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September 2010 Highlights

- Protect Water: Limit Fertilizers, Manage Stormwater, & Save Soil
- Fall into Action: Volunteer for COA
- Join Us for a Seaside Celebration - October 1

NY/NJ Bight "Bite": Within the Bight, three underwater canyons (Hudson, Block, and Wilmington) play important ecological roles for fisheries and endangered species. The Hudson Canyon bisects the NY and NJ coastlines, creating a gorge in the continental shelf that is comparable in size to the Grand Canyon. The Hudson Canyon is the largest known ocean canyon on the U.S. east coast and one of the largest underwater canyons in the world.

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www.CleanOceanAction.org

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If you are already a member, and would like to receive the *Clean Ocean Advocate* via email only please detach this form and include your email address.
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Please include organization name & contact, if applicable:

Please take a minute to answer the following questions:

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_____ On a scale of 1-10 (one being minimum and 10 being maximum) please rate the effectiveness of the *Clean Ocean Advocate* on keeping you up to date with the latest ocean issues and events.
Additional Comments: _____

Mail to: **Clean Ocean Action, 18 Hartshorne Drive, Suite 2, Highlands, NJ 07732**
COA is a 501(c)(3) organization and contributions are tax deductible.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 16**
- **COA Volunteer Information Session, 7pm, Public Library, Belmar.** Call Meg at COA for more information.
- October 1**
- **COA's Sunset at Sandy Hook, Sea Gulls' Nest, 6-10pm.** Reservations now available online. See page 3 for details.
- October 7**
- **Student Summit, Island Beach State Park.** Central & South Jersey schools must apply and pre-register. See page 4 for details.
- October 23**
- **Fall Beach Sweeps, 9am-12:30pm,** statewide sites. Individuals, groups, and families welcome. See COA's website for sites, details, and group registration.
- Have some free time to dedicate to the ocean? Check out upcoming volunteer opportunities described on page 5.**

Our COAlition
Featuring...
Bayshore Regional Watershed Council

The **Bayshore Regional Watershed Council (BRWC)** is dedicated to the restoration, protection, sustainable use, and enjoyment of Raritan Bay, Sandy Hook Bay, and the bayshore watersheds of Middlesex and Monmouth Counties in New Jersey. Since 2000, the all-volunteer environmental group has been using education, advocacy and research to cleanup our waterways. BRWC members include citizens, scientists, environmental commissioners, and municipal officials from 14 Bayshore communities, from Old Bridge Township eastward to the Borough of Highlands and the Sandy Hook Peninsula.

BRWC's vision includes healthy waters, ample public access, scenic open spaces, and waters safe from chemical pollution, sewer discharges, dumping, and nonpoint source pollution.

"The bayshore and inland areas contain invaluable natural areas that provide homes and resting areas for year-round and migratory animal species," said **Joseph Martin, BRWC co-chair.** "The protection, preservation, and improvement of these natural areas is a BRWC goal and should be a goal for anyone, anywhere, who cherishes our lands and waters."

In the spring, BRWC volunteers tag and count horseshoe crabs, submitting data to the US Fish and Wildlife Service. BRWC volunteers also monitor all osprey nests in the Bayshore region during nesting season.

BRWC is actively working with COA to reject proposed LNG facilities in the region through municipal resolutions and citizen action. Also, BRWC volunteers participate in COA's Spring and Fall Beach Sweeps in the bayshore area. COA was also a BRWC partner in the development of a regional dredged material management plan for the Bayshore, completed in 2009.

BRWC meets the 2nd Thursday of every month at 7:30pm inside Keyport Borough Hall, located on Front Street. Meetings are open to the public and BRWC membership is free. For information about BRWC, go to www.bayshorewatershed.org.

COASTAL WATER QUALITY

Protect Water: Limit Fertilizers, Manage Stormwater, & Save Soil

Last month, Clean Ocean Action (COA) and other New Jersey statewide environmental organizations supported the efforts of state legislators to provide significant protections for the Barnegat Bay in Ocean County, and for NJ's water quality. At Toms River Town Hall on August 12th, over 300 citizens and environmental leaders came together in a unified voice to protect our water resources through three sets of legislation. A package of bills introduced by **Senators Smith (D-17) and Beck (R-12) and Assemblyman McKeon (D-27)** were approved at a joint hearing of the environmental committees of the NJ Senate and Assembly.



The committees approved a statewide fertilizer bill that would slow the influx of nutrients into our waterways from over-fertilization. By requiring that fertilizer manufacturers use safer forms of nitrogen, by prohibiting the use of phosphorous in most cases, and by training and licensing professional landscapers and lawn care providers, NJ will take a significant first step toward a cleaner future.

Also, the committees approved two stormwater bills that would allow Ocean County to establish a stormwater management utility and authorize the collection of fees from new developments in the county. Citing the need to address the over 2,700 malfunctioning stormwater basins in the county, COA and other advocates told the legislators that the time has come to develop this utility – a step already taken by most other states and counties in the nation.

The committees also approved a soil compaction and best management practices bill that would help contractors, NJ, and private developers to manage soil and sand in a manner that does not ruin the water-absorbing properties of the ground. Having porous, healthy soils throughout the state will increase the land's natural ability to absorb water. The soil health bill will help slow the input of pollutants and excess nutrients into our bays, estuaries, and ocean.

Together, these bills represent actual, workable, and logical steps forward in the protection of our waters from pollution. COA is proud to have supported these efforts and to have testified on behalf of our coalition. We are working with the Legislature on these bills to ensure their passage and to see the Governor sign them into law. To learn how you can help, go to www.cleanoceanaction.org.

Dirty Water: NJ/NY Beach Closures & Advisories in 2009

The 20th annual report, "*Testing the Waters: A Guide to Beach Water Quality at Vacation Beaches*," prepared by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), identifies the beaches in our area and across the country to have pollution problems, and those that tested clean. The report, released locally in New Jersey by COA and Environment New Jersey and in New York by NRDC, provides information about beach closures in 2009 and makes recommendations for reducing pollution and protecting public health (see www.nrdc.org/ttw/).

Polluted water at many American beaches jeopardized the health of swimmers last year with the number of closing and advisory days at ocean, bay and lake beaches reaching more than 18,000 for the fifth consecutive year. In New Jersey, the 2009 ocean and bay beach closures were as follows:

- 180 total days of closures, a decrease from the 208 days of closures in 2008 of which 117 were due to criminal medical dumping event;
- 128 days (71%) were preemptive closings (without waiting for testing results) due to heavy rainfall that is known to cause high bacteria and pollution problems at 6 beaches; (cont'd, see "Beach Closures" page 2)

SCIENCE & POLICY NEWS

Heather Saffert, Ph.D., Science@cleanoceanaction.org; Sean Dixon, Esq., Policy@cleanoceanaction.org; Jennifer Samson, Ph.D.

Oil in the Ocean

Several developments have arisen regarding the oil spill disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. With a new-found media focus on the perils of oil spills to coastal, marine, and freshwater ecosystems, reports of spills around the nation, from Arizona to Michigan, are getting front-page status. Spills, such as those in the past in the Delaware River or on the Alaskan tundra, used to go unnoticed, but now these stories drive home the risks involved in this dirty industry. While the general public once thought that spills only occurred from tankers or remote pipelines, they now know that this is not the case. In fact, between 1975 and 2002, there were over 250,000 petroleum spills of at least 100 gallons each across the U.S.

As live web camera feeds of the broken well in the Gulf become a memory, the public's awareness of the long-term effects of this spill is being lulled by "rosy" data. Recently, the federal government released a report that claims that a majority of the oil spilled has been removed from the environment. Environmental groups, scientists, and experts all agree that this is not the case.

A closer reading of the report issued by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) exposes the fact that a majority of the oil is either still on our beaches, stuck in estuaries, or floating under the surface of the Gulf in a giant "oil cloud"

(as described by NOAA Administrator Dr. Jane Lubchenco). Dispersed, microscopic oil droplets from this oil cloud have been found in crab larvae and are toxic to plankton and young fish, and scientists do not yet know how long the droplets will persist.

The BP oil disaster released an estimated 4.9 million gallons of crude oil into the ocean

To further complicate matters, while the BP oil disaster released an estimated 4.9 million gallons of crude oil into the ocean, scientists have not yet managed to estimate the levels of methane and other gases that were released. Methane gas concentrations in parts of the Gulf of Mexico have already been measured at levels up to 1,000-times the level considered safe for public and ecosystem health. Methane and other gases are released during the drilling process.

With news of more spills and oiled coastlines, the time is now to protect the ocean and to push for and reward energy conservation and efficiency. Clean Ocean Action is committed to fighting the expansion of oil and gas operations in all oceans.

TAKE ACTION: Help stop offshore drilling off the Atlantic Coast. To see how, go to www.CleanOceanAction.org.



An oil-covered bird struggles in the Gulf of Mexico

Beach Closures (continued from page 1)

- 41 days (23%) of closings were a result of direct monitoring and revealed elevated bacteria levels; nine of these closings were at ocean beaches and 32 were at bay beaches;
- 11 days (6%) were preemptive due to other reasons.

In NY, the 2009 ocean, Great Lake, and bay beach closures were as follows:

- 1,775 days of closure, an increase of 10% from 2008;
- 679 days were due to monitoring that revealed elevated bacteria levels;
- 994 days were preemptive (without waiting for monitoring results) due to heavy rainfall; 82 were preemptive due to known sewage spills/leaks;
- 20 were preemptive due to other reasons.

Federal Actions to Improve the Nation's Beach Water

Many of COA's recommendations to improve beach water quality are in the Clean Coastal Environment and Public Health (CCEPH) Act, which passed the U.S. House of Representatives in 2009. The Senate bill is pending. The prime sponsor of Senate Bill (S. 878) is **Sen. Lautenberg (D-NJ)**; **Sen. Menendez (D-NJ)** is a co-sponsor. The prime sponsor of the House Bill (H.R. 2093) is **U.S. Rep. Pallone (NJ-D-6)**; the NJ co-sponsors are **Reps. Rothman (NJ-D-9)** and **Adler (NJ-R-3)**. The Act reauthorizes the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act (BEACH Act) of 2000 and would increase support for beach water protection programs and identification pollution sources.

In NJ, the Dept. of Health & Senior Services updated the public recreational bathing rules after a committee process in which COA participated last fall. However, the changes have yet to be finalized and improvements are needed.

Know Before You Go...In

- Beach closings in NJ: 1-800-648-SAND or visit www.njbeaches.org
- Beach closings in NY: Jurisdiction varies; call local or county health agency
- See also August's *Clean Ocean Advocate* for tips on swimming caution

FLOTSAM & JETSAM

Stopping Debris, River-to-Sea

The Passaic River winds through seven New Jersey counties, 45 municipalities, and into Newark Bay, which connects to the Atlantic Ocean via Upper and Lower New York Bays. Illegal dumping and heavy rains bring debris of all sizes and shapes to these waterways.

The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners' (PVSC) River Restoration program works to remove floating debris from waterways. Crews are now operating from a new station, which went online in July. The new station will allow river cleanup crews to work more efficiently because they do not have to bring the boats upriver from Newark. The PVSC also operates two skimmer vessels to catch debris.

The removal of debris will help the recreational use of our waterways and prevent garbage from reaching the bayshore and ocean beaches in New Jersey and New York. Of course, we can all help by not littering, reporting illegal dumping, and participating in cleanups, like the Beach Sweeps.

Adapted from The Record, July 7, 2010

SEA SCENES

As the summer comes to an end, COA will wrap-up the 6th year of **Corporate Beach Sweeps**. The program gives New Jersey & New York corporations the opportunity to invest in a cleaner ocean by sending their employees to Sandy Hook to become part of the solution to ocean pollution. The professionally-staffed program occurs June through September.

The program is much more than picking-up garbage; it provides a hands-on and eye-opening experience that shapes an individual's perception of the pollution problem as well as provides a team building opportunity.

"I think I can speak on behalf of my team when saying that the experience radically increased our awareness of the marine debris problem and its need to be addressed. We certainly gained an understanding of the prevalence of the problem and what we can do to help turn it around," says **Daria Lagno of L'Oreal Corporation**, a 2010 program participant (pictured right).

This year, roughly 300 corporate employees collected, tallied, and removed 39,858 pieces of debris from the Sandy Hook shoreline. The top three items removed were: 8,978 pieces of plastic, 4,899 plastic bottles and lids, and 3,637 plastic straws and stirrers.

For information and/or to get your company involved in COA's Corporate Beach Sweep program, please contact Tavia Danch, at 732-872-0111 or Education@CleanOceanAction.org.

(Sea Scenes appears every other month in the *Clean Ocean Advocate*.)



Participating Corporations
2010 Corporate Beach Sweeps:
 Berkeley College
 Bristol Meyers Squibb
 Goldman Sachs
 Johnson & Johnson
 L'Oreal
 Merrill Lynch
 Morgan Stanley
 Seton Hall University

ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

Tavia Danch, Education@cleanoceanaction.org
 Meg Gardner, Citizens@cleanoceanaction.org

2010 C.O.A.S.T. Wrap-Up & Thanks, Anna!

It's time to wrap-up another successful **C.O.A.S.T. campaign!** Thank you to all of our terrific volunteers who lent their time and effort to protect the ocean and spread awareness to thousands of beach-goers this July and August. The campaign would not have been possible without you!

This summer's theme was "Be the One: because we only have one ocean, one future, and one fight to preserve it!" The C.O.A.S.T. campaign is a perfect example of COA's successful grassroots foundation. With the cooperation of citizens, organizations, businesses, towns, and beach clubs, COA will be able to continue the C.O.A.S.T. tradition and defend the ocean for many years to come.

With the close of 2010 C.O.A.S.T., COA says "goodbye" to intern **Anna Tweten**, this year's summer campaign coordinator. Congratulations on a job well-done for the ocean!

Fall into Action: Volunteer with COA

This fall, COA seeks volunteers to help staff information and action tables at festivals. New to volunteering for COA, or need some tips and updates? Attend our volunteer session on 9/16.

Volunteers are needed for 2-4 hour time periods at festivals. This is a great opportunity for students to earn community service hours. Please contact Meg to sign-up for the following events:

Sat. 9/11, 9am-5:30pm: Lavallette Heritage Day Festival, Lavallette

Thurs. 9/16, 7pm: COA Volunteer Information Session, Public Library, Belmar

Sat. 9/18, 10am-7pm: Festival of the Sea, Point Pleasant Beach

Sat. 9/18, 11am-3pm: Paddle the Navesink Day, Red Bank

Sat. 9/25, 3-7pm: 11th Annual Community Day, Tinton Falls

Sat. 9/25, 10am-2pm: NJWWA Late Summer Classic, Sandy Hook

Wanted: Students to Help the Ocean

Are you a high school student with a strong interest and commitment to improve and protect the ocean? COA is gearing-up for the **Student Ocean Advocate (SOA)** school year. In the SOA program, high school students are educated about current threats to our marine environment and learn key advocacy techniques and tools that can make a difference. Students are ambassadors to their high school as they develop and implement a campaign to engage their entire school with the issues learned together in the SOA program.

The SOA program is professionally staffed in Monmouth and Ocean County. If you are an Ocean County high school student or teacher that is interested in participating in the SOA program, please contact Tavia Danch. Monmouth County students and teachers should contact Meg Gardner.



This volunteer can be you!
 (But it's actually Jade Goyal)



**A Seaside Celebration
Hosted by The Segall Family of
Sea Gulls' Nest to Benefit Clean Ocean Action**



*Sunset Guests Dine with a
360-degree view of Sandy Hook*

**Join us for the
Sunset at Sandy Hook
Friday, October 1st
6-10pm**

**\$100 per person,
\$125 at the door**

Dinner Served 6-8pm, followed by dessert and dancing

**Supporters Packages \$250-\$500, includes
admission for two & specialty Jersey Shore products**

Over 30 Premier Jersey Shore Restaurants & Caterers

Sunset Bar of Beer and Wine

Exclusive Jewelry Raffle donated by
Gem of an Idea, Fair Haven

Live Music by Art Servilla, The Green Earth Troubadour,
and The Thom White Band

Special Thanks to Our Event Sponsors:



Event is Rain or Shine

**For information or to pay by credit card call
732-872-0111 or visit www.cleanoceanaction.org.**

**Special Thanks to
Committee Members:**

Helen Aquino * Sara Buch
Michael DeJohn * Kathleen Gasienica
Ann Gilmartin * Kate Grossarth
Mark Haviland * Janine Karoly
Liz Lehmann, Brookdale Culinary
Ed. Center * Pia Lord * Robert Lisiesky
Ginny McDonald * Sarah McGovern
Stevie Thompson,
Guaranteed Plants & Florist

**Participating
Restaurants and Caterers*:**

Abraham's Natural Foods ~ Anna's
Italian Kitchen ~ Bahrs Landing
Restaurant ~ Barnacle Bill's ~
Basil T's Branches ~ Brandl ~
Cerrato's Italian Cuisine ~ Chilangos
Mexican Restaurant ~ The Clam Hut
~ Dauphin Grille ~ Ducky Life Tea
~ Foodini's Catering ~ Gaetano's ~
Gracie & the Dudes ~ Jamian's Food
and Drink ~ Kotobuki ~ Langosta
Lounge ~ Le Fandy Bistro ~ The
Lusty Lobster Specialty Seafood ~
Michael Angelo's of Pier Village ~ My
Kitchen Witch ~ Pia Lord ~ Racioppi's
~ Readie's Fine Foods ~ Sallee
Tee's Grille ~ Sea Gulls' Nest Deck
Restaurant ~ Sickles Market ~
Trinity and the Pope ~ Undici ~
Villa Somma Italian Specialty Store ~
Whole Foods Market ~ Yumi

** as of print deadline*

SUMMER FUN HIGHLIGHTS

Many thanks to our friends at **Pop's Garage, Chipotle, The Clam Hut, Dauphin Grille, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, and Summa Love Surfing & Yoga** for hosting fundraising events and efforts for COA this summer!



**Weston Gallery continues to support COA's ocean
protection efforts with Beach Badge Jewelry!**

Weston Gallery of Manasquan donates \$1 per sale of
their beach badge jewelry to support our ocean protection
efforts. Over 35 beaches are available.
Visit www.westongalleries.com.



Summa Love Surfing and Yoga HANGS TEN!

On August 5th, Summa Love Surfing and Yoga donated
over \$600 of camp proceeds to support COA! Bryan Zinski,
owner and instructor, is a long-time supporter and active
member of COA's Next Generation. Special thanks to
the volunteer surfing instructors. **Win a chance for surf
lessons from Summa Love at Sunset at Sandy Hook!**



BEACH 25! SWEEPS

October 23rd, 2010

9:00am - 12:30pm

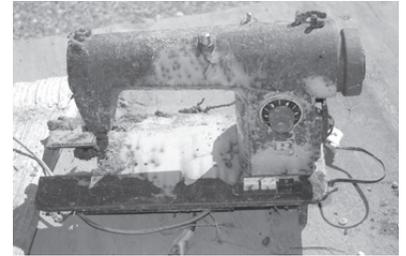
Location: 65 Sites Statewide!

This year, Clean Ocean Action's Beach Sweeps turns 25! The statewide event is one of the longest running cleanups in the world. The event first started in 1985 with 75 volunteers. Since 1985, over 70,000 volunteers have participated and removed over 3.5 million pieces of debris from New Jersey's beaches and waterways. Today, this bi-annual event includes beach, river, lake, and stream cleanups. Volunteers of all ages are welcome.



To participate, select a beach from the list of over 60 Beach Sweep Sites on our website (www.CleanOceanAction.org). Families, groups, and individuals welcome. Groups of 10 or more are asked to pre-register by completing the online form. When arriving at your chosen site, please register with the site's "Beach Captain," who will direct you during the cleanup.

For more information, please contact Tavia Danch at Education@CleanOceanAction.org or 732-872-0111.



An old, rusty sewing machine found on the beach? How ridiculous! What will be the most ridiculous item found at the Fall Beach Sweeps? Join us on October 23rd!



STUDENT SUMMIT

Calling All Southern & Central NJ Middle Schools!

COA is now accepting applications for the **22nd Annual Fall Student Summit**, to be held on Thursday, October 7, 2010, at Island Beach State Park in Seaside Park, NJ. The Student Summit expands learning beyond the classroom and provides students with hands-on marine and environmental education at the Jersey shore.

Public and private middle schools (grades 5-8) from Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Ocean, and Salem Counties are eligible to apply. For more information and an application, go to www.cleanoceanaction.org (follow links for "Education Programs" and "Student Summit") or call 732-872-0111. Terms of participation apply.

If you are an environmental educator and would like to lead a field trip for the Fall Student Summit, please contact Meg Gardner (732-872-0111 or citizens@cleanoceanaction.org).

