

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Attached photos: Debris collected in Long Branch,
Volunteers cleaning the Marshes of Sandy Hook,
Volunteers at the Shark River Clean-up

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HEALTHY WATERWAYS FOCUS OF WAVES OF ACTION KICKING OFF THE SUMMER AFTER SANDY

Saturday, June 22, 2013

Coastal New York and New Jersey — Today, Clean Ocean Action's *Waves of Action For The Shore* continued with hundreds of dedicated volunteers working on projects focused on keeping waterways clean, practicing water conservation, and learning about sustainable, resilient ways to rebuild our communities. Fourteen projects including native plant gardening; shoreline, park, beach, and community cleanups; and educational events about environmentally friendly houses, rain gardens, rain barrels, and stormwater management took place.

The Wreck Pond walking tour received an especially positive response from volunteers and was led by Heather Saffert, Clean Ocean Action Staff Scientist and Eileen Eilenberger, Spring Lake resident who is on the Wreck Pond Stormwater Management Education Subcommittee and Secretary of the Spring Lakes Heights Planning Board. "The walking tour of Wreck Pond explained the long-term challenges with pollution and stormwater in the region. The tour highlighted ongoing efforts to try to respond and solve these problems and discussed ways to soak rain into the ground and the benefits of living shorelines," explained **Clean Ocean Action Staff Scientist Heather Saffert**. "It also provided ideas for what citizens can do in their community and yards to be the solution to pollution in Wreck Pond," Saffert added.

Volunteers were also encouraged to visit the Community Environmental Center EcoHouse Open House led by the [Neighborhood Housing Services of Staten Island](#). The EcoHouse is a mobile exhibit that teaches the importance of conservation. Inside the EcoHouse, students and adults of all ages engage in interactive exhibits and a full audio tour that teaches what conservation is and what we can do in our own homes to live more sustainably.

"So many volunteers have *repeatedly* given their time to help restore the natural playground of Sandy Hook to its beauty in the wake of the 'storm of a lifetime,'" stated **Marah Shiels, [NJ Windsurfing and Watersports Association](#) Member and Sandy Hook Project Leader**. "Thanks to the effort of the

volunteers, children will be safer as they build their sand castles; marine life will encounter less debris in their natural habitat; and trail goers will enjoy an uninterrupted view of nature,” she added.

“As we approach the eight month anniversary of Sandy's devastation, it is the continued dedication of volunteers who have helped Sea Bright rebuild. Clean Ocean Action's commitment to the Jersey shore is a critical component of our long term recovery,” said **Sea Bright Volunteer Coordinator Frank Lawrence**.

“We really appreciate Waves of Action because it serves as an umbrella for numerous local environmental organizations with similar concerns. We had a great turn out of very aware people with a good mission who cleaned up a lot of litter,” stated **Bill Sciarappa, [Shark River Clean-Up Coalition Member](#)**. We hope the experience turned them into advocates for clean water for neighbors and politicians,” he added.

“I am proud to partner with Clean Ocean Action and use the debris they collected from the waterways to make an environmentally themed work for the festival at Monmouth Museum,” said **Artist and Sculptor of “Found Art” Lisa Bagwell**. “Thanks to groups like COA we have healthier and cleaner waterways which benefits the health of the ecosystem and in turn the health of the public,” Bagwell added.

Additional organizing groups include: [Monmouth Museum](#), [Save Barnegat Bay](#), Island Heights Environmental Commission, [Philadelphia Chapter of Sea Shepherd USA](#), [New Jersey Audubon's Nature Center of Cape May](#), [Middlesex County Parks and Recreation](#), and [Alliance for a Living Ocean](#).

Last December, in response to Superstorm Sandy, Clean Ocean Action joined townships, businesses, homeowners, and civic organizations along the shore in developing *Waves of Action*, a program to help communities most affected by the storm. Every month since, community leaders have registered 211 service projects, clean ups, workshops, and outings that have sent over 11,750 volunteers to 70 different towns in New York and New Jersey to help out.

To see a complete list of projects, sign-up to volunteer, register a project, or for more information visit www.fortheshore.org or contact Clean Ocean Action at (732) 872-0111.

Clean Ocean Action (www.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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