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LABEL

December 2019
CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE



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



Mark Your 2020 Calendars 6 Month Preview

- Asbury Park Beerfest**
January 25 & 26
Convention Hall
Asbury Park, NJ
- Beach Sweeps**
April 25
Over 60 NJ Locations
- Aveda Earth Month**
April
Support COA and local businesses by attending an Aveda Earth Month event.
- Student Summit**
May
Sandy Hook, NJ
Stay tuned for date!
- Rally for the Rivers Eco-Fest**
June
Stay tuned for date!
- Rally for the Navesink Public Meetings**
January, March, May
Stay tuned for dates by following @RallyForThe Navesink Facebook

Tributes

Photo courtesy of Joe Reynolds

In Memory of:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Geraldine A. Bernard | Robert M. Rechnitz |
| Peter Cauterucci | Carol Anne Ross |
| James Dennehy | Diane Seitz |
| Enid Gottesman | |

In Honor of:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Anisha's 16th Birthday | Steven Legvari |
| Noah Berlin-Langston | Amanda and Dennis Wheeler |
| Congratulations to Amanda Cusack | Michael DeSimone |
| Michael DeSimone | Julia Cydney Lopez |



Great news! Not only is COA maintaining 4-Star status at Charity Navigator for the 5th consecutive rating, but our number was increased to a 99.87 out of 100!! Last year's score was 92.82. Only 13% of all the charities reviewed by Charity Navigator (which includes over 9,100 organizations) achieve 5 consecutive ratings of 4 Stars! In fact, Clean Ocean Action is within the TOP 10 environmental groups in the nation.

CHEERS to 35 YEARS

of Ocean Advocacy!

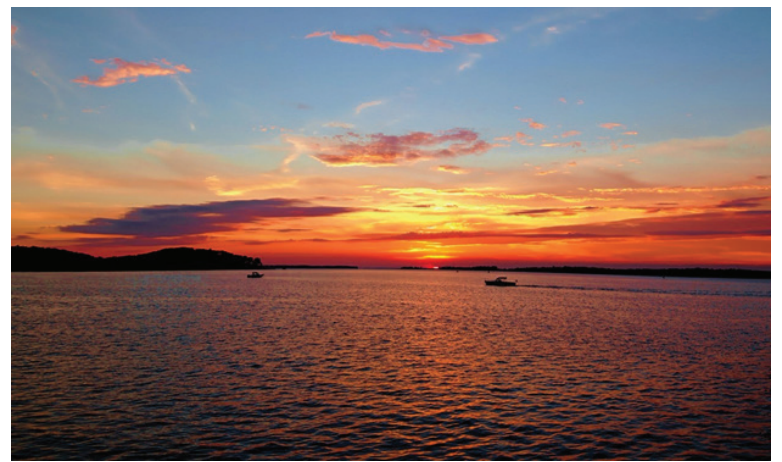


POLICY

Peter Blair, Policy Attorney; Policy@CleanOceanAction.org

Temporary Reprieve from the NESE Nightmare

Williams/Transco has withdrawn all seven of its NESE permit applications which were pending before the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). Therefore, the unnecessary and environmentally destructive pipeline currently does not exist in New Jersey from a regulatory perspective as there are no active permits before the NJDEP. While encouraging, Transco stated in a letter that they plan to reapply in the future. The NJDEP took a stronger approach, and followed Transco's letter of withdrawal with their own letter. The NJDEP cautioned that should Transco reapply (as they have in the past) there are several significant legal deficiencies and hurdles the company must resolve to meet the Department's environmental regulations. This welcome action is the strongest indication yet that the NJDEP is aware of the numerous environmental harms the project would cause. While Transco is still lurking, it is a cause for some cautious celebration for now. Waves of thanks for all your hard work to "Say No to NESE!"



NESE's Ocean Dumping Permit Still Looms: Still Time to Comment

At the federal level, COA is evaluating the impact the Williams/Transco's permit withdrawal has on the pending application before the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for ocean disposal of nearly 1 million tons of dredged material. In the meantime, thanks to letters from Senators Menendez and Booker, Representative Pallone, and COA, among others, the USACE has agreed to extend the public comment period for the ocean disposal application by Williams/Transco for the NESE Pipeline until January 17, 2020. Email comments to Naomi.J.Handell@usace.army.mil.

Statewide Plastic Legislation Hangs in Limbo; Local Ordinances in Full Swing

Zack Karvelas, Policy Fellow; Advocate@CleanOceanAction.org



Sea Bright passes ordinance to limit or ban plastic bags, utensils, straws and balloons, and plan to enhance bill on December 17

Plastics have been a hot topic throughout the Garden State and beyond for 2019. As we await the fate of statewide plastic legislation, it remains critical that municipalities continue to pass single-use plastic ordinances. Each ordinance sends a strong message to elected officials at the state level that more must be done to combat the plastic plague. Over 45 municipalities in New Jersey have passed varying ordinances to address items such as single-use plastics bags, straws, utensils, and polystyrene foam food containers.

These ordinances are just beginning to address the plastic crisis and change consumer behavior, and they are a big step in the right direction to ensure we create a healthier and more sustainable community and lifestyle for now and the generations to come. There is a possibility that the NJ legislature could try and push the statewide bill through before the year ends, joining several other states around the US that have enacted similar types of legislation on single-use plastics. Either way, action must be taken to rid our communities and oceans of harmful single-use plastics and disposable products.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Spencer Munson, Resource and Event Coordinator, Programs@CleanOceanAction.org

Clean Ocean Action Partners with Vantage Apparel for "1% for the Planet"

COA is excited to announce a new partnership, through the "1% for the Planet" program, with Vantage Apparel. Vantage Apparel is a top-ranked corporate apparel brand. Through this partnership, COA will receive a portion of the revenue from Vantage Apparel's new sustainable line of clothing. The new line will feature high quality garments produced in an environmentally conscious manner. Most notably, the garments in this line will be made partially from recycled plastic bottles. While the line has not yet been released, Vantage Apparel chose to donate \$1,000 to COA in an initial show of generous support. Vantage Apparel took their support a step further in the fall and created special "Beach Sweeps" hoodies for their staff, as well as COA's staff. This partnership shows great promise and COA salutes Vantage Apparel for their initiative and drive to protect our ocean and beaches.



Vantage Apparel team sporting "Beach Sweeps" hoodies at the Asbury Park Beach Sweep

Double Your Dollars this Holiday SEASON with Patagonia!



Double your donation dollars for a cleaner ocean this holiday season by donating to Clean Ocean Action through Patagonia's Action Works giving program! Patagonia is a global leader in corporate sustainability. For almost 40 years, Patagonia has supported grassroots groups working to find solutions to the environmental crisis. During this season of giving, Patagonia Action Works is connecting individuals with organizations to help people take action on environmental issues. Patagonia is matching donations to COA until they reach their

national goal of \$10 million, or December 31, 2019, whichever comes first! Donate online through Patagonia and they will match your gift up to \$10,000 per donor! Plus, 100% of your donation goes to COA; there are no fees. Help support COA's year-round programs to reduce pollution through education, research, source track down, citizen action & policy.

To double your dollars, visit Patagonia.com/ActionWorks and search for Clean Ocean Action.

Impact 100 Jersey Coast Gives COA SEAL of Approval!

Clean Ocean Action is honored to announce that our Student Environmental and Advocacy Leadership (SEAL) program was awarded Impact 100 Jersey Coast's first Environmental, Parks and Recreation grant at their Annual Meeting on November 19! The evening was thrilling as over 340 of the 440 members attended the event to cast their vote for four worthy projects. The power and energy from these amazing women filled the room and was most inspiring. The SEAL project will engage teenagers from 10 underserved areas in Monmouth County to become environmental leaders within their communities and



beyond. In short, "Teach a child to read and you open up the world. Teach a child to lead and they can change the world."

COA will receive \$110,000 over two years to support this exciting grassroots initiative. COA is most grateful to Impact 100 Jersey Coast for their remarkable community support since their launch in 2016.

Additional Awardees are: Asbury Park Music Foundation, Court Appointed Special Advocates, and St. Mark's Center for Community Renewal. Stay tuned as we roll-out the program. Waves of thanks, Impact 100 Jersey Coast!



COA staff gathers to say waves of thanks to Impact 100 Jersey Coast.

L to R: Allie Meyerhoff, Peter Blair, Swarna Muthukrishnan, Spencer Munson, Cindy Zipf, Mary-Beth Thompson, Kari Martin (not pictured: Alison McCarthy, Zack Karvelas)

SCIENCE

Swarna Muthukrishnan, PhD, Staff Scientist; Science@CleanOceanAction.org

Alison McCarthy, Watershed Protection Coordinator; Outreach@CleanOceanAction.org

COA Meets Deal Lake Commission

COA and Deal Lake Commission have been collaborating since 2017 to identify potential sources of human fecal pollution in the Deal Lake watershed using canine "ship and sniff" screening tests. Environmental Canine Services (ECS) "ship and sniff" testing uses scent-trained dogs to investigate potential sources of pathogen pollution. The first round of testing was completed in ambient weather and wet-weather testing was conducted this past summer in the same locations. COA reviewed these results and identified priority areas of concern for additional investigations by COA. Alison McCarthy and Dr. Swarna Muthukrishnan from COA met DLC's Chairman Don Brockel to discuss the results and plan the next steps. COA also will be presenting these results in the upcoming DLC public meeting.



COA's intern Megan Andreasen conducting wet-weather water sampling in Deal Lake watershed in July

True Blue Friends of the Navesink River



COA's Alison McCarthy poses with Chuck Hunnewell, a volunteer citizen scientist who has conducted water quality sampling every Wednesday since the program began in 2016

As winter approaches, a special thanks goes to the Navesink water quality monitors who consistently volunteer their time to collect water samples throughout the watershed as part of COA and NJDEP's effort to track down sources of pathogen pollution. These dedicated citizen scientists often brave cold temperatures, biting winds, and wet weather on Wednesday mornings – all in the name of protecting our waterways! The success of the program is due to them and COA is incredibly grateful for their commitment.

Thanks to the generosity of the Cosgrove family, the volunteers will be celebrated for the third year in a row with a special holiday dinner at Bahrs Landing.



OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Kari Martin, Education Coordinator; Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org

Educating the Tall and the Small

Following two successful Student Summit programs at Island Beach State Park, NJ, and Gateway National Recreation Area – Great Kills Park, NY, COA's Education Coordinator Kari Martin has been busy this fall presenting to nearly 350 students of all ages at schools and organizations throughout NJ.

COA educates students about ocean pollution issues and engages them in discussions to participate in solutions. Among other actions presented, students and teachers are encouraged to initiate local campaigns to reduce single-use plastics in their school and communities, organize cleanups, be mindful of their watershed, and educate others to change individual behaviors to improve and protect the environment.



COA's Education Coordinator, Kari Martin conducting a training session for Education Ambassadors

To help meet the demand of school presentations around NJ, COA continues its Education Ambassador Program. Retired, former, interested and aspiring educators are welcome to apply to COA to serve as on-call educators. Education Ambassadors assist COA's Education Coordinator by conducting presentations about ocean pollution issues to school and community groups across the state of NJ. Ambassadors are trained in the following presentations: "Pointless Pollution," "Enviroscape," "Soak It Up," and "Be the Sea Change." Recently, COA hosted two sessions to train the next Education Ambassadors, and to get them ready to speak at school assemblies and programs.

Interested in scheduling a program or COA's educational materials? Go to our website and follow the links for "Education Programs;" information about presentations, as well as educational resources and materials are available. To request a presentation for schools or clubs, contact Kari Martin to receive a "Presentation Request Form."

From Lake to Sea: Educating & Engaging Citizens

COA Education Ambassadors Deborah Ives and Lynn Mandon are on a mission: to educate students and citizens about pollution-causing water quality problems in northern NJ lakes, and to show how the pollution affects local lake communities and the downstream ocean. In 2019, freshwater Harmful Algae Blooms (HAB) forced the closure of both large and small lakes and reservoirs throughout NJ. These affected waterbodies included, among others, nearly all of Lake Hopatcong (Morris/Sussex County), the Spruce Run Reservoir (Hunterdon County), Rosedale Lake (Mercer County), with advisories in Deal and Sunset Lakes (Monmouth County), and Lake Mohawk (Sussex County). In Deborah and Linda's own town of West Milford, Greenwood Lake was shut down. These lake waters feed into the rivers and streams that, ultimately, drain into the ocean.

As trained volunteer COA Education Ambassadors, Deborah and Lynn have stepped-up to specifically educate students and residents in the northern lake communities using COA's presentations and materials. They have already established ongoing partnerships with the NJ Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA) and the West Milford Association of Lakes. The COLA was so impressed by Deborah and Linda's presentation about their plans that they unanimously awarded them \$2000 to help purchase their own EnviroScape and other materials. Stay tuned for updates as they launch their efforts in early 2020 with COA's guidance.



COA uses EnviroScape as an educational tool

Support COA through an annual donation, the Tribute program or shop on AmazonSmile and choose COA! Visit CleanOceanAction.org to learn more.