



Save the Date!

Tuesday November 4th, Election Day - Vote Yes for #2
Keep it Green
November 14th, COA's 30th Anniversary Party "Denim & Pearls
Saturday, November 22nd, Marine Mammal Stranding
Training at COA"

November 2014 Highlights

-29th Annual Beach Sweep Attracts Thousands
 -Hands on Science at the Beach
 -Keep New Jersey Green
 -Clean Ocean Action Celebrates 30 Years!

LABEL

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Follow COA on Social Media For Ocean Updates!



*Happy Thanksgiving from
Clean Ocean Action!*

*We are thankful for
your support
for the past 30 years!*

TRIBUTES



In Memory of:

Captain Stephen W. Atkins
 Samuel Karinja
 Margie Rosenfeld
 Henry West



"We had a diverse group of people and everyone was very willing to help out picking up trash and filling out the data cards, which are especially important," said Oceanville Beach Captain Steve Fiedler of Go Green Galloway.



Volunteers of all ages participated in the Sweeps. Beach Captain Frank Konze, a 13-year-old Hazlet Middle School student and member of Hazlet Boy Scout Troop 137, said, "I had volunteered with my family before for Clean Ocean Action, and wanted to be a captain to tally the findings and get a group together to help. I love being from New Jersey and helping our state."



Thousands Volunteer to Clean Up New Jersey Beaches

Waves of thanks to the 3,000 volunteers that hit the beaches to participate in Clean Ocean Action's 29th Annual Fall Beach Sweeps this past Saturday, October 25th. Volunteers at 72 locations from Essex County to Cape May County removed and catalogued each piece of debris, helping to document ongoing pollution issues.

The data recorded from the clean-up will be combined with data collected from the spring at the April 26th Beach Sweeps, then analyzed and presented in an annual report produced by Clean Ocean Action. The Beach Sweeps annual report identifies pollution problems and educates citizens on the quantities and types of marine debris. It is amazing what is found washed up or left on the beaches!

On Sandy Hook alone, Beach Sweep volunteers picked up: 268 plastic forks, spoons and knives; 2651 plastic caps and lids; 760 cigarette filters; 4137 plastic pieces; 277 plastic shopping bags; 52 pens; 2099 plastic straws; 27 syringes; and 304 tampon applicators. The rainstorm in the days prior to the clean-up helped to create large amounts of debris.

In addition to logging standard debris counts for various plastics, glass and lumber items, Sweeps volunteers also recorded the strange objects that make their way to the beach from various nonpoint sources. Some of the ridiculous items catalogued included: fireworks; a piece of car door; an 8' by 4' piece of fiberglass from a boat; a rusty anchor; a trunk of metal tiles; a bike handle; a bag of mice; chicken bones; a Lego castle; men's underwear; a bikini; and pom-poms.

The Beach Sweeps help to remind all beach goers and volunteers the importance of disposing of trash properly and runoff as almost all waterways, including rivers and streams, lead to the bay and ocean. Therefore, it is important to stop the pollution at the source and reduce the amount of debris that is picked up at the Beach Sweeps.

We look forward to next year at the 30th Annual Beach Sweeps! Stay tuned for more exciting events, official dates, and clean-up opportunities for the 30th Anniversary of the cleanup.

With gratitude, Clean Ocean Action thanks Aveda, Bank of America, ShopRite and Kohl's for their 2014 Beach Sweeps Statewide Sponsorship. The Fall Beach Sweeps are made possible by support from many generous sponsors.



Education

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STUDENTS EXPERIENCE A DAY OF SCIENCE AT THE BEACH Clean Ocean Action's Student Summit Brings Learning Beyond the Classroom

Hundreds of middle school students and teachers participated in Clean Ocean Action's 26th Annual Fall Student Summit on October 9th. The event was held at Island Beach State Park from 9a.m.-12:30p.m. Nearly 400 middle school students from 12 schools from South Jersey experienced hands-on marine environmental education by participating in six environmental roundtables and six interactive fieldtrips.



Some of the environmental learning activities included seashell identification, invertebrate identification, an interactive terrapin demonstration, and activities to identify and propose solutions for pollution sources. Students were instructed on the proper handling of horseshoe crabs and explored the impact on debris on marine life. Students from the Ocean County Technical and Vocational School's Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Studies (MATES) High School served as peer teachers at workstations and on field trips. They were able to apply what they've learned at MATES and teach the next generation on the importance of marine ecosystems and protecting marine life.

In addition, local naturalists and other marine education professionals led students in six field activities throughout the park. The children explored Island Beach State Park as they traversed the trails while they went birding, while others swept the beach of debris and learned of the harmful effects of litter on marine life. Additional field trips included getting their feet wet in Barnegat Bay as they used seine nets to collect and identify common aquatic species, tested the water quality and explored the beach on a scavenger hunt. Who wouldn't love learning while at the beach?

Clean Ocean Action's summits have expanded learning beyond the classroom for thousands of middle school students in New Jersey for 26 years. COA's mission is to educate and engage citizens on the importance of marine life and debris and through the Student Summits we hope to do just that.

That's Not Sand, It's Microplastics

This summer, COA launched a new research endeavor looking into "microplastics" – tiny pieces of plastic – in New Jersey beach sand and coastal waters. This study was initiated in response to two observations: 1) plastic pieces are consistently one of the most-recorded items during COA's bi-annual Beach Sweeps, so we had evidence that large quantities of plastic were breaking down and remaining in the New Jersey coastal environment; and 2) we knew that consumer products commonly washed down household drains, such as facial scrubs and toothpastes, contain microplastics as ingredients (also known as 'microbeads'). Shortly after beginning this study, COA was invited to participate in the "Trash Free Waters" working group formed by the Region 2 office of the US Environmental Protection Agency, which seeks to advance partnerships between non-profits, government, and academia in reducing debris in our waterways.



COA got started on this project by reviewing scientific literature on microplastics sampling procedures and getting feedback from researchers in the field. COA then produced a volunteer manual, data sheets, and a video tutorial for volunteers to use during sample

collection. Sand and water samples have now been collected from 32 sites spanning the length of the Jersey Shore, thanks to the dedicated efforts of students from the Marine Academy of Science and Technology (MAST) high school and several Beach Captains.

COA is now involved in the sample "processing" phase, which involves extracting the microplastics from the sand and water samples in a laboratory setting. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) lab on Sandy Hook has graciously loaned space, equipment and expertise for the processing steps, with which the MAST students are assisting. The last phase of the project will be identifying the microplastics under a microscope, which COA hopes to start with the MAST students by the end of the year. We are excited to reveal the results of our first year of research in time for the 30th anniversary of Beach Sweeps next spring!

Science and Policy

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Environmental Commissioners Meet, Greet, and Learn at Annual Congress

On Friday, October 24th, Jennifer Coffey the new Executive Director of the Association of Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) welcomed a room full of volunteer commissions, and environmental groups to the 41st Environmental Congress. For 45 years the non-profit, ANJEC, has been dedicated to promoting and protecting New Jersey's environmental resources by supporting the local commissions. These municipally appointed volunteers help their towns protect local natural resources, educate the public, and promote sustainability.

Most appropriately, former Governor Tom Kean presented the key note address, after he drafted and signed the law establishing ANJEC. He focused on the Keep it Green NJ campaign, aimed at dedicating funds to open space preservation in New Jersey. Governor Kean thanked the commissioners said they were following in a proud tradition of people who have made their communities better every day.

Judith Enck, USEPA Regional Administrator of Region 2, spoke about the federal plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions. She said, "Every level of government needs to work on climate change. Climate change is not coming, it's here. The time to act was yesterday."

During the conference, several workshops were available for the Environmental Commission members, including water supply, resilience, climate change, and open space preservation. In addition, hands-on skill workshops in technologies such as Google Earth and advancing social media techniques were also provided. Clean Ocean Action, provided materials especially on the Blue Star program.

Do you know if your town has an Environmental Commission? Do they know about COA's Blue Star program? Check ANJEC's website to find out, and see how you can get more involved: <http://anjec.org/>.

Vote to Keep NJ Green

This coming election day, all New Jersey residents have an opportunity to improve water quality, clean up polluted lands, promote habitat conservation, protect sensitive areas, enhance farmland and historic sites, and reduce coastal flooding. Sound good? Then you should vote "YES" on Ballot Question #2 in the November 4th election. This ballot measure is needed because funds from the last bond approved in 2009 have all been used.

Voting "YES" on November 4th will help provide baseline funding for land preservation and all of the benefits we get from natural lands, without increasing taxes.

Natural lands soak up water, which can provide more groundwater resources, and reduce flooding. They also filter water and recycle nutrients, which improves water quality in our lakes, streams, bays and ocean. The Blue Acres program specifically buys flood prone properties, and converts them to lower-risk natural areas.

For more information on the "Keep it Green" campaign, visit www.njkeepitgreen.org.



Events

Tory Woods, Events@CleanOceanAction.org

BUY TICKETS NOW
CleanOceanAction.org

30th Anniversary Celebration

DENIM & Pearls

Friday
NOVEMBER 14
6-10PM

Windows on the Water
931 Ocean Ave, Sea Bright, NJ

Join us for a fun night of music and food overlooking the ocean to celebrate 30 years of amazing accomplishments! There will be a unique chance to find a pearl in an oyster for prizes, an art gallery and more! Your support for a clean ocean is as special as a pearl in an oyster, unique but treasured.

6-7 PM | COCKTAIL HOUR IN THE ATLANTIC ROOM
With hors d'oeuvres from local restaurants.
Music by Thom White & the Little Rogues

7-10 PM | BUFFET DINNER IN THE EMPRESS BALLROOM
Delicious fare from Chef Pete Cruz of Windows on the Water and food and dessert by many other local eateries including Lusty Lobster's famous raw bar and Red Bank Flavour restaurants.

Music brought to you by The Garofalo Family
BRIAN KIRK & THE JIRKS

\$100 Admission • \$125 at Event

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS



Ticket Packages

- \$500 TAHITIAN PEARL
- \$350 SALTWATER PEARL
- \$250 CONCH PEARL
- \$100 NATURAL PEARL (\$125 at the Event)

Events@CleanOceanAction.org
www.CleanOceanAction.org

CASUAL ATTIRE Dress Denim and Pearls are encouraged
CASH BAR Beer, Wine, Premium Mixed Drinks (\$5)

PROCEEDS BENEFIT Clean Ocean Action's many programs to protect the ocean.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Donna Benoit	Elan Korpar
DNB Event-New Jersey	Tania Lisitski
Jessica Baguchinsky	Nancy Pearman
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Beverly Beveridge	Mary Ellen Purcell
Ann Dorton	Kristen Rankin
Judy Garofalo	Suzie Crotche
Lisa Gilmore	Ann Rossbach
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