

3,000+ Volunteers Sweep NJ Beaches

Volunteers Find Everything *and* the Kitchen Sink

On April 28th, an estimated 3,000 volunteers participated in Clean Ocean Action's (COA) **22nd Annual Spring Beach Sweeps** at 57 sites from Old Bridge to Cape May, New Jersey. Volunteers removed tons of debris and recorded and tallied what they collected. The results of the Spring Beach Sweeps will be in an annual report following the Fall Beach Sweeps, to be held Oct. 20.

"COA's Sweeps remove harmful litter from the environment and, most importantly, collects evidence of pollution problems. 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."

Record rainfall and flooding this spring "trashed" NJ's beaches. Debris and garbage of all types, shapes, and sizes littered beaches, making much work for volunteers. Some of the highlights include:

Atlantic City - 35 volunteers (pictured right), including 26 employees of Atlantic City Electric, picked-up 426 plastic and 339 glass beverage bottles on the beach;

Brigantine - Approximately 300 volunteers cleaned the ocean and bay beaches as well as along the nearby roads;

Long Branch - Over 100 volunteers cleaned one mile;

Ortley Beach - Girl scouts found a young seal underneath a condo. The seal was checked for injuries a ranger from Island Beach State Park and a volunteer for the Marine Mammal Stranding Center. The seal made it to the ocean on its own;

Point Pleasant Beach - On the beach in front of Jenkinson's Aquarium, over 100 volunteers hauled in bags of trash and unusual items, including a sink;

Stone Harbor - 45 volunteers picked-up an estimated 800 pounds of trash.



Volunteers from Atlantic City Electric, Stockton College, and individual Beach Sweepers pose for a photo before cleaning the beach in Atlantic City.



(Above) A boy scout collects crates and chairs from the beach at Sandy Hook.

(Below) Two Elks Lodge members clean along the bay in Brigantine.



Waves of Thanks

COA thanks Statewide Sponsors **Verizon** and **Wakefern Foods Corporation**, which include **ShopRite** stores. Special thanks to **United Teletech Financial**, who sponsored Monmouth County sites and engaged employees at Sandy Hook. Also, COA extends thanks to **Atlantic City Electric** who sponsored Atlantic City, Brigantine, Cape May, and Sea Isle City.

Additional thanks to site sponsors: **Adventure Aquarium of Camden** for Ventnor; **Keyport Business Alliance** for Keyport; **Lower Cape May Regional Education Association & School Based Youth Services** for Cape May; **Monmouth County Association of Realtors for Sea Bright**; **Panasonic**, **Panera Bread Bakery Cafes**, and **Rotary District #7510 – Interact** for Sandy Hook; **Starbucks** for Belmar; and **Surfrider Foundation – Jersey Shore Chapter** in memory of Daniel Clune for Point Pleasant Beach at Jenkinson's Aquarium.

Many thanks to: **Aveda Corporation**, staff of Gateway National Recreation Area - Sandy Hook, Marine Academy of Science & Technology (MAST), and Gerry Harris and the crew from Rotary District #7510 Interact, and GRock Radio and The Breeze Radio.

SANDY HOOK BY THE NUMBERS

Number of Volunteers: 700

Top 3 Items:

- #1 – 4,674 plastic caps/lids
- #2 – 4,611 plastic food/candy wrappers/bags
- #3 – 3,320 plastic pieces

Other Items:

- 1,784 plastic bottles
- 482 plastic tampon applicators
- 369 beverage cans
- 164 glass bottles
- 66 condoms
- 30 syringes

Unusual Items:

- Bobble-head doll, toilet lid, ice cube tray, hair extension, light bulb, and 232 toys.



Volunteers in Stone Harbor gather debris.