



- Student Ocean Advocates: High Schools Unite for the Environment
 - COA Spring Beach Sweeps: Saturday, April 28
 - Staff News: Welcome, Emily Hackett

April 2007 Highlights

*****Eco-Tip of the Month*****
Lighten-Up: In honor of Earth Day this month, change all your light bulbs to compact fluorescent. These light bulbs use 2/3 less electricity, lasts 10 times longer, and save you money over the long-term.
Adapted from "Our Environment," Vol. 12, No. 3, by Ingrid Justick

Clean Ocean Action
 PO Box 505
 Sandy Hook, NJ 07732-0505
 732-872-0111
 www.CleanOceanAction.org
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Please clip and send to COA.

STAY INVOLVED IN YOUR COALITION!

MAILING LIST RENEWAL OR SIGN-UP FORM

- ➔ If you received a message on your address label, it's time to renew.
 - ➔ Your contribution will ensure that you receive this monthly newsletter, action alerts, and notices of events for one year.
 - ➔ To renew, please detach this form and enclose with your check.
- Thank you.

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\$25 Individual/Family \$15 Student/Senior
 \$50 Participating Organizations

Name _____

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Please include organization name & contact, if applicable:

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

APRIL 2007

April 2007

- **Aveda Earth Month.** See page 2 of insert for details on events in NY and NJ throughout the month.

April 22, Sunday

- **Earth Day.** Contact your town, nearby park, or a local organization to participate in an eco-friendly event. Or, pledge to help the environment; for tips, go to COA's website and follow links for "Education Programs" & "10 Tips."

April 28, Saturday

- **COA Spring Beach Sweeps.** See insert inside for cleanup sites.

SAVE THE DATE

May 20, Sunday

- **Family Beach Party for the Ocean,** Ship Ahoy Beach Club, 800 Ocean Avenue, Sea Bright, NJ, 3-7pm. See inside for details.

See "Outreach" inside for more spring festivals and events to attend, or at which to volunteer.

Our COAlition

Featuring...**Monmouth County Association of Realtors**

The shore housing market depends on a clean ocean. Realtors in New Jersey have witnessed firsthand the value of cleaner beaches and coastal waters. Founded in 1936, the Monmouth County Association of REALTORS® is a trade association serving 7,000 realtors. MCAR members participate in about 40,000 real estate transactions per year.

Members of MCAR are active with several charitable organizations, including Clean Ocean Action (COA). The MCAR continues efforts to support a cleaner ocean by being a site sponsor for Sea Bright for COA's Beach Sweeps in 2007.

"Our beaches are a natural treasure not only for those of us who live and work here in Monmouth and Ocean Counties, but for the many people who come to visit the Jersey Shore. Clean beaches are not only important to the property values along our shoreline, but are vital to the business owners who make their living here," said **Ellen Kale, President of MCAR.** "Keeping our environment clean and our beaches in their pristine state will benefit the many residents and tourists who enjoy our beaches every day."

"I have been an ocean lover from the day I was born – diving, surfing, fishing, and sailing all around the world. It was only natural when I settled here 17 years ago to get involved in the protection of the ocean," said **Mark Woldseth,** realtor and long-time Beach Sweeps Captain for Sea Bright. "The Beach Sweeps are something our family looks forward to each year."

Portions adapted from MCAR website
 Visit www.momls.com



(Pictured L to R) COA's Kari Martin and MCAR's Ellen Kale and Mark Woldseth

STUDENT OCEAN ADVOCATES



Student Ocean Advocates (L-R): Ashley Harmer, David DiGioia, Jasmine Spencer, Theresa Yeung, Jacqueline Johantgen, Ryan Fantasia, Kathy Wong, Samy Belfer, Tanya George, and Alexa Kretsch.

Monmouth County High Schools Unite for the Environment

On March 26, student representatives from six Monmouth County high schools announced events at their schools to promote ocean advocacy and inspire others to make a difference in the environment. The students represent "Student Ocean Advocates" (SOA), a new program of Clean Ocean Action (COA). The students from the schools collectively decided to address the issue, "Ocean pollution caused by apathy impacts the quality of life," by hosting environmental awareness days at their respective schools.

"Our belief is that there is nothing more detrimental to our environment than a lack of enthusiasm," said **Cristina Meinz** of Fair Haven. Cristina is a COA intern for her Rumson-Fair Haven Regional High School (RFH) senior project and coordinator of the inaugural program of SOA.

SOA was created as an outlet for activism on issues related to the health of the ocean. Students meet twice monthly in the evening to discuss issues and actions to stop ocean pollution among their peers, and report to their fellow students in their respective schools. The group first met in December 2006. The participating SOA schools are: **Academy of Allied Health and Science (AAHS), Henry Hudson High School (HHHS), Long Branch High School (LBHS), Marine Academy of Science and Technology (MAST), Rumson Fair Haven Regional High School (RFH), and Wall High School.**

Students reached-out to local organizations for ideas, donations, and participation in their events. The Eatontown Environmental Commission, represented by Ed Dlugosz, provides space in the Eatontown Community Center for SOA meetings, and arranged with the Monmouth County Friends of Clearwater, for which he is President, to donate copies of *An Inconvenient Truth*. Many schools will also showcase local environmental organizations who will provide activities, volunteer opportunities, and display tables.

The environmental days will be held in late March and throughout April. Students arranged activities, such as student pledges to for the environment, sales of T-shirts and biodegradable ornaments, a poster contest, and planting session in a town's community garden. Some students will dye their hair blue in support of a clean ocean! Other activities include a plastic bottle "Recycling War" during lunch periods, donation drive for used sneakers to be recycled into sports courts, and distribution of energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulbs.

For more information about SOA or the upcoming events at schools, contact Cristina at 732-872-0111 or projects@cleanoceanaction.org.

COASTAL WATER QUALITY

Oyster Creek Does Not Conform to NJ's Environmental Laws

COA and the American Littoral Society submitted extensive scientific, legal, and policy-based comments to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) challenging the claim by AmerGen -- owners of the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (OCNGS) -- that operations at the plant are in keeping with NJ's environmental laws. The destructive cooling water intake system causes severe adverse effects on the Barnegat Bay marine environment due to impingement, entrainment, thermal discharge, and chlorination.

COA and ALS thank the groups who signed onto our comments: Save Barnegat Bay, NY/NJ Baykeeper, Raritan Riverkeeper, Fisherman's Dock Co-op, Inc., Asbury Park Fishing Club, Surf Rider Foundation, Natural Resources Protective Association, and WATERSPIRIT. The comments are posted on COA's website under "Issues/Campaigns."

Monmouth Park Racetrack Takes Some Steps To Clean Up Its Act

The Monmouth Beach Environmental Commission invited COA, NJDEP, and Monmouth County Health Department to participate in a meeting to discuss water quality issues with nearby Monmouth Park Racetrack (MPRT). During last summer, bacteria levels were consistently high in Branchport Creek (picture right). The cause was a broken valve that allowed wastewater from the horse paddock area to spill into the creek. The MPRT is required to send the waste to the local treatment plant, but failure to inspect and maintain the wastewater system led to the illegal discharge.



MPRT agreed to immediately implement a list of improvements recommended by NJDEP. COA will submit a list of recommendations to NJDEP, including the installation of a flow meter at the outfall pipe to record any discharges.

Group to Tackle Nitrogen Problem in Barnegat Bay

Clean Ocean Action participated in a roundtable discussion on the impacts of excess nitrogen entering Barnegat Bay. The meeting was organized by **Save Barnegat Bay**, a member of our coalition that works to conserve undeveloped natural land and clean water throughout the Barnegat Bay watershed.

The meeting began with a description of the problem by Dr. Michael Kennish from Rutgers University. Dr. Kennish's ecological studies in the Bay over the past 30 years have given him first-hand knowledge of the impacts of excess nutrient enrichment or "eutrophication," including massive brown tide algal blooms, excess growth of sea lettuce, the crash of the hard clam fishery, and the invasion of stinging sea nettles.

The group devised a three-pronged strategy to combat excess nitrogen, which will include science, policy, and legal tools. The group plans to meet again to further define our goals and to develop and implement the necessary actions to achieve them. If you are interested in participating, please contact Jenni at COA.

COA Goes to DC for Clean Water

In February, Kari Martin, COA's Policy Communications Director, participated in The Clean Water Network's biennial conference, "Clean Water Week," in Washington, DC. More than 100 participants attended from across the country to discuss clean water issues, problems, and solutions. On the final day of the conference, attendees visited US Senators and Representatives from their states to discuss legislative actions to address water pollution issues, such as the Clean Water Authority Restoration Act and the State Revolving Fund (HR 720). During the visit, Kari met and spoke with staff members for both US Senators from New Jersey and several US Representatives. For more information about clean water legislative actions and the conference, contact Kari.

CONTAMINATED SEDIMENTS

Jennifer Samson, 732-872-0111,
Science@cleanoceanaction.org

NYC Passenger Ship Terminal Material Proposed for HARS

Clean Ocean Action will be submitting comments on the proposed disposal of 365,000 cubic yards (CY) of dredged material from the Passenger Ship Terminal in New York City at the Historic Remediation Site (HARS). Comments are due by **April 16, 2007**. The public notice (PN # NAN-2006-235-WSC) can be viewed at the US Army Corps of Engineers, New York District's website at <http://www.nan.usace.army.mil>. Or, contact Jennifer Samson at COA.

OUTREACH

Kari Martin, 732-872-0111,
Outreach@cleanoceanaction.org

Celebrate Earth Day in April and Beyond!

Stop by or volunteer at Clean Ocean Action's information & citizen awareness table at these events:

- **April 21** - Earth Day in Highlands, 9am-3pm
- **April 21** - Monmouth County Parks Earth Day, Manasquan Reservoir, Howell, 12-5pm
- **May 6** - Hooked on the Hudson, Palisades Interstate Park, Alpine, 10am-2pm.

Call Kari or Emily to volunteer, or for more information about these fun events.

COA STAFF NEWS

COA welcomes **Emily Hackett** to our staff as Program Coordinator. Prior to COA, Emily worked at the National Wildlife Federation and The Phillips Collection in Washington, DC. Emily received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photography from The Savannah College of Art and Design. Also, as a native of Normandy Beach, Emily has a "shore" connection with COA's work.

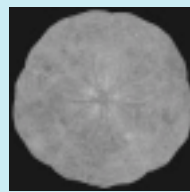
At COA, Emily will assist with the planning and implementation of existing programs to aid outreach, education, and development efforts, such as the Beach Sweeps, Student Summit, Student Ocean Advocates, and COA fundraisers.

Welcome to the crew, Emily!



Emily Hackett

COASTAL CREATURE FEATURE



Common Sand Dollar
Echinarachnius parma

February's Creature Feature was the **common sand dollar**. Common from New Jersey northward along the New England coast, this relative of the sea star lives in the intertidal zone, where they often bury themselves for protection and feeding. Using only its tiny spines and tube feet, the sand dollar takes about 10 minutes to become completely buried. Luckily, not many creatures bother trying to eat this small, hard animal. Sand dollar eggs are an important tool in cancer research and other molecular studies on cells. Congratulations to **Jan Heller** for being chosen among the several correct entries.

April Creature: Don't be fooled by this benthic creature, because it isn't what it appears to be from its common name. By day, they hole-up in sand or mud burrows, but at night, this aggressive predator hunts live prey with its spearing claws. They are thought to have the fastest strike in the Animal Kingdom. In fact, the swift, "snapping" action of their jackknife-like claws has been known to break aquarium walls! **To enter for a chance to win a COA T-shirt**, send your guess for the April Creature by mail, fax, or e-mail (PO Box 505, Sandy Hook, NJ 07732; FAX 732-872-8041; Education@CleanOceanAction.org).



April Creature

(Coastal Creature Feature appears every other month in the *Clean Ocean Advocate*.)

EVENTS

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

Navigating Trusty Waters!

Charity Navigator, America's largest independent evaluator of charities, recently designated Clean Ocean Action as a Four Star charity, its highest ranking, for effective and efficient use of donations. COA is thrilled to have received this amazing honor, which will boost our contributors' confidence and trust in our ocean protection efforts. Ever onward for the ocean!

To read COA's Four Star rating profile and learn more about Charity Navigator visit www.charitynavigator.org.



SAVE THE DATE! Family Beach Party for the Ocean Sunday, May 20, 3-7pm Ship Ahoy Beach Club, Sea Bright, NJ



~ Classic surf rock by the Jettyrats
~ Freshly prepared fare by Gourmet Picnic, Lusty Lobster, Fisherman's Dock Cooperative, Panera Bread Bakery Cafes, and The Flakey Tart Bakery

~ Children's activities by Sand Creations and Children's Cultural Center of The Community YMCA of Red Bank

~ Beachy silent and chance auctions and 50/50 raffle

~ Prizes for "Best Gidget & Moondoggie Look-a-Likes"

~ Admission \$50 per adult and \$25 children 12 and under
For tickets, call 732-872-0111.

COA Celebrates the Life of a Great Ocean Advocate

Last month, one of COA's most dedicated and beloved volunteers passed away. **Olga Mulvey Hoff**, 95, of Long Branch, was a long-time volunteer for our summer C.O.A.S.T. campaign, and campaigner for the ocean. The staff of COA remembers Olga's weekly calls to learn of new ocean threats and the actions to stop them. Olga engaged citizens of all ages in efforts to protect the ocean.

Olga enjoyed a life that was rich with great experiences. During World War II, she supported the war effort as an inspector on the assembly line for the Grumman Avenger Naval Aircraft. She was awarded a Rosie the Riveter Certificate for her service. She also devoted herself to her community. She was active with her church and a member of the Long Branch Historical Society, Long Branch Women's Club, and Oceanport Garden Club. For over 30 years, Olga was a member of the Ship Ahoy Beach Club.

Olga was an avid gardener and won many awards for her floral arrangements. Most people did not see Olga's creative masterpiece -- her home garden.

Olga will be missed, but her message will live on. In Olga's honor, we will all work hard to protect the ocean for future generations. Thank you, Olga.



Olga Mulvey Hoff