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October 2014 Highlights

In Memory of:
Captain Stephen W. Atkins
Samuel Karinja

In Honor of:
Liz Fordi and Adam Rechnitz’s Wedding
Meghan Fitzsimmon’s Birthday
Isaac Schiffman’s Bar Mitzvah

A Special Thank You to the Panelists

• Barbara Fiedler, Sustainability Officer for Galloway Township
• Jim Rokosny, Chairman of the Bridgewater Township Environmental Commission
• Monica Coffey, Communications Manager of the Atlantic County Utilities Authority
• Lisa Auermann, Watershed Coordinator of the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve
• Jenna Gatto, Resilient Community Specialist of the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve
• Rod Ritchie, Sr. Technical Director of AKRF, Inc.
• Erin Williams, Stormwater Billing and Incentives Director of the Philadelphia Water Department
• Scott and Karen Reynolds of Environmental Canine Services LLC

TRIBUTES

Happy Birthday to a wonderful COA supporter, Linda Lees!

October 2014, COA 30th Anniversary Celebration

Friday, November 14, 2014 from 6-10pm
Windows on the Water, 931 Ocean Ave, Sea Bright, NJ

Tickets are now available online at www.CleanOceanAction.org

Event and commemorative book sponsorship opportunities are still available! See Page 2 for more details.

Clean Ocean Advocate
October 2014

COA’s Blue Star program, years in the making, was launched with great success on September 18th, at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey and was made possible thanks to Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and Sustainable Jersey.

The Blue Star Program is modeled after the visionary and highly praised Sustainable Jersey certification program in New Jersey for municipalities that want to “go green, save money and take steps to sustain their quality of life over the long term.” Donna Drews co-creator and co-director of Sustainable Jersey attended the event to support the innovative adaptation of her program that helps improve waterways.

Blue Star shifts the focus of municipal actions toward protecting water quality, particularly along the coasts. COA staff Catie Tobin, Marine Science Education Coordinator and Cara Muscio, Coastal Programs Coordinator, have led the Blue Star project and facilitated the day’s events.

To launch the program, two panels were held to highlight requirements of the Blue Star Program. First, municipalities already leading efforts to protect water quality shared their exciting projects. Speakers and highlights from the Green Team panel include:

- Barbara Fiedler, Galloway, explained how a rain garden solved the problem of a parking lot flooding and as innovative community demonstration project. They also showed the documentary film “Bag It” and followed up by bagging groceries for citizens in donated reusable bags at local ShopRite markets.
- Jim Ritchie, Bridgewater, discussed Annual Raritan Headwaters Stream Cleanup and seeks to combine a watershed wide Beach Sweeps next spring among many other programs.
- Monica Coffey, Margate, discussed a forum they held in July focused on Climate Change, Sea-Level Rise and Storm Water Management.

The second panel focused on the Blue Star Required Actions.

- Lisa Auermann and Jenna Gatto, from the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve, discussed “Getting to Resilience” which describes ways for municipalities to become more resilient to sea level rise such as online tools, like NJ Flood Mapper and NJADAPT, as well as free resources for communities through JCNERR.
- Erin Williams, Philadelphia Water Dept. and Rod Ritchie, AKRF discussed Philadelphia’s successful implementation of a Stormwater Utility (fee) to raise funds to help cover costs of stormwater and combined sewer overflow management and incentivize stormwater management from private property.
- Scott and Karen Reynolds of Environmental Canine Services had their NJ premier, promoting their extraordinary trained dogs which track pollution in waterbodies. It is exceptionally useful as a rapid screening method. COA will be working to bring these poodles to many NJ communities. Of course the show stoppers were Logan and Sable, the trained canines, who did a field demonstration which wrapped up the day.

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Any municipality registered or certified in the Sustainable Jersey program is eligible for a Blue Star Award and can go to CleanOceanAction.org for more information, or contact Catie Tobin or Cara Muscio at the COA office, 732-872-0111. COA is also grateful to Harris Davis, of BY&LG, who designed the new logo of the Blue Star program.

“We are so excited to be part of the launch of this important program. ECS looks forward to providing canine source tracking services that help towns obtain certification while also addressing water quality issues at the municipal level.” – Scott Reynolds, Environmental Canine Services
Clean Ocean Action is celebrating its 30th Anniversary this year! Since 1984, Clean Ocean Action has been fighting for our oceans, beaches, and marine life in New Jersey and New York. In the past 30 years, Clean Ocean Action has closed all eight ocean dumpsites; fought for cleaner waters for swimmers, surfers and boaters; and led the largest grassroots environmental event in New Jersey, Beach Sweeps. With the help of our supporters, we have helped pass legislation, veto bills, and provide ocean protection programs and education to protect our oceans. These efforts and more do not go unnoticed and have gained the support of thousands. COA is working to expand our reach and educate the next generation of ocean advocates.

Denim & Pearls
Join us in the 30th Anniversary Celebration, Denim & Pearls! The event will be held on Friday, November 14, from 6-10PM at Windows on the Water in Sea Bright, NJ. Denim & Pearls will be an evening of fun with family and friends. Denim & Pearls guests will enjoy an exciting night of music with coastal rockers Brian Kirk and the Jirks and a special cocktail hour with the talented Thom White & The Little Rogues! This night of casual elegance and fun with a panoramic view of the ocean will highlight food by Chef Cruz of Windows on the Water and tastings from renowned shore chefs including Lucky Lobster, Flaky Tart, and more. There will be a silent auction, an art gallery, and a beautiful view of our ocean! Tickets and sponsorship information are available online at www.cleanoceanaction.org.

True Blue: 30-Years Making Waves for the Ocean
To commemorate these auspicious years, Clean Ocean Action is publishing a “legaSea” keepsake book, True Blue: 30-Years of Making Waves for the Ocean. This beautiful full color celebratory book will honor our past supporters, hardworking volunteers, influential events, and the amazing accomplishments! We invite you to sponsor a page of the book to join the celebration of Clean Ocean Action’s 30th Anniversary. Your generous support of a page will help tell the story of Clean Ocean Action’s amazing 30 years and launch the next generation of ocean protection. For more information on True Blue, please visit our website or contact Tory Woods at 732-872-0111.

Port Ambrose: Anti-LNG Coalition Organizer Meeting and LNG Presentations
The US Coast Guard and Maritime Administration (MARAD) are still awaiting additional information hosted by Liberty Natural Gas (Liberty) to satisfy numerous outstanding data gaps in their application for the Port Ambrose offshore LNG port. Then the agencies will release the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project. At this time, the Draft EIS is expected to be released in late October or November, to be followed by public hearings around the holidays or after the new year. There will likely only be two public hearings scheduled; one in New Jersey and one in New York, and it is important that members throughout the area participate in opposition to the project. Once the public hearings are finished and the final EIS is issued, Governors Christie and Cuomo will have 45 days to veto the project. Governor Christie continues to state his opposition to LNG, and Anti-LNG coalition partners in New York have been organizing events focused on encouraging Governor Cuomo to make the same statement.

On September 12th, COA hosted an LNG organizer meeting on Long Island for Anti-LNG coalition members to discuss strategy leading up to the release of the Port Ambrose Draft EIS and public hearings. Fifteen people representing groups based on Long Island and beyond were in attendance. The Anti-LNG coalition plans to hold its next meeting during the week of October 27th; visit our website for updates!

Also in September, COA gave presentations on LNG and Port Ambrose to the Western Monmouth Chapter of the League of Women Voters and at a “Science Monday” seminar hosted by the Brookdale Community College Environmental Science Club. Keep an eye out for updates on events focused on making Port Ambrose happen by checking our website and blog!

Fall Into Volunteering with Clean Ocean Action
Calling all south Jersey middle schools! Join Clean Ocean Action in taking science to the beach for the Fall Student Summit, scheduled for October 9, 2014 at Island Beach State Park from 9 am – 12 pm. Students will take environmental science from the classroom to the outdoors and participate in various hands-on field trips and workstations.

The Summit is for middle schools of the following southern NJ counties: Ocean, Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland, Cape May and Atlantic. For more information, please contact Catie Tobin at education@cleanoceanaction.org or visit the website for the application.