



Ryan Struck Photography

# CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE

Defending the Sea Since 1984

April 2020

## Sharing Seaside Courage

### A Letter from Executive Director, Cindy Zipf

As spring dawns around the globe, Clean Ocean Action (COA) hopes you are well, and that your good health continues. To those who may be affected, may recovery be swift.

The Covid-19 virus has unleashed challenging times for everyone; they are unprecedented, uncharted circumstances.

Responding responsibly to this challenging world is our top priority; thus, consistent with official health guidance, COA has cancelled or postponed all events through March 31st, and is continuing to monitor federal and state direction. While COA staff are working in flexible work environments and adhering to strict personal distance recommendations, rest assured that COA is on the case ensuring true-blue ocean advocacy continues. That also means working to engage all of you through virtual means to help defend the ocean.

For many of us, the ocean and bays serve as places of joy and solitude in good times and bad. During these extreme uncertain times they can soothe our soul and bring solace, and be a source of renewal. With hundreds of miles of shoreline and thousands of miles of back-bays and waterways, our region is open for cautious healthy enjoyment.

These treasured natural resources are also in need of vigilance and protection. Often in times of chaos, laws or rules are passed that fundamentally weaken environmental protection. With the public attention focused elsewhere, proposals such as the NESE project could move forward due to lack of public opposition. Environmentally destructive actions will cause harm for generations. We must raise our voices even louder to defend Mother Nature.

Let us find courage defending our ocean...and helping others to do the same! COA will be sharing actions, news, and information about the ocean for you to have and to share with others.

COA seeks to be nimble, flexible, and creative in ensuring work continues to protect our ocean. As for future events, COA's staff scientist is carefully monitoring federal and state reports and guidance to ensure the utmost public safety. For example, while the 35th Anniversary of SPRING Beach Sweeps will definitely be unlike any other, we are awaiting more definitive answers from health officials on or before March 31st before making any final decisions about modifications.

Spring 2020 is like no other, and yet nature's rhythms give us hope and comfort. Terns are returning to beaches, plants are leafing and sprouting, the days are getting longer and the sun brings soothing warmth.

Stay well and keep defending nature as if life depends upon it...because it does.  
Ever onward, together,

Cindy Zipf and all of us at Clean Ocean Action



Carmela Caracappa Photography



*P.S. We are awaiting more definitive answers from health officials on or before March 31st before making any final decisions about modifications to the Spring Beach Sweeps. In the meantime, we are asking you to please save the date for Saturday, April 25th, and to stay tuned for updates.*

# PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Spencer Munson, Resource and Event Coordinator, [Programs@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:Programs@CleanOceanAction.org)  
Laurie Bratone, Development Director, [LBratone@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:LBratone@CleanOceanAction.org)

## Connect the Drops at the 3rd Annual Rally for the Rivers Eco-Fest

Save the Date for Saturday, May 30, when many local organizations and towns in the Two River area will be “connecting the drops” at the 3rd Annual Rally for the Rivers Eco-Fest by highlighting the importance of keeping the rivers clean to also help the ocean. For the third year, Clean Ocean Action and the Rumson Environmental Commission are co-coordinating the event at Victory Park for the Rally for the Two Rivers project—an alliance of over 20 organizations and eight towns to help protect water quality in the Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers. For more information about the day, activities, or getting involved contact COA at 732-872-0111 and speak to Alison Jones.



## Celebrating 35 Years of Beach Sweeps with Limited Edition Apparel

For 35 years Clean Ocean Action has coordinated the annual Beach Sweeps program that does so much more than just remove litter from our beloved New Jersey beaches. In these uncertain times, we do know that this year's Sweeps will be unlike any other. If we can't be together with our Feet on the Beach and Hands in the Sand on April 25, we hope you will still play a role and be a part of our community through the purchase of these limited-edition collectors' items, designed exclusively for COA by our generous and supportive friends at Jetty Ink. Visit [jetty-life.printavo.com/merch/coa-35years](http://jetty-life.printavo.com/merch/coa-35years) to view the adult and youth apparel and purchase yours today!



## Bloomberg Partnership Continues to Bloom

COA's relationship with Bloomberg LP dates back to 2011, when Bloomberg employees first began participating in the statewide Beach Sweeps. After several years of volunteering in this capacity, Bloomberg wanted to provide more resources to support the Beach Sweeps, and approached COA with the opportunity to pilot a skills-based volunteer initiative. Through this initiative, Bloomberg LP employees have dedicated countless volunteer hours to apply data science techniques to over 20 years of data about marine debris collected through COA's biannual Beach Sweeps. On March 6, COA staff members visited Bloomberg's office for the latest progress update. In addition to helping standardize the historical Beach Sweeps data, the Bloomberg team has developed a tool that will allow COA to readily access and analyze the Beach Sweeps data, and display the Beach Sweeps data to the public through appealing and meaningful visuals. The entire COA team is incredibly grateful to the many Bloomberg employees who have dedicated numerous hours of hard work to this impactful project, and raised important funds through volunteer hours. COA hopes to share more exciting updates soon.



# SCIENCE

Swarna Muthukrishnan, PhD, Staff Scientist; [Science@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:Science@CleanOceanAction.org)  
Alison McCarthy, Watershed Protection Coordinator; [Outreach@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:Outreach@CleanOceanAction.org)

## Do Something Blooming Wonderful for the Two Rivers!

Spring has sprung! Celebrate this time of renewal by getting started on your garden projects with your family. Trees, vegetables, and gardens are the best at soaking up water to reduce storm water run-off and flooding. They also help reduce impacts from climate change. Create a new garden patch or plant a tree during these trying times to bring joy and beauty to the world. As your tree grows and garden blossoms, it will be a beautiful, healthy, sustainable reminder of how your family made a blooming difference!



If you were looking forward to hearing about NJ Audubon's Garden for Wildlife™ program at last month's Rally for the Two Rivers meeting, be sure to visit their website ([njudubon.org/gardening-for-wildlife](http://njudubon.org/gardening-for-wildlife)) to find out how to transform your outdoor space into a Certified Wildlife Habitat. Kids can help too! Ask them to make a list of the wildlife they've seen in your yard, and the wildlife they'd like to see. Then, work together as a family to design a yard that will suit the needs of those species. Encourage them to choose flowers in their favorite colors, or shrubs with interesting names.

Weekly water quality sampling in the Navesink River has been suspended until the NJDEP resumes regular lab operations. Please stay tuned for updates on future Rally for the Two Rivers meetings and activities.

## Combining Water Testing in Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers

Last month, COA was invited to attend the Oceanport Water Watch Committee's (OWWC) meeting to discuss potential opportunities for collaboration. Oceanport Water Watch Committee has been monitoring water quality in the Shrewsbury River for over 30 years sparked by significant water pollution in the 1980's, which was reduced following Oceanport's water testing research. Indeed, their model was the forerunner for COA's citizen monitoring program, Rally for the Navesink. Full circle is now approaching as efforts in the Two Rivers are combining to improve water quality in the rivers. Last year, Rally for the Navesink expanded to include the Shrewsbury River, and now COA and OWWC will be joining forces to expand testing and advocacy in the two watersheds. COA is looking forward to this partnership to implement strategies that will reduce pollution in the Two Rivers. Stay tuned!



# POLICY

Kari Martin, Advocacy Campaign Manager; [Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org)  
Peter Blair, Esq., Policy Attorney; [Policy@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:Policy@CleanOceanAction.org)

## State & Local Actions to Ban Plastic

On March 5, 2020, the NJ Senate passed a single-use plastic bill that resembled the last legislative session's failed attempt. The bill, co-sponsored by Senators Smith and Greenstein, bans film plastic bags, paper bags, polystyrene clamshell food containers, plates, cups, food trays and utensils. Plastic straws would be available only upon request. Next, the NJ Assembly must take action to move the bill forward through relevant committees, and schedule a vote in the full Assembly. Stay tuned for ways to help get the Assembly to act to support a statewide plastic ban. At the local level, 57 municipalities have passed and adopted plastic bans in New Jersey. For more information on these initiatives and more, go to our website.



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Kari Martin, Advocacy Campaign Manager; [Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org)  
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## Act Now for a Healthier Future!

In this challenging time of uncertainty, you, your family and friends can do something to make your future healthier, and stop climate change.

Have you heard of NESE (pronounced "Nessie")? NESE or the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project is a nasty, unnecessary, climate-changing methane gas project proposed in the NY/NJ region. This is the fourth time the 23.4-mile methane gas pipeline and air compressor station are being proposed by multi-billion-dollar fossil fuel giant Williams-Transco. This project will have ecological and public health consequences for 60 years or more.



## Towns Opposing NESE\*

- Atlantic Highlands
- Fair Haven
- Franklin Township
- Highlands
- Keyport
- Middletown
- Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders
- Sea Bright
- South Brunswick
- Union Beach

\*As of 3/24/20

## Send Your Comment by April 6

With each proposal, a new public comment period starts and citizens must send comments again. Please send your comment to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) by April 6, 2020, and urge the agency to deny all permits related to the proposed NESE project.

## Need help framing your comments?

Brainstorm why climate change action, the ocean, and air are important to you, and/or use COA's comment template, factsheet, and other helpful resources at [CleanOceanAction.org](http://CleanOceanAction.org). Then, submit your comments by email to [NESEcomment@dep.nj.gov](mailto:NESEcomment@dep.nj.gov). Share with others and urge them to send comments.

## NESE will Impact What You Care About

*Care about Climate Change?* NESE would pollute the world for 60 years or more.

*Care about air?* NESE will make it unhealthy with millions of tons of emissions.

*Enjoy a day at the bay?* NESE will pollute the bay and harm the marine life.

*Like to enjoy clams with the family?* NESE will hurt the clamming industry in Raritan Bay.

*Dumping the muck will save a buck?* Multi-billion-dollar company duo Williams-Transco is proposing to dump the muck from construction of the pipeline in the ocean.



**For Motions for the Ocean Stay-at-Home Action Kit for all ages, go to [CleanOceanAction.org](http://CleanOceanAction.org)**



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE

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## Inside this Issue

LABEL

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- **Stop NESE!**
- **Do Something Blooming Wonderful for the Two Rivers, and more!**

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## Tributes

Photo courtesy of Joe Reynolds

### In Memory of:

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Peter Cauterucci   | Zachary Misch   |
| Theodore Josberger | Carol Anne Ross |
| Joseph Lauricella  | Gregory Weber   |

### In Honor of:

Congratulations to Amanda Cusack  
Rick Jones' Birthday  
Kelly, Noah & Ann Mascarenhas