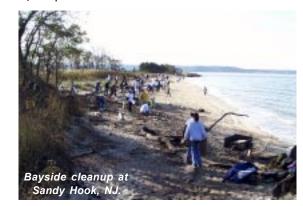


CLEAN OCEAN ACTION'S Beach Sweeps & Waterway Cleanup Annual Report - 2003

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.



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.

teams of employees to help in the cleanup effort.

Participation by business groups in 2003 showed an

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 WHAT'S INSIDE: - 2003 Sweeps Data & Highlights - New Jersey's "Dirty Dozen"

- "Roster of the Ridiculous"

Most importantly, 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

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

the Sweeps for many years.

About COA's Beach Sweeps



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.

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

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

protection. This information is also made available to the public and to schools to further educate people about nonpoint source pollution, the nation's numberone cause of marine pollution. Finally,

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.

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



Visit COA at www.CleanOceanAction.org