



# CLEAN OCEAN ACTION'S Beach Sweeps & Waterway Cleanup Annual Report - 2003

## 2003 Sites

Alloway Creek  
 Asbury Park  
 Atlantic City  
 Atlantic Highlands  
 Avalon  
 Avon-By-The-Sea  
 Bay Head  
 Belmar  
 Bradley Beach  
 Brick Township  
 Brigantine  
 Cape May  
 Deal  
 Elberon  
 Ideal Beach  
 Island Beach St. Park  
 Keansburg  
 Keyport  
 Knowlton  
 Lake Fred  
 Lakewood  
 Lavallette  
 Leonardo  
 Loch Arbour  
 Long Branch  
 Longport  
 Lower Township  
 Manahawkin  
 Manasquan  
 Mantoloking  
 Margate  
 Mauricetown  
 Millville  
 Monmouth Beach  
 Normandy Beach  
 North Wildwood  
 Ocean City  
 Ocean Grove  
 Ortley Beach  
 Pine Beach  
 Point Pleasant Beach  
 Port Monmouth  
 Sandy Hook  
 Sea Bright  
 Sea Girt  
 Sea Isle City  
 Seaside Heights  
 Seaside Park  
 South Seaside Park  
 Spring Lake  
 Stone Harbor  
 Strathmere  
 Tuckerton  
 Ventnor  
 Villas  
 Vineland  
 Wildwood  
 Wildwood Crest

**C**lean Ocean Action (COA), a broad-based coalition of over 150 organizations working to improve and protect the waters off the New Jersey and New York coasts, hosted its **18th Annual Beach Sweeps** in 2003. The NJ Beach Sweeps is one of the longest running cleanups of its kind in the United States. This event has grown from 50 people at one location in 1985, to over 4,600 people at 114 locations in 2003. The combined 2003 spring and fall Sweeps resulted in nearly 17,000 volunteer hours for protection of the marine environment. These dedicated volunteers collected and recorded over 240,000 items, removing nearly 66,000 pounds of debris from our beaches.



*Bayside cleanup at Sandy Hook, NJ.*

Volunteers gathered on the beaches from Raritan Bay through Sandy Hook to Cape May Point, and at sites along Delaware Bay to work together to rid our beaches and waterways of pollution. The Beach Sweeps continues to expand its efforts beyond the oceanfront to reach waterways along the shore and further inland. This year's Sweeps included oceanfront and back bay beaches, rivers, lakes, streams, and underwater cleanup sites. Also, kayakers cleaned along rivers and back bay creeks in south Jersey.

### **Who Participates in the Beach Sweeps?**

Over 280 organizations, including 22 business teams, 54 Girl and Boy Scouts groups, and 100 schools participated in the 2003 cleanups. A growing trend for the Sweeps is businesses that send teams of employees to help in the cleanup effort. Participation by business groups in 2003 showed an increase of more than 25 percent over the previous year.

### **About COA's Beach Sweeps**

Clean Ocean Action conducts two beach cleanups each year in New Jersey. The first cleanup is held in the spring during "Earth Week" and the second is held on "Make a Difference Day" in the fall. The Beach Sweeps is an event that not only benefits the environment, but benefits communities as well. People from the tall and the small to the young and old participate. Many schools, community groups, and organizations lead cleanups or volunteer at the Sweeps. Some groups participate in both cleanups and have been involved in the Sweeps for many years.

Most importantly, Sweeps participants not only remove unsightly debris from beaches and waterways, but record what they collect. The debris from the beach cleanups is catalogued by volunteers using data cards. Each data card is reviewed, verified, entered in a computer data base, and analyzed by COA. Ten years of Beach Sweeps data is available on COA's website or at COA's offices.



*Stream Cleanup in Millville, NJ*

The data collected from the beach cleanups provides important information about the types of beach debris found on our shores and is used to identify and monitor pollution trends.

The information helps our lawmakers write strong and enforceable laws and look for solutions to keep New Jersey beaches clean and safe. The data ensures that a one-day event becomes a legacy for future ocean protection. This information is also made available to the public and to schools to further educate people about nonpoint source pollution, the nation's number-one cause of marine pollution. Finally, the data is submitted to The Ocean Conservancy in Washington, DC, as part of its international database on marine debris and worldwide campaign against ocean pollution.

**The data ensures that a one-day event becomes a legacy for ocean protection in the future.**

### **WHAT'S INSIDE:**

- 2003 Sweeps Data & Highlights
- New Jersey's "Dirty Dozen"
- "Roster of the Ridiculous"

**Clean Ocean Action thanks all the sponsors, contributors, municipalities, beach captains, and dedicated volunteers that make the Beach Sweeps successful.**

*Ocean City Intermediate School, Ocean City, NJ*



**Visit COA at [www.CleanOceanAction.org](http://www.CleanOceanAction.org)**