



Clean Ocean Advocate

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- A Look Back at 2006 for the Ocean
- Speak-up on Oyster Creek's Environmental Impacts
- Polar Plunge - A Bear of a Time!

February 2007 Highlights

*****Eco-Tip of the Month*****
Reduce Energy & Appliance Use: 20% of all energy used in our homes is consumed by electric appliances. Ask yourself which appliances are really needed, and pull the plug on others.
Adapted from "Our Environment," Vol. 11, No. 8, by Ingrid Justick

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STAY INVOLVED IN YOUR COALITION!

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 - Your contribution will ensure that you receive this monthly newsletter, action alerts, and notices of events for one year.
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COA is a 501(c)(3) organization and contributions are tax deductible.

FEBRUARY 2007

February 18, Sunday
- **Scuba Flea Market**, hosted by Ocean Wreck Diver's Club, 9am-2pm, Toms River Intermediate North School, \$5 admission. For details, visit www.oceanwreckdivers.com. To volunteer for COA, call Kari at COA.

Hurry to Relax!
Celebrate Yoga Day USA 2007
Saturday, January 27th
at Brahma Yoga in Sea Bright, NJ



Yoga Classes All Day
Evening Reception
For reservations call 732-224-9004.

COA PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Featuring... **The Garden Club of Long Beach Island**

How do you combine a joy for gardening and the motivation to protect the environment? The members of **The Garden Club of Long Beach Island** (GC of LBI) have found a way. The GC of LBI was organized in 1958 and federated in 1960. The club is a member of The National Garden Clubs, Inc. and The Garden Club of New Jersey.

The club's 180 members are active all year long. The club maintains the Edith Duff Gwinn Gardens at the Barnegat Light Museum and the Beach Haven Library, organizes a Holiday Tour of Homes, provides programs for local nursing facilities, organizes a plant exchange and a seedling sale, and creates and maintains floral arrangements for the libraries and Historical Museum.

Also, the GC of LBI is a source of information and major voice for the environment. The club's book, *Gardening at the Shore*, was created by members who felt strongly that the island needed to be rescued from environmentally unsound gardening practices.

"The GC of LBI has been active environmentally since 1987 when medical waste hit our beaches. Since that time, the ocean has become clean and crystal clear. This gives us the courage to go on," said **Mary Turner**, chairwoman of the club's environmental committee. "Our relationship with COA is invaluable for many reasons—because it is a coalition, and there is great strength in numbers. But most of all, because COA has the ability to keep-up on the most important ocean issues, and keeps the club informed. Without that information, we could do nothing."

The club has generated hundreds of letters to elected officials, collected petition signatures, written countless letters to editors, and educated residents and visitors on key environmental issues.

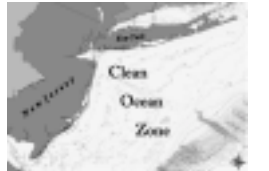
For information about the club, including successful seashore planting information, or to order the club's book, visit www.thegardencluboflbi.com.

Adapted from GCLBI website

A LOOK BACK AT 2006 FOR THE OCEAN

What inspired you to take action for the ocean last year? Was it the relentless attempts to drill for oil and gas off our coast? Garbage washing onto beaches? Closed beaches due to pollution after rainfall? In 2006, Clean Ocean Action (COA) continued its work to improve and protect the ocean. Here are some highlights:

Launch of the COZ: On July 22nd, the bi-partisan, bi-state legislation, "The NJ/NY Clean Ocean Zone Act," was introduced by champions Congressmen Saxton (NJ-R-3) and Pallone, Jr. (NJ-D-6), with the support of eight original co-sponsors from both NY and NJ: Reps. Andrews (NJ-D-1), LoBiondo (NJ-R-2), Smith (NJ-R-4), Rothman (NJ-D-9), Payne (NJ-D-10), Holt (NJ-D-12), Bishop (NY-D-1), and Owens (NY-D-11).



Watch-dogging: COA staff reviewed thousands of pages of documents announcing activities/proposals that could affect the ocean. These include 72 Public Notices from Army Corps of Engineers, 21 Federal Registry Notices, 15 NJ State Register Notices, 53 NJDEP Bulletins, 20 NJ discharge permits, and local public notices. COA responded to over 75 projects, resulting in improvements for waterways.

Cheers for Volunteers: More than 100 new volunteers signed up to donate time, energy, and resources.

Corporate Cleanups: The Corporate Beach Sweeps program was launched and included 550 employees (1,650 volunteer hours) from seven major corporations, expanding awareness and action by the business community.

Seaside Symposiums: Over 3,000 students from 150 public and private schools across NJ participated in the 18th Annual Student Summit.

21 Years of Beach Sweeps: More than 3,000 volunteers collected and catalogued garbage from beaches from Perth Amboy to Cape May, NJ.

Pollution "Private Eyes": COA's "Sewer Sleuth Testing Kit" was field-tested in select Monmouth County waterways. This kit is a citizen-friendly, easy to use program that will help track down potential sources of bacteria in waterways.

Beach Closures up 61%: COA's stormwater action plan was drafted to help towns reduce the pollution that occurs after every rainfall and causes beach closures.

Oil and Oceans Don't Mix: COA led the successful charge to oppose offshore oil and gas development activities in the Atlantic Ocean. Bills that would open the Atlantic coast to these industrial activities were defeated.

Mud Matters: Actions were taken to reduce sediment over-load, which clogs waterways/channels, including Wreck Pond, Monmouth County Bayshore, and NY/NJ Harbor. Solutions were identified to drive better policies to reduce sources of mud, and to support environmentally sound options for dredged materials.

Trouble in the Food Chain: NJ officials added winter flounder from Lower NY Harbor to the list of local fish advisories for human consumption that already included striped bass, bluefish, and eel (due to PCBs and/or dioxin). COA engaged state and federal officials to pressure responsible parties to stop delays and to start cleanups.



Winter Flounder
(photo by Herb Segars)

Waves of Information: COA's 30-second PSA, "You're the Solution to Ocean Pollution," aired 1,500 times across NJ, and COA's 6-minute video, "The Giving Ocean," was shown on Comcast OnDemand in NJ, NY, and Philadelphia markets.

Over the years, our beaches and coastal waters have become visibly healthier, but the threats continue. COA looks to the true ocean defenders -- citizens, groups, and elected officials -- in 2007 to continue the activities that will accomplish our ultimate goal: to stop ocean pollution and permanently protect our ocean.

COASTAL WATER QUALITY

Jennifer Samson, Ph.D., 732-872-0111, Science@cleanoceanaction.org

Speak-Up on Oyster Creek's Environmental Impacts

The Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (OCNGS) re-applied for a "consistency review" from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). This review is required for OCNGS's efforts to re-license the nuclear power plant for another 20 years. Oyster Creek must show they do not violate any of the state's environmental rules and regulations.

Originally, a 15-day public comment period began December 20th and was scheduled to end January 3rd, in the middle of the holiday season. COA led the effort for an extension and NJDEP extended the comment period to the end of March (60 days), allowing more time for citizens and groups to review the eight boxes of documents and submit comments. You may recall that NJDEP denied OCNGS's original consistency application in 2005.

Oyster Creek's cooling system is responsible for the deaths of Kemp's Ridley sea turtles, considered one of the most endangered sea turtles on the planet.

The plant withdraws 1.6 billion gallons of Barnegat Bay water everyday for its cooling system. The water is teeming with life, from the smallest algae, to eggs, larvae, and adult fish. Smaller organisms are sucked into the plant where they are subjected to chlorine, collision with pipes, and extreme heat, before being dumped back into the Bay with the overheated water. Larger organisms that do

not go through the plant often die from the pressure of being pinned against the screens on the front of the pipes. This once-through cooling system is responsible for the death of trillions of marine animals each year, including several Kemp's Ridley sea turtles, considered one of the most endangered sea turtles on the planet.

Your voice is needed! It is important that NJDEP hear from concerned citizens on these impacts. Visit COA's website for information on how to submit comments on this critical opportunity to reduce environmental impacts and pollution in our waterways. Or, call COA to sign on to our comments.

NJ Proposes Dimilin Pesticide to Control Gypsy Moths



To control the Gypsy Moth infestation, the NJ Department of Agriculture (DOA) proposed to amend state law to allow aerial spraying of the pesticide Dimilin on up to 33,000 acres, including on residential areas in Ocean County. Dimilin is classified by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a Restricted Use Pesticide due to its severe toxicity to aquatic organisms and other wildlife, as well as potential human health effects.

The DOA currently uses a biological pesticide that is fairly successful without the ecological risks of Dimilin, but the severity of the current outbreak is prompting DOA to investigate further action. Dimilin's success has not been proven and data suggests it may actually prolong the outbreak.

Public comments on the proposed rule change are due **March 3**; for details go to <http://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/rule/rule22314.html>. To sign onto COA's comments, contact Jenni.

Shark River Dredging Plan – Round Two

In late December, Birdsall Engineering released the Second Draft of the Dredged Material Management Plan for the Shark River Bay. The plan was drafted under the authority of the Shark River Bay Environmental Planning Committee, a coalition of mayors from Avon, Belmar, Neptune City, Neptune Township, and Wall.

COA is reviewing the second draft and will be submitting comments. For a copy of the draft plan, visit www.neptunetownship.org, or go to the Neptune Township Clerk's Office.

CLEAN OCEAN ZONE

MMS Meeting on Offshore Renewable Energy

On January 23rd, the federal Minerals Management Service (MMS) hosted a meeting at Monmouth University to discuss an alternative energy and alternate use program on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) as authorized by the Energy Policy Act 2005. Clean Ocean Action attended the meeting and raised concerns based on comments submitted in 2006. For an update, call COA.



VOLUNTEER IN THE NEW YEAR!

Engage people in the solutions to ocean pollution. Volunteers are needed to help COA at these events:

February 18 - Scuba Flea Market, Toms River, 8am-2pm
March 23-25 - Paddlesport 2007, Somerset, varied times from 9am-9pm

To sign-up, contact Kari Martin at 732-872-0111 or outreach@cleanoceanaction.org.

FLOTSAM & JETSAM

Taking a Look at NJ's Coastal Critters

Scientists are planning the most comprehensive effort ever to assess ecological conditions in New Jersey's coastal ocean and bay waters. The federally funded \$500,000 research effort will go into high gear this summer. The study will look for indications of environmental problems along the state's 127-mile coast.

For instance, every summer, fish flee for deeper waters where they can breathe due to a lack of dissolved oxygen in shallow coastal waters. Scientists will conduct their study by checking on animals that can not swim away — clams, worms and other organisms.

"In summer almost 100 percent of coastal waters are low dissolved oxygen," said Michael J. Kennish, a professor of marine science at the Rutgers University Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, and organizer of the 2007 coastal assessment. "We don't know if our biological organisms are harmed by that." *Adapted from Gannett NJ*

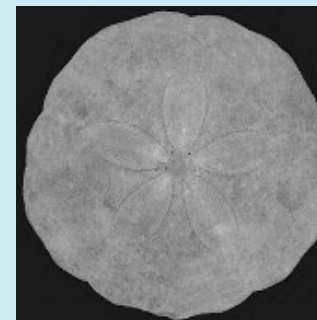
COASTAL CREATURE FEATURE



Striped Bass
Morone saxatilis

The December creature was the **Striped Bass**. New Jersey, with its coastal rivers, sandy beaches and shallow bays, contains prime striped bass habitat, making it a premier location for anglers hoping to land the big one! In fact, the world-record for a striped bass caught by rod and reel is 78 lbs., 8 oz., and 53 in., landed off a jetty in Atlantic City, NJ, in 1982. Unfortunately, PCBs, a pollutant, still plague this great fish. For over 20 years, fish advisories have urged citizens to limit or eliminate their consumption of striped bass caught in NY/NJ waters due to PCB contamination. Congratulations to **Dennis Von Linden** of Union for being chosen among the correct creature entries this month.

February Creature: Everyone enjoys finding one of these fragile treasures as you comb the beach. Often, only the bleached white skeleton is left, but sometimes after a big storm the beach is strewn with fresh specimens that still have their velvety covering of tiny spines. The distinctive petal shape on the top is actually five sets of pores that take in water to power tube feet used for eating and movement. **To enter for a chance to win a COA T-shirt**, send your guess for the February Creature by mail, fax, or e-mail (PO Box 505, Sandy Hook, NJ 07732; FAX 732-872-8041; Education@CleanOceanAction.org).



February Creature

(Coastal Creature Feature appears every other month in the *Clean Ocean Advocate*.)

EVENTS

Jennifer Smiga, 732-872-0111, Events@cleanoceanaction.org



Polar Plunge: A Bear of a Time!

On New Year's Day, over 500 revelers braved the rainy, but warm weather, and high seas to participate in the **Sons of Ireland's 4th Annual Polar Bear Plunge** in Sea Bright, NJ. Donations made at or before the event will be split between Clean Ocean Action and Challenged Youth Sports.

"Given how close we live to the ocean and how much time we and our families spend at the beach during the summer, we can't think of a more important cause than keeping our beaches and waters free of pollution," said Sons of Ireland Board Member Sean Clifford.

Special thanks to the Plunge Committee, and Sons of Ireland Board Members **Dennis Nitka, Joe Whalen, John Burgess, Steve Brennan, and Sean Clifford**, for their warm hearts and hard work to make the event such a bear of a success! Additional thanks to the staff of Donovan's Reef, host of the event. For pictures from the 2007 Plunge, visit www.sonsofireland.net.

The Sons of Ireland is a nonprofit association dedicated to the principles of brotherhood, charity, and community service. The group was founded in 2002 to support worthy charities in Monmouth County, NJ.

Operation Dough-Nation

Panera Bread is proud to be an active part of the communities they serve, and strive to support effective nonprofit organizations through their "Operation Dough-Nation" program. This program encompasses several levels of support for the chosen entity; donation collection (including a 25% match) at each café, event support through product donation, and fundraising opportunities throughout the year. **Operation Dough-Nation** ensures that purchases made at Panera Bread feed back into the community.

Panera has chosen COA as their new partner in Monmouth County.

"In looking for a new 2007 Operation Dough-nation partner in Monmouth County, Panera Bread was thrilled with COA's extensive list of community events & outreach programs throughout the region," said **Tammy Dwyer**, Regional Marketing Manager for American Bread Company.

"Currently we operate 5 Bakery-Cafes in the Monmouth Area, and each café will be able to participate in at least one or two of COA's 2007 events. We hope to be a valuable partner and enhance the effectiveness & fun of these outings."



Jerry Rhinehardt (center), General Manager, and the team at the Panera Bread Bakery-Cafe in Ocean, NJ, pose by COA's donation box