



Clean Ocean Action wishes you a happy and healthy New Year!



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LABEL

2015 a Year of Wavemaking!
Dig Deep into NJ's Water
A Tribute to an Ocean Champion

January 2016 Highlights

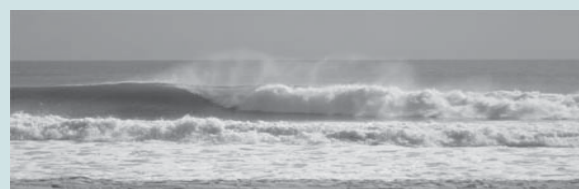
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TRIBUTES



Linda Lees Concerned
Citizen since 1989



Bill Feinberg founding
member Board of Trustees

Gifts made in honor or in celebration of family or friends.

In Honor Of:

- Merry Christmas to Gene Casazza
- Merry Christmas to Elaine and Douglass Denman
- Raymond Dodd
- Scottie Franklin's Birthday
- Jean and Max Kushner's 69th Wedding Anniversary
- Pat Padula
- Catie Tobin & Raritan Valley Community College
- Dorothy Spreeman's Birthday
- Laura Wiggington
- Cindy Zipf
- Port Ambrose Victory

In Memory of:

- Steve Atkins
- Barbara & Dery Bennett
- Harry & Beeze Douty
- Bill Feinberg
- Ben Hamilton (see memoriam)
- Eddie Horgan
- Samuel Karinja
- William Lavin
- Linda T Lees
- Albert Stewart
- James A. Vella

A Year of Wavemaking Ocean Memories

As a friend of the ocean, you cherish your time at the beach. Whether it's feeling the sand between your toes while taking a stroll along the water's edge, the hopeful rush casting a line into the water, or the joy of building sandcastles with kids, the shore is a unique and special place.

You also understand your important role in giving back to the ocean by helping to protect our coasts and marine life year-round. By supporting Clean Ocean Action (COA), you not only give back, but you also pay-it-forward by protecting the ocean's health and enjoyment for future generations.

Thanks to your support, below are COA's 2015 Top Five Ocean Memories and success stories highlighting our work:



#5. Patricia Sener dove into history by being the first to swim 18 miles across the ocean between NY and NJ. This was in support of the Clean Ocean Zone.

#4. The long overdue dredging of Shark River has been approved using alternatives recommended by COA.

#3. The statewide Beach Sweeps celebrated 30 years of citizen action! In recognition, COA held the successful Debris Free Sea Conference and teamed-up with Bloomberg LP to analyze 25 years of citizen science data.



COA also launched the nation's largest statewide assessment of microplastics on beaches and in coastal waters.

#2. Nationally, COA helped draft important federal legislation, the BEACH Act, to improve protection for ocean swimmers.

#1. Together, we defeated Port Ambrose, ending a seven year battle against LNG! Your voices were heard and on November



12th, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo vetoed the risky and unjust Liberty Natural Gas proposal.

Thanks to you, these are just a few highlights from a truly remarkable year of success! However, 2016 brings new threats, such as weakening of water quality protection rules, harmful marine debris, climate change, offshore drilling, and more.

With your support, we can continue to keep the ocean wild and free, marine life thriving, and the beaches safe for today and for future generations. Please consider a generous end-of-the-year donation celebrating our recent successes and help launch us into the year ahead.

Waves of thanks for helping us reach our goal of \$2,500 on Giving Tuesday! Your generous donations were matched by an anonymous supporter to total \$5,875. We appreciate your continued support, not only on Giving Tuesday, but throughout the year.

Policy

Zach Lees, policy@CleanOceanAction.org

What's up with NJ's Water?

New Jerseyans have a complex relationship with water. We swim in it, recreate on it, and fish from it. At the same time, we withdraw huge amounts from rivers and coastal waters for industrial use, drinking, household use, and wastewater treatment, and discharge millions of gallons right back into those waterways. Continued population and development pressures, coupled with the present and future impacts of climate change, threaten the quality and abundance of NJ's most essential resource – clean water. Unfortunately, NJ has been backsliding, and doing a poor job in planning and regulating on these issues. As a result, NJ is losing important hard won battles for water quality protection.

For example, this past year was one of the driest on record. Water levels across the state continue to measure alarmingly low. These low water levels stress habitat, ecosystems, and drinking water supplies. Yet NJ has neglected the critical tasks of inventorying and managing this resource, as the current Water Supply Master Plan (WSMP) created in 1995 and is 15 years overdue for updating. In the past year, NJ has also weakened two critical regulations, the Coastal Zone Management Rules (CZMR) and the Flood Hazard Area Control Act (FHACA), which protect critical coastal and riparian areas that buffer and protect communities from flood waters, waterbodies from nutrient loading, and other pollutant and water quality issues. NJDEP is also in the process of 'updating' its Water Quality Management Planning regulations (WQMP), an essential planning tool necessary to ensure water quality standards across the state will be met in the face of continued development. Unfortunately these updates would allow increased development and associated water quality impacts from sewers, wastewater treatment plants, and runoff in coastal areas.

NJ's water protection laws and planning are heading in the wrong direction. Clean water for drinking, swimming, fishing, and agriculture is invaluable. COA will continue to fight for clean water, and encourages the public to engage with us to protect this most basic and essential resource.

NJ Elected Leaders Stood Against Port Ambrose!

The battle against Port Ambrose involved a coalition, including elected officials. NJ Senator Beck and Assemblywoman Casagrande led the charge in Trenton sponsoring a resolution opposing Port Ambrose and calling for the Governor to veto the project. Nationally, Congressman Pallone vocally opposed the project and pressured Governor Christie to take action. Senator Booker wrote a letter to MARAD raising concerns about the proposal and the need to protect New Jersey's coastline from industrialization. Thank you to all the elected officials who worked on this issue!

Consequences of Lifting the Oil Export Ban

As we approach the end of what is on track to be the hottest year on record and as world leaders just agreed to an historic climate plan, Congress is considering lifting the four decade old ban on crude oil exports. The House voted to lift the ban and now the Senate is set to vote on the ban, which is tied into a spending bill. The decision would then lie on President Obama, who has threatened to veto the bill. Lifting the ban would only add more fuel to the fires that are burning out West, create a more acidic ocean, and squander our natural resources for future generations. The only winners from this deal would be Big Oil, who would see massive profits, while our coast will be in greater risk from offshore drilling.

If the ban were to be lifted, it is estimated an additional 22 million metric tons of global warming pollution will be emitted each year. An extra 7,600 more wells would have to be drilled, yielding 3.3 million more barrels of oil a day. More oil could mean more pipelines, more offshore exporting facilities, more greenhouse gases, and an even stronger push to open the Atlantic to offshore drilling.

It is hypocritical for the United States to agree to urgently address climate change, while simultaneously approving policies that will accelerate the warming of the planet. COA is urging lawmakers to keep the ban in place. The talks on the ban were ongoing as the newsletter went to press. Please check our Facebook page for updates and actions to take on this issue.

Education

Catie Tobin, education@CleanOceanAction.org

Bloomberg LP - Dives into Data and so much More

Individuals give back to their community in their own unique ways. For example, some COA supporters prefer to volunteer by cleaning up their local beach. Others want to use their expertise and skills to give back to an organization.

In 2011, a team of volunteers from Bloomberg LP first participated in COA's Corporate Beach Sweeps program. They were inspired by data that had resulted and expanded their unique relationship with COA, taking it from the beach to the office, to explore the data from the Beach Sweeps Program. As you may know, every Beach Sweeper becomes a 'citizen scientist' as they record each piece of debris collected on our data cards. The data collection turns a one-day event into a legacy of information that can be used to identify sources of pollution and monitor trends. This research helps COA discover solutions to keep beaches clean and healthy, create federal, state, and local programs to reduce litter in the environment, and protect the public and marine life. Today, COA has over 20+ years of this carefully tracked information. But what does it really say? Has marine debris in New Jersey changed over time?



In the spring of 2014, Bloomberg LP partnered with COA to thoroughly analyze the Beach Sweeps' data set. This analysis will be the first of its kind in Beach Sweeps history. The goal is to more accurately monitor trends throughout the years and eventually link those trends with various legislation from the past, present, and future, as well as to track consumerism, weather, and industry changes. In addition to this analysis, the Bloomberg LP team has been working on an innovative technological approach to data management for the Beach Sweeps program. They do so voluntarily, dedicating hundreds of hours.

An overview of the goals of the partnership was released at the Debris Free Sea Conference in November (please check COA's website to view the presentation), and a more detailed analysis will be ready for the public in 2016.

COA salutes the Bloomberg team for all the volunteer hours and for their dedication. It is a pleasure working with the dynamic team. They have accomplished a great deal and we look forward to what the future holds for our partnership. COA is also grateful to Bloomberg LP for generously matching their employees' hard work through their "Dollars for Your Hours" program.

Missed the Debris Free Sea Conference? Information is now available online.

After a very successful Debris Free Sea Conference, Clean Ocean Action wants to make sure that the conversation and innovative ideas continue to move forward. As a next step, most of the conference materials including the program, which contains the speakers' biographies and their presentations, are now available on Clean Ocean Action's website. Please use these as resources within your classroom and communities to educate others on the marine debris epidemic. If you would like to become more involved, contact Catie Tobin at education@CleanOceanAction.org Find materials at www.CleanOceanAction.org.

In Memoriam: Ben Hamilton

"Those who dwell among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life." —Rachel Carson



The water always called to Ben Hamilton. He was a true waterman—a river rat, sailor, surfer, paddle-boarder, and friend to the ocean. For twenty years, business took him around the world and where ever he traveled he'd find the water and the waves. About ten years ago, he returned to his native waters on the Navesink River and started a paddle boarding business to encourage others to find the joy and healing that being close to the water can bring. With his home on the bluff in Fair Haven, NJ, Ben had a primo vista and was closest to the rhythms of the river. His aloha nature made him happy to share his view, deck, or beach and he became renowned

for his photographs, especially glorious sunsets. And, Ben took his sea savvy seriously by supporting many groups. He had a remarkable gift of empowering people, and his enthusiasm and support of Clean Ocean Action was boundless. He volunteered his encouragement, time, talents, and knowledge to help improve and protect the river and ocean.

Ben found joy, strength, and courage from the sea, and he will always be remembered for his vision, inspiration, and fun-loving water-spirit.

In 2016, Clean Ocean Action will establish an award in Ben's honor during the Shore Paddle.

By Cindy Zipf
Executive Director of Clean Ocean Action

A special thank you for a wonderful year!

Throughout the year, COA has had so much to be thankful for, from celebrating 30 years of Beach Sweeps to stopping Port Ambrose. Volunteers are an important part of our organization. They take time out of their busy lives to help protect what they love. Whether you staffed a COAST table over the summer, put labels on this very newsletter, helped out at an event, spoke at a hearing, or cleaned your local beach, we thank you.

Clean Ocean Action thanks all of our supporters and volunteers for a wonderful year! We wish you and your families a Happy New Year!

If you are looking to get more involved in the coming year please contact Nicole at outreach@CleanOceanAction.org