



Follow COA on Social Media For Ocean Updates!

LABEL

CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE
February 2020

See inside for
more information.



COA Celebrates
36 Years of
Ocean Advocacy on
February 26th!



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Clean Ocean Action
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Long Branch, NJ 07740
www.CleanOceanAction.org



Ryan Struck Photography

CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE

Defending the Sea Since 1984

February 2020

POLICY Peter Blair, Policy Attorney; Policy@CleanOceanAction.org



Round 3: Messy NESE is Back!

Following the withdrawal of all pending permits needed for the construction of the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (NESE) Pipeline in November, Transco recently reapplied to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) for all the crucial construction authorizations. This marks the third time the company has reapplied following its initial application in June of 2017. COA will continue to lead the fight against this unnecessary and environmental destructive pipeline.

Environmental groups unite at NJDEP meeting on NESE in Trenton, NJ. Pictured here (L to R) are Jeff Williams, Surfrider; Carole Spechley, New Jersey Federation of Women's Clubs; Joe Hendershot, New Jersey League of Conservation Voters; Carol Keuhn, Franklin Township Task Force; Kevin Corcoran, Princeton Manor; Patty Cronheim, ReThink Energy; Peter Blair, Clean Ocean Action; Kin Gee, Consumers Helping Affect Regulation of Gas and Electric; Joe Camorata, Deputy Mayor of South Brunswick Township

Ocean Dumping Proposed by NESE Pipeline

COA submitted comments in January to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers demanding the agency deny Transco's request to dump 735,000 cubic yards of contaminated dredged material produced from the NESE Pipeline construction in the ocean of the Jersey Shore. The comments outlined that the levels of contamination in the material, which if disposed in the ocean, would harm the surrounding environment and sensitive marine species at sensitive life stages. Visit CleanOceanAction.org to view COA's comments.

NJ Legislators Fail to Act! You Can Help Stop the Plastic Plague

The 2018-2019 Legislative session ended with disappointment as New Jersey lawmakers did not pass what would have been the most comprehensive single-use plastic reduction legislation in the nation. If passed, the legislation would have phased-out single-use plastic straws, shopping bags, and Styrofoam food containers, which plague our beaches and kill wildlife. Currently, eight other states have taken action against at least one of these single-use plastic items. Thankfully, the bill has already been reintroduced in the new legislative session. The first hearing on the bill was scheduled for January 30th in the Senate Energy and Environment Committee. COA will continue to combat the plastic plague by working to ensure comprehensive legislation is passed early at the state level. Take Action! Help stop the plastic plague and urge the NJ Legislature to enact a state plastics law by signing the petition at CleanOceanAction.org.



Tributes

Photo courtesy of Joe Reynolds

In Memory of:

Dery Bennett	Matteo Coffey	Jody DiStasio	Anne Wirz Maddock	Louis Salmon
Melvin Bernstein	Kevin Day	Frank Farber	Janet Ozzard	Andrew Thompson
Wendy Fritz Calhoun	James Dennehy	Heidi Krauss	Alice Jean Roche	Gregory Weber
Michael Carr	Hugh Devlin	Justine Lincoln	Carol Anne Ross	
Peter Cauterucci	Barbara Dillon & Roland Woolson, Jr.	Thomas E. Lynch, Jr.	Donald Rossbach	

In Honor of:

Shannon Beaudette	Fran Donnelly	Steven Legvari	Jude Szczurek
Bree Brown	Bill Fitzpatrick	Dr. Louis & Jane Lick	Greta Thunbergs courage
Peg & Jim Buckley	Caitlyn E. Hever	Joseph, Andrew, Ashley, & Jason McKairnes	Danielle Trautman catching her 1st wave
Elizabeth Cannizzaro	PJ Hyduke	Sam Meulenstein	Cassie Tucker, best roommate ever
Happy Holidays to Casa Lumbre Team	Ike & Riss	Jessica Rigney	Evy Vatcher
Eugene Casazza	Jake	Cynthia Rivas' Mom, Claire	Elaine Weiss
Kelly Chandler's Dad	Happy Holidays to Susan Joshi	Jennica Ross	Barbara White
Congratulations to Amanda Cusack	Sravani Kancharia	Appleby Marr Severance	Cindy Zipf
Celeste Danzi	Sandy & Ken Koschek	Wells Lamb Severance	
Michael DeSimone	Theodore Kujawski	JJ Smith	
Ray Dodd	Jack Laska		

Happy Holidays to O'Neill Vintners Marketing Dept: Christine, Sally & Olivia



Bedrock Environmental Law at Risk

In one of the most far-reaching environmental rollbacks to date, the Trump Administration is proposing sweeping changes to the implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Passed over fifty years ago, NEPA requires all federal agencies to complete a comprehensive analysis of environmental impacts for all major federal projects which could negatively impact the environment. The proposed rollbacks would severely limit the scope of review required by federal agencies and would allow for the most egregious polluters to streamline the review process. NEPA is a central tool to combatting federal pipeline projects like the NESE Project and PennEast. Comments on the proposed changes are being accepted online until March 10, 2020 at <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2019-28106>.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Spencer Munson, Resource and Event Coordinator, Programs@CleanOceanAction.org

Book NOW! 2020 Corporate Beach Sweeps Announced

COA is accepting applications for the 2020 Corporate Beach Sweeps program. The Corporate Beach Sweeps offer an opportunity for team-building and service to corporations of various sizes. The program also provides a unique perspective about the health of our environment, that ultimately helps raise awareness about pollution problems. Corporate Beach Sweeps participants become citizen scientists for the day, collecting important data about the type and quantity of debris they remove from beaches. The information collected supports COA's work to track consumer behaviors, implement policy, improve waste management, and find solutions to reduce marine debris.



Interested corporations should visit CleanOceanAction.org for the 2020 application, 2019 report, and to check availability. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until all available dates are filled. The program runs from May through September. For questions about the Corporate Beach Sweeps, contact Spencer Munson.

Patagonia Doubles the Donations in the Season of Giving



Waves of thanks to Patagonia for their incredibly inspiring and generous campaign to double the dollars for their nonprofit partners during the annual season of giving! As an environmental grantee of Patagonia, COA was invited to direct supporters to make their annual donations through the Patagonia Action Works portal. All donations made through this portal in November and December 2019 were matched by Patagonia.

The matching campaign was active until Patagonia hit its goal of \$10 million nationwide for environmental partners. Incredibly, this goal was met in only 17 days! Network for Good agreed to wave all credit card processing fees for the matching campaign, strengthening the impact of the initiative. Thanks to Patagonia, COA's dedicated supporters, and Network for Good, COA was able to raise over \$65,000, which will be matched by Patagonia. These funds will prove vital in COA's efforts to improve water quality, stop harmful ocean industrialization, and curb the flow of pollution into our oceans. Thank you to Patagonia for continuing to lead the way in the battle to save the planet.

Help Plan the 2020 Ocean Celebration!

Fantastic News! Bonnie Torcivia, a COA Board of Trustees member, is Chair of the 2020 Ocean Celebration Committee. Planning for the November event is underway; for those interested in joining the 2020 committee, contact Spencer at 732-872-0111 or programs@cleanoceanaction.org.



Bonnie Torcivia new Chair of the 2020 Ocean Celebration

SCIENCE

Swarna Muthukrishnan, PhD, Staff Scientist; Science@CleanOceanAction.org
Alison McCarthy, Watershed Protection Coordinator; Outreach@CleanOceanAction.org

Rally for Waterways: Making a Splash into 2020!

On January 30th, Rally for the Navesink started 2020 with a splash at the first public meeting of the year. Joe Reynolds of Save Coastal Wildlife educated attendees about the seals that visit our local waterways in the winter and the surveys that are conducted to monitor their populations. Dr. Swarna Muthukrishnan, shared the results from the ongoing Navesink River Ambient Bacteria Source Trackdown.



Photo courtesy of Joe Reynolds Photography



Interested in Being a Citizen Scientist? Find out how to get involved!

Become a Citizen Scientist!

COA is currently recruiting volunteers to join the team of citizen scientists who collect water quality samples throughout the Navesink River watershed on Wednesday mornings. The next training session, which is required for all volunteers, will be held in February at Monmouth Boat Club. Follow Rally for the Navesink on Facebook or contact Alison Jones (AMcCarthy@CleanOceanAction.org) for more details about the program and how to get involved.

Deal Lake "Ship and Sniff" Study Results

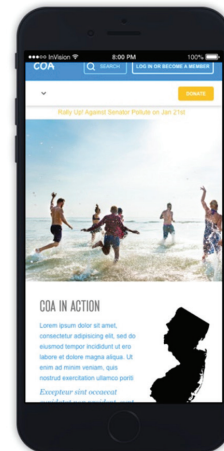
In 2017, COA entered into a collaborative agreement with Deal Lake Commission to utilize canine "ship and sniff" tests to investigate potential human sewage contamination in the Deal Lake Watershed. Ship and sniff is an innovative canine scent-tracking screening method that is conducted offsite to detect the potential presence of human sewage contamination in water, and is recommended as a screening tool by US EPA. This investigation was conducted under both ambient (dry) and wet weather conditions by trained volunteer citizen scientists from the community, Deal Lake Watershed Alliance, and COA staff and interns. Ambient tests were conducted in 2017. Wet-weather sampling and ship and sniff tests were completed for twenty six locations in July 2019. COA reviewed both sets of results and shared the findings and recommended next steps at the Deal Lake Commission's meeting on Dec 5, 2019. COA recommended that DLC follows-up by conducting an analytical verification of the results.



Waves of Thanks Temple University Students!

COA thanks long-time ocean advocate Cliff Feiring and his team of fellow Temple University Graduate Students for their in-depth digital marketing analysis for COA. The wonderful team of digital media students (Matt Beauchesne, Emily Broxton, Brianna Cureton, Amanda DeFelice, Cliff Feiring, and Kat Skuback) compiled an amazing, detailed presentation that covered everything from COA's target audience, a comprehensive brand profile, competitive market analysis, data and process model, and a new website user and interface prototype. Their efforts are well-timed as COA is revamping our website in 2020.

Great job! We understand they received an A+ for the project.



OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Kari Martin, Education Coordinator; Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org

Calling All 5th - 8th Grades: Spring Student Summit Announced!

Do you know the life history of the horseshoe crab? How dunes form? Or, can you name three invertebrates that call the Jersey Shore home? Middle school students will learn the answers to these questions, and much more, at COA's 32nd Annual Spring Student Summit on May 13th and 14th. This unique program brings learning beyond the classroom to the shores of Sandy Hook. From field activities to environmental roundtable lessons – the Summit is an unforgettable experience.

Public and private middle schools (Grades 5-8) located in northern and central New Jersey Counties are invited to apply. The program is free. Schools must send an application, a \$100 refundable deposit, and signed Terms of Participation by March 31, 2020, to COA by mail. For an application, see our website or contact Kari.



Applications are being accepted now for the Spring Student Summit in May 2020



SEAL of Approval

Clean Ocean Action met with Impact 100 Jersey Coast in January to kick-start the Student Environmental Advocates and Leaders (SEAL) initiative. The SEAL project will engage teenagers from 10 underserved areas in Monmouth County to become environmental leaders within their communities and beyond. Waves of thanks, Impact 100 Jersey Coast, for supporting SEAL with an environmental grant! Clean Ocean Action is hiring a SEAL Coordinator. Call the office at 732-872-0111 if interested.

POLICY

Rep. Pallone: Bold Plan to Achieve Carbon Neutrality by 2050



At a press conference at Monmouth University, US Representative Frank Pallone recently unveiled his legislative framework for the CLEAN Future act, which would set the United States on a track to achieving a 100% clean energy economy by 2050. Joined by Executive Director Cindy Zipf, who commended the proposal, and NJ First Lady Tammy Murphy, Pallone outlined why we must begin to seriously address climate change at the federal level to protect not only New Jersey, but life on earth. First Lady Tammy Murphy discussed her K-12 Climate Change Education Initiative at the press conference.

Pictured (L to R) are Valerie MacFie of the John Ben Snow Foundation; Bonnie Torcivia, Clean Ocean Action Trustee; First Lady Tammy Murphy; Cindy Zipf, Executive Director, Clean Ocean Action; and Maria Sorensen, Count Basie Theatre.



A Note from Our Executive Director

Greetings Ocean Friends,

Welcome to the 2020s! The journey ahead is sure to be filled with adventures and exciting campaigns to improve and defend our ocean.

However, we face daunting challenges:

- Sources of climate change are increasing, including offshore drilling and Transco's pipeline NESE (yes, they are back for Round 3);
- Plastic pollution is increasing every hour, every day;
- Chronic threats to marine life and people from polluted runoff and sewage; and
- Devastating federal environmental rollbacks.

And the list goes on.

There are good signs, including the decade starting with perfect vision – 2020, and the Pantone Color of the Year is “Classic Blue.”



Photo Courtesy of Carmela Caracappa Photography

We are embracing, with gusto, the opportunities ahead to strengthen COA and drive campaigns to prevent, eliminate, or reduce the sources of pollution. **With your support COA will:**

- Celebrate the 35th anniversary of the BEACH SWEEPS, which brings thousands of “feet on the beach and hands in the sand” to remove harmful marine debris;
- Expedite swift passing of NJ's Plastic Control Bill – the strongest in the country;
- Ensure offshore wind projects are protective of ocean and coastal ecological resources;
- Launch “poo-llution” track-down programs in Barnegat Bay, while continuing others through our Rally for the Waterways initiatives;
- Launch the Student Environmental Advocates and Leadership program (SEAL), a high school environmental civic engagement program, thanks to Impact 100 Jersey Coast; and
- Host the grand opening of our new headquarters at 49 Avenel Boulevard in Long Branch, and the long-overdue unveiling of a NEW website.

Importantly, we also go boldly into the decade with new leadership on the COA Board of Trustees:

Leo Gasienica, President

Bob Bennekamper, Vice President

Bonnie Torcivia, Secretary

Valerie Montecalvo, Treasurer

We invite you to learn more about these remarkable leaders on our website.

Lest we forget, please toast COA on our **36th Anniversary on February 26th**. Also, if you were at the COA kickoff at the Peninsula House in Sea Bright in 1984, call or email Allie (732-872-0111 or communications@cleanoceanaction.org) to tell us your story to be included in anniversary social media posts.

Together with the entire board, the staff and all of you, we can make the 2020s the decade of true-blue ocean action and progress!

Ever onward,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cindy'.

Cindy



Mark Your Calendars

Beach Sweeps

April 25

Over 60 NJ Locations

Aveda Earth Month

April

Attend an Aveda Earth Month event.

Student Summit

May 13 & 14

Sandy Hook, NJ

Run the Hook

May 10

Sandy Hook, NJ

Rally for the Rivers Eco-Fest

May 30

Victory Park, Rumson, NJ

COA Open Surf Contest

Fall Date TBD

Seven Presidents Park, Long Branch, NJ

Ocean Celebration

Fall Date TBD

Windows on the Water, Sea Bright, NJ

Cheers to Asbury Park Beerfest!

In January the annual Asbury Park Beerfest took place at the iconic Convention Hall in Asbury Park. As a beneficiary of the event, COA was invited to set up a table and engage with festival-goers on myriad ocean issues. Attendees were invited to stop by the table, compete in a “water pong” game for special prizes and learn more about COA’s ocean conservation efforts. COA is honored to be the recipient of an incredibly generous \$5,000 donation from Madison Marquette. In addition to this wonderful donation, COA’s tremendous volunteers raised an additional \$631 at the information table. Waves of thanks to Madison Marquette for their support of COA and to our volunteers for their tireless efforts! Cheers to cleaner oceans!



Volunteer Phyllis Berger all smiles at Beerfest

In 2019, COA and our volunteers attended over 50 festivals, beach clubs, and special events, educating thousands of people of all ages about ocean pollution issues, and providing them with ways to become the solution to ocean pollution. Will you join us this year by volunteering at one of these events, or by visiting the information and action tables? To volunteer for COA, contact Kari at KMartin@cleanoceanaction.org or at 732-872-0111.

2020 Festivals & Events (*COA confirmed to attend)

- 2/23 - *Ocean Wreck Divers Scuba Supermarket, 150 Intermediate North Way, Toms River, 9am-2pm
- 4/25 - Spring Fair for Earth Day, Leisure Village, Manchester, 12-3pm
- 4/25 - *Green Fair, Brick Township High School, 10am-12pm
- 4/26 - 22nd Annual Holmdel Earth Day Festival, Bayonet Farm, 12-5pm
- 4/26 - Earth Day Festival, Atlantic County Utilities Authority, Atlantic City, 10am-4pm
- 5/2 - *Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst Earth Day 2020 Festival, Laurel Pond Recreation Area, 9am-3pm
- 5/2 - May Day Spring Festival & Pet Expo, Island Beach State Park, 11am-4pm
- 5/2 - Earth Day Celebration, Tinton Falls, 11am-4pm
- 5/3 - Explore Our Shore Event, Girl Scouts, St. Mary’s in Manahawkin, 10am-1pm
- 5/9 - Eco Fair, Glen Ridge, NJ, 10am-4pm
- 5/16 - Green Fair, Little Egg Harbor Township Community Center, NJ, 10am-1pm
- 5/16 - *Ocean Fun Day, Island Beach State Park, 11am-3pm
- 5/17 - *Ocean Fun Day, Sandy Hook, 11am-3pm
- 6/6 - National Marina Day, Leonardo Marina, 10am-2pm