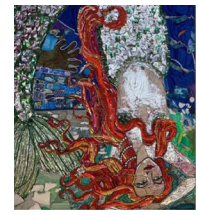


LABEL

CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE  
November 2020

- The Ocean is Calling
- A Virtu-WHALE Day at the Beach
- 35th Annual Fall Beach Sweeps
- 3rd Annual COA Surf Open

**Special Events Edition**



Clean Ocean Action  
49 Avenel Blvd.  
Long Branch, NJ 07740  
www.CleanOceanAction.org  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**POLICY** Kari Martin, Advocacy Campaign Manager, Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org; Peter Blair, Esq., Policy Attorney, Policy@CleanOceanAction.org

**Ready, Set, Scan for Action!**

At long last, New Jersey is just one signature away from having a law that would reduce single-use waste and protect marine life from the harms of plastic litter. The bill awaits Governor Murphy's signature after passing the Assembly and Senate in September.

**Residents can show support for the bill by:**

Scanning the QR code (see right) with your smartphone to access a contact form for Governor Murphy. Don't have a smartphone? Go to [www.nj.gov/governor](http://www.nj.gov/governor) and click "Contact Us" and on the drop down menu click "Contact Us" again.



**In the "Message" section, urge Governor Murphy to sign S.864/A.1978 without delay.**

Statewide, the legislation: (1) bans all single-use plastic carryout bags, (2) bans single-use paper carryout bags at grocery stores, (3) bans polystyrene foam food service ware, and (4) mandates a plastic straw-by-request policy.

For more information, go to [CleanOceanAction.org](http://CleanOceanAction.org).



**Sweeping Federal Legislation Takes Aim at Plastic Pollution**

The Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act, introduced by U.S. Senator Tom Udall (D-NM) and U.S. Representative Alan Lowenthal (D-CA), is being hailed as the gold standard of federal legislation focused on addressing the critical issue of plastic pollution in the U.S. The legislation covers a wide range of initiatives focused on addressing our plastic waste crisis such as creating a nationwide bottle deposit program, banning single-use plastics bags, establishing minimum recycled content requirements for beverage containers and food packaging, and investing in recycling and composting infrastructure while pausing the development of new plastic manufacturing facilities. The legislation is starting to gain support with 89 Co-sponsors in the US House of Representatives and 10 Co-sponsors in the US Senate. More

support is needed from the federal delegation of New Jersey. Currently, US Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) and US Representative Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ-12) have signed-on to co-sponsor the legislation. Act now and call your Representative to urge them to support the Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act. Go to [Congress.gov](http://Congress.gov) to find your legislators.



Over 4,000 volunteers gathered to clean the beaches at the 35th Annual Fall Beach Sweeps. Pictured here are volunteers holding an old-school pull-tab (1960s-1970s) soda lid they found at the Island Beach State Park Sweeps. See inside insert for more photos and highlights.

Photo courtesy of Joe Reynolds

**Tributes**

In Memory of:  
Peter Cauterucci  
Phyllis Macksoud  
Robert Marro  
Rex, sweet beloved beagle of Warburton Family  
Carol Anne Ross  
Adam Wallner

In Honor of:  
Congratulations to Amanda Cusack  
Congratulations to Morwenna Sophia

**Save the Date for the next Virtual Rally for the Navesink Meeting on Thursday, November 19th at 7pm!**

**COA's Public Comments on Oceanic Bridge Preliminary Preferred Alternative**

In October, Clean Ocean Action (COA) reviewed a proposal ("preliminary preferred alternative PPA-7A") for the replacement of the existing Oceanic Bridge, which connects the towns of Rumson and Middletown, as part of the Long Concept Development Study (LCD) phase of the project. COA identified potential water quality and stormwater runoff concerns. COA recommended these concerns be prioritized and management measures be drawn before the final decision. COA submitted comments (see [CleanOceanAction.org](http://CleanOceanAction.org)) to the Monmouth County Division of Engineering, the agency overseeing the project.





# The Ocean is Calling..

## Celebrating 35 Years of Beach Sweeps

Laurie Bratone, Development Director,  
LBratone@CleanOceanAction.org



On Thursday, October 22, viewers tuned-in to COA's festive virtual celebration, "The Ocean is Calling." The event featured true-blue friends from COA's rich history in celebration of 35 Years of Beach Sweeps. Presenting sponsor Tito's Handmade Vodka kicked-off the 21+ evening by making a

toast with the event's signature cocktail, The American Mule, as viewers settled-in with their own cocktails to hear the story of COA's origin through the comfort of their own viewing screens.

The evening's Emcee was Tim McLoone, an early supporter of COA, founder of Holiday Express, restaurateur, and track star (to name a few of his many talents). Tim highlighted the connection between his restaurant business and a healthy, thriving ocean, and said of COA's Executive Director during the poor state of local water quality in the 1980s, "Cindy just dug in and decided she was going to do something about it with all of her friends and supporters."



Presenting sponsor, Tito's Handmade Vodka viewing the event



In 1985 the Beach Sweeps, then known as the Debris-A-Thon, was the first event held at Sandy Hook, NJ, with about 75 volunteers participating. Pictured here are volunteers at one of the first Beach Sweeps.

experiences included a private dinner in the home of world renowned Chef David Burke (wine pairings alone valued at \$2000), exquisite art, an electric bike, a private whale watching tour, dog training lessons, family portraits, holiday decor, and more! The auction raised over \$16,000 with the event overall raising over \$77,000.

Viewers heard from Beach Captains: Crystal DeCaro, Ortley Beach Captain with her pet mini pig Hamlette; and Tyler Thompson, Leonardo Beach Captain.



Tammy Murphy with her Champion of the Ocean award

The evening honored First Lady Tammy Murphy for her Climate Change Education Initiatives, including successfully making New Jersey the first state in the nation to incorporate climate change education across its K-12 learning standards, as well as urging reduction of single use plastics.

Board Member and Event Co-Chair Bonnie Torcivia thanked donors and supporters and introduced Board President Leo Gasienica and his wife Kathleen, also long-time beach captains. Captain

Bill Hudec shared his experiences sailing around the world and the importance of a clean ocean. He noted the increase of marine life thriving along the New Jersey Coast since COA was founded.

The evening concluded with artists Lucy Kalian and Stella Ryan presenting the event's featured artwork, a mermaid crafted from litter found during the Beach Sweeps, and Marina Owner Chick Cunningham with fish monger Doug Douty (Lusty Lobster) celebrating a clean ocean.

**Thanks to the Virtual Event Committee:** Co-Chairs Bonnie Torcivia and Kathleen Gasienica; Lydia Bagarozza, Andrea Bonfiglio, Carrie Christensen, Manda Gorsegner, Ann Jordan, Etta Kelly, B. Mahon, Barbara Murphy, Mary Thompson

**Waves of Thanks to Sponsors:** *Presenting Sponsor:* Tito's Handmade Vodka; *Siren Song:* Liz and Charlie Komar; *Blue Whale:* Bonnie Torcivia, The McManus Family, Lucy Kalian, Tim and Jane Orr, Robbyn and Joe O'Neill, Shorepoint Distributors; *Dolphin:* OceanFirst Foundation, Trudy and Charlie Parton, Tommy's Tavern & Tap, Nancy and Tom Gravina; *Striper:* Thompson Memorial Home, Litwin and Provence, Peekka and Art Tildesley, Jill Kerwick and Artie Kontos, Mary-Beth and Jerry Radke, and Geri Skirkanich



Sponsors getting ready to enjoy "The Ocean is Calling" virtual celebration of 35 Years of Beach Sweeps with their party packs!

## SCIENCE

Swarna Muthukrishnan, PhD, Staff Scientist, Science@CleanOceanAction.org  
Alison Jones, Watershed Program Coordinator, Outreach@CleanOceanAction.org

### Bacteria Monitoring Lab Sets Sail at Clean Ocean Action!

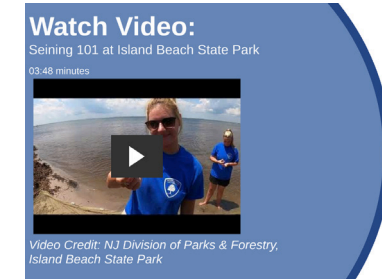
The long-awaited IDEXX EnterolertR bacteria monitoring of select locations in the Two Rivers Watershed begins this month. The project is made possible through the IDEXX equipment loan grant from U.S.EPA Region II Citizen Science Program. All analyses will be conducted in COA's in-house lab at the Long Branch, NJ Headquarters. Bacteria monitoring data collected by Oceanport Water Watch Committee, COA and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for the Shrewsbury and Navesink Rivers were evaluated and sixteen locations of potential bacteria pollution issues have been selected for the IDEXX study. All selected sites will be sampled twice a month with a minimum of five sampling events. COA will coordinate trained citizen volunteers and the Oceanport Water Watch Committee for collecting the samples. The IDEXX study for the Two Rivers Watershed will help collect valuable data on ambient bacteria in these waterways using the EPA-recommended Enterolert determination DEXX Quantitray method - a faster and less expensive screening method for assessing bacteria pollution from nonpoint sources, particularly stormwater runoff.



## EDUCATION

Kristen Grazioso, Education Coordinator, Kgrazioso@CleanOceanAction.org  
Kari Martin, Advocacy Campaign Manager, Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org

### A Virtu-WHALE Day at the Beach



While COA could not physically gather this October at Island Beach State Park to host the 32nd Annual Fall Student Summit, we were able to extend its legacy, virtually! Students from southern NJ were given the unique opportunity to be "scientists for the day" by participating in a multitude of virtual presentations and field activities provided by outstanding local educational professionals and the wonderful Marine Academy of Science & Technology (MATES) students. The

MATES students provided 10 educational videos on various topics from Coastal Processes to Marine Debris, serving as peer teachers to the Summit participants, just as they have at our live Summits over the years.

The Fall Student Summit took place on the Prezi platform. Over 500 students from southern NJ middle schools participated, learning about the ecological significance of the NJ coast, its threats from "people pollution," and ways to be the solution!

**"I think that the Virtual Summit was very educational, and I learned a lot about different animals and habitats on the coast. It was easy to navigate, and enjoyable."**  
- Virtual Fall Student Summit participant

COA thanks our true-blue sponsors, The OceanFirst Foundation, Jon Ben Snow Foundation, and Eloise & John Pound, for making this program a "shore" success! Next-up: Virtual Staten Island Student Summit (date to be determined) and the Spring Student Summit, May 2021.



# BEACH SWEEPS

In addition to the top five items, volunteers at Sandy Hook collected 114 PPE items (face masks and other COVID-related debris).

## Top Five Items - Preliminary results from Sandy Hook, collected by 274 volunteers:

- (1) 4,847 Plastic pieces
- (2) 4,246 Plastic caps/lids
- (3) 1,645 Plastic straws/stirrers
- (4) 1,294 Food/candy wrappers
- (5) 923 Plastic cap rings



## Over 4,000 Volunteers Remove Debris at 35th Annual Fall Beach Sweeps



Beach Captain Marianne Borke and helper at the Bradley Beach Site

Volunteers practicing COVID-19 safe protocols gathered on Saturday, October 24th from 9:00am – 12:30pm at over 60 New Jersey beaches and waterways to remove harmful debris at COA's 35th Annual Fall Beach Sweeps. Enthusiastic volunteers spent the day cleaning, collecting and tabulating debris that they removed from shorelines from Bergen to Cape May Counties. In addition to implementing COVID-19 safe protocols, COA added PPE to the Data Card. The data produced from this event will be published in an annual report that provides a deeper exploration into the pollution issues throughout the Jersey Shore. The 2020 Beach Sweeps Report will be released in April 2021, prior to the 36th Annual Spring Beach Sweeps.



Volunteer with luggage tape found at Sandy Hook

Beach Sweeps, volunteers also noted out-of-the-ordinary finds. COA labels these "The Roster of the Ridiculous." Some of the items catalogued included: an old-school

pull-tab (1960s-1970s) soda lid, car door, flash drive, rain boots, shoe shiner, sequins, pillow, dreidel, perfume bottle, toy car, ladder, wooden cart, and "Examined by US Customs and Border Patrol" luggage tape.



Reusable Mask shown littered next to a storm drain off Rt. 35 in Bay Head, NJ that will inevitably end up in the ocean if it is not removed

Beach Sweepers help reduce debris in waterways, where it is harmful and even lethal to marine life. The data from the Beach Sweeps turns a one-day event into a legacy of information to improve public awareness, change wasteful habits, enforce litter laws and improve policies to reduce sources of marine debris. Marine debris is a human caused, human solved problem.

Visit [CleanOceanAction.org](http://CleanOceanAction.org) to view past years' Annual Beach Sweeps Reports and to learn more about nonpoint source pollution.



Father daughter duo filling out the new data card at the Sea Bright Beach Sweeps



Taking a break from the Sweeps at Sandy Hook, 2 1/2 year old Hudson, yes--named after the Hudson River, loves fishing in clean water!



Laura, Rosemary and Lisa Bagwell with reusable buckets at the Beach Sweeps

# Beach Sweepers Saving the Jersey Shore!



Volunteers and thier litter haul in Ocean Grove



Volunteers at the Ventnor Beach Sweeps



Four-legged Beach Sweepers at Ortlely Beach



Lambda Tau Omega Sorority Inc. at Sandy Hook



Keyport Girl Scouts at Cliffwood Beach



Volunteers at Ocean Grove Beach Sweeps



Keyport Beach Sweepers with reusable trash buckets and bags in hand



LBI Beach Sweeps Volunteers



Lafazan Family at Sandy Hook Sweeps



Volunteers in Belmar



Ideal Beach Captains Lisa and Luna Cordova with reusable trash buckets



Holmdel Environmental Club with reusable bags for collecting trash



## Waves of Thanks to Our Beach Sweeps Sponsors!

Statewide Sponsor



### County Sponsors



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual COA Open Surf Contest Unites Surfing Community



Ryan Struck Photography

On Saturday, October 24, 2020, Clean Ocean Action's (COA) 3<sup>rd</sup> annual surf contest, The COA Open, took place at Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park in Long Branch, NJ. The contest, originally scheduled for Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, was postponed due to lack of contestable waves. Fortunately, the Monmouth County Parks System was flexible enough to allow the event to be held on any day conditions were best. Saturday, October 24 proved to be worth the wait! With great weather and waves, surfers in eight divisions and hundreds of spectators enjoyed epic surf conditions! Ranging from 6-year-old groom Kevin Flaherty to local pros, contestants of all ages and skill levels turned-out to celebrate one of the ocean's greatest gifts – clean, glassy waves – and support ocean protection. The COA Open raised over \$25,000 this year due to overwhelming support from the sponsors, contestants, and supporters.



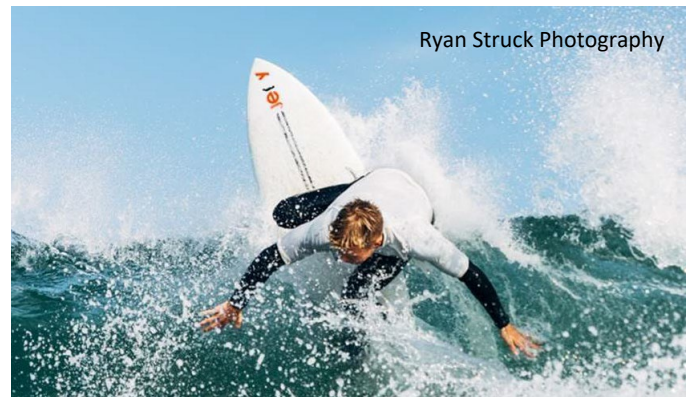
Some of the best professional surfers in NJ and NY, including Mike Gleason, Jon Smyth, Keith Noonan, Pat Parenty, and Alex Brooks, awed socially-distanced spectators with Mike Gleason taking 1<sup>st</sup> place at the contest. *Mike Gleason (photo on right), co-owner of TAK Waterman in Long Branch, donated a portion of the proceeds he won for taking place 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Pro division back to Clean Ocean Action.*



Ryan Struck Photography



*Kevin Flaherty and his sister Amanda Flaherty both took "Chargers of the Day" for the Boys and Girls divisions. Pictured on the left (L-R): Olivia Wheeler, Amanda Flaherty, and the contest's youngest groom, 6-year-old Kevin Flaherty.*



Ryan Struck Photography

*Pat Parenty competed in the Men's and Pro divisions and won 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the Men's division*



Tim Torchia Photography

*Tommy George competing in the Longboard division*

*"Everyone was in a true-blue festive mood for the 3rd Annual Surf Open -- including the ocean! The waves, sponsors, riders and spectators were all spectacular! This sea-rific event is all thanks to Scott and Tyler Thompson and their extended family and friends who championed and coordinated the event," said **Cindy Zipf, COA's Executive Director.** "Nearly 400 people attended the dawn to dusk contest which has come a long way since the legacy event was held on a cold January day in 1987 with a few dozen friends," she added.*



Todd Thompson Photography

Professional photographer Tom Zapcic has offered to split net proceeds with COA from the sales of his photos. Visit his link to order pics of your favorite surf star and beach-goer! <https://tomzapcicphotography.smugmug.com/COA-Surf-Contest-2020>



Tom Zapcic Photography

Contest Director, Tyler Thompson (sitting), is receiving the microphone hand-off from his father in a gesture of turning the reigns over to the next generation. Scott organized the first COA surf contests in the late 1980s. Pictured standing left to right are Brett, Scott, and Mark Thompson with COA's Chief Operating Officer, Mary-Beth Thompson.

"Saturday was an incredible day! Not just because we were gifted with great waves, weather, and surfing at this year's COA Open, but because we brought together the community to help raise awareness and show the importance of protecting our most crucial natural resource, the ocean. A pod of dolphins even surfed in the lineup! The success of the event is due to the help of our committee members, volunteers, and sponsors who showed inspirational support of the local surf community, the event, and Clean Ocean Action. It is a testament to how special the ocean environment is to everyone and how we all need to protect it. We're already looking forward to next year," **exclaimed Tyler Thompson, Contest Director.**



Michael McKenna Photography



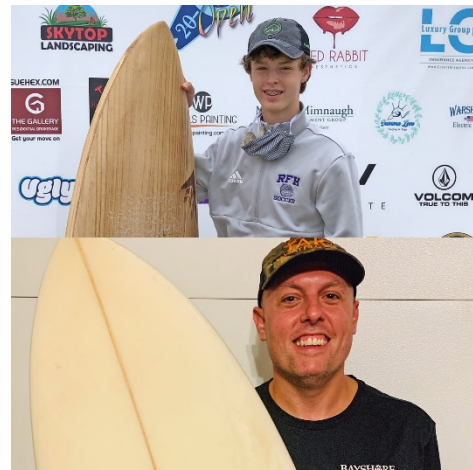
Ryan Struck Photography

Jr Women's 1<sup>st</sup> place winner Audrey Iglay

This year, contestants raised additional funds for a clean ocean by participating in a fundraising contest. The tied winners, Eamon Griffin and Eugene Juryn (pictured left), will each receive a hand-shaped custom surfboard, generously donated by local shaper and contest judge Tom Eadon. This "contest within the contest" raised over \$4,000. COA thanks all participants in the contest and all those who made donations!

Throughout the day, surfers and spectators enjoyed great weather and waves while appreciating complimentary food and drinks from Coffee Surf Co, Ugly Seltzer and delicious burgers from Hearthly Organic in Shrewsbury.

COA is most grateful to the remarkable event possible, beginning with the outstanding committee who brought it all together: Mike Gleason and Nick Spadavecchia of Tak Waterman Surf n Fish in Long Branch,



Tom Zapcic Photography

Kyle Hopfensperger of 2nd Jetty Restaurant in Sea Bright, Luke McCann of Advisors Mortgage in Ocean Township, and especially the father and sons team of Scott Thompson and sons Tyler, Mark and Brett who have been dedicated to COA since 1984. Special thank you to Head Judge Joe Schluter and the judges (Max Berry, Tom Eadon, Drew Eastwood, Nico McMahon, Derf McTighe, Mark Thompson, and Steve Walker). Special thanks to all the great photographers who shared their talents!

For allowing the event to take place and for being extra flexible, the Monmouth County Freeholders and especially the Board of Recreation Commissioners of the Monmouth County Parks have COA's sincere and beachy gratitude.

### Waves of Thanks to Our Sponsors

**2020 COA Open Sponsors: Double Overhead Sponsor:** Advisors Mortgage in Ocean Township; **Overhead Sponsors:** 2nd Jetty Seafood, Petrillo's Protection Group, Red Rabbit Aesthetics, SkyTop Landscaping, World Subaru; **Ground Swell Sponsors:** Hickman Contracting, LG Insurance, MCM Electric, Messina & Mimnaugh Wells Fargo, Summa Love Surf Camp, Sun Eagle Golf Course, The Gallery Residential Brokerage, Warshauer Electric Supply, and Wells Painting.

**In Kind Sponsors:** BLDG Active, CarvinArt, Coffee Surf Co, Greenlines, Hearthly Organic, JDR Home Repair & Maintenance, TAK Waterman, TE Shapes, Ugly Seltzer, Volcom, and Volte Wetsuits

For a complete list of the winners and photos taken by various photographers, please visit <https://surf.cleanoceanaction.org/>.

Ryan Struck Photography