



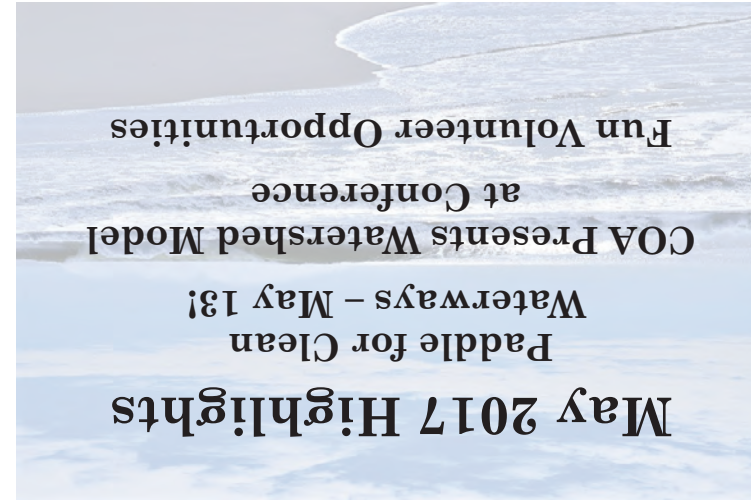
Follow COA on Social Media For Ocean Updates!

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LABEL

CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE May 2017

Photo courtesy of Scott Thompson



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Paddle for Clean Waterways!

SHORE PADDLE
for Clean Ocean Action

Saturday, May 13th
Rain or Shine

Shrewsbury Sailing & Yacht Club
Oceanport, NJ

CHECK IN 8:00 AM
5-MILE SUP RACE 9:00 AM
2-MILE FUN PADDLE 9:30 AM
1/2-MILE KIDS PADDLE 11:30 AM
AFTER PARTY, AWARDS & MUSIC
BY SAM SIMS BAND- 12-2 PM
FREE-SUP & KAYAK DEMOS,
SUP YOGA, SAILING SESSIONS,

REGISTER TODAY AT PADDLEGURU.COM
EVENT UPDATES AT FACEBOOK.COM/SHOREPADDLE

Jump on board - all experience levels are welcome!

TRIBUTES



Photo courtesy of Joe Reynolds

In Memory of:

Eileen Bassler
Ted Josberger
William Lavin
Peg McNulty
Carol Anne Ross
Caroline V. Trostel

In Honor of:

Mingchich Chiu
Kristine Crowe for Earth Day



Photo courtesy of Ryan Struck Photography

Beach Sweeps Success!

Most of the earth is ocean, so it makes perfect sense for thousands to flock to the Jersey Shore to help protect that which brings so much joy to so many, all year round. This Earth Day, April 22, thousands of beach goers donned gloves and work shoes for COA's 32nd Annual Beach Sweeps at over 60 Jersey Shore sites from Middlesex to Cape May County. Statewide participation continues to expand with sites in Essex County and along the Delaware River.

The data produced from this event is publicized in an annual report that provides evidence about the type and quantity of debris found and is used to educate and motivate for solutions to marine pollution. Many people use the data to support single-use plastic bans or fees, smoking bans, and enforcement of litter laws. In fact, as NJ Congressman Frank Pallone stated at the Sandy Hook Sweeps site, "The work you do here today has a real impact and has led to the passage of laws, such as the Microbead Ban Act which goes into effect this year."

The Beach Sweeps would not be possible without the volunteer **Beach Captains** - they are champions! Captains engage with the local community, lead the cleanup effort at each site and are responsible for the overall success of the program. Thank you, Beach Captains!

Clean Ocean Action salutes the **2017 Beach Sweeps Statewide Sponsors: AVEDA, Bank of America, Comcast, KOHL's, OceanFirst Foundation, and ShopRite**, as well as the county and site sponsors, and the many providers of in-kind donations.

View photos and tag COA at Facebook.com/CleanOcean.



Volunteers' spirits not dampened in Ortley Beach



Volunteers carefully tracking data at Belmar Beach



Over 100 Bank of America team members at Sandy Hook



US Coast Guard recruits at Nature Center of Cape May



Atlantic City Electric - Sponsors and Sweepers

Mid-Atlantic Back in the Drilling Cross Hairs?

We have been reporting for several weeks about the near imminent threat of expanding oil and gas drilling in the outer continental shelf (OCS) federal waters. COA is awaiting a Trump administration executive order and related actions that would target not just a reopening of the OCS Lease Plan (and the potential re-inclusion of the mid-Atlantic in this plan), but also actions aimed at shrinking or eliminating national monuments or nixing another offshore order signed by former President Obama that placed 98% of the U.S. Arctic under protection.

Keep an eye on our social media and webpage over the coming days and weeks, as we continue to monitor the situation. The thousands of coastal economies that depend upon a clean and healthy Atlantic Ocean are incompatible with oil and gas drilling anywhere in our region. Oil does not respect state boundaries.

Seismic blasting to discover these reserves does not discriminate between a dolphin from New Jersey and a whale from Florida. Call your congressional representatives TODAY, and tell them that offshore oil and gas drilling anywhere in the Atlantic is not acceptable!



Photo courtesy of Todd Thompson

POLICY

Zach Lees, Ocean Policy Attorney
policy@CleanOceanAction.org

The Last Straw?

According to Beach Sweeps data, straws are a major source of marine debris. In fact, they're a perpetual member of the Dirty Dozen Club and last year 12,073 straws were collected in just six hours off Jersey Shore beaches. The regional Trash Free Water's (TFW) Straw Group, a partnership of government, environment, civic, and business organizations in NJ and NY, is building momentum to reduce the amount of plastic, single-use straws from entering the NJ and NY waterways.

The Straw Group is asking restaurants and food/coffee marts to help by enacting "a straw upon request policy." The policy will not only reduce the number of straws (including in landfills), but will also save money for the businesses. By implementing the policy, a restaurant in Oakland, California reduced waste by over 15 lbs. According to "BeStrawFree," currently in the United States 500,000,000 plastic straws are used each day. This is more than enough to wrap around the earth 2.5 times. This initiative will be paired with regional education and outreach to schools, community groups, and environmental commissions by the entities involved with TFW, including COA. Straws are consistently on the Dirty Dozen list in COA's Beach Sweeps and in 2016 they were the 6th most abundant item found on the Jersey shore. Overall, straws contribute to the large amount of single use plastics harming our environment and marine life.



A collection of straws picked up from only 100ft of shoreline on a Sandy Hook Bay Beach in just 15 minutes

For more information about TFW's straw policy or to get involved, please contact Mae Henry at outreach@CleanOceanAction.org

Citizens Urged to Attend D.C. Ocean Conference

Blue Vision Summit brings ocean conservation leaders together every two years to build the blue movement and meet with the Administration and Congress to restore the blue in our red, white and blue. This spring, from May 9 – 11, some 300 people from local, regional and national groups, as well as scientists and explorers will attend the Summit. Participating this year are Dr. Sylvia Earle, Clean Ocean Action, Colorado Ocean Coalition, Greenpeace, NRDC, Oceana, Surfrider Foundation, and others. The Summit includes a Healthy Ocean citizen "Hill Day" on Capitol Hill which will be immediately followed by a briefing at the Mott House. The 10th annual Peter Benchley Ocean Awards (PBOA) will take place on Thursday, May 11, at the Sant Ocean Hall. Called 'The Academy Awards of the Sea,' the PBOA recognizes leaders from many walks of life who work to find solutions to the threats facing our blue world.

The 2017 Summit could be the most important of this lifetime. The health of our public seas must be defended from an Administration and Congress that denies climate change impacts while promoting offshore drilling and pro-polluter policies. Join the Blue Movement! Visit BlueFront.org/BVS.



COA's Executive Director, Cindy Zipf, is a founding board member of the Blue Frontier, the organization that coordinates this conference.

SCIENCE

Swarna Muthukrishnan, Staff Scientist; Science@CleanOceanAction.org

Rally for the Navesink: Microbial Source Tracking - Next Steps

With the goal to reverse the degraded quality of the Navesink River by 2020, the next important step is to help state officials track down sources of pathogen pollution. COA, in continuation with Rally for the Navesink's goal to 'Find it-Fix it', is launching a more thorough microbial/fecal source tracking of the Navesink watershed under ambient conditions through a citizen sampling program. Fortunately, the NJDEP has agreed to team-up with Rally for the Navesink network to allow citizen science monitors to be trained to help with weekly sampling.

Last year COA collaborated with Environmental Canine Services to help identify hot spots, and the NJDEP has been sampling and monitoring fecal indicator bacteria at all hours during storm events in the Navesink watershed. For the upcoming sampling program under ambient conditions, **we need your help!** This is the perfect opportunity for communities and citizens to participate in monitoring and improving the health of the river and the watershed in which they live.

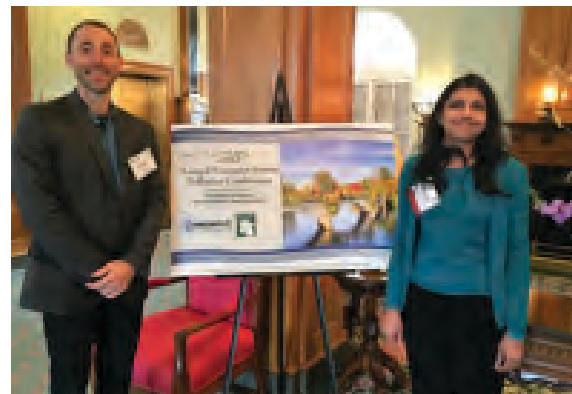
The sampling program is scheduled to run for a year beginning in June 2017,

with samples being taken on a weekly basis at select locations throughout the watershed. Around 20 sites within the towns of Tinton Falls, Fair Haven, Red Bank, and Middletown will be sampled under this program. The upcoming Rally for the Navesink meeting on April 27 will discuss additional details about the program. With more people monitoring, source tracking can be done more quickly and more effectively.

The water quality program is a collaborative effort among COA, NJDEP, and the Navesink River Municipalities Committee. For more information, contact Swarna Muthukrishnan, PhD at science@cleanoceanaction.org or Mae Henry at Outreach@CleanOceanAction.org.



COA Presents Watershed Model at National Conference



In April, Clean Ocean Action was selected to present "Rally for the Navesink" at the 28th Annual Nonpoint Sources Pollution Conference in Massachusetts. The national event is held by the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC). They were interested in this initiative that seeks to develop a new model for watershed action—a grassroots, no-blame game, "find it – fix it" approach

that unites local communities, town officials, NJ DEP, and many other entities in the watershed.

Zach Lees, Esq. and Swarna Muthukrishnan, PhD., attended the event to highlight COA's watershed approach which included an overview of the source track down program. They highlighted how the teamwork of environmental groups, Environmental Canine Services (with their scent-trained canines), state officials, and municipalities can all work together to successfully find and reduce pollution.

OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Mae Henry, Marine Program Associate; Outreach@CleanOceanAction.org
Amanda Wheeler, Volunteer & Education Coordinator; citizens@CleanOceanAction.org

Citizen Education Opportunities

There are many ways to share your passion for the ocean with others. The volunteer **Citizen Education and Action Team** is committed to engaging with visitors at COA tables that are set-up at local festivals in the spring, summer and fall. Here are some upcoming opportunities:

- Bridgewater Eco-Blast: Saturday, May 6th**
- Galloway Green Fest: Saturday, May 13th**
- Ocean Fun Days at Island Beach State Park: Saturday, May 20th**
- Ocean Fun Days at Sandy Hook: Sunday, May 21st**
- Monmouth Beach Summer Street Fair: Saturday, May 27th**



Contact Amanda Wheeler to volunteer and for tips on how to run a fun and educational table. It's easy and rewarding to spend a day outdoors spreading positive energy for a clean ocean.

Another way to connect with the community is to take your emotion for the ocean to the next level by becoming an **Education Ambassador**. Ambassadors conduct presentations to school and community groups and are provided stipends.



To learn more about these exciting opportunities, contact Amanda Wheeler at Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org.

Cleaning up Delaware River Hot Spots, Part Two!



Raritan Valley Community College students with the plentiful plastic pollution pieces for TerraCycle

On April 8th Clean Ocean Action employees Swarna Muthukrishnan and Mae Henry strapped on their boots and headed to the Delaware River to help sweep clean an area of shoreline along the Taylor Wildlife Preserve in Cinnaminson, NJ. They were joined by 40 students from Raritan Valley Community College, and residents and volunteers from Taylor Wildlife Preserve. Together they marched through the woods to a beautiful clearing along the Delaware River, decorated with an old bench that had seen its fair share of glistening Jersey sunsets. But laced along the shore, were thousands (3,908 to be exact) of plastic bottles twisted among other debris, lumber, and driftwood. For the next two hours our team of volunteers collected 7,917 pieces of debris, 90.8% being plastic.

For this sweep we paired with TerraCycle, who will be recycling all the hard plastics collected. The plastics will be part of their partnership project with P&G to continue the life of plastic debris.

Clean Ocean Action will be coordinating many more sweeps along the Delaware River as part of the pilot project funded by Environmental Endowment of NJ. Thank you to New Jersey Natural Lands Trust for once again providing a dumpster for the debris; the sweepers filled the dumpster with some strange debris, including 50 tires. Stay tuned on our Facebook and website for any announcements. If you are interested in getting involved with the Delaware River Sweeps contact Mae Henry, outreach@CleanOceanAction.org.



Delaware River coastline