

2003 Beach Sweeps Highlights



Spring



Fall



This year, the spring cleanup was hit by a major rain storm. Ocean and Monmouth Counties took the brunt of the storm with several inches of windswept rain falling during the cleanup. Cape May and Atlantic Counties had intermittent rain throughout the day. Despite the soggy weather, dedicated volunteers persisted through the rain. Because of the heavy rains, some of the locations were unable to use the datacards but still cleaned the beach. A few locations tried to estimate what was collected during their cleanup so they would have something to report for their community. Other large groups that wanted to participate in the cleanup, made arrangements to reschedule their cleanup.

● MONMOUTH COUNTY

Volunteers from Allied Health & Science High School in **Avon** had a great time and cleaned over one mile of beach. Despite the weather, residents of **Leonardo** cleaned a section of the back bay with a group of nine volunteers. Thirty one volunteers showed up in **Sea Bright** and successfully cleaned three miles of beach. Ten volunteers struggled through the rain in **Spring Lake**. In **Keyport**, volunteers found a telephone, a car bumper, and a large piece of carpet. The **Bradley Beach** Environmental Commission showed that they care about the beach by removing over 400 pounds of debris. Volunteers in **Deal** found a china plate and a softball during their cleanup. Waterspirit rescheduled their cleanup for **Elberon**, where 18 volunteers collected 319 plastic caps/lids. **Sandy Hook** had a great turnout with over 300 volunteers collecting over 3,700 pounds of trash.

● OCEAN COUNTY

Community members participated in the spring cleanup at **Island Beach State Park** and cleaned one quarter of a mile of beach in wind-driven rain. Brownie Troop 1404 worked diligently at the **Point Pleasant Beach** cleanup, collecting over 100 pounds of debris, including a large metal shovel. Four dedicated volunteers braved the weather and cleaned a mile of beach in **Ortley Beach**. In **South Seaside Park**, an attic turbine fan was found on Midway Beach.



● ATLANTIC COUNTY

NJ Community Water Watch cleaned **Atlantic City**, where volunteers found 5 shotgun shells. **Brigantine** hosted another great cleanup with 74 volunteers from the Brigantine Garden Club, Knights of Columbus #7020, Brigantine Elks, and Sons of Italy #2520. Schools did a great job of cleaning the beach in **Margate**, where over 600 students from three schools volunteered their time to make the beach beautiful. **Ventnor's** beaches were cleaned by a small dedicated group of 10 volunteers, who collected 475 cigarette filters.

● CAPE MAY COUNTY

Forty-eight students from Cape May Elementary School excelled at their cleanup in **Cape May**. The dedicated students took the data cards from the cleanup back to the classroom and made charts to analyze the data. **Sea Isle City** had fifty volunteers contributing to a successful cleanup, which also included dune grass planting and an after-party at The Ocean Drive. Cub Scout Troop 58 cleaned the beaches in **Wildwood Crest** with 37 volunteers. In **Wildwood**, the Environmental Commission led the Sweeps where volunteers picked up 164 plastic caps/lids, a plastic coconut, and a shower curtain. In **North Wildwood**, 16 volunteers came to the cleanup and picked up 154 cigarette filters.

"Make a Difference Day" was a beautiful day along the Jersey shore, rewarding the Beach Sweepers with one of the best fall cleanup days on record. An awe-inspiring 2,721 volunteers participated in this cleanup, making it a record turnout for a Fall Beach Sweeps.

● CAPE MAY COUNTY

Strathmere was a fall winner with two sites. With the help of the Strathmere Fishing & Environmental Club, 34 volunteers removed 460 pounds of debris. **Ocean City** put forth a phenomenal effort with 530 volunteers, including 480 students from local schools collecting 4,220 pounds of debris from the beach. Thirty-one volunteers collected 713 pounds of debris in **Cape May**, which had a cleanup for the first time in a number of years due to the effort of a local girl scout troop. **Wildwood** volunteers found themselves "in the money," netting \$110 dollars, and in the meantime, managed to clean 1.5 miles of the widest beach in the state. **Stone Harbor** had two sites this year, sponsored by the Wetlands Institute and NJ Surf with 64 volunteers participating. **Sea Isle City** remained a strong Sweeps site with 87 volunteers collecting 646 pounds of debris. The new South Jersey Chapter of Surfrider Foundation cleaned 1.5 miles of beach in **Avalon**.



● ATLANTIC COUNTY

Volunteers from Richard Stockton College of NJ and NJ Community Water Watch cleared 671 pounds of debris and covered over 1.5 miles of beach in **Atlantic City** and **Ventnor**. In **Margate**, the Teenline youth group led a successful cleanup, covering two miles and clearing 483 pounds of debris. Local community groups participated in the cleanup in **Brigantine**, which attracted 65 volunteers who picked up 103 plastic food/candy wrappers and bags and 52 foam plastic plates.

● OCEAN COUNTY

At two locations at **Island Beach State Park**, 116 volunteers cleaned one mile of beach, collecting a total of 1,319 pounds of debris. Girl Scout troop 220 and the Brick High School Surf Club collected 364 pounds of debris in **Brick**. Nineteen volunteers collected 590 pounds of debris in **Bay Head**. In **Seaside Heights**, volunteers found a live horseshoe crab entangled in fishing line; the line was removed and it was released. In **Seaside Park**, 22 members of the Coastal Jersey Parrot Head Club participated as a group for the first time, collecting 2,377 cigarette filters. In South Seaside Park (Berkeley Township), 4 volunteers picked up 164 pounds of debris.

● MONMOUTH COUNTY

Sandy Hook hosted a great cleanup with volunteers removing 26,386 items (including a hockey stick and water ski) that totaled over 7,104 pounds. Despite a small turnout, a group of volunteers in **Sea Girt** collected 174 pounds of debris. In the pile of debris they collected in **Asbury Park**, Sierra Club volunteers found a whole plastic bumper of a car. In **Manasquan**, 48 volunteers removed 683 pounds of debris with cigarette butts topping the list of items collected. Thirty-three volunteers hit the beach in **Avon**, collecting half of a ton of debris. **Long Branch** hosted a successful cleanup that covered 1.5 miles, with 40 volunteers collecting 1,027 pounds of trash. At **Ideal Beach** in **Middletown**, volunteers found interesting items such as a bowling ball, a Halloween scarecrow, and a plastic gourd. In the **Port Monmouth** section of **Middletown**, volunteers encountered tons of asphalt pieces, dumped there years ago. **Sea Bright** had a record number of volunteers at their cleanup -- 126 participants. These volunteers cleaned the entire beach, picking up 1,470 pounds of debris.

Due to limited space, reports on all Sweeps sites are not possible. COA thanks all the communities & volunteers that participated in the 2003 cleanups.