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CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE
November 2017

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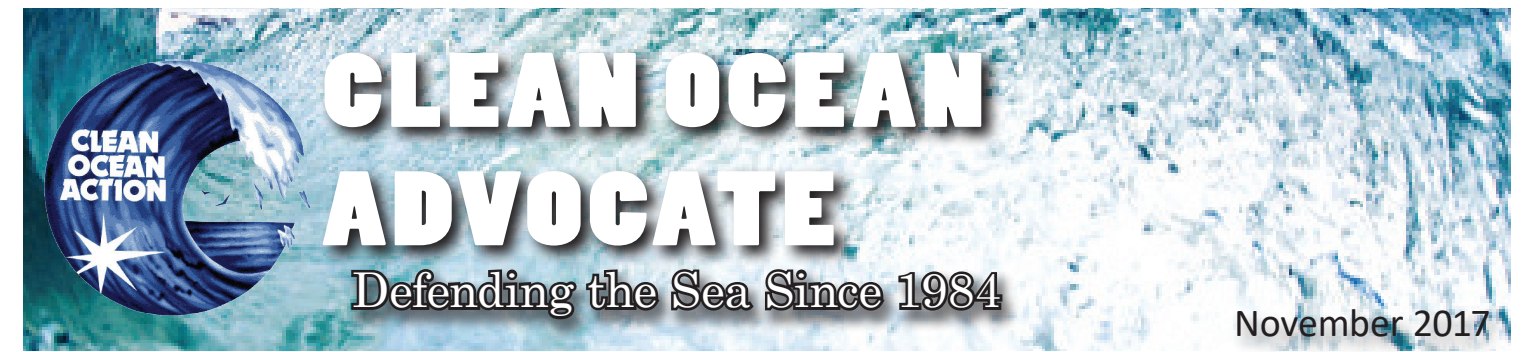


Photo courtesy of Ryan Struck Photography

Big Oil Ocean Assault Bill Pending

An outrageous pro-offshore oil drilling bill was the focus of a hearing this October in Washington DC. Called the Accessing Strategic Resources Offshore Act, it would remove nearly every regulation and streamline the process to make current offshore oil and gas drilling laws (already weak) obsolete. Here are a few provisions:

- Allow drilling anywhere in federal waters at any time—rendering irrelevant the existing law that requires a public review process, as well as required environmental, social, and fiscal safeguards.
- Strips the right of a President to establish marine national monuments or to withdraw other areas from consideration of drilling.
- Bribe states and communities by offering more revenue-sharing dollars the closer the rigs are to their coast.

Eliminating restrictions on Big Oil is wrong for many reasons. Here are three:

- 1) Oil exploration and drilling is dangerous for people, and harmful and polluting to the planet.
- 2) Fossil fuel expansion is antithetical to the energy future needed for a sustainable world.
- 3) The current law is already weak, and allows as much drilling as the current President would seek to allow. However, at least it does require public review.

COA will monitor this monstrous proposal and keep you posted. In the meantime, the fast-tracking of the current oil and gas proposals off the Atlantic coast continues under the Trump Administration. Final decisions are expected by the end of the year and hearings planned for the holiday/new year holiday season.....of course.

This November 7th is Election Day



Here are the state and local ballot questions that will directly impact the environment questions for your review.

New Jersey Public Question #2: The Revenue from Environmental Damage Lawsuits Dedicated to Environmental Projects

“Do you approve amending the Constitution to dedicate all moneys collected by the State relating to natural resource damages in cases of contamination of the environment? The moneys would have to be used to repair, restore, replace, or preserve the State’s natural resources. The moneys may also be used to pay legal or other costs incurred by the State in pursuing its claims”.

This is written fairly straight forward. The need for this amendment is a result of multiple cases against Exxon for polluting the Passaic River. Without this limitation, Governor Christie planned to spend only \$103



Lake Pontchartrain rig explosion on October 15th

Oil Drilling is Not Safe for People or Planet

On Friday the 13th of October a massive oil “leak” was reported in the deep ocean in the Gulf of Mexico by oil drilling giant LLOG Exploration, LLC. The “reported” leaked amount is nearly 672,000 gallons at 5,000 feet below sea level. The leak was caused by a pipeline fracture, although the infrastructure was practically brand new. The location of the spill was just a few miles away from BP oil spill. Just days later, on October 15, a gas drilling rig exploded in Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana, with 8 men aboard. One father of three was killed and five seriously injured workers were rushed to the hospital. It is still under investigation.

million of the \$580 million received on restoration. The case is being appealed, but clearly funds that are a result of environmental damage should be directed to restore the areas, and payback the legal costs.

Monmouth County Ballot Question: Protect Open Space, Water, and Floodplains

It’s not too late to save our remaining open lands, protect our water quality, and ensure our property taxes are kept in check by avoiding overdevelopment. A newly formed group Save Open Space in Monmouth County has formed for the sole purpose of guaranteeing that sufficient funds are available to protect our dwindling natural resources in Monmouth County.

Listed as the last question on the ballot, voters are being asked to continue their support through an increased dedication in the annual collection rate that translates to approximately 16 cents to the average taxpayer. The Monmouth County Open Space Trust Fund provides funding to guarantee residents have permanently preserved lands for recreation, water quality protection, floodplain protection, and to maintain the operations of a nationally accredited park system. Since its inception in 1989, the Trust Fund has maintained a clean record of public spending. Spending decisions are carefully overseen by a public board with numerous citizen representatives in order to properly use and allocate the fund.

Tributes



Photo courtesy of Joe Reynolds

In Memory of:

- Teena Hartung
- Ryan Hoblitzell
- Samuel Karinja
- Abby Litwin Mooney
- Carol Anne Ross
- Kit Rowett White

Mark Your Calendars!

Rally for the Navesink Public Meeting

Thursday, November 30th, 6:30pm

Bingham Hall in Rumson (last meeting of 2017!)



Dancing in the Moonlight

Saturday , December 2nd, 6-10pm

Windows on the Water in Sea Bright

Visit CleanOceanAction.org for tickets!

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Tory Woods, Development Director, Development@CleanOceanAction.org
 Abigail Eastwood, Program Assistant, Programs@CleanOceanAction.org

Rally Across the Boards: A Five Year Commemoration of Superstorm Sandy

A resident who lost his house during Superstorm Sandy, local officials who led their community's recovery, and activists who know New Jersey is as vulnerable today as it was five years ago rallied at the Paramount Theatre on Sunday to demand immediate action on climate change.

The Superstorm Sandy event – Hands Across the Boards: 5 Years After Sandy – was organized by the New Jersey League of Conservation Voters Education Fund to commemorate the lives, properties, and businesses lost, and to draw attention to ongoing recovery work and lack of preparedness for the next major storm.

Due to another late October storm threatening heavy rain and gusty winds on the anniversary of Sandy, the event was moved from the boardwalk to indoors.



Ed Potosnak of NJ League of Conservation Voters speaks at the Superstorm Sandy Rally

Leaders from a dozen of the state's biggest environmental groups were joined by Sandy victim Joe Mangino, Rep. Frank Pallone, whose district includes a long swath of the Jersey coast, and representatives of Sen. Cory Booker, Sen. Jennifer Beck and Assembly members Eric Houghtaling and Joann Downey. Asbury Park Mayor John Moor welcomed the audience.

Let's Celebrate
 20 Years Dump-Site Free!

Dancing in the Moonlight

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2ND

WINDOWS ON THE WATER AT SURFRIDER BEACH CLUB
 931 OCEAN AVE, SEA BRIGHT, NJ

6 - 10pm COCKTAILS, DINNER & DANCING

Purchase tickets online at CleanOceanAction.org

SCIENCE

Swarna Muthukrishnan, Staff Scientist; Science@CleanOceanAction.org

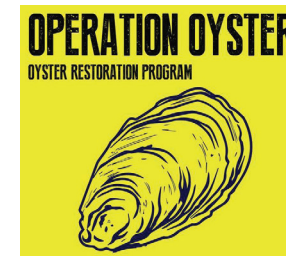
Rally for the Navesink—Oysters in October



Pim Van Hemmen of the American Littoral Society speaks about Operation Oyster

At last month's Rally for the Navesink meeting, citizens enjoyed an engaging and informative presentation on Operation Oyster.

Pim Van Hemmen, Assistant Director of American Littoral Society (ALS), gave an update on Operation Oyster, a science-based educational program to investigate the presence of native oysters in local rivers. This summer, ALS cooperated with private property owners to place bags of shells, which provide excellent habitat for oysters, at 59 docks throughout the Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers. While no oysters were found, a total of 31 other marine species were identified. In addition to these scientific endeavors, a large portion of Operation



ALS' Operation Oyster updates at the October Rally for the Navesink Meeting

Oyster consists of community outreach. Early in October, Operation Oyster programming was brought to Forrestdale School in Rumson, which incorporated oysters into science, math, history, and language arts classes.

Alliance members also shared information about environmental questions that will be on the ballot in the upcoming November 7th election, as well as the latest water quality updates.

Meetings are held the last Thursday of every month. The final meeting of 2017 will be held on November 30th at 6:30pm at Bingham Hall in Rumson.

Shrewsbury Dredging to Feed Monmouth Beach Shoreline

Imminently, the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) will begin sand shoal maintenance dredging in three NJ state navigation channels in the Shrewsbury River. Phase 1 of the NJDOT Channel Dredging Program in response to the impacts from SuperStorm Sandy must be completed by December 31st, 2017 per state and federal regulations.



NJDOT to begin sand shoal dredging imminently

The three channels that will be dredged are: (i) Monmouth Beach Channel (#016) in the Boroughs of Monmouth Beach and Sea Bright, to a maximum depth of 6-ft below the Plane of Mean Low Water Level (MLW); (ii) Rumson Country Club Y Channel (#017) in the Boroughs of Rumson and Sea Bright, to a maximum depth of 5-ft MLW; and (iii) Oceanport Creek Entry Channel (#025) in the Borough of Oceanport, to a maximum depth of 4-ft MLW. According to the permit details, approximately 17,500 cubic yards is estimated to be removed from the three channels according to the permit details. Only certain areas qualify for beach replenishment. All material dredged must be greater than 90% sand to meet criteria for beach replenishment nourishment along the shoreline of Monmouth Beach, in front of the existing dune between Central and Park Road. Hydraulic dredging will be used to dredge material that will then be transported via pipeline to the beach placement area.

A pre-dredging biological survey was conducted on Sep 19, 2017 by a consulting firm to look for seabach amaranth, a plant that is on the federal "threatened" plants list. The survey identified 2 areas of seabach amaranth, with a total of four plants. These were documented earlier by the US Fish & Wildlife Service and fenced off. In addition, the permit requires that shellfish waters shall be closed until 30 days after dredging has been completed. Once the beach replenishment is nearing completion, the area will be inspected for any unexpected changes in habitat. Clean Ocean Action and partners will be monitoring the process carefully. In addition, COA urges citizens who are regularly in the Shrewsbury River and walking along the shore in Monmouth Beach to keep a safe distance, but also a watchful eye. For maps of the areas, please visit COA's blog.

OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Amanda Wheeler, Volunteer & Education Coordinator; Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org

Student Scientists Gather at Fall Student Summits

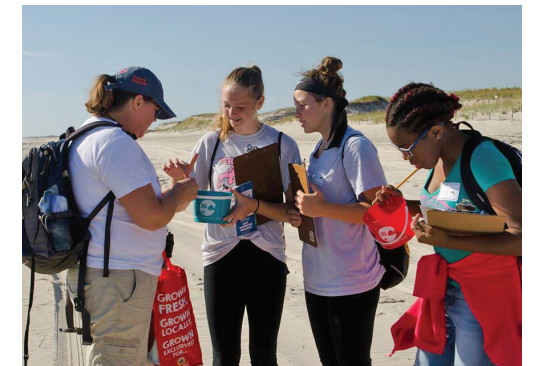


EnviroScape round table at the Island Beach State Park Student Summit

Island Beach State Park
 On October 5th over 200 student "scientists for the day" from all around South Jersey gathered in Island Beach State Park with their teachers, chaperones and local naturalists to participate in the 29th Annual Free Fall Student Summit. Middle school students learned about marine science and environmental issues from MATES (Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Sciences) students who led mini-lessons at the Environmental Roundtables on topics they had researched, such as Nonpoint Source Pollution, Local Invertebrates and Hurricanes. Each middle school student was led on a field trip by a

naturalist. Field trips included a Nature Walk, Mollusk and Crustacean Hunt, Beachcombing, Seining, Clamming and Beach Sweep.

COA thanks all the field trip leaders for sharing their expertise and the gracious staff of beautiful Island Beach State Park for hosting us at their fabulous location. Waves of thanks to Jenkinson's Aquarium for bringing critters and Dr. John Wnek from MATES for connecting his top-notch high school students to COA's Student Summit. Thank you, John, for inspiring the next wave of environmental stewards.



COA Board Member, Kari Martin leads students on a Beach Combing field trip



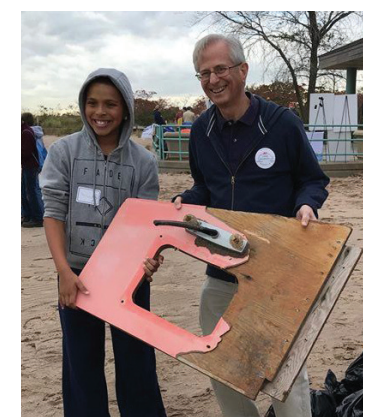
Seining & smiling at the NY Student Summit at Great Kills Park

New York Student Summit

COA teamed-up with longtime friends and Participating Organization, the Natural Resources and Protective Association (NRPA), for the first New York Student Summit on October 25th at the Great Kills Park on Staten Island. The School for Civic Leadership and Staten Island Academy students and their teachers were treated to a morning of outdoor hands-on lessons about their local ecology.

The NRPA including

our co-coordinator, Tony Rose, and COA's Amanda Wheeler amassed an impressive assembly of local environmental groups and advocates who hosted the Environmental Roundtables on topics such as the Billion Oyster Project, Eels, Horseshoe Crabs, and Friends and Freshwater Marshes. The Staten Island Zoo brought some local critters for up close and personal encounters with students. On the Field Trips, SCAPE taught students about their coastal resiliency project, the Staten Island Sport Divers showed students some cool SCUBA equipment, Gateway National Park Naturalists took students seining and soil testing, and members of the NRPA showed the students the joys of surfcasting. COA Executive Director, Cindy Zipf, took students on a Beach Sweep where they documented and removed much unimaginable debris, literally including the kitchen sink!



Student literally finds the kitchen sink during the Beach Sweep field trip!

This event was made possible thanks to the support and vision of The Mental Insight Foundation, as well as all who participated, supported and coordinated this pilot project that we are anticipating will become a regular event!