



**Downpours Didn't Dampen Beach Sweep Volunteer Spirit!**

**See More Photos Inside!**

**NOVEMBER 2016**



# CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE

Defending the Sea Since 1984

## Downpours Didn't Dampen Beach Sweep Volunteer Spirit!

Blustery winds and downpours didn't stop over 2,000 volunteers from participating in Clean Ocean Action's 31st Annual Beach Sweeps at over 70 sites from Essex to Cape May Counties. In the coming weeks COA will tally totals from all sites which will be combined with data from the Spring 2016 Beach Sweeps. Mark your calendars for the Spring 2017 Sweeps scheduled for April 22 from 9:30am - 12:30pm. For more information on how to become involved in Beach Sweeps please visit [CleanOceanAction.org](http://CleanOceanAction.org) or email [advocate@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:advocate@CleanOceanAction.org).



Seaside Park



Point Pleasant



Asbury Park



Union Beach



Atlantic City



Glen Ridge



Seaside Park



Ortley Beach



Sandy Hook



Cape May



Raritan Bay

## TRIBUTES



Photo courtesy of Joe Reynolds

In Memory of:  
 William Lavin  
 Carol Anne Ross  
 Rip and Joe Schiavone

In Honor of:  
 Delilah Iacouzzi


## FIRE & ICE

Saturday, December 10

6:30 - 10:30pm

Reservations & Sponsorships Available  
[CleanOceanAction.org](http://CleanOceanAction.org)






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**Check Your Mail!**  
 Look for COA's Annual Appeal  
 & Ways to Show  
 Your True Blue Friendship

Together We Can  
 Make Waves for the Ocean's Future!



Miss the Beach Sweeps this year?  
 Find another way to help the beach  
 and ocean and donate to COA  
 through our annual appeal!

## Native Plants for Healthy Ecosystems = Healthy Waters

Too often, NJ State managed roadways have utilized foreign, and even invasive species to replant roadside landscaping and erosion control projects. Not only do these plants crowd out native vegetation which provides critical food and habitat for everything from butterflies to birds, these foreign and invasive species are ill-suited to the soil and weather conditions in the area, requiring more water and maintenance than native plants. Senate Bill S227 is currently in the Senate Environment and Energy Committee. The Bill would require New Jersey Department of Transportation (DOT), NJ Transit Authority (NJTA), and South Jersey Transit Authority (SJT) to use only native vegetation for landscaping, reforestation, and habitat restoration activities. NJDOT, NJTA, and SJTA manage large parcels of land in NJ, including the Garden State Parkway and NJ Turnpike. Native plants improve water quality because they have deeper roots which improve soil health and its ability to absorb rainwater, as well as reduce polluted runoff into our waterways. Native plants also require less watering, and little to no pesticides or fertilizers.



Allium schoenoprasum (Wild Chives)

## National Ocean Policy

On October 14, six United States Senators, including Senators Booker and Menendez of New Jersey, sent a letter to President Obama regarding the recently released Draft Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Action Plan (OAP). The OAP was drafted by the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body, a regional entity comprised of Federal, State, Fisheries Council, and Tribal representatives as part of a national planning exercise mandated by a 2010 President Obama Executive Order which established a National Ocean Policy. The US Senators paralleled many of COA's concerns, while at the same time praising the need for collaboration among agencies and mapping of ocean resources. The letter reflects a need for the plan to be well-crafted and implemented in order for the tools and goals in the plan to be successful, and sought assurances that the designation of "Ecologically Rich Areas" of the ocean would not create sacrificial areas for industrial development. Finally, the letter calls for "robust public and stakeholder engagement" during the finalization and implementation process of the OAP, and illustrates how essential public engagement is in these planning exercises.

## Living River-Friendly in the Navesink

On October 20th, Monmouth Conservation Foundation organized the 4th Rally for the Navesink Public Meeting. Held at 7pm at the Knollwood Elementary School in Fair Haven, the meeting primarily focused on "River-Friendly Living" and steps that individuals living and working in the Navesink watershed can take to improve water quality in the River. The event included a panel of experts that provided insightful presentations and ideas. The panelists included Barnegat Bay Partnership and the Jersey-Friendly Yards program, Ocean County Soil District and examples of successful implementation projects, American Littoral Society and living shorelines as an alternative to bulk-heading, Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association and it's River-Friendly certification program and other watershed management tips, and Rutgers Cooperative Extension and proper fertilizer application and storm water management practices.

Attendees were given the opportunity to network with the panelists and additional resources including Apple Seed Permaculture, Terra Tech, Environmental Master Gardeners of Monmouth, The Little Plant Company, Toadshade Wildflower Farm, and Real Organic Farms in order to plan their garden. Presentations and resources are available via CleanOceanAction.org.

On November 30 at 7pm, COA will host the final meeting of 2016 (location TBD). This meeting will focus on education K-12. Teachers, school administrators, parents, students and all those interested are encouraged to attend. Please visit CleanOceanAction.org or Facebook.com/RallyfortheNavesink.

## Rally for the Navesink November 30, 7PM, Location TBD

CleanOceanAction.org Facebook.com/RallyfortheNavesink

### Welcome Aboard, Swarna!

Please welcome Swarna Muthukrishnan to the crew as Staff Scientist. Swarna received her Ph.D. in Environmental Science at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, India, a Master of Science in Pharmaceutical Chemistry from the University of Florida, and attended the Certificate Program in Biological Waste-water Treatment at the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education in Delft, The Netherlands. She has many years of experience in research and development, analytical techniques, laboratory and field investigations, sampling and monitoring methods, quality practices (QA/QC), scientific data analyses, scientific communication, monitoring and management of innovative treatment technologies and best management practices (BMPs) in water, wastewater, stormwater, sediments, soils, and reclaimed water.

Swarna was Principal scientist in developing and implementing "NPXpress" in NJ and NY – an innovative, award-winning, patented technology focusing on sustainable, cost-efficient wastewater nutrient treatment. She was also previously an Environmental Scientist at the EPA in the Urban Watershed Management Branch, Water Supply, and Water Resources Division in Edison, NJ.

As COA Staff Scientist, Swarna will develop and implement science-based, strategic policies and campaigns to reduce marine pollution.

In her words, Swarna is looking toward "engaging opportunities pertaining to the monitoring and management of water pollution issues, with a focus on improving policy initiatives to address the same in a sustainable manner. I wish to leverage my expertise (both from academics and actual professional experience) more effectively in a challenging and fulfilling role at Clean Ocean Action."

Welcome, Swarna!

### Award-winning Catie Tobin: Off Campus, but Still on the Case

Catie Tobin, COA's Marine Science Program Manager, moved to Boston in August to pursue her Ph.D. in Environmental Science at the University of Massachusetts. She received a National Science Foundation Fellowship, called the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) fellowship program providing her an opportunity to "establish new models for graduate education and training in a fertile environment for collaborative research that transcends traditional disciplinary boundaries."

At the same time, Catie will also be working remotely for COA. She will facilitate the microplastics research agenda, lead the Trash Free Waters Microplastics Workgroup, and manage the partnership with Bloomberg LLP. Even more kudos for Catie, she received a "Phenomenal Women Under 40" Award from the Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore. Catie was nominated by Executive Director, Cindy Zipf. "Catie holds great promise for improving the world and our quality of life, indeed, she already has. She also has a proven record of setting high bars for achievement, and then exceeding those goals. There is no doubt Catie is phenomenal," stated Cindy.

Best Wishes and Congratulations, Catie!



## COA's Summit Inspires Student Marine Scientists

On Oct. 6th, over 300 students, teachers and chaperones from schools throughout South Jersey enjoyed an engaging day of marine science education in beautiful Island Beach State Park at Clean Ocean Action's 28th Annual Fall Student Summit. Marine Academy of Science and Technology students (MATES) and professional environmental educators led the 5th – 8th graders on educational adventures throughout the park exploring its flora and fauna. COA hopes that all the participants left with a greater appreciation and respect for our ocean and bay environment.

Please read through these quotes from students, teachers and MATES who attended the summit for a deeper look into the value this opportunity provides the educational community.



"My favorite was learning about the terrapins and how they protect them. They made something to help with beach and they have made turtle gardens".  
- Student, Chatsworth Elementary School



"I really enjoyed the little touch tanks at the Student Summit. I liked this because I get to see different invertebrates and learned more about them".  
- Student, Bay Head School



"It was amazing to see my students teaching what they have learned throughout their years at MATES. The Student Summit is such an important event that educates younger students about the coastal ecosystem".  
- David Werner, MATES Instructor



"I think that the MATES students were very prepared. They were also very kind and respectful".  
- Student, Bay Head School

"The most important thing I learned was about run-off".  
- Student, Bay Head School



## Recognition Highlights

Special thanks to the Monmouth County Chamber of Commerce for awarding the Environmental Spotlight of Monmouth County to Clean Ocean Action at their Crystal Beacon Awards gala at McLoone's Pier House in Long Branch on September 29. COA is proud to partner with the Monmouth County Chamber of Commerce as they are a valued resource for businesses, organizations and the community. The Chamber fosters growth for businesses, facilitates business education, and encourages collaboration. COA appreciates the honor from the MCCC.

Cindy Zipf and Zach Lees were invited to present at the October meeting of the Rumson, Garden Club (RCC), which was also their annual "open meeting" where all are invited to attend. COA presented an overview and update about the ocean, as well as discussed the concerns about the pollution of the Navesink River. The RCC is a founding member of the COA coalition, and have always been at the forefront of environmental stewardship. Thanks to the RCC, Cindy Zipf is an Honorary Member of the national Garden Club of America and a recipient of their Frances K Hutchinson Medal. COA looks forward to continued collaboration to help restore the Navesink.