



CLEAN OCEAN ACTION'S Beach Sweeps & Waterway Cleanup Annual Report - 2003

2003 Sites

Alloway Creek
 Asbury Park
 Atlantic City
 Atlantic Highlands
 Avalon
 Avon-By-The-Sea
 Bay Head
 Belmar
 Bradley Beach
 Brick Township
 Brigantine
 Cape May
 Deal
 Elberon
 Ideal Beach
 Island Beach St. Park
 Keansburg
 Keyport
 Knowlton
 Lake Fred
 Lakewood
 Lavallette
 Leonardo
 Loch Arbour
 Long Branch
 Longport
 Lower Township
 Manahawkin
 Manasquan
 Mantoloking
 Margate
 Mauricetown
 Millville
 Monmouth Beach
 Normandy Beach
 North Wildwood
 Ocean City
 Ocean Grove
 Ortley Beach
 Pine Beach
 Point Pleasant Beach
 Port Monmouth
 Sandy Hook
 Sea Bright
 Sea Girt
 Sea Isle City
 Seaside Heights
 Seaside Park
 South Seaside Park
 Spring Lake
 Stone Harbor
 Strathmere
 Tuckerton
 Ventnor
 Villas
 Vineland
 Wildwood
 Wildwood Crest

Clean Ocean Action (COA), a broad-based coalition of over 150 organizations working to improve and protect the waters off the New Jersey and New York coasts, hosted its **18th Annual Beach Sweeps** in 2003. The NJ Beach Sweeps is one of the longest running cleanups of its kind in the United States. This event has grown from 50 people at one location in 1985, to over 4,600 people at 114 locations in 2003. The combined 2003 spring and fall Sweeps resulted in nearly 17,000 volunteer hours for protection of the marine environment. These dedicated volunteers collected and recorded over 240,000 items, removing nearly 66,000 pounds of debris from our beaches.



Bayside cleanup at Sandy Hook, NJ.

Volunteers gathered on the beaches from Raritan Bay through Sandy Hook to Cape May Point, and at sites along Delaware Bay to work together to rid our beaches and waterways of pollution. The Beach Sweeps continues to expand its efforts beyond the oceanfront to reach waterways along the shore and further inland. This year's Sweeps included oceanfront and back bay beaches, rivers, lakes, streams, and underwater cleanup sites. Also, kayakers cleaned along rivers and back bay creeks in south Jersey.

Who Participates in the Beach Sweeps?

Over 280 organizations, including 22 business teams, 54 Girl and Boy Scouts groups, and 100 schools participated in the 2003 cleanups. A growing trend for the Sweeps is businesses that send teams of employees to help in the cleanup effort. Participation by business groups in 2003 showed an increase of more than 25 percent over the previous year.

About COA's Beach Sweeps

Clean Ocean Action conducts two beach cleanups each year in New Jersey. The first cleanup is held in the spring during "Earth Week" and the second is held on "Make a Difference Day" in the fall. The Beach Sweeps is an event that not only benefits the environment, but benefits communities as well. People from the tall and the small to the young and old participate. Many schools, community groups, and organizations lead cleanups or volunteer at the Sweeps. Some groups participate in both cleanups and have been involved in the Sweeps for many years.

Most importantly, Sweeps participants not only remove unsightly debris from beaches and waterways, but record what they collect. The debris from the beach cleanups is catalogued by volunteers using data cards. Each data card is reviewed, verified, entered in a computer data base, and analyzed by COA. Ten years of Beach Sweeps data is available on COA's website or at COA's offices.



Stream Cleanup in Millville, NJ

The data collected from the beach cleanups provides important information about the types of beach debris found on our shores and is used to identify and monitor pollution trends.

The information helps our lawmakers write strong and enforceable laws and look for solutions to keep New Jersey beaches clean and safe. The data ensures that a one-day event becomes a legacy for future ocean protection. This information is also made available to the public and to schools to further educate people about nonpoint source pollution, the nation's number-one cause of marine pollution. Finally, the data is submitted to The Ocean Conservancy in Washington, DC, as part of its international database on marine debris and worldwide campaign against ocean pollution.

The data ensures that a one-day event becomes a legacy for ocean protection in the future.

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- 2003 Sweeps Data & Highlights
- New Jersey's "Dirty Dozen"
- "Roster of the Ridiculous"

Clean Ocean Action thanks all the sponsors, contributors, municipalities, beach captains, and dedicated volunteers that make the Beach Sweeps successful.

Ocean City Intermediate School, Ocean City, NJ



Visit COA at www.CleanOceanAction.org