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LABEL

30th Annual Spring Beach Sweep & 2014 Data  
Rutgers Seismic Blasting  
OceanFirst Foundation Charity Challenge

## May 2015 Highlights

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### COAST Summer Volunteer Opportunities

As Summer quickly approaches, we are gearing-up for our COAST Program, a campaign to educate citizens about current ocean pollution issues. Volunteers manage information tables on beaches, beach clubs, and festivals throughout Monmouth and Ocean counties on the weekends in the Summer.

If you are interested in learning more or want to become a COAST volunteer call 732-872-0111 or email Nicole Dallara at outreach@cleanoceanaction.org

### A Special Thanks to Our 30th Annual Beach Sweeps Sponsors

**Statewide Sponsors**

- Aveda
- Bank of America
- ShopRite

**County Sponsors**

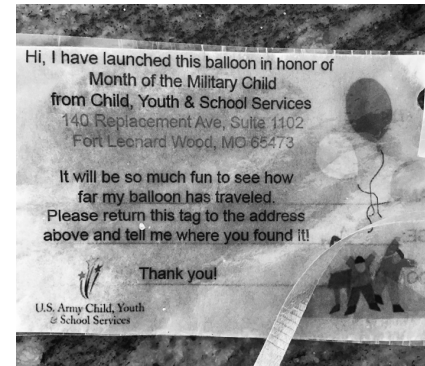
- Atlantic City Electric
- Comcast
- Great Lakes Brewing
- Kohl's
- United Teletech Financial

### TRIBUTES



*In Honor of:*  
Nancy Billyer & Demetrios Hadgis  
Margo Pellegrino  
Karen Schnizspan

*In Memory of*  
Lorraine Barnes  
Barbara Bennett  
William Bernard Lavin  
Nancy Prall Morris



A balloon release note found by Joy Hudecz Beach at LBI.



Bank of America representative, Santo Arena and daughter, at rally in Sandy Hook.



Seahorse found at the Ortley Beach location.



Rally with elected officials and sponsors in Sandy Hook.

## 30th Annual Spring Beach Sweeps

### Nearly 4,000 Volunteers Swept the Beach

Waves of thanks to everyone who participated in our 30th Annual Spring Beach Sweeps! Nearly 4,000 volunteers hit the beaches at over 70 sites from Essex County to Cape May County. Another huge thank you to Clean Ocean Action's Beach Captains, the volunteers who lead the entire group of participants at each Beach Sweeps location - you are essential to the program's success. Clean Ocean Action may organize the cleanup and compile the data, but it is truly the Beach Captains and the volunteers that are the heart and soul of this program.

For three decades volunteers have been making their way to the coast, bays, and waterways, twice a year, to clean up debris. Many of the volunteers have personal ties to the Shore and have been participating for multiple generations. The volunteers this year powered through the morning chill and got right into sweeping the beaches.

- Participants in Atlantic City rallied beforehand with speeches from Charlie Wimberg, Region VP of Atlantic City Electric, and elected officials.
- 213 volunteers showed up at the Raritan Bay Waterfront and found some unusual items including animal bones, broom, binoculars and pliers.
- A yoga mat was found on an Asbury Park Beach.
- At Snug Harbor in the Highlands, a volunteer found possible fulgurite, a blob of glass fused sand caused by lightning strike!
- Students from Hightstown Environmental Club found a door and giant plastic container in Sandy Hook.
- An amazing find was a seahorse at Ortley Beach! Although the wondrous critter had passed away, it is a healthy sign that they are back.

This spring data will be combined with data collected in the fall. Make sure you mark your calendars for the 30th Annual Fall Sweeps on Saturday October 24th from 9 AM to 12:30 PM at the various locations!

2014 Beach Sweeps results are in! 315,154 pieces of debris was picked up! The majority of the debris removed was disposable plastics. Plastic, including foam, represents 76.9% of the total waste found.

**Dirty Dozen**

- |                               |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Plastic Pieces – 40,880    | 7. Glass Pieces – 12,703   |
| 2. Cigarette Filters – 30,241 | 8. Plastic Bottle – 11,775 |
| 3. Plastic Caps/Lids – 29,804 | 9. Lumber Pieces – 9,325   |
| 4. Wrappers/Bag – 27,381      | 10. Plastic Bags – 8,037   |
| 5. Straws/Stirrers – 18,372   | 11. Cigar Tips – 6,366     |
| 6. Foam Pieces – 13,050       | 12. Paper Pieces – 5,560   |

In addition to the Dirty Dozen some ridiculous items were found such as, Dracula teeth, hearing aid, ski pole, and stun gun. To review results go to cleanoceanaction.org

## Policy

Catie Tobin, [education@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:education@cleanoceanaction.org)

### Rutger's Ocean Blasting Back This Summer: NJDEP Says "No"

The proposed seismic study to be conducted off the coast of Barnegat Bay is back and quickly approaching! This study was supposed to be conducted last summer, but due to mechanical issues was canceled. Columbia University's Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory, National Science Foundation, Rutgers University, and University of Texas are insisting on conducting this study during the peak summer season despite vocal opposition. New Jersey's State Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) sent a letter, on March 6, 2015, to the National Science Foundation (NSF) opposing the study due to the harm to marine life and fishermen. Officially the NJDEP determined that the study is inconsistent with New Jersey's Coastal Zone Management rules, and therefore it should not move forward. In addition Congressmen Pallone, LoBiondo, Smith and MacArthur have vocally stated their opposition, while U.S. Senators Booker and Menendez have raised concerns. Despite opposition they are determined to blast our coast!

Many of the shore communities' business owners and residents are seasonal and not in town to know that this project is being re-proposed and are not aware of the Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA). COA requested an extension so those business owners and residents would be informed in a timely manner. We submitted our comments by the deadline of April 16th, but we are still waiting on a response to our extension request. Together with elected officials, groups, and citizens we continue to work tirelessly to stop this proposed project and will keep everyone informed about next steps!

#### What can you do?

Sign our petition at [stoprutgersoceanblasting.org](http://stoprutgersoceanblasting.org) and join the close to 20,000 people opposing seismic testing off our coast. If you want to get more involved please call COA and ask for Nicole Dallara.

### Port Ambrose Update

On April 1st COA joined our New York LNG Coalition members at a NYC Council Meeting on a resolution urging Governor Cuomo to veto Port Ambrose. Councilmember Donovan Richards led the hearing and has been leading the fight to stop Port Ambrose. To date the resolution has over 27 supporters.



A new rule has been released by the United States Coast Guard for liquefied natural gas import and export facilities. Clean Ocean Action is reviewing this new rule. We are concerned that no public hearing or meeting has been proposed. We will keep you updated as we learn more about this new rule.

#### A special thanks to the following towns who recently expressed their opposition by passing an LNG resolution:

Borough of Union Beach  
Borough of Bradley Beach

### New Report Confirms Fish Injury from Hudson River PCB Contamination

The Hudson River Natural Resource Trustees released a report confirming that the public's use of the Hudson River fishery, whether for a livelihood, a source of recreational enjoyment, or for nutrition, continues to be severely reduced because of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination. PCB is a dangerous synthetic organic chemical compound. PCB contamination in the Hudson River has restricted fish consumption for generations.

The report updates and expands a June 2001 injury determination report on fishery closures and consumption restrictions. Previous reports have identified injuries to resident waterfowl (August 2013) and to surface water resources (July 2006 and December 2008). Since 1975, the presence of high concentrations of PCBs in Hudson River fish has led New York State officials to close various recreational and commercial fisheries and to issue advisories restricting the consumption of fish taken from the Hudson River. The Trustees will use this injury determination report to inform their restoration work through the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration process, which will compensate the public for this loss.

For more information please visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)

## Supporting COA's Work

Tory Woods, [events@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:events@cleanoceanaction.org)

Only two weeks left to help COA receive a grant from the OceanFirst Foundation! COA is currently participating in a "Charity Challenge" on Crowdrise with over 60 others who are competing for a \$15,000 grant. Show your support for our organization by making a donation of any size. Every penny raised on our page will be directed toward COA's independent research study on microplastics.

As you may know, our staff has been working with NOAA and undergoing the largest independent study on microplastics. So far, we have documented their presence from samples of our coastal waterways and beaches.

This study is not currently funded by any grant and needs your support to continue our research and analysis of the samples. Please make a contribution on our Crowdrise page, also found on our website homepage, or call the office for more information.



#### What can you do about microplastic pollution?

There are two sources of microplastics:

- 1) The breakdown of larger pieces and
- 2) manufactured products.

By reducing the amount of plastic you use you reduce the amount of plastic in the environment, which if not recycled can end-up in the environment and break down into microplastics. Be a conscious consumer by purchasing tooth paste and facial or body scrub that is free of microbeads. These beads do not get filtered through wastewater systems and end-up in our waterways.

## Events

Tory Woods, [events@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:events@cleanoceanaction.org)

### Blue Vision Summit Speak for the Sea in DC!

The 5th Blue Vision Summit (BVS5) is coming to Washington DC May 11-14 and registration is still open! The summit is held every two years bringing together a diverse group of ocean and coastal leaders in the marine conservation community. You will be joined by local, regional and national ocean advocates exploring new ways to create and implement solutions to the challenges facing our Oceans.

Visit [BlueFrontier.org](http://BlueFrontier.org) & to register.



### Beauty in Protecting Clean Water and Earth

This past April over 45 Aveda salons, spas, retail centers, and institutes helped to raise money and awareness for clean water. COA would like to thank everyone who helped make this possible, who attended an event such as a Cut-A-Thon or Walk-For-Water, and those who volunteered to make this the best Earth Month yet!

On March 25th, salons from the tri-state area created works of art at the "Catwalk-For-Water" in New York City. This "trashion-show" event allowed students and stylists to get creative and design a runway style outfit from all recycled goods. Some of the winners included a dress made of all recycled wires and electronics, another was constructed from onion bags, while others used plastic bags, packaging materials, leaves, and everyday items such as straws and metrocards. A special thanks to all who helped create these beautiful designs and hairstyles.

In addition to highlighting fashion, beauty, and Aveda's all natural plant based products, the company's mission also focuses on education. On Earth Day, supporters gathered at Purpose's headquarters in NYC for a panel on sustainability with light food and wine provided by Vin12. Joao Talocchi, of Purpose, kicked off the night with a strong focus on water scarcity and climate change. Christina Farrar, District Manager for Aveda, educated the guests on how they can help with these water issues globally and locally through their Earth Month mission. To highlight the local level and how we are all impacted, Cindy Zipf, COA's Executive Director, tied in current ocean issues and ways to get involved. The threats of climate change and water aren't only ocean related, but also impact marine life and mammals. One endangered species is the snow leopard, which resides in the snow covered mountaintops and whose home may be lost due to climate change, hunters, and the nomads in these regions. Charlie Whitfield of Snow Leopard vodka informed guests on these issues and how they make a difference through their vodka brand and trusts. To tie all these unique and important issues together, Debera Johnson, of Pratt Institute, spoke on behalf of how to live a sustainable life and make less of an impact on the environment.

Everyday we can make a difference for clean and available water by watching our consumption, re-using water, and educating those around us to do the same. For more ways to lessen your impact, please visit our website.



Winners of Aveda's Trashion Show



Aveda Master Stylist Jimmy Keaton cuts hair at NYC Aveda Lifestyle Salon West Broadway, supporting COA.