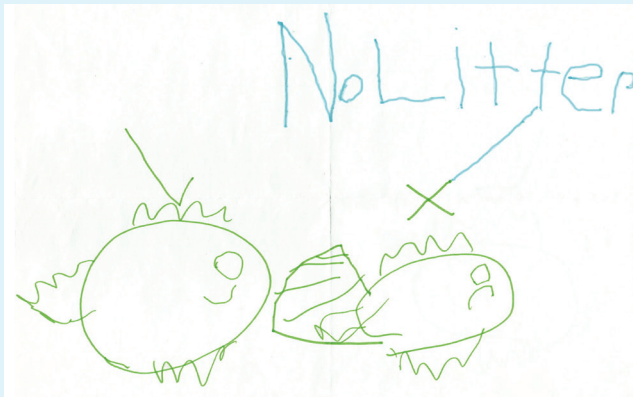
### In Honor of:

Happy Birthday to Tori Draper

Leo and Cormac Hackett-Herrala

Van Nguyen

*Congratulations to Leo and Cormac Hackett-Herrala for being honored by their parents with a donation to Clean Ocean Action! The donation included a drawing by 5-year old Leo of a "happy fish" (left in photo) swimming in a clean ocean, as well as a "sad fish" (right in photo) swimming in an ocean littered with trash. Thank you, Leo, for your concern for the fish and for spreading the word about protecting the ocean! Leo's mom Emily worked for COA in the past managing many successful and fun events and activities. Now the whole family joins in! We salute Leo, Cormac and their parents for helping form the next generation of environmental activists!*



Ryan Struck Photography

# CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE

Defending the Sea Since 1984

March 2021

## POLICY

Kari Martin, Advocacy Campaign Manager, Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org

### A New Day for Climate & Environmental Action

The new federal Administration and US Congress is launching numerous initiatives to address climate change impacts and issues. US Representative Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ-6), also Chairman of the US House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee, spoke at a February 9th Environment and Climate Change Subcommittee hearing titled, "Back in Action: Restoring Federal Climate Leadership." In his remarks, Mr. Pallone said, "It's a new day for climate and environmental action in the United States." He also announced an updated version of the CLEAN Future Act will be introduced shortly to target a 100% clean economy by no later than 2050. For information about House Committee on Energy & Commerce initiatives, including climate change and the environment, check out [EnergyCommerce.house.gov](https://energycommerce.house.gov).



### Help Put a Lid on Single-Use Plastics, Nationwide



The Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act is anticipated to be reintroduced by US Representative Alan Lowenthal (D-CA) sometime in March. It is the first comprehensive bill in Congress to address the plastic pollution crisis. The bill has several important components such as: (a) creating a nationwide "bottle bill" (where bottles have deposits for return), (b) establishing minimum recycled content requirements, (c) prohibiting single-use plastic carryout bags, (d) developing standardized recycling and composting labels, (e) temporarily pausing the permitting and construction of new plastic production facilities, and (f) phasing-out additional single-use plastic items.

You can help get support for this bill! Currently, Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ-12) is the only Representative from NJ signed-on as co-sponsor of the bill. More co-sponsors from New Jersey, New York, and other states, are needed to provide momentum for this bill. Contact your US Representatives and urge them to sign-on as co-sponsors of the bill. To find and contact your Representative, enter your zip code in the top right box at [House.gov](https://house.gov).

### Connor Fagan Joins the Crew

COA is inspired and delighted to introduce Connor Fagan as our Legal Policy Advocate. Growing up splashing around the marshy, fascinating waters near his home in New Orleans, Connor's interest in the environment "got personal" when in 2005 "the muddy 17th Street Canal poured into his community and through his living room," as Hurricane Katrina ravaged the region. While his family was fortunate not to lose their home, Connor -- the middle schooler-- was profoundly and forever moved by the experience. Indeed, Connor's education speaks volumes as he navigated toward environmental advocacy:

- Louisiana State University, Paul M. Hebert Law Center Juris Doctor
- Rhodes College, Bachelor of Arts in History, Minors in English, Environmental Studies
- Duke University, Environmental Communications Planning Certificate
- University of Michigan, Community Organizing for Social Justice (in progress)
- American Association for the Advancement of Science, Science Policy Program

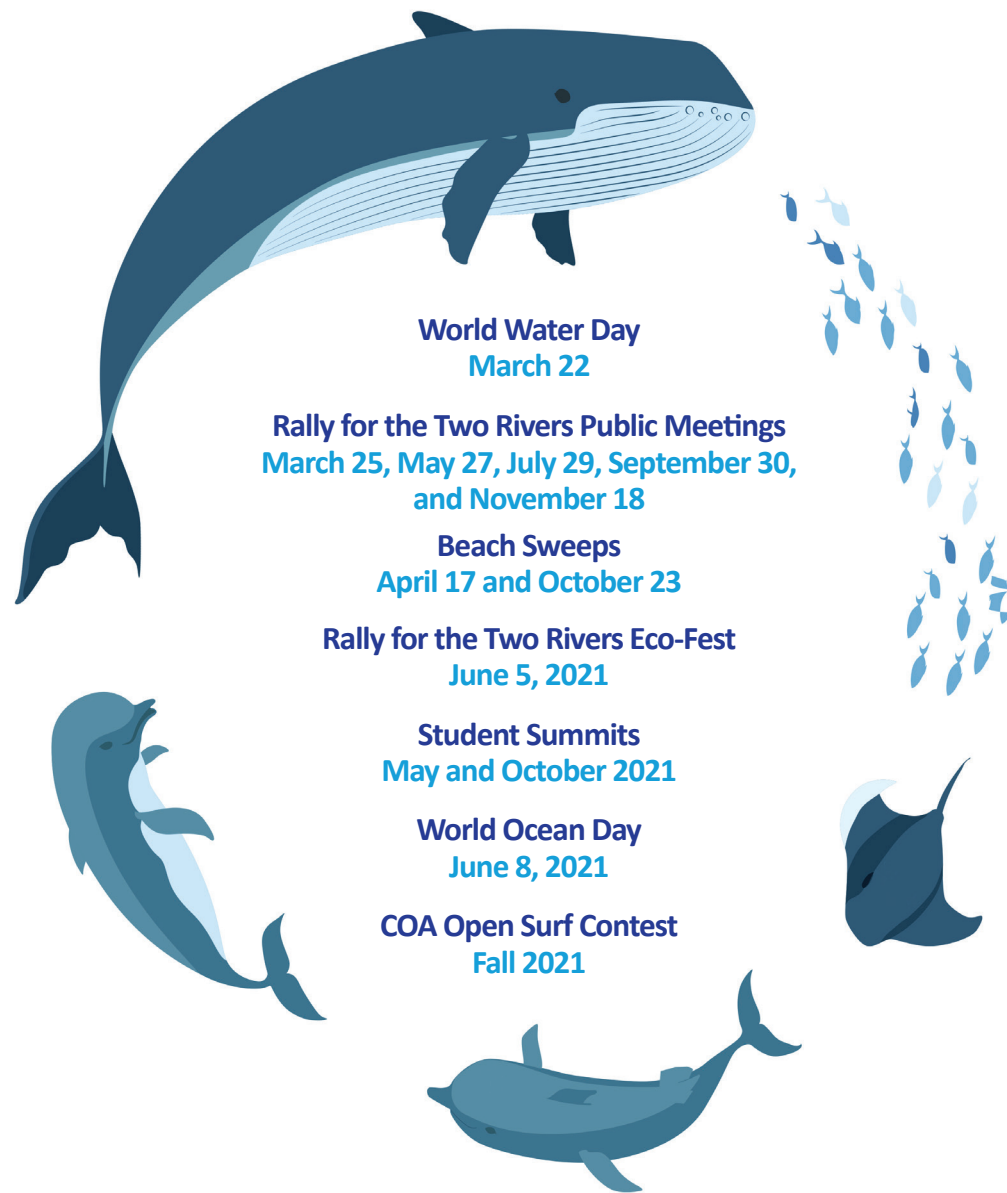
In law school, Connor's peers were so impressed and inspired they voted him President of LSU Environmental Law Society. After receiving his Juris Doctorate, Connor's leadership and excellence led to a Knauss Fellowship—a highly competitive and distinguished program through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s Sea Grant program. As a Fellow he worked for the Marine Mammal Commission and served on the Fellowship's Justice, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

Connor's journey has led him to not only understand how laws are made and how they work, but most importantly, how the powers that truly be—we the people-- can change them. Needless to say—he is perfect for the job! Welcome Aboard, Connor!





## MARK YOUR CALENDARS



**World Water Day**  
**March 22**

**Rally for the Two Rivers Public Meetings**  
**March 25, May 27, July 29, September 30,**  
**and November 18**

**Beach Sweeps**  
**April 17 and October 23**

**Rally for the Two Rivers Eco-Fest**  
**June 5, 2021**

**Student Summits**  
**May and October 2021**

**World Ocean Day**  
**June 8, 2021**

**COA Open Surf Contest**  
**Fall 2021**



### Calling All Beach Sweepers!

Join Clean Ocean Action with feet on the beach and hands in the sand on Saturday, April 17th, 9am-12:30pm! COA will be implementing COVID-19 protocols at the Beach Sweeps, in accordance with state and CDC guidelines. Registration opens in early March. Visit [CleanOceanAction.org](https://CleanOceanAction.org) to learn more.

COA is seeking sponsors to support the 36th Annual Beach Sweeps, the largest environmental grassroots event in the state! If your business is looking to support an impactful environmental initiative, please contact [info@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:info@CleanOceanAction.org) for more information.

## SCIENCE

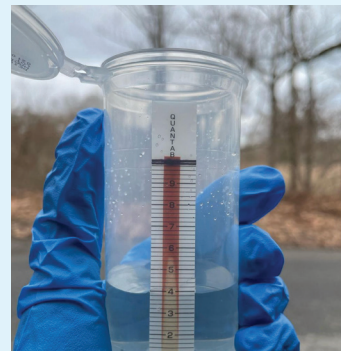
Swarna Muthukrishnan, PhD, Staff Scientist, [Science@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:Science@CleanOceanAction.org)  
Alison Jones, Watershed Program Coordinator, [Outreach@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:Outreach@CleanOceanAction.org)

### Water Quality Monitoring Continues Despite COVID

Though weekly citizen science water quality monitoring in the Navesink watershed was suspended at the beginning of the pandemic, COA has continued the critical work of monitoring water quality throughout the Two Rivers area. Using equipment loaned to COA through an EPA Region 2 grant, COA has been monitoring pathogens at 16 locations throughout the Navesink and Shrewsbury River watersheds since November 2020. This monitoring has also included a partnership with the Oceanport Water Watch Committee, an all-volunteer group of citizen scientists who conduct water quality monitoring around the Shrewsbury River with the support of the Borough of Oceanport.



Water Quality Sampling Site  
at McClees Creek



In addition to monitoring pathogens, COA is also monitoring chloride levels at 6 locations as part of the NJ Watershed Watch Network's collaborative study on the impacts of road salt on water quality throughout the state. Results of COA's ongoing water quality monitoring will be presented at the next Rally for the Two Rivers virtual meeting on March 25, 2021 at 7pm.

Road Salt Study  
Water Quality Sample

### For the Environment-- Be Wise BEFORE you Fertilize:

The State of New Jersey enacted one of the most comprehensive fertilizer laws in the nation in 2011 with the main aim of preventing nutrient pollution and protecting our waterways. Improper use and overuse of fertilizers results in detrimental runoff, poor water quality and adverse effects on the aquatic ecosystem.

Do your very best not to apply at all. If you must, here are a few key points to know:

- Do not consider fertilizer until you test the soil for need. Hardware stores sell kits or soil samples can be sent to Rutgers University Soil Testing Laboratory. Check out the details on their website.
- Fertilizer season runs from March 1 – November 15.
- Follow label instructions. More is not necessarily healthy or required.
- Ensure that the ground is not frozen or saturated before application and do not apply in rain or when heavy rain is forecasted – runoff carries fertilizers to waterways.
- It is prohibited to apply fertilizer within 25 feet of waterways. Check application procedures with your municipal stormwater ordinance.
- Carefully avoid any application/spillage to impervious surfaces (sidewalks and driveways). The fertilizer chemicals are not only harmful to waterways but also to pets. Sweep up or blow any excess back to the lawn surface.
- If you use a professional service, ensure they are certified or trained to operate in NJ. It's the law.



## EDUCATION

Kristen Grazioso, Education Coordinator, [Education@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:Education@CleanOceanAction.org)  
Kari Martin, Advocacy Campaign Manager, [Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org)

### SEAL Program Updates

February was a productive month for the SEAL Students, as they each made large strides in planning their community environmental projects. Virtual Sessions 5 and 6 were joined by a guest speaker, selected to help guide and advise the students from a unique perspective.

On February 4th, COA welcomed Atlantic Highlands Councilwoman Lori Hohenleitner as the exceptional and inspiring guest speaker. Hearing the perspective of and advice from an elected official was empowering and helpful for students, many of whom will need to speak and work with officials for their chosen campaigns and projects.

For Session 6 on February 18th, Tyler Thompson inspired students as a guest speaker with his perspective on making change, working toward one's passion, and being persistent to achieve goals.

The students' positive feelings were made even more apparent through their individual responses to our Post-Session After Surveys

**"She made me feel more confident in myself for when I need to address council members. She also made me feel less like an outsider by providing help with connections,"** said one SEAL student about Lori Hohenleitner's participation.

**"I like that he was very uplifting and motivational. He gave good advice on what to do when people try to discourage you and how to work around the roadblocks,"** said one SEAL student about Tyler Thompson's participation.

Waves of thanks to our wonderful guest speakers and hardworking inaugural SEAL Class.



### Welcome, Suzanne Power!

Clean Ocean Action proudly welcomes Suzanne Power as Administrative Assistant! Suzanne was raised on the beaches in Sea Bright and in the woods of Little Silver, NJ. She has a deep concern for and love of the ocean. Her children attended marine science camp on Sandy Hook and her ancestors were oystermen in Keyport (there's a picture in Sandy Hook Lighthouse of one of them!)

Suzanne is a versatile and experienced administrative professional specializing in customer care, office management and problem-solving skills. She worked retail for many years, as well as in employee benefits and Human Resources. At the Surdna Foundation in NYC, Suzanne excelled as Office Manager and was a proficient Assistant Director at the American-Italian Cancer Foundation, also in NYC. As an additional bonus, she is conversational in Spanish and Italian.

At COA, Suzanne will assist the management team in all aspects, provide operational support for programs and events, and support donor development. Suzanne recently remarked, "I can smell the ocean from my house in Little Silver, and it draws me in, and comforts and guides me." All of us at COA look forward to Suzanne's enthusiasm and expertise to help COA improve and protect the ocean!

