

PRESS RELEASE

Bayshore Watershed Council
Alliance for a Living Ocean
Save Barnegat Bay
National Park Service
Natural Resource Protective Association



**Waves of
Action**

Beaton's Boatworks
The Trust for Public Land
Tuckerton Seaport and
Baymen's Museum
Surfrider Foundation South Jersey Chapter

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

****February 23, 2013****

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Waves of Action Continues, neither Rain Nor Sleet Can Deter Helping Hands For Sandy Clean Ups Clean Ocean Action's Third "Wave of Action" Saturday, February 23, 2013

Saturday, February 23 (New Jersey and New York) – Today, hundreds of registered volunteers and over 10 organizations braved the weather and helped to clean out neighborhoods, parks, beaches, and waterways or rebuild dunes at over 9 locations throughout New York and New Jersey, including coastal counties in New Jersey, and Staten Island, New York. Due to the predicted weather forecast, 8 projects were postponed until the March 23 Waves of Action.

In continued response to Superstorm Sandy, Clean Ocean Action and a coalition of environmental, community and recovery groups, held the second 2013 event of its yearlong volunteer program *Waves of Action: "For The Shore"* (ForTheShore.org) to help the communities and citizens still struggling to dig out and clean up. Clean Ocean Action (COA) connects coastal community needs throughout the NJ/NY region with thousands of volunteers willing to lend helping hands.

The February 23 *Waves of Action* gave special focus to community areas that still need a few extra hands three months after Superstorm Sandy. Projects in the Barnegat Bay watershed area, especially marshes in Brick, NJ, were organized by [Save Barnegat Bay](#) and [Trust for Public Land](#). Another clean up in Long Beach Island was organized by [Alliance for a Living Ocean](#).

"For more than twenty years The Trust for Public Land has been conserving land along Barnegat Bay, and our staff and volunteers look forward to lending a hand to clean up some of the bay's protected areas as a way to help the area recover from Hurricane Sandy," said **The Trust for Public Land New Jersey State Director, Anthony Cucchi**. "This community has been very supportive of our mission and we are pleased for an opportunity to give back," he added.

"*Waves of Action* has given Alliance for a Living Ocean the ability to reach out to a broader audience for our environmental cleanup, allowing for better recruitment of volunteers," said **Chris Huch, Executive Director of Alliance for a Living Ocean**. "Our involvement with the Wave of Action campaign resulted in a fantastic surge of volunteers that has allowed us to accomplish so much. We are thrilled for the next event," he added.

The *Waves of Action* program, monthly days of service, is responding to the impacts of Superstorm Sandy and helping improve and protect the marine environment. COA is engaging its network of organizations, businesses, citizens, and municipalities to help coastal communities throughout New Jersey and New York in need over the long term with volunteer action.

"I was happy to bring all the volunteer groups together with the Administration of Brick Township. Everyone's time and dedication to this clean-up is to be applauded," said **Brick Township Councilman Jim Fozman**.

Many organizations and municipalities have been involved in the planning of and participated in, the *Wave of Action* today. These groups include: [National Park Service](#), [Natural Resource Protective Association](#), [Bayshore Watershed Council](#), Alliance for a Living Ocean, Save Barnegat Bay, The Trust for Public Land, Beaton's Boatworks, [Tuckerton Seaport and Baymen's Museum](#), and [Surfrider Foundation, South Jersey Chapter](#). Since the first event in December, *Waves of Action* has engaged **a coalition of over 43 organizations** for Superstorm Sandy relief.

"Thanks to everyone who signed up to help with the clean-up! I look forward to making a dent in the mess we have in our neighborhood swamps. Our area was hit very hard by Superstorm Sandy and this is another step towards getting things back to looking normal," said **Phil Vitillo, Baywood Swamp Clean Up Project Leader**.

"It is inspiring to see the dedication and support of volunteers to help clean up the shoreline and communities. It is empowering for residents devastated by Superstorm Sandy to see how much people care," said **Cindy Zipf, Clean Ocean Action Executive Director**, "Next month the focus is on critter habitats to get them ready for the return of migratory species, especially nesting areas," she added.

"We are retaining a lot of volunteers who have helped out since December. A large number of our participants have returned in January and February and have already committed to March's Wave of Action, stated **Zach McCue, COA Citizen Action Coordinator**. "We are also seeing companies, clubs, schools, and organizations registering groups of members to volunteer for teambuilding and community service," he added.

Some of the many groups already pre-registered to volunteer throughout NY and NJ are Bernards Township Regional Chamber of Commerce, Brick Township High School National Honors Society, Girl Scout Troop 99, Rutgers Surf Club, South Plainfield Environmental Commission, Student Conservation Association, Lambda Theta Alpha of Monmouth University, and 4H Club Noah's Ark Pet Pals.

What Superstorm Sandy destroyed in 36 hours will take years to restore. COA will continue to call on its coalition of organizations, businesses, citizens and municipalities from Cape May to Montauk to help areas in need. Future *Waves of Action* days in 2013 will keep the momentum going for continued

progress throughout the shore through debris clean ups, sustainable development plans, and projects to improve water quality.

February 23 Highlights:

- Over 100 volunteers helped clean Sandy Hook Bay and enjoyed free chowder from [Bahr's Landing Restaurant](#) afterwards.
- In Brick, over 200 volunteers performed a much-needed clean out of some marshes in the Barnegat Bay watershed.
- 30 people volunteered in Long Beach Island, cleaning the Ship Bottom Bay Beach and lots of areas around Rt. 72 and the Causeway Bridge.
- In Port Monmouth, 45 volunteers filled 2 dumpsters and 2 truckloads full of debris, mainly docks and boardwalks.

For photos, please visit facebook.com/cleanocean

For more information visit fortheshore.org or contact COA at (732) 872-0111. For a complete list of projects and meeting locations visit <http://fortheshore.org/2012/12/06/volunteer/>.

Clean Ocean Action (CleanOceanAction.org) is a regional, broad-based coalition of 135 conservation, environmental, fishing, boating, diving, student, surfing, women's, business, service, and community groups with a mission to improve and protect coastal and ocean water quality. For over 25 years, COA has been actively engaged in ocean management to ensure a vibrant, diverse, economically robust ecosystem through citizen education, advocacy, and public involvement.

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