



Dear Orleans Pond Coalition Members and Friends,

We are very pleased to invite you to join OPC in celebrating World Water Day on March 22nd and Earth Day on April 22nd. Read on for details on the planned activities:

**Things to do to celebrate [World Water Day](#) on March 22nd:**

1. **Tour the ecosystem restoration project at the Church of the Holy Spirit**
2. **Learn new ways to take care of our waters, our most important resource**

**Things to do to celebrate [Earth Day](#) on April 22nd:**

1. **Participate in the Orleans Earth Day Clean-Up with your kids, friends and neighbors**
2. **Join a workshop to learn how to create a terraced garden and control run-off and erosion**

**DETAILS BELOW**

**The World Water Day Tour of the ecosystem restoration work at the Church of the Holy Spirit**

**Sponsored by the Orleans Pond Coalition**

**Facilitated by Peter Jensen and Lynn Van Norman, Terra Firma Permagardens**

**Where:** Church of the Holy Spirit, rear parking area, 204 Monument Road, Orleans

**When: World Water Day, Wednesday, March 22, 4:00pm - 5:00pm;**

Please arrive 3:30-4:00pm

We are very pleased to offer an insiders' tour of the ecosystem rehabilitation efforts underway at the Church of the Holy Spirit (CHS).

Peter Jensen, regenerative agroecologist and founder of Terra Firma Permagardens, and his wife, Lynn Van Norman, a holistic nutritionist and horticulturist, will lead the tour and talk about the innovative ways that Terra Firma is restoring and upgrading the property.



After CHS cleared its hillside of invasive black locust, ivy, bramble and bittersweet, and installed a field of commercial solar arrays, they faced serious issues with runoff and erosion onto the fragile wetlands below. Terra Firma was brought in and they designed and built terraces and water walks to capture and purify the runoff.

The terraces will soon be planted with native shrub and ground cover that will provide food and shelter for birds, wildlife and pollinators as part of the Cape Cod Pollinator Pathway.

The one-hour tour will take you under the solar arrays, along the rock lined runoff rivers, and inside the creation of the deep organic terraces that have transformed the property. You will have a chance to learn how the approach to runoff and erosion might work on your own property.

This tour is **free** and open to the public. Park in the church parking lot and meet at 4:00pm at the base of the gravel steps, where you will find the tour leaders and OPC board members. Please arrive early as the tour will start on time, and wear sturdy walking shoes.

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## Let World Water Day help change how you think about water on Cape Cod



Please plan to celebrate World Water Day on March 22nd with your friends and family. The United Nations observance highlights the importance of fresh water and advocating for sustainable water management. This year's theme is '**accelerating change**' to solve the water and sanitation crisis. On World Water Day, we are all invited "to take action to change the way we use, consume and manage water."

**Here are a few examples of what you can do to become more water aware:**

1. Learn about Cape Cod's water quality. No doubt you know the quality is declining, primarily due to septic systems, stormwater runoff, and fertilizers. Please learn more by reading APCC's recently published State of the Waters report: <https://capecodwaters.org/>
2. Support the Town of Orleans Wastewater Master Plan and attend the Annual Town Meeting on May 8, 2023. Your involvement matters. Please don't be a water crisis 'denier'.
3. Download the [EyeOnWater App](#) to monitor your water usage. The app lets you connect to your water utility account to see how much water you're using and receive alerts to possible leaks on your property. Orleans residents can sign up for the app [here](#).
4. Pump out your septic tank every three to five years. Routine pumping can prevent expensive failures and will keep your septic system functioning at its best.
5. Download the Orleans Blue Pages [here](#). It is full of information on ways you can help clean up our local waters.
6. Identify ways you can reduce or eliminate water runoff. The idea is to keep all water entering your property on your property to prevent pollution of area waterways, and as an additional benefit, nourish your lawn and plants.
7. Convert your grass to a Cape Cod lawn. By this we mean, reduce your lawn size, add white clover and fescues which are more resistant to drought, and use compost instead of fertilizer. As summer gets hot and dry, turn off your automatic sprinkler and let your lawn turn a golden brown. It will turn green again in the fall and, by doing so, your property will consume significantly less water.

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## **Events for Earth Day**

### **Join the Orleans Earth Day Clean-Up**

**Join the community-wide effort to remove garbage and debris from the town shores**

**Where and How:** Details to follow in future newsletter bulletin later this month

**When:** **Earth Day**, April 22nd, 10:00am

Please invite your kids and neighbors to help make this year's Orleans Earth Day Clean Up a special event for our town. Mark your calendar and watch this space for more details shortly.



## Learn how to create a 'Hugel' terraced garden

**Where:** Terra Ferma Permagardens, 155 Monument Rd, Orleans

**When:** Earth Day, April 22nd, 2:00 – 4:00pm



**Special workshop offered by** Peter Jensen and Lynn Van Norman of Terra Ferma Permagardens. This will be a dynamic and engaging workshop on how to control runoff and better manage and contain water on your property.

**Registration details to follow soon.** Space for this informative workshop will be limited.

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## Town of Orleans is seeking a few more Herring Counting Volunteers



The Town of Orleans is seeking Herring Counters. Herring is a vital food source for fish and birds in the Northeast – from tuna and striped bass, to ospreys and bald eagles – and the population is struggling throughout New England. You can help our herring by joining the Herring Count as the fish swim from Pleasant Bay through Lonnie's Pond to Pilgrim Lake, the terminus of their long journey to spawn in Orleans.

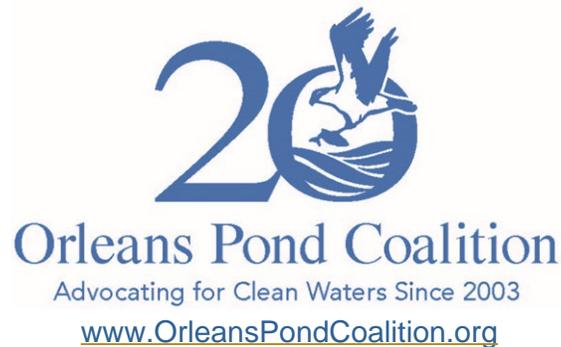
The Herring Count requires only ten minutes of your time per week. Here's how it works. After you sign up for a time slot, for example Sundays between 11:00am - 12:20pm, you can choose any ten minutes within that timeframe. Please let us know if you are interested in joining the herring count by using this [link](#).

**Volunteer to be Herring Counter**

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We are excited for you to join the Orleans Pond Coalition during this very special year – our 20th anniversary - by becoming a member, volunteering, participating in our programs and events, or telling your friends about us. With your help, we will safeguard Orleans’s most precious resource: our waters.

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