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LABEL

Cuomo Vetoes Port Ambrose!
Highlights from Debris Free Sea Conference
Give a Gift that Gives

December 2015 Highlights

Clean Ocean Action
18 Hartshorne Drive, Suite 2
Highlands, NJ 07732
732-872-0111
www.CleanOceanAction.org
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**Happy Thanksgiving from
Clean Ocean Action!
We are truly thankful for your support!**



Lucy Kalian, who helped initiate and lead this community project, designed the beautiful Sandy Hook Marine Debris Mosaic seen above. This piece was compiled from debris removed by volunteers during the summer Corporate Beach Sweeps and the fall Beach Sweeps which re-created the natural beauty and marine life at Sandy Hook.

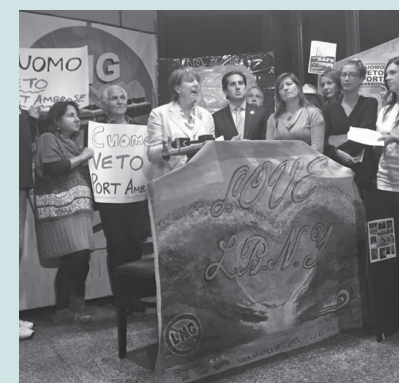
GIFTS IN TRIBUTE

In Honor of:
Ariya Casriel

In Memory of:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Bill Feinberg | Samuel Karinja |
| William Lavin | Linda Lees |
| Carol Anne Ross | Albert T. Steward |
| Carol T. | |

As we go to press, we acknowledge the passing of two champions of the ocean who also helped shape COA. Attorney Bill Feinberg (1925-2015) was a founding COA board member representing the recreational fishing community through the Asbury Park Fishing Club, the oldest fishing club in the United States. He used his powerful skills as an attorney from defending fish from pollution to writing COA's by-laws. Linda Lees (1919-2015) was a long-time friend and volunteer for the Beach Sweeps, attending events, and for many years helped send out the newsletters. We send our heartfelt sympathies to their families and hope that they will find solace in knowing that the outstanding role and legacy that Bill and Linda played in establishing COA will endure. We will share more stories in the next Ocean Advocate.



NY Rally



9 year old Ariya



NJ Press Conference



5 year old Gavin

Liberty for our Ocean!

Victory! Governor Cuomo vetoed the proposed Port Ambrose liquefied natural gas facility! His quick decision, a week after the final public hearings, showed that this project was dangerous and unnecessary!

Waves of thanks to you and to the thousands of citizens and over 150 organizations who fought side by side with us for over seven years to stop LNG off our coast. This battle was won through the dedication and determination from concerned citizens and a strong bi-state coalition we created. The grassroots activism, hours of research, and public pressure assisted in keeping our ocean wild and LNG free.

We will continue to monitor this issue to make sure the Maritime Administration rejects this project as quickly as possible. Even though Governor Cuomo's veto has stopped the proposal, it is critically important that Governor Christie affirm his vow to veto Port Ambrose, making this a bi-state and bipartisan victory, as well as a warning to fossil fuel companies to stay away from our coast.



Liberty at last - Port Ambrose is officially dead in the water! We will continue to work tirelessly against any fossil fuel infrastructure off the New York and New Jersey coast.

For more information including Governor Cuomo's veto letter please visit www.CleanOceanAction.org.

Policy

Zach Lees, policy@cleanoceanaction.org

Sea Party Launch

What do climate activist Bill McKibben, liberal Congressman Sam Farr of California, conservative Congressmen Curt Clawson of Florida and Mark Sanford of South Carolina, a former petroleum engineer, an evangelical minister and a west coast surfer all have in common?



They stood together on November 4th next to an 85-foot life-size blue whale at the nation's capitol to announce the launch of Sea Party 2016 and their opposition to offshore oil drilling. Two days later President Obama announced the cancellation of the Keystone oil pipeline. One down, one to go. For more information on the Sea Party visit www.SeaParty2016.org

NJ Wind Leases

On November 9, 2015, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) held "Atlantic Wind Lease Sale Five" (ATLW5) for the Wind Energy Area (WEA) offshore NJ. The NJ WEA is about 343,833 acres, which includes the South Lease Area consisting of 160,480 acres and the North Lease Area consisting of 183,353 acres. The sales totaled \$1,006,240.

Offshore wind in North America is still a very new frontier, as the only construction on the first U.S. project began this July off Rhode Island. The NJ sites may provide up to 3,400 megawatts of wind energy from offshore turbines if fully developed. That's enough electricity to power 1.2 million homes according to the U.S. Energy Department.

COA supports the responsible siting and development of offshore wind. However, there are numerous environmental impacts that offshore wind presents, including seismic testing and construction noise impacts, habitat disturbance, water quality and turbidity issues, vessel traffic, animal migration and behavior disturbance, and the displacement of commercial and recreational fishermen from traditional fishing grounds. COA takes these threats seriously, and will strive to address these concerns against the need for renewable energy technology.

Education

Catie Tobin, education@cleanoceanaction.org

League of Municipalities

This year marked the 100th Anniversary for the New Jersey State League of Municipalities. This annual conference took place at the Atlantic City Convention Center from November 16th-19th.



COA shared an exhibitor table with representatives from Save Barnegat Bay, American Littoral Society, and the Pinelands Preservation Alliance. In addition to attending various workshops and examining exhibitors, COA staff attended the 7th Annual Sustainable Jersey Awards Luncheon. COA utilized this opportunity to highlight the Municipal Blue Star Program.

The Blue Star Program was established in 2014 to encourage towns in coastal regions and beyond to prioritize water quality protection measures, while achieving Sustainable Jersey Certification. The Sustainable Jersey program is an action and point-based certification for municipalities in NJ to go green, reduce costs, and take steps to improve their quality of life over the long term. These two programs encourage communities to promote healthy waters, resilient communities, and environmentally sound practices.

Both Wall Township and Long Beach Township have received the Blue Star certification this summer.

For more information about the program, please contact Catie Tobin at education@cleanoceanaction.org.

COA Dives Deep into the Plastic Problem

Beach Sweeps Captains, agency officials, environmental leaders, business representatives, and students gathered at COA's **Debris Free Sea** Conference to discuss issues and solutions to pollution that threatens our coasts. The full day conference, which was open to the public, delved into various topics starting with an overview of the current state of marine debris by the renowned Joan Leary Matthews, Director of the Clean Water Division of the U. S. EPA (Region 2).

Throughout the day, guests enjoyed discussions and workshops, including single use solutions, biodegradable plastics, and the social science behind why people litter. This event was in recognition of 30 successful years of the Beach Sweeps program, all its volunteers, and the data compiled at over 70 sites.

During COA's Beach Sweeps every volunteer becomes a 'citizen scientist' as they record each piece of debris collected. The data collection turns a one-day event into a legacy of information that is used to identify sources of pollution and monitor trends. COA has been honored to partner with Bloomberg LP to thoroughly analyze the Beach Sweeps' data set. These records were revealed at the conference, unveiling the extensive evaluation of more than twenty years of data. This information will help accurately monitor trends linking them with various legislation, consumerism, weather events, and industry changes. More from this analysis will in the coming months.

The attendees admired creative marine debris community art mosaics designed by local artists and volunteers. The large panels created an interesting and thought-provoking visual display of "trash into treasure" as participants entered into the main area of the conference.



Art mosaic created by Stella Ryan



Over 150 conference guests were treated to breakfast, lunch and a wrap-up reception highlighting the most valuable resource of the Beach Sweeps – our volunteer Beach Captains. COA thanks all the Captains and volunteers over the years, as well as the talented and experienced workshop panelists, plenary moderators and speakers at the Debris Free Sea Conference.

Events

Tory Woods, events@cleanoceanaction.org

The Gift that Keeps on Giving

As the holiday season sets in and we start to think about gathering with family and friends, it is a time of reflection and of giving thanks for that which we are grateful. Often we seek to acknowledge our thanks with gifts of appreciation. In so doing, there is a growing movement to give gifts of love, such as giving experiences and sharing time together, or donations to favored causes rather than token "things." Not only does this bring you closer together, but also helps reduce the "stuff" that often clutters our world and is threatening the health of our planet.

In fact, nature is an endless source of giving. Throughout the year, our environment is there continuously to provide experiences that may not have a monetary value, but yet is of great value to you or your loved ones.



Photo by @debbie_elliott
Wildwood, NJ

This is best described in a famous quote from John Muir, "in every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks." As you swim in the sea, take a hike in the woods, or speed down a snow covered mountain, it is important to consider all that nature provides you and your wellbeing.

However, what if those natural resources weren't there for you and your family to enjoy? What if the ocean was unsafe for swimming? What if the beaches were covered in debris and pollution? What if our coast suffered from an oil spill or another Superstorm Sandy?

Fortunately, these resources are defended, preserved, and protected thanks to the many nonprofits through policy, awareness and education programs which require tenacious year-round work.

Therefore, as you are giving this holiday season, we ask that you consider giving a gift to COA in honor of a family member or friend to help us protect your favorite places and natural resources.

We also ask that you consider the environment when purchasing gifts to make less of an impact. Think globally, act locally. For more information and ideas on sustainable gifts, green holiday events, and ways to reduce your plastic habit please visit CleanOceanAction.org.

Tuesday, December 1st is "Giving Tuesday" and we hope you will consider making a gift to COA. Please call the office or visit our website to make your donation today.