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LABEL

CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE
May 2019

Take Action Against the
NESE Pipeline by May 2!



Clean Ocean Action
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Ryan Struck Photography

CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE
Defending the Sea Since 1984

May 2019

Peter Blair, Policy Attorney; Policy@CleanOceanAction.org



Suzanne Mattei presenting on her report for 350.org: "False Demand: The Case Against the Williams Fracked Gas Pipeline" at the Citizens Hearing

Citizens Turn Out to Oppose Pipeline in the Bay

On April 10, 2019, nearly one hundred families, community groups, fishermen, clambers, elected officials, and business leaders expressed their opposition to the NESE Pipeline at Clean Ocean Action's Citizen Hearing. Despite the project's severe and far reaching negative impacts to the Bayshore community, there was no formal hearing held along the Bayshore. Therefore, Clean Ocean Action took it upon itself to organize an opportunity for public comment on the 23.4 mile pipeline that will rip apart the Raritan Bay. Food and Water Watch NJ, NY/NJ Baykeeper, Sierra Club NJ, and CHARGE were also represented at the hearing. Attendees learned about the impacts associated with the proposal, as well as the lack of need from a panel.



MAST Student, Yaseen Zaky presented on his study on methylmercury in the Raritan Bay, specifically along the location of the proposed pipeline, at the Citizen Hearing, the Keansburg Town Council Meeting, and the Monmouth County Freeholders Meeting.

Citizens then had the opportunity to publicly comment on the pipeline. The comments were recorded, and transcribed and will be included in the public record. Special thanks to Atlantic Highlands for allowing the use of the Senior Center for the hearing.

Bayshore 100% Opposed to NESE



Board of Chosen Freeholders for Monmouth County passed a resolution opposing the NESE Pipeline

Over the past month, Clean Ocean Action has been attending Town Hall meetings all along the Bayshore to urge elected officials to pass resolutions opposing the NESE Pipeline. All thirteen municipalities, as well as the Board of Chosen Freeholders for Monmouth County have opposed the pipeline project.

Towns that have passed resolutions include:

Aberdeen, Atlantic Highlands, Hazlet, Highlands, Holmdel, Keansburg, Keyport, Long Branch, Matawan, Middletown, Rumson, Sea Bright, and Union Beach

You Can Help:

1. Submit a Public Comment by May 2nd

Matthew Resnick, NJDEP Division of Land Use Regulation
Mail Code 501-02A, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625
Matthew.Resnick@dep.nj.gov

2. Call Governor Murphy by May 2nd

Voice your concerns about the pipeline to Governor Murphy about the project. The Governor may be contacted at (609) 292-6000

3. Sign the Petition by May 2nd

Visit CleanOceanAction.org to sign the petition.



Mark Your Calendars

Oyster Farmers Screening
May 2, 7pm

Rumson Presbyterian Church

Run the Hook
May 12, 10am

Guardian Park, Sandy Hook, NJ

Rally for the Navesink Public Meeting
May 30, 7pm - 8pm

Bingham Hall, Rumson, NJ

Rally for the Rivers Eco-Fest
June 8, 9am - 12:30pm

Victory Park, Rumson, NJ

Pick a Day, It's Time to Volunteer in May!

Contact Kari Martin at citizens@CleanOceanAction.org to sign-up to volunteer for COA at these fun events:

Saturday, May 4, 11-4pm

May Day/Pet Expo, Island Beach State Park
www.friendsofisp.org

Saturday, May 18, 11-3pm

Ocean Fun Day, Island Beach State Park
www.njseagrant.org

Sunday, May 19, 11-3pm

Ocean Fun Day, Gateway National Recreation Area, Sandy Hook
www.njseagrant.org

Tributes

Photo courtesy of Joe Reynolds

In Memory of:

Billy Caldwell

Peter Cauterucci

Sonja Lamnin Coffman

Joe Galacki

Theodore Josberger

Dolores & Samuel Karinja

Sam Mustac

Patricia Padula

Carol Anne Ross

Gregory S. Weber

In Honor of:

Susan Chadwick's 10th
Wedding Anniversary

Earth Day

Margo Pellegrino

CHEERS to 35 YEARS
of Ocean Advocacy!

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

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

Celebrate World Oceans Day at the 2nd Annual Environmental Celebration of the Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers

FREE
Rally for the Rivers Eco-Fest
Saturday, June 8, 2019

9am-12:30pm
Rain date: June 15

For more info visit
CleanOceanAction.org



Saturday, June 8 is World Oceans Day where millions of citizens celebrate the ocean. This year, the many organizations and towns in the Two River area will be “connecting the drops” at the 2nd Annual Rally for the Rivers Eco-Fest by highlighting the importance of keeping rivers clean to also help the ocean.

For the second year, Clean Ocean Action and the Rumson Environmental Commission, are co-coordinating the event for the Rally for the Navesink project—an alliance of over 20 organizations and eight towns to help protect the Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers. This year Metrovation has teamed-up to sponsor the event.

The event provides an extravaganza of educational fun to learn about

“Waterway Mindfulness” all while having a great time. Youngsters will enjoy crafts, face painting, music, river seining, yoga, ribbon dancing, and more!

Children also have incentives to participate in the activities by getting their Environmental Passport stamped after visiting different activity stations throughout the park. Completed passports may earn them extra-credit in the classroom and other environmentally friendly rewards and special treats from local businesses. Everyone gets into the true blue green spirit of the day.

For more information about the day, activities, or getting involved contact Clean Ocean Action. 732-872-0111 and speak to Alison McCarthy.

Save the date for the next Rally for the Navesink Meeting on Thursday, May 30 from 7pm - 8pm at Bingham Hall!



Little Silver Joins NJ Towns that have Banned Single-Use Plastic Items!

The town of Little Silver joins 24 municipalities that passed local ordinances to ban three single use products. To view a full list of NJ & NY ordinances addressing single-use plastics visit CleanOceanAction.org.

Pictured here is Representative Frank Pallone; COA's Cindy Zipf; Highlands Councilwoman Linda Mazzola, Rosemary Ryan, and Carolyn Broullon celebrating Earth Day at Snug Harbor; raising awareness and planting dune grass.



SCIENCE

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

Bottles are a Blight on the Banks of the Delaware River



Before and after photos of a small area of the cleanup location demonstrate the severity of the problem and the impressive work of the volunteers.

turtle mask, Nerf darts, a mattress, and a toy golf putter. Astoundingly, nearly 90% of the debris collected was plastic, and plastic beverage bottles were the most common item, with 733 bottles removed from the site.

Students and teachers from Hightstown High School celebrated Earth Month by participating in a Delaware River Sweep with COA on Saturday, April 6. This was the third cleanup held at a site along Lambertson Rd in Trenton, which is one of several plastic litter hotspot areas along the Delaware River that COA has been focusing on as part of the Delaware Sweeps. In just a few hours, 22 volunteers collected 3,036 pieces of debris from a small area along the riverbank. Volunteers from Hightstown High School collected 2,721 pieces of plastic and foam and strange items such as a foam

Impact of Microplastics in the Urban Environment at Rutgers

On March 28 and 29, 2019, COA staff Alison McCarthy, Catie Tobin, and Dr. Swarna Muthukrishnan attended a conference hosted by Rutgers University on the “Impact of Microplastics in the Urban Environment”. The two-day session was very informative and included presentations on many issues that are relevant in the problem and management of microplastics and plastic debris. The various topics ranged from regulatory issues, toxicology, fate and transport, and alternative materials.



Bayshore Recycling, a longtime supporter of COA's biannual Beach Sweeps and Terracycle (COA's earlier recycling collaborator for the Delaware clean up initiative) were present. COA's huge contribution to understanding marine debris along the New Jersey shore was highlighted by Scott Fallon, USA Today's investigative reporter covering the problem of plastics pollution and the proposed legislative measures on single use plastics in New Jersey. COA's collaboration with NOAA was also mentioned during their presentation on using a novel technique to identify the break down components of single use plastic debris. COA is currently working on compiling a citizen report on its microplastics assessment of the New Jersey shore that was recently completed with collaboration among COA, NOAA, and MAST.

COA Named for Important Policy Workgroups



Clean Ocean Action has been participating as a stakeholder in NJDEP's ongoing Stormwater Management Rule making process and has offered written comments as well as spoken testimony on the matter. As part of this rule making process, NJDEP recently proposed to form specific smaller subgroups to focus more thoroughly on key issues of concern, and present the recommendations to the larger group for additional discussion. COA is pleased to note that staff scientist Dr. Swarna Muthukrishnan and Policy Attorney Peter Blair, Esq. will serve on Nonstructural Stormwater Management Techniques and Climate Change subgroups. Stormwater is the largest source of pollution to waterways. COA will actively lend its expertise to help in this robust rulemaking process.

OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Kari Martin, Education Coordinator; Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org

Welcome Back to the COA Crew!



Kari (Jermansen) Martin returns to COA as the Education Coordinator. Some of you may recall that Kari originally joined the COA staff in 2000 as a college intern. In 2001 she joined the staff full time focusing on outreach and education. Her exceptional talents enabled her to grow the position ultimately becoming Policy Outreach and Communications Director. Having met her future husband while staffing a COA table, Kari left her position in 2009 to raise a family. Later she joined COA's Board of Trustees from 2015-2019. In rejoining the staff she has resigned that post.

At COA, Kari will develop and manage several COA education programs, and will also assist with administration.

Kari received her Master of Science degree from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, with a concentration in Environmental Policy & Democratic Processes. Her Master's thesis developed from her experience as a summer intern for COA. She received her undergraduate degree from Alfred University, with a double major in Environmental Studies and Political Science.

Kari spends her summers enjoying Midway Beach and the surrounding coastal areas in Ocean County, NJ. She is a diligent advocate for the environment, especially the ocean, and is committed to educating people of all ages about their role and responsibility in improving and protecting our environment. **Welcome back, Kari!**

Oceanport Brownies Be the Sea Change



In March, COA's Amanda Wheeler presented the “Be the Sea Change” program to Girl Scout Troop #60710 in Oceanport. The scouts learned about marine pollution and discussed solutions. In addition to participating in Beach Sweeps each season, this active troop is piloting a storm drain project in coordination with the town of Oceanport. The girls team up and are assigned a drain to keep clean. The designated drains will be marked with a Girl Scout symbol. While wearing safety vests the girls use tools to keep their designated storm drain free of debris and garbage. They “shorely” understand that garbage on our streets will wash into our waterways and threaten and harm animals. Good job, Scouts!

Make Earth Day Count Year Round - Volunteer!

COA has a long history of ocean advocacy, and the core of success is volunteers. Please complete and submit the “Volunteer Form” on the website (under “Help Your Ocean”). The answers on the form allow matching volunteers with needs by having up-to-date information about your interests, skills, and availability.

COA offers volunteer opportunities throughout the year, including: Beach Cleanups, information and action table outreach, office work, advocacy and citizen action, educational programming, event committees, fundraising opportunities, photography/videography assignments, and social media outreach. Whether it is once a week, or once a year, offering your expertise and enthusiasm to COA is fun and rewarding.



COA's Kari Martin, surrounded by fish and other marine life, spoke to visitors at the Jenkinson's Aquarium Earth Day Celebration on 4/20

One of the most precious commodities these days is time, and COA greatly appreciates a volunteer's willingness to share that time with the organization. Together, we can stop ocean pollution! Contact Kari Martin for more information.