



SECOND WAVE OF SUPPORT FOR COASTAL COMMUNITIES

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- Show the Ocean Some LOVE This Valentine's Day
- NJ Fertilizer Law in Full Effect
- Second Wave of Support For Coastal Communities

February 2013 Highlights

- TAKE 3 ACTIONS TO HELP YOUR OCEAN:**
1. Sign up for the "Wave of Action" Day For the Shore on February 23rd.
 2. Attend social events to benefit communities effected by Hurricane Sandy.
 3. Support coastal businesses.

Clean Ocean Action
 18 Hartshorne Drive, Suite 2
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 www.CleanOceanAction.org
 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



TRIBUTES



In Honor of

- Adam Owens
- Cindy Zipf
- Ellen and Jim Hazy
- Ethel and George Jensen
- Lynda Elliot
- Neal Zirkle
- Nicole Pavlin
- Raymond Dodd
- Mr. Fixt
- The Viviani Family
- Jan and Tom Kirwan

In Memory of

- Bernard Hinrichs
- Clydella Martino
- James Halligan
- Laura Beutell
- Mary Ross

Share some Ocean Emotion this Valentine's Day!



Make a donation in honor of your loved one this Valentine's Day. Donations can be made online at CleanOceanAction.org or can be mailed to the Clean Ocean Action office at 18 Hartshorne Drive, Suite 2, Highlands, NJ 07732.

Your thoughtful tribute will be professed in the next issue of Clean Ocean Advocate as well as COA's special Valentine's Day e-mail blast.



Over 300 volunteers at Sandy Hook ready to clean the beach and bay on January 19



Sea Shepherd Philadelphia joined by volunteers in Cape May, NJ



Trash cleaned by volunteers in New Dorp in Staten Island, NY



Volunteer with Christmas Tree for dune restoration in Island Beach State Park, NJ

What Super-storm Sandy destroyed in only 36 hours will take years to restore. Sustaining and supporting these communities over the long term is important. In continued response to Super-storm Sandy, Clean Ocean Action (COA) held the first 2013 event of its yearlong volunteer program, Waves of Action "For The Shore." The event connected coastal community needs throughout the NJ/NY region with thousands of volunteers willing to help on President Obama's National Day of Service to honor the life and legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.

On January 19, over 2,500 registered volunteers and 22 organizations, including Presidential Inaugural Committee, Clinton Global Initiative, and state agencies from New Jersey and New York, helped to clean out neighborhoods, parks, beaches, and waterways or rebuild dunes at 30 locations throughout New York and New Jersey.

The Presidential Inaugural Committee participated in Waves of Action in Atlantic City, Ocean Gate, Middletown, Asbury Park, Highlands and Sandy Hook, New Jersey and at the Jones Beach Clean Up in New York, where U.S. Secretary for Housing and Urban Development, Shaun Donovan, joined over 500 volunteers. Secretary Donovan was appointed by President Obama as Chair of the Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force.

January 19 Highlights

- Over 300 volunteers at Sandy Hook were joined by the Presidential Inaugural Committee. Volunteers filled over 600 garbage bags in 3 hours and then enjoyed a free cup of New England Clam Chowder at Bahr's Landing Restaurant in Highlands, New Jersey.
- Over 50 volunteers, including AmeriCorps volunteers, at Normandy Beach recovered scrapbooks, photo albums and x-rays. Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (D) joined 120 volunteers to clean the beach in front of Keansburg Library and in Asbury Park, New Jersey.
- At Jones Beach, 375 people came to clean the beach. Volunteers were from all over, even Alaska! Secretary Donovan was joined by Nassau County Executive Ed Mangano, New York State Parks Commissioner Rose Harvey, and Jones Beach Director of Operations Hank Leggio.
- Volunteers in New Dorp, Staten Island, NY found a painting of a toddler, a toy piano, and lots of tires and plastic.
- Over 100 volunteers at Island Beach State Park were transported by New Jersey Beach Buggy Association.

For more photos and information, visit www.facebook.com/CleanOcean or www.fortheshore.org.

CITIZEN ACTION

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Volunteer Spotlight: Helping Hands from the Land of Enchantment



Bay Stevens with other volunteers in Union Beach

Bay Stevens is not your average volunteer. For starters, her annual vacation is hardly most peoples' idea of a relaxing excursion. Each December, Bay chooses one location in need of helping hands (usually post disaster – natural or otherwise). Bay has spent time on the ground in New Orleans post-Katrina and the Gulf of Mexico post- BP oil spill, and can now add New Jersey to her list. For a week this past December, Bay spent her days helping our neighbors on the Jersey Shore. Bay's experience can be read at Clean Ocean Action's blog cleanoceanaction.blogspot.org, but please enjoy this excerpt below:

"I'm muscling through the upper limbs of a sticker bush to reach my quarry, a shopping bag marooned between thorny branches that snagged it during the hurricane. Got it. The high point of my day. Retreating to my industrial strength lawn and leaf bag, I deposit this loot with the rest of my haul of light trash that festoons this marsh in Union Beach. This is the new viewscape of the New Jersey coast from former residential lots to the ocean. It is my destination this year for my December vacation.

I call it a vacation because it suits my nature. I'm independent; I have an unusual imagination and therefore I like the challenge of creating my own version of a holiday gift to the unknown world. Yes I can and do participate in my hometown charity drives, but it's the messy muddy trench work that spurs me to browse the Internet for a destination, map it, contact, question, decide, schedule, sign up, travel 2,000 miles, rent a car, find a place to stay, work long past a reasonable stopping point, and drive back each evening dumb tired and perfectly complete."

Volunteer Opportunities

Sunday, February 17th - Ocean Wreck Divers Scuba Supermarket

Toms River Intermediate School North
150 Intermediate North Way, Toms River, NJ
9am-2pm (9am-11:30pm and/or 11:30am-2pm)

Friday, March 22nd - Sunday March 24th – Paddlesport 2013

Friday 12pm-9pm
Saturday 9am-6pm
Sunday 10am-4:30pm
Garden State Exhibit Center
50 Atrium Drive Somerset, NJ 08873

Contact Zach McCue via e-mail at citizens@cleanoceanaction.org or by phone at (732) 872-0111 to volunteer for any shift for either event.

SCIENCE AND POLICY UPDATES

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Barnegat Bay Partnership Update

In January, the Barnegat Bay Partnership (BBP) science committee meeting focused on ongoing water quality problems and solutions, as well as, Superstorm Sandy impacts. Here is a brief summary:

Ongoing Problems in Barnegat Bay region...

DEP provided an overview of the ongoing pathogen water quality problems that are generally localized along the edges of the bay where populations are dense and in local lakes. (See here for maps <http://www.nj.gov/dep/bmw/waterclass.htm>). DEP identified and dealt with a marina that had many violations, including year round house boats that were pumping sewage into Toms River, which is part of Barnegat Bay. This should improve water quality in the area, but more is needed. Storm drains were also identified as polluting sources by MATES student projects for some Toms River beaches. COA's staff scientist is helping to organize a BBP pathogen workgroup to compile existing information on problem areas and infrastructure status, summarize partner activities and plans, and develop recommendations for data needs and pollution reduction solutions.

Post-Sandy and Shellfishing in the Bay

- Superstorm Sandy damaged several pump stations and sewer systems which released raw sewage into the bay and flooded areas. Fortunately, the three Ocean County treatment facilities stayed online.
- NJDEP reported on data collected that showed an influx of sewage followed by a return to healthy waters once pumpstations were repaired within a week of the storm.
- However, shellfishing areas were kept closed due to high levels of fecal viral indicators within tissue samples of shellfish.
- NJDEP conducted more testing, but no sources of sewage were found, and waters continued to test clean. It was determined that given warm water temperatures before and during the storm, the shellfish are thought to have taken up the indicators when contamination occurred. Then temperatures dropped, which decreased filtering activity and delayed the purging of contaminants from shellfish tissue.
- The Northern Bay has been reopened on 12/21 to a decrease tissue viral levels. South of Rt 37 has remained closed and an independent laboratory has confirmed to be above the standard.



On Feb. 6, BBP is hosting a NJ Water Monitoring Council meeting from 9:00 - 4:30 at the Arts and Community Center Theatre at Ocean County College that is open to the public. The purpose of the meeting is to share technical information from the latest water quality research and monitoring in Barnegat Bay.

Post-Sandy Toxin Testing

COA has been trying to find out about testing for toxins (oil, pesticides, heavy metals, etc) that may have been released or moved by the storm. It has been difficult to find out what has been done, and it seems that testing to date has been limited. Information is available at EPA's site that shows limited testing at selected superfund sites (<http://www.epa.gov/sandy/frequentquestions.html#faqsampling>). NOAA and the Coast Guard did respond to fuel spills, however, online information on the data collected does not appear to be easily available to the public. COA will meet with the EPA soon and support more testing and collaboration going forward.

SCIENCE AND POLICY CONT.

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NJ Fertilizer Law in Full Effect

Two years ago, on January 5, 2011, Governor Christie joined dozens of ocean, environmental, and public health advocates in Waretown, NJ to sign into law the nation's most protective fertilizer control law. This New Jersey fertilizer law - artfully called "the NJ Fertilizer Law" - puts many 'best management practices' (aka, actions that experts, academics, and scientists already recommend everyone should be doing) into law. Over the last two years, various stages of the law have come into effect across New Jersey.

First, rules on when and where homeowners and landscapers can apply fertilizers became effective. For example, for over a year, it has been illegal for professional fertilizer applicators (like landscapers or groundskeepers) to put fertilizer on lawns during winter, onto frozen ground, or allow it to fall onto streets and sidewalks. Second, in January 2012, a provision became effective requiring all professionals in the state to be trained or certified through an online Rutgers fertilizer course and exam.

Third, and finally, January 2013 was the trigger month for the last phase of the law. From now on, all bags of fertilizer products sold at retail stores in the state must comply with strict, more-water-quality-friendly content standards. Consumers will now only be able to buy fertilizers which have at least 20% "slow release" nitrogen (which keeps chemicals on the lawn, not in the water, longer), and have limited amounts of other nitrogen chemicals. Further, the law bans, in almost all cases, phosphorous-based chemicals from fertilizers – a move which will immediately help the freshwater lakes, ponds, and rivers of New Jersey.

Overall, this three-stage implementation gave landscapers, retail operations, and fertilizer manufacturers two years to adjust to the plans and policies mandated by this law. Now, organizations across the region are working to educate the public on these new requirements and take these lessons learned and work with other states in the region to follow New Jersey's lead on this vital water quality issue.

2013: WAVES OF ACTION

Year-Long Volunteer Action Plan for Sandy Recovery

For more information, visit COA's website www.fortheshore.org

January 19 – Clean-Up, Clean-Out

February 23 – Helping Hands

March 23 – Bringing Back our Ecosystems

April 27 – 28th Annual Beach Sweeps

May 18 – Back to the Beach

Summer 2013

June 22 – Healthy Habitats

July 20 – Water Conservation

August 17 – Energy Efficiency

September 21 – Elections and Long-Term Recovery

October 19 – 28th Annual Fall Beach Sweeps

November 13, 14, 15 – Education for the Future

December 7 – Waves of Action Conference and Awards



Girl Scout Troop 958 in New Dorp, Staten Island on January 19