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CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE

Photo courtesy of Joe Reynolds

FEBRUARY 2017

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CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE

Defending the Sea Since 1984

February 2017

Photo courtesy of Scott Thompson

Message from COA's Executive Director

Greetings, Friends of the Ocean!

This year will no doubt be a challenging and exciting year:

- COA will be showcasing the new award winning film, *A Plastic Ocean*, throughout the region. The fascinating and alarming movie will include discussion panels and action plans. Keep posted for dates and locations.
- Our *Rally for the Navesink*, a blue print to improving waterways, is in its second year, following a successful launch of citizen collaboration. Many sources of pollution have been identified, thanks to unique dogs from Environmental Canine Services, and causes are now being abated.
- September will mark the **20th Anniversary of the end of ocean dumping**. Stay tuned for actions and events.
- **"Facing Ocean Acidification"**, COA will institute a new public awareness program to help folks understand the impacts of this devastating trend on our planet, and on the plants and animals that are most at risk.
- We are ushering in a **new federal administration** under President Trump. In **New Jersey**, every state elected office is up for election from Governor to Senate and Assembly; in **New York City** the Mayoral office is also up for election. These are all opportunities for ocean protection and civil engagement.



Ryan Struck Photography

This is just the tip of the iceberg.

Together, we will be ever vigilant watchdogs - - sustaining and protecting our wild and harmful-industry-free ocean, reducing pollution in our waterways, and keeping our elected officials accountable.

Ever onward,

Cindy Zipf
Executive Director

Spring 2017 Student Summit— SAVE THE DATE!

Attention, 5th – 8th grade teachers!! The Clean Ocean Action Spring 2017 Student Summit is scheduled for May 17th and 18th on beautiful Sandy Hook. The free seaside symposium is an exciting day of environmental and marine science learning and FUN! Visit our website soon for the application. As always, this program is FREE! For more information, contact Amanda Wheeler, Education and Volunteer Coordinator at citizens@cleanoceanaction.org. If you are interested in leading a field trip that day, please let us know!

TRIBUTES



Photo courtesy of Joe Reynolds

In Memory of:

Steve Atkins	Margaret (Peggy) McNulty
Adele Gabel	Carol Anne Ross
Ethel, George and Ronnie Jensen	Betsy Rowett
William Lavin	

In Honor of:

Ava and Jack	Joy and Jack for Christmas
Catherine Ball	Mikayla and Jacob Kaneff for Christmas
Roger Bove Family for Christmas	Tara Paxton for Christmas
Gene Casazza	Sid Srivatsan
Margo and Mingchich Chiu	Nick Usechak
COA Staff for 2016 Successes	Tina Walling for COA Beach Sweeps
Gary Deisher for Christmas	Tory Woods
Ray Dodd for Christmas	Cindy Zipf
Emily Huresky	
Allison Isherwood	

A Plastic Ocean



Clean Ocean Action will be holding five screenings of the award winning *A Plastic Ocean*, a "new feature-length adventure documentary that brings to light the consequences

of our global disposable lifestyle." A panel discussion about harmful impacts to marine life, and state, local and federal solutions will follow the movie. If you or your organization are interested in hosting a screening please contact Mae Henry at outreach@cleanoceanaction.org. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and future newsletters for information on screening dates and locations.

Ocean Watch

Clean Ocean Action is proud to announce that we will be launching an "Ocean Watch" blog focused on providing clear information on industrial projects, legislation, and regulatory actions which have the potential to impact the ocean and coastal water quality of our region. For over 30 years now, COA has worked to protect and improve the water quality of the NY Bight. With such a high level of uncertainty regarding what federal legislation and regulatory approach the new administration will pursue, it is essential now more than ever that citizens who care about a clean and healthy marine ecosystem be informed about the potential of these actions to impact the places they recreate and depend upon. Check our Facebook page and website at www.cleaneoceanaction.org to learn more and stay connected.



POLICY

Zach Lees, Ocean Policy Attorney
policy@CleanOceanAction.org

Fish Research



COA's Coastal Policy Attorney recently attended a 3 day marine science course to learn more about fish science and management, and connect with commercial and recreational fishermen and women who are passionate about the ecosystems. The workshop covered a wide array of topics ranging from how scientists determine the age of a fish and survey the mid-Atlantic, how commercial and recreational landing numbers are incorporated into stock assessments, and ever more pressing, how we can determine the ways in which fish and fishing grounds are changing due to ocean warming.

Two things became very clear from this workshop; first, there is much common ground among all types of ocean users who depend upon a clean and

functioning marine environment. While COA does not work on fisheries issues directly, our focus on marine water quality and prevention of offshore industrial activities supports healthy ecosystems and the fish that depend upon them. When the ocean is clean and harmful-industry free, we all win. Second, the workshop makes clear that continued investment from State, Federal, and Local entities in science and research for our marine ecosystem is critical in understanding the health of fish stocks, as well as the greater marine ecosystem. A changing climate and all types of human uses are changing our cherished blue world. It is critical that we invest the time and money to understand the extent and pace of these changes.

SCIENCE

Swarna Muthukrishnan, Staff Scientist
Science@CleanOceanAction.org

EPA Citizen Science Public Forum

U.S. EPA Region II hosted the second Citizen Science Public Forum on Jan 09, 2017 in New York City. The event was well-attended by federal and state officials, nonprofits, and citizen scientists. Dr. Swarna Muthukrishnan, Staff Scientist, represented COA. Judith Enck, EPA Region II Administrator opened the session with her remarks about how citizen science is one of the primary ways of moving forward in identifying and solving environmental issues of concern. The main areas of focus for citizen science efforts are water and air pollution issues in Region II and in the Caribbean. Region II provides technical support to citizen scientists and also analytical support through its Equipment Loan Program. Guest presentations showcased citizen science success stories in water quality monitoring involving high school students, and real time air quality mapping and monitoring initiatives. A round-table discussion of different groups brain-stormed on three important questions: (i) Key challenges faced by citizen scientists; (ii) How can citizen scientists focus efforts and maximize the impacts of our work?; and (iii) How can EPA be most effective in supporting citizen science-based initiatives? It was an informative meeting, which provided an opportunity to interact with peer-groups working on water quality issues in the NY/NJ area. The forum also helped gain an insight into various EPA resources that can be used to further COA's citizen science program agenda.

OUTREACH & ADVOCACY

Mae Henry, Marine Program Associate
Outreach@CleanOceanAction.org

Rally for the Navesink

Rally for the Navesink will be hosting a 2017 Planning Meeting on February 1st at 6pm at Monmouth County Library's Eastern Branch in Shrewsbury. Participating groups of the Rally for the Navesink, as well as some new ones, will be attending. The focus of the meeting will be a 2016 review of the achievements and planning a strategy for 2017. If you are interested in joining the Rally for the Navesink or for more information about the February 1st meeting, please contact Mae Henry at outreach@cleanoceanaction.org.



10 Tips for Dog Owners



Calling all dogs...and their owners! COA has produced a new card in our series of 10 Tips to spread watershed mindfulness about scooping the poop. Dog waste contains many types of bacteria, parasites and nutrients that degrade water quality and adversely impact human health. One gram of dog waste on average can contain 23 million fecal coliform bacteria. The best way to keep bacteria from entering the waterways is by collecting and disposing pet waste appropriately: dispose wrapped waste in the trash or flush unwrapped waste down the toilet.

Coming Soon
10 Tips for Cat Owners

Kudos to the towns of Red Bank, Fair Haven and Shrewsbury who are distributing COA's 10 Tips for Dogs in their dog license mailings. The tips cards offer many other ways in which dog owners can protect the environment while taking care of their pet at the same time. If you would like the tip cards or further information, please contact Mae Henry at Outreach@CleanOceanAction.org.

Corporate Volunteer Opportunity!

COA offers customized beach clean-ups that incorporate educational programming and teambuilding experiences in the beautiful and unique setting of Gateway National Recreation Area at Sandy Hook. Since the program began over a decade ago, over 3,000 Corporate Beach Sweep volunteers have united to rid NJ beaches of litter to protect the health of the ocean and marine life. The day is also a team-building and fun exercise.



Enthusiastic group from UBS Financial Services

During the 2016 season from May and October, more than 400 volunteers from 12 regional corporations joined COA to participate in this program. Special thanks to the following corporations that made this program successful: AmWINS Brokerage, BD Pharmaceutical, Bloomberg LP, Citrix, Edrington Americas, Ernst and Young, iCims, Johnson and Johnson, KPMG, Moody's, PVH Corporation-Van Heusen Retail, Royal Bank of Canada, Two River Community Bank, and UBS Financial Services.

COA will be releasing its 2016 Corporate Beach Sweeps Annual Report this month! If you're interested in getting your corporate team involved for future opportunities, please visit our website for 2017 program details or contact Tory Woods at TWoods@CleanOceanAction.org.

VOLUNTEERS & EDUCATION

Amanda Wheeler, Volunteer & Education Coordinator
citizens@CleanOceanAction.org

Watershed Mindfulness Education Workshop

COA held the first Watershed Mindfulness Education Workshop at the Middletown Library on January 18th. Educators throughout the Navesink Watershed were invited to join Rally for the Navesink and our region's Watershed Ambassador, Alexis Bowman, to discuss exciting new and traditional curriculums devoted to the new concept of Watershed Mindfulness. We seek representatives from every school K – 12 in the watershed, and welcome any educators, administrators, parents, or representatives interested in becoming a liaison for your school. If you would like more information about the first and subsequent workshops, please contact Amanda Wheeler, Education and Volunteer Coordinator, at citizens@cleanoceanaction.org. Through your involvement, the next generation of environmental stewards will know how to protect their watershed!

Seabrook Village Welcomes Clean Ocean Action

On January 10th, Amanda Wheeler presented COA's programs to the Humanist Society at Seabrook Village in Tinton Falls; members of Seabrook's Green Committee were also present. Together, these energetic and committed seniors are greening their community and beyond! Indeed, Seabrook is also home to many of our beloved "newsletter ladies" who also attended the presentation.



These dedicated volunteers come to Sandy Hook each month to label newsletters for mailing—Bobbi Cooley, Barbara Spencer, Anne Keenan, Greta Adler and Beverly Hausker! We couldn't do it without you!

2017 Beach Sweeps Dates

Clean Ocean Action's Annual Beach Sweeps will take place on Saturday, April 22nd and Saturday, October 21st, 9am-12:30pm at over 70 locations! Visit CleanOceanAction.org for more details. Pre-registration will open on our website on February 14, 2017, Ocean Emotion Day!

