Day 1
Test your debris knowledge! Every year, Clean Ocean Action’s Beach Sweeps Report lists the top 12 most commonly collected items, known as the “Dirty Dozen”.

What’s YOUR guess?
Over 34 years of Beach Sweeps data, which debris item has been ranked #1 on the Dirty Dozen list most often? Post your guess in the comments below. And...for bonus bragging rights, what was the total number collected?

Yesterday we asked you to test your debris knowledge by guessing the item ranked #1 on the Beach Sweeps Dirty Dozen list most often over 34 years of data volunteers collected. The correct answer is...cigarette filters! **Cigarette filters have ranked #1 on the Dirty Dozen list 14 times, with a cumulative total of 826,354 butts collected over the course of 34 years!** That’s ridiculous!

Correct responses were submitted by:
1. Sharon Mugs
2. Dave Large
3. Sue Fieseler
4. Nancy Stettler Thornton
5. Jennifer Wydrzynski
6. Nicole Maui
7. Bobby Paolino
8. Margaretping
9. Angie_rose25
10. Earthgerm
11. Eva_faye
12. Eileenvalentine
13. Retriever_rosie
14. Victoriachristine7
15. Nikki_desko
Day 2
Here’s your next challenge! Today, Clean Ocean Action’s Virtual Vintage Beach Sweeps asks...What is the strangest, weirdest, or most ridiculous item(s) you found during the Beach Sweeps? Share a photo and or/description of your weird debris with us and tag COA. Participants will qualify for a chance to win a 35th Beach Sweeps Anniversary t-shirt thanks to @jetty.ink.

“Poplar Ave in Wildwoods favorite find (folks still talk about it) wasn’t truly trash, but instead a large dinosaur head that came off of an attraction/store on the boardwalk. It had blown across the beach and a group found it and rolled it back in all of its glory. We obviously didn’t trash it but called the city to let them know we found it and left it tucked by the boardwalk for the owner to retrieve! My returning beach sweepers still talk about the dinosaur year: 2014.” – Jessica Westerland Mumford, Poplar Ave-Wildwood Beach Captain

Jar of pickles in Loch Arbour/Allenhurst
Submitted by Margot Fernicola, Beach Captain

Bowling ball in Belmar
Submitted by Dakota Neuls
Car bumper and large baking sheet in Sea Bright
Submitted by Kate Grossarth, Beach Captain

Hair color bottle from 1970s in Avon-by-the-Sea
Submitted by Andrea Martins

Long storm pipe in Seaside Heights
Submitted by Dr. John Wnek, Beach Captain
Fake teeth and lightning stone  
Submitted by Melissa Melissa

Interior of car door  
Submitted by Sarah Thygeson Schivell

Remains of Porta Potty  
Submitted by Jill Sorrentino

Giant beach umbrella and blanket  
Submitted by Deborah Ives

Shotgun shells — Nicole Andreano Ianco
Adult toy – Pandora Piccolo
Positive pregnancy test – @kittycenttt
EZ Pass tag - @Eileenvalentine
A bike – @rxmaryjade
A seaglassified bottle named “red bank” - @lostworldcreative
A flip phone that had been through a lot - @jessicarhey
Cremation bag - @emma_wulfhorst
Day 3
Show off your vintage Beach Sweeps attire! We know that many volunteers cherish their Beach Sweeps t-shirts, and some have quite a collection! Share a photo of your vintage Beach Sweeps shirt and tag COA.

Submitted by Marianne Grant, Beach Captain

Submitted by Tony Kono, Beach Captain

Submitted by Kathleen and Leo Gasienica, Beach Captains
Day 4 - Happy 35 Years of Beach Sweeps!

Share your Sweeps story! What is your most memorable moment from the Beach Sweeps? What inspires you to participate? Tell us about your experience and share any photos that capture your Beach Sweeps story.

Submitted by Joe Martin

Submitted by Carol Murphy
Submitted by Amanda Wheeler, Beach Captain

“Through the years Lavallette has been involved and happy to help in any way. Helpers from 5 to 80 yrs. come from all over to Sweep the Beach and help the environment. Anita Zalom has been captain for 20 years and the event got so big that she now has two co-captains Councilman Dave Finter and resident Clem Boyers! We will miss helping on the 35th anniversary year but we will

“Never Give Up”! Hello to all and thank you all for helping.” – Anita Zalom, Beach Captain
Submitted by Mark Woldseth, Beach Captain

“My best Beach Sweep memory is from 2000 when a NY Time reporter (actually he was editor of the Metro Section) joined me and wrote a great article. I’ve attached versions here for you. I love that I made a big point about straws in 2000. So 17 years later, when the entire world seemed to be waking up to the idea that straws were unnecessary, I pulled this old article out.” — John Weber, Mid-Atlantic Regional Manager, Surfrider Foundation
“The Annual Spring and Fall Beach Sweeps are moments we look forward to every year for a multitude of reasons: the fact that we are directly aiding the efforts to protect and clean a place we call home, the camaraderie that is built amongst the volunteers, the fresh faces and young minds of Junior Captains as they take on a meaningful challenge, the opportunity to meet like-minded individuals, and having strangers quickly become friends. We, most especially, love that this is a family affair- with Hamlette the minipig leading the way in spreading awareness and education. We want to share this gorgeous landscape with generations for years to come, and in order to do that, we must unite in providing as much love to Mother Earth as she has given to us, and then some! The encouraging part is that we’ve noticed greater participation as each year comes, with volunteers spanning ALL ages!” - Crystal DeCaro, Beach Captain
sobreezy_design

happy 35 years of beach sweeps!
@cleanoceanaction
	sad that today's sweeps couldn't happen, but grateful for this organization for continuing to make a difference during this time.

COASTAL CLEANUP DAY

stevenssaveclub

throwback to our beach sweeps last year, I picked up more trash from coastal cleanup to be more responsible as my family did last year.

stevenssaveclub

Today would have been my second beach sweep! And this year marks the 35th anniversary of Beach Sweeps by @cleanoceanaction! Unfortunately due to COVID this year, spring sweep was canceled. In honor of the sweep, I'm reflecting back on my first sweep last fall.

torrttortcouture

denimjacket
“New Jersey Natural Gas employees and retirees have volunteered with Clean Ocean Action year after year, many bringing their family members, including grandkids and teens, who also receive service hours for school. But cleaning up beaches – picking up plastic bottles, cigarette butts and other debris -- doesn’t stop for us on this one, very important day. Many coworkers visit Jersey Shore beaches throughout the summer and tell us they do mini Beach Sweeps with their families, collecting the ‘bad stuff’ off the sand just like they learned from Clean Ocean Action activities! NJNG is committed to creating a positive change in the communities where we live and work. The spirit of giving back is a fundamental part of who we are and the culture we strive to uphold among all of our employees. Virtual Beach Sweeps are fun, too, but we can’t wait to get back to the beaches for the next event!” --Carolyn Cannon, New Jersey Natural Gas
Submitted by Tono Kono, Beach Captain