



I hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones in good health and hopeful spirits. It is at times like these that we must stay connected as a community. Whether it's those of you who have joined CCOM in making a meaningful financial contribution to the Montauk Food Pantry or who have simply been checking in on friends and helping neighbors or family, now is the time to come together and support each other.

In addition to our support within the community, CCOM remains focused on our environmental work and has continued to adapt and plan for the long-term success of our organization. Our commitment to ensuring coastal resiliency, improved water quality, and environmental sustainability remains at the forefront of our daily mission. While our Montauk office remains closed to the public until further notice, staff have been working remotely and will remain accessible to you by phone and email.

I look forward to regularly sharing more with you as we navigate these uncharted waters together over the next several months, and hope you will continue to find peace and solitude in our beautiful Montauk that CCOM has fought so hard to protect over the last 50 years.

Warmest regards,

President

EARTH DAY & CCOM TURN 50

HELPING THE EARTH LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY

Every year on April 22, Earth Day marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement, which began in 1970 - and in that same year the Concerned Citizens of Montauk was founded.

In celebration of Earth Day's 50th anniversary, LTV East Hampton invited CCOM to create a PSA featured on their [YouTube page](#). Many great photos from our past cleanups are in the video - you might even spot someone you know!



EARTH DAY 2020 VIRTUAL CHALLENGE

How are you giving back to mother earth today?

Post your photos to social media with the global hashtag #EARTHDAY2020 and tag us on Facebook or Instagram.

Montauk School's 7th & 8th grade science students will also be a part of this challenge! Students will be creating videos that express what Earth Day means for them - we invite other kids who are currently distance learning to make a video, too!

BACTERIA TESTING CONTINUES

CCOM REMAINS DEDICATED TO WATER QUALITY

CCOM's ongoing [water testing](#) program is one of our top initiatives - the rich dataset, starting in 2013 for many of the sites that we test, is used to help focus resources on areas of concern and guide water quality improvement projects.

Because of this value, we feel it is of the utmost importance to safely continue sampling East Hampton Town's waters while maintaining current health and safety requirements. Luckily, we are equipped to do this because we have our own laboratory located in the CCOM office.

Water testing occurs bi-monthly in the spring, switching to weekly in June. As always, we will continue to share our latest [results](#) with press outlets and on our website and Facebook page.



Check out CCOM's Environmental Advocate Kate Rossi-Snook's [video](#) processing yesterday's water samples in our office laboratory.

SHELTERING IN PLACE

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

There have been many reports over the last month about some positive environmental effects of quarantine around the globe - from decreased air and light pollution as a result of shuttered factories and far fewer daily commutes, to an overall slowing down forcing people to stop and appreciate the natural world of which we are all a part.

We must, however, remain mindful of our impact. With so many people staying

home all day, we have received reports of multiple cesspools and outdated septic systems beginning to fail under this added load – and these failures affect water quality AND your wallet.

Luckily, Hamptons Septic Services, our past Save the Lake – Save the Pond program partner, has agreed to offer a special **10% discount on a septic system pumpout service through the end of April** (Coupon Code: CCOM). We urge you to not wait until you have an emergency on your hands – regularly servicing your septic system can help improve water quality.

In the meantime, start your septic system upgrade process now to receive State, County and Town monies for a new, more efficient system that has been designed to reduce nitrogen. All of the information you need can be found on our website's Resources page.



CELEBRATING CCOM'S FOUNDERS

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

With March and Women's History Month having come to a close, we would like to acknowledge the formidable women who started it all here in Montauk fifty years ago.

In July 1970, a proposal was announced to build 1,400 houses on the historical

home and burial ground of the Montaukett Indians – Indian Field, now Montauk County Park. This proposal became a call to action for Hilda Lindley (*right*), an energetic single mother of three. Soon, CCOM was a full-fledged volunteer organization with founding board member Kay Carley (bottom center) and founding director Lillian Disken (bottom right), among many others, joining the ranks.

The concern was that a development of that size could greatly endanger Montauk's drinking water supply. Hilda rallied her closest neighbors, and around her kitchen table the Concerned Citizens of Montauk was conceived. Their tireless fight to save 1,157 acres from development was CCOM's first land preservation victory.

Long time activist Carol Morrison (bottom left) joined later as president to help advance the cause, and over the next 25 years helped preserve over 70% of Montauk as open spaces.

We are so grateful to all of the many past and present CCOM presidents, board members, and volunteers - but especially to the women who led the charge. We are proud to carry on your legacy.



SPOTTED: BABY EELS! A REASSURING SIGN OF SPRING

On Easter Sunday one of our board members took this [video](#) while on a hike at Big Reed Pond in Montauk. This is an incredibly hopeful sign of spring - migratory species, such as **American Eel and River Herring** travel from the ocean upriver to spawn (that's called "anadromous" like alewives) or grow up ("catadromous" like the eels) in the safer confines of freshwater. Often, however, these species - considered crucial for thriving ecosystems - are restricted by dams or habitat loss.

We see this Montauk migration as a huge win for CCOM's work to preserve and protect our unique environment.

To participate in the annual migratory fish surveys next year, contact CCOM: info@preservemontauk.org



IN MEMORIUM REMEMBERING JOAN AND EDWARD PORCO

Joan and Ed's contributions to CCOM are invaluable, and their love of Montauk was incredibly evident.

Ed was a champion for the preservation of Montauk and environmental conservation in general. He was a longtime board member and a past president of Concerned Citizens of Montauk. A popular hike leader and two-time president of the East Hampton Trails Preservation Society, Ed led many local hikes for both organizations.

Joan will be forever linked to CCOM for her incredibly detailed history of the organization in her book "Holding Back the Tide: The Thirty-five Year Struggle to Save Montauk" which was published 15 years ago. We are forever grateful to her for committing our long history to paper.

A celebration of their lives will take place at a future date by the ocean in their beloved Montauk. The family is asking that memorial donations be made to CCOM.

Thank you, Ed and Joan.

