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Follow COA on Social Media For Ocean Updates!

LABEL

REMINDER! Register NOW to vote in November!

To find out how to go to these websites:
 NJ: nj.gov/state/elections
 NY: elections.ny.gov
 Check out Vote411.org for voter information.

- NJ Moving Forward with Key Offshore Wind Decisions
- Citizen Science Opportunity for the Two Rivers
- The COA Open Surf Contest, and more!

Inside this Issue

Clean Ocean Action
 49 Avenue Blvd.
 Long Branch, NJ 07740
www.CleanOceanAction.org
 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE
 September 2020

Tributes

Photo courtesy of Joe Reynolds

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

- | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Pam Butler | Carol Anne Ross | Congratulations to Amanda Cusack | Congratulations to Lord Abbett Co, LLC |
| Peter Cauterucci | Barbara Jane Thompson | Matthew Goley | Phoebe Frances Thompson, Wally's baby sister |
| Gordon N. Litwin | Thomas C. Thompson | Jalissa Jay | World Oceans Day |
| | | Isaac Kaplan | Kelly, Noah & Ann Mascarenhas |

Mark Your Calendars

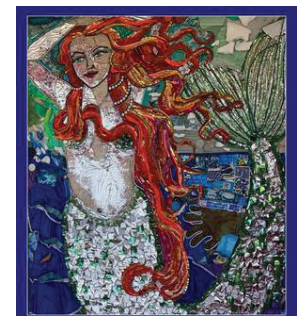


Fall 2020 Beach Sweeps

Save the date for COA's 35th Annual Fall Beach Sweeps on Saturday, October 24, 2020. Please stay tuned for details on locations, registration, COVID-19 safety protocols, and more. We are looking forward to seeing everyone with feet on the beach and hands in the sand, and making a difference for the marine environment!

The Ocean is Calling

Stay tuned for more information on COA's Virtual Celebration, The Ocean is Calling, scheduled to air Thursday, October 22 at 6:30pm. Content will include entertaining, educational and fun programming featuring an auction, and a chance to help celebrate the 35th Anniversary of COA's Beach Sweeps program. Save the date!



Artwork by Stella Ryan was made from litter collected during the Beach Sweeps

Save the Date for the COA Open Surf Contest on October 10!



CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE

September 2020

Defending the Sea Since 1984

Ryan Struck Photography

POLICY

Kari Martin, Advocacy Campaign Manager, Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org; Peter Blair, Esq., Policy Attorney, Policy@CleanOceanAction.org

NJ to Vote on Environmental Justice Bill

At press time, a vote was expected by the NJ Assembly on the Environmental Justice bill (A2212) on Thursday, 8/27. After delaying the vote in July, this was the next opportunity to bring this important bill over the finish line and onto Governor Murphy's desk for signing. The legislation, if adopted, would require the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to consider the cumulative impacts of major new sources of pollution when considering permits in overburdened communities. COA is one of over 250 labor, faith and justice groups that supports the bill. Residents are encouraged to contact their NJ State legislators.



NJ Moving Forward with Key Offshore Wind Decisions

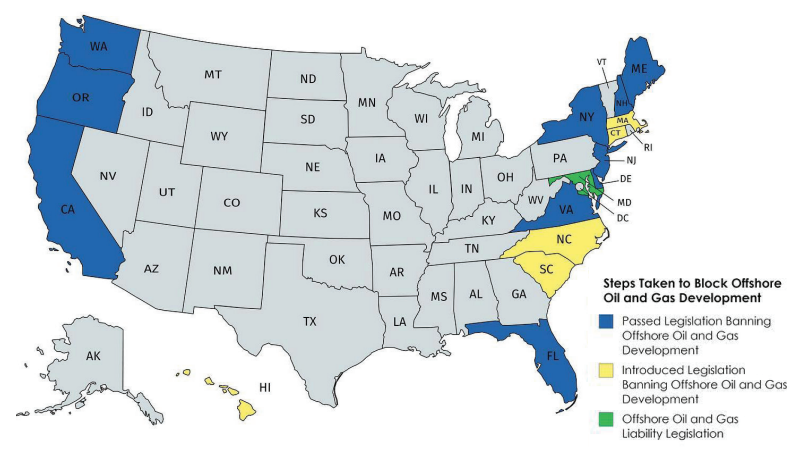
The NJ Board of Public Utilities moved forward with two important documents related to the future of offshore wind development off the coast of New Jersey. The first was the release of the Draft Offshore Wind Strategic Plan, which is designed to act as a blueprint for New Jersey's development of 7,500 MW of offshore wind energy by 2035. The second was the release of the Draft Guidance Document for the Second Solicitation, which outlines the application requirements for offshore wind developers seeking approval to be the second offshore wind farm in New Jersey. The BPU held public hearings

on both documents and the hearings were attended by a wide range of stakeholders, including COA. COA also submitted formal comments on both documents advocating for stronger protections for wildlife and more clarity in how the State will ensure the environmentally responsible development of offshore wind. Visit CleanOceanAction.org to view the comments.

It's One Ocean: No to Offshore Oil & Gas Drilling

During an August visit to Florida, US President Trump said there would be no offshore oil and gas drilling in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico or off Florida. While this is a welcomed statement, it represents the second time Trump has promised Florida special treatment, while leaving other states in limbo over the future of federal oil and gas activities off their coasts. Thankfully, most of the US coastal states have passed or introduced legislation, modeled after NJ's STOP Act, opposing offshore drilling (see map). The Trump Administration needs to say "no" to drilling beyond Florida waters – in the Atlantic Ocean and anywhere, and focus on implementing strategies for energy efficiency, conservation, and investing in renewable energy sources.

State Steps to Block Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling



Steps Taken to Block Offshore Oil and Gas Development

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

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The COA Open Surf Contest



COA is thrilled to announce that we are hosting the 2020 Open Surf Contest on Saturday, October 10 at Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park. In the event of inclement weather or a lack of contestable waves, the contest will be held on Sunday, October 11. After careful deliberation and approval from the county park system, it was decided that the event could be run in a manner that would not jeopardize the health and safety of any of

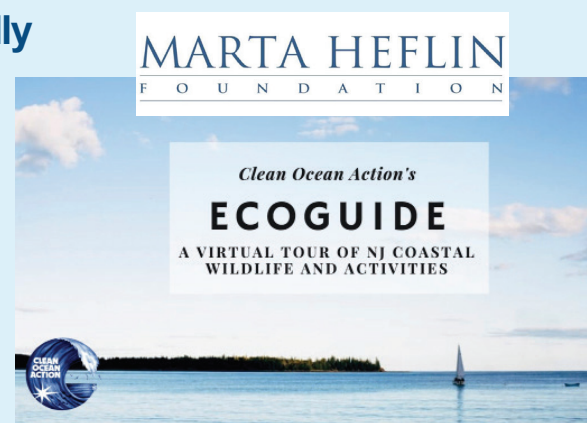
our contestants, volunteers, staff and spectators. It has also been decided that the traditional After-Party will NOT be held as proper distancing protocol would not be sufficiently maintained. The Open is one of COA's few annual fundraising events; therefore, the money raised from the contest is vital to continuing the organization's ocean conservation efforts.

Waves of thanks to our sponsors Advisors Mortgage HQ, The Gallery Brokerage, 2nd Jetty Seafood, Summa Love Surf, Tak Waterman, Luxury Group Insurance, Wells Fargo Advisors, and World Subaru NJ.

Dive Deep into Eco-Friendly Activities with COA's Virtual EcoGuide

In July COA released a virtual EcoGuide for students, teachers, and families. Published in previous years to promote the eco-friendly enjoyment of the Jersey Shore, COA has now taken this mission virtual so that it can be accomplished on-the-go. This comprehensive tool serves as a fun database of the best ways to enjoy marine ecosystems while also protecting them. This includes eco-friendly activities for all ages, educational information on issues that COA addresses, and tips on the best places to appreciate nature in NJ.

The EcoGuide is made possible thanks to generous support from the Marta Heflin Foundation. Find the EcoGuide on the COA website, ready for mobile or computer use.



Emily Ross, COA's Communication and Resource Intern, worked diligently to share the wonders of the Jersey Shore in the new virtual EcoGuide



Farewell Summer Interns!

COA wishes summer interns Emily (left) and Jacob (right) well as they return to college. Emily Ross, Communications and Resource Intern, returns to Tulane University's Honors Program as a senior to pursue a double major in English and Political Science, and a minor in Spanish. Jacob Sorrentino, Marine Debris Intern, returns to University of Vermont as a sophomore where he was recently admitted to the UVM Honors College, pursuing a major in Natural Resources Ecology. The success of Emily and Jacob's intern projects were key to COA's mission.

SCIENCE

Swarna Muthukrishnan, PhD, Staff Scientist, Science@CleanOceanAction.org
Alison Jones, Watershed Program Coordinator, Outreach@CleanOceanAction.org

Citizen Science Opportunity for the Two Rivers

COA hosted the first virtual Rally for the Navesink meeting on July 30, which was attended by 30 participants. This meeting marked the launch of the Two Rivers Water Quality Reporting Form, a new tool for citizen scientists to document and report water quality concerns in the Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers. This form, developed by COA's Water Quality Intern, Jacob Sorrentino, is now available for public use on COA's website and the Rally for the Navesink Facebook page. While you are out and about enjoying the rivers, keep an eye out for anything out of the ordinary, then report it to COA using this online reporting form. For detailed instructions on how to use the form, be sure to watch the recording of the virtual meeting, accessible at COA's website along with presentation slides and other resources. Save the date for the next virtual Rally for the Navesink meeting on Thursday, September 24 at 7 pm.



Delaware River Wrackline Assessment

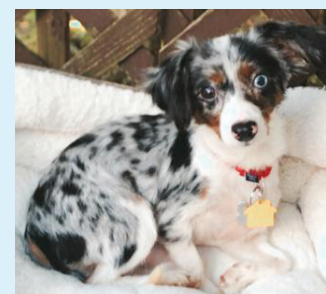
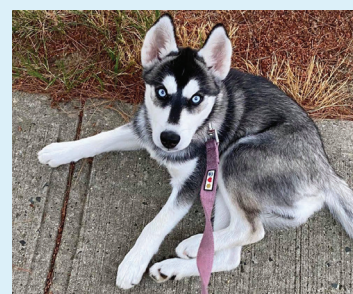
On August 6, three COA team members conducted a wrackline assessment and cleanup along the shoreline of the Delaware River at Palmyra Cove Nature Park. Along about 250 meters of shoreline, COA collected 551 pieces of debris, which included unusual items such as a life vest, cat litter pan, Nerf dart, and a "True Love" stamp. Consistent with past cleanups along the Delaware River, nearly 90% of the debris collected was plastic, with foam pieces being the most commonly collected item. This patch contained around 70 pieces of plastic litter, including straws, foam pieces, bottle caps, and food wrappers.



Before and after photos of a small patch of debris along the Delaware river shoreline demonstrate the density of litter at this site. This patch contained around 70 pieces of plastic litter, including straws, foam pieces, bottle caps, and food wrappers.

Dog Days of Summer

In the wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic, three COA staff members have found a silver lining by adopting forever fur-friends to keep them company while working from home. Please join us in welcoming the puppies of COA! From left to right: Allie's Siberian Husky Maya, long time animal foster Kristen's rescue pup Max, and Kari's rescued Labrador/Husky/Hound mix Peaches.



EDUCATION

Kristen Grazioso, Education Coordinator, Kgrazioso@CleanOceanAction.org
Kari Martin, Advocacy Campaign Manager, Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org

New Educational Program for Your Budding Ocean Advocate

Despite challenges presented from COVID-19, COA continues to roll with the tides, making sure that ocean advocacy continues. For this upcoming school year, COA is rethinking ways to carry-out existing education programs in the virtual world. For this coming school year, the programs may appear different, but the goal is the same: to educate people of all ages about being the solution to ocean pollution.

For the 2020-2021 school year, COA is proud to launch the brand-new Student Environmental Advocates and Leaders (SEAL) program for eligible and interested high school students in Monmouth County. The program, made possible by a generous grant from Impact 100 Jersey Coast, will work to transform high school students' environmental fears to taking meaningful actions by connecting them with their peers in leadership training. Students will be educated about current environmental threats and learn key advocacy techniques and tools that can make a difference today, as well as in the future. Through participation in SEAL, students will gain leadership skills, public speaking experience, a lasting respect for the environment, and an understanding of civic activism. To learn more visit our website or contact Kristen Grazioso, by email: education@cleanoceanaction.org or 732-872-0111.



Rally for the Rivers Eco-Fest Goes Virtual!

This year's Rally for the Rivers Eco-Fest, which was postponed to October 3rd, has been cancelled due to COVID-19. Be sure to save the date for next year's Eco-Fest on Saturday, June 5, 2021 (rain date: June 6). In lieu of this year's Eco-Fest, COA and the Rumson Environmental Commission will be collaborating with the many organizations involved in the Eco-Fest to develop a digital "Waterway Mindfulness Toolkit." This toolkit will compile educational resources and activities that convey the important environmental messages of the Eco-Fest, including "Waterway Mindfulness" – the understanding that we are all connected to and responsible for the health of our vast network of waterways that ultimately lead to the ocean. Stay tuned for the exciting launch of this digital toolkit, perfect for educators, families, and more!

Fall Student Summits



Each year, as summer comes to an end and the academic year begins, COA gears up to launch various educational programs, including the annual Fall Student Summit

Following the success of the Virtual Spring Student Summit, this year's Fall Student Summit, to be held the week of October 5, will also be virtual. The Fall Student Summit is for students and their teachers in Grades 5-8 from middle schools in these southern NJ counties: Ocean, Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland, Cape May and Atlantic.

Students will get a virtual day at the beach through field demonstrations, presentations, and field trips pre-recorded by the region's notable and knowledgeable scientists, naturalists, and education professionals. The Summits will also present students with ways to become the solution to ocean pollution, including information and data from our own Beach Sweeps. Schools must pre-register. Visit COA's website to learn more.