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- Mickey Hart Band Releases "Jersey Shore" Song to Benefit COA
 - Waves of Action Volunteer Spotlight
 - Natural Gas Exports Update

March 2013 Highlights

- TAKE 3 ACTIONS TO HELP YOUR OCEAN:**
1. Sign up for the "Wave of Action" Day For the Shore on March 23.
 2. Attend events to benefit communities affected by Hurricane Sandy.
 3. Support coastal businesses.

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TRIBUTES



*In honor of Laura and Rosemary Bagwell
 In memory of Richard Lees
 In memory of Elva Monachese*

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Paddlesport 2013

Garden State Exhibit Center, Somerset, NJ
 March 22 12pm - 9 pm
 March 23 9am - 6pm
 March 24 10am - 4:30pm

Point Pleasant Earth Day Celebration 2013

April 20 Riverfront Park, Point Pleasant 2pm - 4pm

Ocean Fun Days 2013

June 8 Island Beach State Park 11am - 3pm
 June 9 Sandy Hook 11am - 3pm

NATURAL GAS EXPORTS UPDATE



Over the last month, the energy industry push to export the U.S.'s domestically-produced natural gas overseas hit a fever pitch.

First, in a hearing before the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, energy industry representatives tried to convince the Senate that, even though exports of natural gas (via Liquefied Natural Gas ports) would make **energy costs go up for homeowners, businesses, and many industries**, the energy companies should still be allowed to export our energy future. Clean Ocean Action took to the airwaves in an interview on NPR where Coastal Policy Attorney Sean Dixon highlighted the long-term environmental and economic impacts these exports would have on our nation.

Second, COA jumped into the fracking fracas in New York State to ensure that natural gas exporters steer clear of the Long Island South Shore. Recently, a draft of New York State's "2100" report (commissioned by Governor Cuomo to set NY's policies in the wake of Hurricane Sandy) proposed considering siting LNG facilities in the ocean off Long Island for exports. On the heels of that shocking revelation, Liberty Natural Gas returned to the spotlight when it applied to become an official party to the planning of a natural gas pipeline off Jones Beach, NY. COA has taken legal action to stop Liberty's resurgence, and is working with NYS natural gas advocates to ensure that the NY Governor's stance on offshore LNG ports is changed.

Thanks to Waves of Action Project Leaders from December to February!

Organizations:

Alliance for a Living Ocean
 Americorps Watershed Ambassadors
 Barnegat Bay Foundation
 Bayshore Regional Watershed Council
 Bayshore Waterfront Park Affiliation
 Beach Haven West Community Association
 Beaton Boatworks
 Borough of Ocean Gate
 Borough of Sea Bright
 Bradley Beach Environmental Commission
 Burners Without Borders
 Clinton Global Initiative
 Council of Belmar
 Evelyn Alexander Wildlife Rescue Center
 Friends of Midway Beach
 Hackensack Riverkeeper
 Highlands Environmental Commission
 HOPE worldwide
 McLoone's Rum Runner
 Monmouth County Clean Communities
 Monmouth County Park System
 National Park Service
 Natural Resource Protective Association
 Nature Center of Cape May
 NJ Department of Environmental Protection
 Ocean Conservancy
 Presidential Inaugural Committee
 Red Bank Friends of Maple Cove
 Sailors for Sandy
 Save Barnegat Bay
 Sea Shepherd, Philadelphia
 Sierra Club, Jersey Shore Chapter
 Surfers' Environmental Alliance
 Surfrider Foundation
 Surfrider Foundation, South Jersey Chapter
 The Arc of Monmouth
 Township of Neptune
 Trust for Public Land
 Tuckerton Seaport and Baymen's Museum
 United Methodist Committee of Relief
 Wall High School Environmental Club
 WATERSPIRIT
 Whale Pond Brook Watershed Association

Citizens:

Ann Commarato - Keansburg, NJ
 Brenda Zimmerman - Union Beach, NJ
 Brett Thompson - Normandy Beach, NJ
 Carole Harrison - Manahawkin, NJ
 Cindy Burnham - Red Bank, NJ
 Deboronne Brown - Toms River, NJ
 Dominick Solazzo - South Seaside Park, NJ
 Doug O'Grady - Long Beach, NY
 Ed Elzer - Middletown, NJ
 Ed Finlay - Neptune, NJ
 Frank Lawrence - Sea Bright, NJ
 Frank Smith - Moonachie, NJ
 Jennifer Nicolay - Belmar, NJ

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SPRING INTO WAVES OF ACTION: MARCH 23

Spring is the season for renewal of our natural world, and marks the return of coastal wildlife-birds, fish, and mammals. People, too, enjoy getting out and going for walks on trails and beaches. Preparing coastal habitats for marine life is the focus of the March Waves of Action, especially nesting areas.

Projects include: dune restoration projects, osprey nest construction and maintenance, and protective fencing projects for threatened and endangered species, among other types of projects.

Does your favorite nature spot need help?

Please visit the www.ForTheShore.org website to register projects and volunteers. For more information contact Tavia Danch at education@CleanOceanAction.org.



SUMMIT CALLS FOR IMPROVED QUALITY OF NJ COASTAL LAKES

COA staff attended the Coastal Lakes Summit: Moving to a Healthier and More Resilient Future. The Summit was organized by the Urban Coast Institute (UCI) of Monmouth University. The purpose of the 2013 Summit was to identify post-Sandy recovery and restoration priorities for the coastal lakes of NJ and to implement lake restoration plans.

Sadly, over time, NJ's coastal lakes have in effect become regional stormwater basins, collecting untreated and unmanaged runoff generated by the surrounding communities. What were historically estuaries have become impoundments for excessive algae growth and nutrient loading.

At the Summit, attendees suggested solutions to help with the fish and wildlife issues in the coastal lakes. A holistic approach is needed to assess the entirety of the watershed, damming an inlet, or letting a newly reformed connection to the ocean remain.

Although the 20 NJ coastal lakes have similar qualities, like watershed size, amount of human development, human population, and nutrient levels, each lake should be assessed on a case by case basis.

To help with stormwater runoff and to return the coastal lakes from impoundments back to estuaries, attendees thought to plant native species around the lakes, create maritime forests (ocean coastal wooded habitats found on higher ground than dune areas), restore riparian corridors, create soft shorelines that are invertebrate friendly so that nesting shorebirds have a source of food, preserve habitat for migratory birds, carefully consider the source of sand for beach replenishment projects, re-establish dunes, and preserve open space.

It is perhaps important to have a project that can serve as a model to educate the public and local elected officials about the responsibility that comes with living near a coastal lake. The maritime forest project in Ocean Grove/Bradley Beach at Fletcher Lake can serve as a model for citizens to visualize the benefits of preserving the coastal lakes and restoring them to estuaries for generations to come.

CITIZEN ACTION

Zach McCue, Citizens@cleanoceanaction.org

Waves of Action Volunteer Spotlight: Clark Wheeler

Clark Wheeler lives on Lake Hopatcong, New Jersey. With ties to the shore, and a determination to help out, Clark has participated in all 3 Waves of Action, here's why:

"When Superstorm Sandy hit, I lost power at both my home and office for almost 2 weeks, causing us to lose some business and throw away a lot of food that spoiled in our freezers. I spent 2 anxious weeks looking at photos on my phone, trying to figure out how much damage my boat down at the shore sustained. We are still working with our insurance company and marina assessing what will need to be repaired for us, but feel very fortunate to still have our floating shore house.

But as we drove around the neighborhoods near our marina in those first few weeks after the storm, the devastation hit us far more personally than seeing pictures in the newspaper, or hearing about the storm aftermath images from those who had power. What struck my wife and I the most was seeing the blank looks of shock on the faces of homeowners, as they dragged all their possessions to the piles in the streets. We decided we needed to find someone who could use help trying to recover and survive in what really felt like a war zone.

I spoke with COA about a Waves of Action project they had listed to help demo the house of a single mother in Lavallette and signed up.

We didn't really know what to expect, but were able to talk with a friend of the homeowner who could give us a better idea of what might be needed. So we loaded up power tools, masks and other supplies and spent the day there. Knowing the stress I felt surviving without power, losing business and being extremely concerned about my boat during the storm, I thought I had some idea what this homeowner had been through. Nothing could have prepared me for what we found. To completely lose her home and pile all of her possessions as well as the guts of her house on the street, had really torn this nice school teacher apart. She was trying hard to cope with not only what had happened, but how to work with contractors and all the other people telling her what she should do.

All four of us had to try hard not to mentally process the horrors we were seeing, but just put our heads down and go to work. I wish we could have accomplished more in that one day, but were able continue the demolition others had started of her kitchen, bathroom and a good part of the rest of her first floor. We all drove away that day somewhat in shock ourselves.

The reality of how trivial my problems surviving the storm really were continues to stay with me. It is a very rewarding feeling knowing that we were able to offer just a little bit of help to someone who really needed it. But I continue to remind myself how much we all should keep trying to help those who really need it. There are an awful lot of people who would love to be dealing with problems like mine.

We are returning with 2 other friends to try to help someone else."

Citizens (Continued)

Joanna Connelly - Beach Haven West, NJ
Joe Mairo - Spring Lake, NJ
John Knodel - Long Branch, NJ
John Mangino - Long Beach Island, NJ
Jovia Nierenberg - Union Beach, NJ
Kathleen Gasienica - Red Bank, NJ
Kay O'Malley - Spring Lake Heights, NJ
Kelly Baldwin - Brick, NJ
Laura Domanski - Port Monmouth, NJ
Lindsey Van Zile - Pine Beach, NJ
Lisa Cordova - Union Beach, NJ
Mandy Wheeler - Bradley Beach, NJ
Margaret Gilberston - Sea Bright, NJ

Margot Fericola - Loch Arbor, NJ
Marilyn Schlossbach - Normandy, NJ
Mary Ann Bageac - Toms River, NJ
Mayor Paul J. Kennedy - Ocean Gate, NJ
Melanie Jackson - Bayonne, NJ
Melissa Kelly - Highlands, NJ
Monique Burger - Neptune, NJ
Paul Hart - Tuckerton, NJ
Rosemary Ryan - Highlands, NJ
Suzanne DiGiovani - Long Branch, NJ
Tara Shah - Highlands, NJ
Teresa Maltz - Long Branch, NJ
Tom Beaton - Brick, NJ
Vivienne Dietkmann - Point Pleasant, NJ

EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY

Heather Saffert, Ph.D., Science@cleanoceanaction.org

Sean Dixon, Esq., Policy@cleanoceanaction.org

Monmouth and Ocean Student Advocates Focus 2013



Each year in Monmouth and Ocean Counties, Clean Ocean Action facilitates a passionate group of high school students who want to learn about and work to protect the ocean. The Student Ocean Advocates program is comprised of 2-4 students from science classes or environmental clubs from participating high schools. Students meet twice a month throughout the school year and have just recently voted on their focus for 2013.

In Ocean County, many communities are still reeling from the effects of Superstorm Sandy, so partnering with the Waves of Action program was a natural fit. Students will be organizing service projects in their towns and working with COA to recruit volunteers.

In Monmouth County, students have chosen to tackle the issue of recycling. Students plan to bring recycling information to the attention of administrators, teachers, and fellow classmates urging them to add their voices to the call for better recycling practices. Part of the campaign will also focus on reducing the usage of plastics in classrooms and encouraging the use of reusable water bottles, coffee mugs, and shopping bags.

For more information on the Waves of Action Program visit www.fortheshore.org and for more information on Student Ocean Advocates visit www.cleanoceanaction.org.

COA's 25th Annual Student Summit Dates Announced!

A seaside symposium for middle school students that expands learning beyond the classroom with hands-on, marine and environmental education. This year, programs and topics will be focused on the causes and effects of Superstorm Sandy.

Tuesday, May 21 and Wednesday, May 22, 2013 9:00am-12:30pm

Gateway National Recreation Area, Sandy Hook, NJ

Application deadline: May 1, 2013

For more information and to download the application visit www.cleanoceanaction.org



SCIENCE AND POLICY UPDATES

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Sean Dixon, Esq., Policy@cleanoceanaction.org

Post-Sandy Dredging and Debris Removal Update

NJDEP is leading a statewide effort to remove debris in state coastal waters affected by Superstorm Sandy's storm surge. NJDEP is teaming-up with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and consultants to identify what debris removal projects are (including sand) eligible for FEMA funding, where it is located, and to ensure its removal. Priority is being given to federal and state navigational channels and where threats to public life and safety are greatest. Eligibility is complex but generally determined if debris poses a threat to public health, safety, or improved property. The state plans to clean up most areas prior to the boating season. Although efforts will be made to effectively remove items, the state warns that boaters and recreational users will want to be cautious for the next couple of years in case items were missed or drifted over time. To view a map and see priority areas go to <http://www.nj.gov/dep/special/hurricane-sandy/wwdebris.htm>. COA will be working with other non-profits to keep watch on the debris removal and dredging efforts.

There will be areas and types of the debris that are not eligible and it is unclear how clean-up of these areas will be funded and managed. COA is working with government agencies to ensure all coastal debris is removed and will keep working with local organizations, towns, and volunteers through Waves of Action to clean up coastal areas.

EVENTS

Emily Hackett, events@cleanoceanaction.org

Mickey Hart Band Releases "Jersey Shore" Song to Benefit COA



The Mickey Hart Band has released a new song, "Jersey Shore," to benefit Clean Ocean Action's Superstorm Sandy relief efforts. To download the song and help rebuild the shore, go to <http://www.mickeyhart.net/jersey>. Those who make a donation will also receive two bonus hours of music including the full length performance of the Mickey Hart Band Live on the Jersey Shore (August 17, 2012), and tracks from the band's latest album, Mysterium Tremendum.

"I was a kid from Coney Island, Atlantic Beach and Far Rockaway," said Mickey Hart. "The Shore was the totem, the centerpiece, a physical representation of community spirit for many generations. My inspiration for this song began when I saw Brian Williams on the NBC Evening News. Brian showed distress clearly in his eyes and voice. It was a deep loss, not just property, but so much more. Jon Bon Jovi was with Brian, telling the story of personal loss of his sense of place growing up, losing his most precious places, now only memories--powerful, moving words."

"After the broadcast, it was birthing time. The song was born in 5 minutes. It is a tribute to the people and to the place we call The Jersey Shore. It's a song of victory over adversity. A song of hardship, of hope, tears, and smiles--but above all survival. It's time to rebuild what we've lost. Let's bring back the beauty. Your help is needed now, more than ever. Please give what you can," he added.

Hart selected Clean Ocean Action's Waves of Action "For The Shore" program to receive the proceeds of "Jersey Shore." Visit ForTheShore.org to register your project or sign up to volunteer.

"Mickey Hart has a powerful connection to the shore and after Superstorm Sandy he directed his exceptional musical talents to create an inspiring song celebrating the people and the culture of the Jersey Shore," said COA Executive Director Cindy Zipf. "Clean Ocean Action is honored to be the beneficiary of this important tribute, and to become a part of Mickey Hart's extraordinary, enthusiastic, and caring community. Together, we can recover the beauty of our shared coastal heritage, and bring back the joyful rhythms of the shore," she added.

Share your Luck of the Irish



If you are so lucky to find a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, please consider making a donation to support a clean ocean!