



Clean Ocean Advocate

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May 2006 Highlights

- Sea Scenes
- COA Welcomes New Policy Advocate
- Volunteers Shine at Spring Beach Sweeps

Eco-Tip of the Month
 With proper tire inflation we could, collectively, in the US alone save 746 million gallons of gasoline per year. From "Our Environment," Vol 12, No. 3, by Ingrid Justick

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Clean Ocean Action
 PO Box 505
 Sandy Hook, NJ 07732-0505
 732-872-0111
 www.CleanOceanAction.org



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COA is a 501(c)(3) organization and contributions are tax deductible.

May 2006

- May 7, Sunday**
- **Hooked on the Hudson**, Ross Dock Area, Palisades Interstate Park. Fishing contest (8am), shad bake (12 noon), and environmental displays (all day).
 - **Hoboken Spring Arts & Music Festival**, Washington Street from Observer Highway to 7th Street, 11am-6pm.
- May 16-17, Tuesday-Wednesday**
- **COA Student Summit**, Sandy Hook - Parking Lot E. Program full.
- May 20, Saturday**
- **Ocean Fun Day**, hosted by Marine Sciences Consortium, Island Beach State Park, 11am-3pm. To volunteer for COA, contact Kari.
- May 21, Sunday**
- **2nd Annual Family Luau for the Ocean**, 3-7pm, rain or shine, Ship Ahoy Beach Club, Sea Bright. For tickets, visit COA's website.
 - **Ocean Fun Day**, hosted by Marine Sciences Consortium, Sandy Hook, 11am-3pm. To volunteer for COA, contact Kari.

COA PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS Featuring...Bayshore Regional Watershed Council

The Bayshore Regional Watershed Council (BRWC) works to protect, preserve, and cleanup waterways in the bayshore region of Middlesex and Monmouth Counties. BRWC is an all volunteer group, including citizens, scientists, environmental commissioners, and municipal officials from communities from Old Bridge Township to Highlands.

BRWC was created in 2000 under the watershed planning initiatives of Monmouth County and the NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). BRWC's goal is to restore and conserve Raritan and Sandy Hook Bays. The council has initiated and accomplished many focused projects, including: obtaining over \$50,000 in NJDEP grant funds to help decrease sedimentation and runoff in Flat Creek, acquiring over \$5,000 in grant funds to mark over 1,200 storm drains with anti-pollution messages, and identifying eight environmentally sensitive areas that are threatened with development and are most valuable for protection.

Currently, the council is working to obtain a sewage pump-out boat for private boats to discharge waste, pinpoint vernal pools for state protection, and educate people about water quality.

"We need to defend our waterways to preserve the unique coastal environment in the Bayshore," said **Joe Reynolds**, BRWC Co-chair. "The council recognizes the need to work together with organizations, such as COA, toward the shared goal of clean waters."

Also, the council is working closely with Clean Ocean Action (COA) to develop an environmentally sound dredged material management plan for the bayshore. Citizens are invited to provide input on the grant proposal for the plan. The next meetings will be held on May 11 at 10:30am at the Senior Center in Atlantic Highlands, and at 7:30pm at Borough Hall in Keyport.

Also, the BRWC meets monthly on the second Thursday at the Aberdeen Twp. Municipal Building at 7:30pm. Visit www.visitmonmouth.com/area12/.

Volunteers Shine at Spring Beach Sweeps

Sunny skies and enthusiasm for a cleaner ocean attracted an estimated 2,000 volunteers to over 60 sites on April 29th for Clean Ocean Action's 21st Annual Spring Beach Sweeps. At Sandy Hook, US Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) saluted over 500 volunteers at a kick-off rally and later joined the beach sweepers by picking up debris. Volunteers swept the beaches clean and collected information on debris on ocean, bay, river, and lake beaches from Perth Amboy to Cape May, NJ.



Drew Pavlik, Matt Zwinger, and US Senator Menendez (D-NJ) sweep the beach clean at Sandy Hook

"COA's Sweeps remove harmful litter from the environment and, most importantly, collects evidence of the pollution problem. Litter is lethal to marine life and can ruin an otherwise wonderful day at the beach," said Cindy Zipf, COA's Executive Director. "Our goal is to reduce sources of litter and to eliminate the need for Beach Sweeps in the future."

The results of the Spring Beach Sweeps will be available in a few months and will be included in an annual report to be released next spring.



(Left) Senator Menendez celebrates a job well done with students from the Marine Academy of Science & Technology



(Above) A lobster trap, wood pallet, and a pile of large, entangled fishing net were collected by volunteers at Pt. Pleasant Beach

(Left) Pete Milnes of NJ Shore Life Magazine and Tim Vogel of ShopRite haul debris off the beach at Sandy Hook

Clean Ocean Action (COA) released the results of last year's Spring and Fall Beach Sweeps. For the dirty details, view the 2005 Annual Report at www.cleanoceanaction.org. For information about sponsoring individual sites for the October 21st Fall Beach Sweeps, contact Jennifer Smiga at 732-872-0111.

CONTAMINATED SEDIMENTS

South Brother Island Channel Dredging with HARS Disposal

Clean Ocean Action (COA) continues to monitor ocean disposal of sediments at the Historic Area Remediation Site (HARS). The US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) is currently proposing maintenance dredging of the South Brother Island Federal Navigation Channel in the East River, with subsequent placement of approximately 265,000 cubic yards (CY) of dredged material at HARS. The sediments are contaminated with PAHs and PCBs at levels four times higher (for PAHs) or equal to (for PCBs) concentrations in the contaminated sediments already at HARS. Tests using Buttermilk Channel sediments caused clams and worms to accumulate 34 different contaminants. In comments submitted to ACOE, COA strongly objected to the use of South Brother sediments as cap material for HARS. Visit our website for COA's comments.

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Current Dredging Proposals

The public comment period is currently open for two federal navigational maintenance dredging projects in New Jersey waterways.

The first project is located in Sandy Hook Bay at Leonardo, where ACOE is planning to dredge the channel to a depth of 8 feet (plus 2 feet overdepth). The resulting dredged material, approximately 40,000 cubic yards (CY), would be placed in a yet to be determined state-furnished upland placement site. The release of the Public Notice is premature because the start date, funding, and placement site are not provided, and a call to ACOE's project manager confirmed that these critical issues are unresolved. Without this critical information it is not clear what the public is supposed to be commenting on, but regardless, the comment period ends on May 17. COA will urge ACOE to withdraw the public notice until the important specific information is determined.

The second project is located in the Arthur Kill at the New York Container Terminal on the Howland Hook Marine Terminal, where the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey is planning to dredge the berths to a depth of up to 41 feet deep (plus 2 feet overdepth). All the dredged material will be beneficially reused depending on the type of material. The silt/mud portion of the dredged material, approximately 9,000 CY will be processed and used as cap material at the Fresh Kills landfill and the remaining 35,000 CY of rock will be used as artificial reef material at the New Jersey State Shark River Artificial Reef Site. COA supports the beneficial reuse of dredged material and commends ACOE for continuing to provide the New Jersey Artificial Reef program with superior material to enhance the reef system. The comment period for this public notice ends on May 31.

COA supports the beneficial reuse of dredged material.

BEACHSIDE FAMILY FUN BY THE OCEAN



**COA's Family Luau for the Ocean
Sunday, May 21, 2006, 3-7 p.m.
Ship Ahoy Beach Club in Sea Bright, NJ.
Rain or shine under the big top!**

**Live Band, Tropical Fare, Smoothies, Desserts, Tiki Bar,
Beachside Fun, Family Hawaiian Shirt Contest,
50/50 Raffle, and Chance and Silent Auctions.**

**Admission: \$50 per adult, \$25 per child 12 and under.
Tickets may be purchased at www.cleanoceanaction.org
using MasterCard/Visa. Sponsorship opportunities are
available. For information contact Jennifer Smiga
(732-872-0111 or events@cleanoceanaction.org).**

EVENTS

Jennifer Smiga, 732-872-0111, Events@cleanoceanaction.org

Whole Foods Market's 5% Day a 100% Success

On April 19th, Whole Foods Market of Middletown, NJ generously donated \$2,900 -- five percent of their total day's sales, to COA. Three times per year, individual Whole Foods Markets across the country hold "Five Percent Days."

Throughout the day, COA was on hand to thank customers for their support, answer questions, and educate customers about nonpoint source pollution by inviting them to participate in a coastal watershed model demonstration.

Nonpoint source or "pointless" pollution is the number one cause of coastal water pollution. Pointless pollution is caused by many sources, including runoff of litter, pet wastes, fertilizers, pesticides, leaky septic systems, faulty sewage pipes, and antiquated stormwater systems. By keeping informed and making small changes, people can be the solution to ocean pollution. Remember, what goes down a drain, down a storm sewer, into a gutter, or on a lawn, eventually ends up in the ultimate "sink"...our ocean. To learn more, read COA's Ten Tips Series on our website ("Education Programs").

Thank you to Kristen Rabourdin, Whole Foods Marketing Team Leader; Paula DiMeglio, Store Team Leader; and the customers and Whole Foods team for continued support for a cleaner ocean and greener world.

Dean's Natural Food Markets, Naturally Gives Back

For ten years, Loretta and Dean Nelson, owners of Dean's Natural Food Markets, and their employees have raised awareness of the benefits of living healthy lifestyles. "Raising awareness must not stop with ourselves, but should extend to our community," says Dean. With this in mind, Dean's Natural Food Markets is partnering with its customers to better the community. Dean created a customer loyalty program that allows the store and customers to lend a hand to local nonprofit organizations.

The Dean's Customer Advantage Program is easy to use. Every time you make a purchase, you earn points. It's that simple...naturally! If you enroll on the Dean's List®, when you reach 250 points, Dean's mails you a \$9 gift certificate, and \$1 is matched and donated by Dean's to a local cause. That's \$2 donated to one of four local nonprofit organizations in the community. Current participating organizations include: COA, Emmanuel Cancer Foundation, Monmouth County SPCA, and The Wellness Community.

For complete rules and restrictions visit www.deansnaturalfoodmarket.com or write to: Dean's Natural Food Market Customer Advantage Program, 1119 Hwy 35, Ocean, NJ 07712. Another store is located at 490 Broad Street in Shrewsbury.

SEA SCENES



To launch this new column, "Sea Scenes," COA celebrates the work of a dedicated volunteer. Last month, **Ingrid Justick** (left) was recognized as an extraordinary volunteer at the Volunteer Center of Monmouth County luncheon. Ingrid has volunteered hundreds of hours to COA for over 10 years, speaking to thousands of people at exhibits, writing countless letters to elected officials and agencies, collecting thousands of petition signatures, and raising funds. Also, she has volunteered for numerous fundraisers, soliciting, gathering, and presenting hundreds of gift auction items, and selling innumerable raffle tickets. Ingrid's volunteer efforts continue today. She gives time, effort, and enthusiasm to COA and other organizations.

Further, Ingrid writes and distributes her own newsletter, "Our Environment," with helpful tips to live more environmentally friendly and healthy. These tips will appear on the mailing panel of the *Clean Ocean Advocate* starting this month. She also is the author of "Ingrid's Corner" in NJ Holistic Magazine. Ingrid maintains an organic garden at her home, forgoes the use of chemicals, and uses environmentally friendly alternatives.

Ingrid inspires people to change their own behavior to improve the environment and protect it for future generations. COA sincerely thanks our friend, Ingrid, for her service to a cleaner ocean.

(Sea Scenes, a new feature, will appear every other month in the *Clean Ocean Advocate*.)

Winter Flounder Tournament Kicks-off 2006 Fishing Season

On April 1st, over 200 anglers and ocean advocates participated in COA's 12th Annual John Murphy & Bob Hunter Memorial Winter Flounder Tournament, hosted by Bahrs Landing of Highlands and Lead Sponsor West Marine. This fun-filled free event honors the local shore legends John Murphy and Bob Hunter and kicks-off a new fishing season. Guests attending the morning breakfast and Blessing of the Waters Ceremony, led by Reverend Martin D. McGrail, Jr. of Highlands, included comments by NJ Assemblyman Steve Corodemus (R-11) and Monmouth County Freeholder Anna Little. Afternoon "fish-tivities" included a 50/50 raffle and auction, which raised \$5,800 to benefit COA. Fish winners (see below) received cash prizes and gift certificates, donated by West Marine. The First Place winner was also awarded a trophy, carved by artist Chuck Abel.

Waves of thanks to Lead Sponsor

West Marine and Co-Sponsors Channel Club Marina of Monmouth Beach, Hunterdon Brewing Co. of Phillipsburg, Allied Fire & Safety Equipment Co. of Neptune, Brookdale Community College, Buhler & Bitter of Hazlet, Complete Marine Transport of Leonardo, Elite Design of Sea Bright, Highlands Business Partnership, Highlands Chamber of Commerce, Horgan LLC, Monmouth County Department of Economic Development & Tourism, OceanFirst Foundation, Salty Dog Publications, and Skipper's Boatyard of Atlantic Highlands. Many businesses donated a large assortment of prizes: Carmine's of Highlands, Dunkin Donuts of Sea Bright, In the Garden of Highlands, Lockwood Boatworks of South Amboy, Manhattan Bagel of Red Bank, Montauk Mike's Lures of Shrewsbury, Sciortino's Tackle Box Fishing Co. of Hazlet, Sea Tow of Central NJ, and Windansea of Highlands.

The event was organized by Committee Members: Jay Cosgrove and Ed Wisniewski, Bahrs Landing; Dery Bennett, American Littoral Society; Joe Daly, West Marine; Bill Duncan, Highlands; Jean Marie and Ed Horgan, Skipper's Boatyard; Dorothy Obropta, Metuchen; and Joan Wicklund, Highlands. Special thanks to volunteers: Don Abrams, Helen Aquino, Robby Barradale, Barbara Bennett, Leigh Campbell, Ann Commarato, Steve Schrenk, Carolyn Waters, Doty Wilson, and the staff of West Marine's area stores.

2006 Tournament Winners
First Place: Tony Wojciechowski
of Edison 2.63-pound
Second Place: Billy Dowd of
South River 2.23-pound
Third Place: Gene Bradford of
Rumson 2.15-pound

Taking Action for Winter Flounder

As part of the tournament, COA held a press conference where US Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-6), NY/NJ Baykeeper Andy Willner, Hi-Mar President Bob Kamienski, anglers, and ocean advocates rallied to demand no further delays to the plan to cleanup PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) from local waterways, specifically the Hudson River. Tournament participants recorded video messages targeting General Electric, one of the culprits of the contamination, and signed petitions and letters renewing the call for the cleanup.