



Clean Ocean Advocate

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November 2005 Highlights

- Volunteers Shine Despite Rain
- Second Hearing on Oyster Creek's Draft Discharge Permit
- Vinyl, Vinyl, Everywhere

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

November 2005

November 4, Friday

- "Blue Vinyl," Two River Film Festival, Monmouth University, 2pm. Film and environmental panel (including COA). For tickets, call 732-571-3483.

November 5, Saturday

- **Underwater Cleanup**, hosted by Divers Two, L Street boat ramp, Belmar, 9:30am. Divers & non-divers welcome. Rescheduled to this date due to poor weather. For information and updates on the event, call 732-776-7755.



November 8, Tuesday

- **ELECTION DAY.** Make environmental issues a priority when you vote.

November 10, Thursday

- **Regional Dredged Material Management Forum**, Atlantic Highlands Harbor, inside the Senior Center Building on Sutton Walk, 7:30pm. Sponsored by the Bayshore Regional Watershed Council.

COA PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Featuring...*New Jersey Marine Education Association*

The **New Jersey Marine Education Association (NJMEA)**

members are teachers, students, marine scientists, and citizens who wish "to promote marine science and aquatic education within all disciplines and all levels of the education process." Formed in 1973, NJMEA has a reputation for being one of the leading providers of educational resources and training in ocean science.

Barbara Boyd, President of NJMEA, says "the mission of NJMEA is to assist teachers with every aspect of marine curriculum: where to find it, how to incorporate it into their lessons, and, by providing workshops, how to teach it." Boyd says that the organization provides a forum where "marine educators can meet and exchange ideas with colleagues."

"The NJMEA supports Clean Ocean Action (COA) as an organization that holds great educational programs, such as the Student Summit. The Summit is an excellent avenue for both students and teachers to become involved in marine sciences," says Boyd.

The NJMEA has an annual event for educators, called "Teach at the Beach," which is a day-long, professional development workshop. This event provides educators of all age groups and subjects with lessons, ideas, and resources. The NJMEA also holds a yearly event for students, called "The Shore Bowl", that gives students the opportunity to share their wisdom.

NJMEA membership is open to non-NJ residents and anyone who is interested in marine education. Members enjoy discounts to events and receive a quarterly newsletter. For information, send an email to barbara_boyd@mast.mcvsd.org, or visit <http://hometown.aol.com/newjerseymea/>.

Adapted from NJMEA website



VOLUNTEERS SHINE DESPITE RAIN

COA'S 20th Annual Fall Beach Sweeps Make a Difference

Volunteers along the NJ shore braved the rain, wind, and brisk temperatures on Saturday, October 22, to participate in the 20th Annual Fall Beach Sweeps. COA salutes and thanks the volunteers and especially those Beach Captains who persevered to clean the beach and collect important data about debris in the ocean and on beaches.

Wave of thanks to lead sponsors **West Marine, ShopRite, and Verizon**, and co-sponsors **Comcast, Conectiv, NJ American Water, Prudential Premier Properties, Starbucks Coffee Company, and Surfrider Foundation - Jersey Shore Chapter**. Also, thanks to Belinda Chester, a District Manager for West Marine, and her fellow employees for participating at Sandy Hook, Belmar, and Island Beach State Park beaches. Special thanks to **C. Rooney Produce Company**, Sea Bright, for providing delicious apples for volunteers.

Stay tuned for the dirty details from both the Fall and Spring cleanups in the 2005 Beach Sweeps Annual Report, expected early spring 2006.

SWEEPS HIGHLIGHTS

At press time, these are some early reports and highlights:

Island Beach State Park - Five West Marine employees picked up bags of debris that included 351 plastic caps/lids and a baby stroller wheel.

Ortley Beach (Dover Township) - Eleven people collected nearly 100 pounds of garbage and noted that plastic items ranked among the highest number of items collected at this beach.

Port Monmouth, Middletown Township -

Members of Middletown North High School's SEARCH Club were overwhelmed by the slick of garbage covering the beach (see photo). The volunteers filled 15 full bags of plastic beverage bottles and reported over 40 "sewage cakes," which resemble foam plastic, but are actually dense blobs of soap and grease that contain high levels of bacteria. The "cakes" result from the build-up in combined sewers and are released during rain events.

Sandy Hook - Over 100 volunteers, led by students from the Marine Academy of Science & Technology, cleaned one of Sandy Hook beaches. Among the tons of garbage that volunteers picked up were over 1,600 straws/stirrers, a baseball helmet, and an earring.

Seaside Heights - Seniors from the Marine Academy of Technology & Environmental Science led 76 participants in a successful cleanup, collecting nearly 30 bags of trash.

Seaside Park - Girl Scouts Troop 509 from Morristown, NJ, (see photo) picked up many bags of trash at Midway Beach that included a toothbrush and Dura-Flame log.

Union Beach - Twelve volunteers found an abundance of syringes, sewage cakes, and drug paraphernalia; many volunteers will return to clean what remains.



A crew from the Hudson River Fishermen's Association knows how to dress for weather and get the job done. (L to R) Edward Heinemann, Eric Heinemann, and Stephen Birkner



Port Monmouth, Middletown Township



Midway Beach, Seaside Park

CONTAMINATED SEDIMENTS

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

Agreement Reached for PCB Cleanup in Hudson River

In October, the US Justice Department and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reached an agreement or "consent decree" with General Electric (GE), requiring the company to begin the dredging of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the Hudson River required by the Record of Decision in 2002. Under the agreement, GE will construct the sediment transfer/processing facility needed for the project and perform the first phase of dredging. The dredging is scheduled for spring through fall, 2007. The agreement also requires GE to pay NY to support its efforts to assist the public in understanding and complying with the state fish consumption advisories caused by contaminated sediments. For 30 years, ending in the 1970s, GE discharged PCBs into the Hudson River.

The Justice Department and EPA are accepting public comments on the agreement until **Nov. 14, 2005**. For the agreement, visit www.epa.gov/hudson.

UPDATE: Atlantic Highlands Harbor Dredging

The Atlantic Highlands Municipal Harbor submitted a permit modification request to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) at the end of October to modify their existing permit (#1304-04-0001.2). The request is to incorporate the recently re-designed Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) and include the dredging of approximately 4,000 cubic yards of material from Frank's Pier, which was previously authorized by another permit that has since expired (#1304-90-0003.8/3.9). The walls of the CDF were lowered and thickened to increase stability, which decreased the capacity of the CDF.

The Harbor cannot begin dredging until NJDEP approves the modification request. Unfortunately, modification requests do not afford public comment, nor is there a definitive timeframe for issuance of the permit. COA will communicate with NJDEP to ensure that it proceeds in an environmentally sound manner.

COASTAL WATER QUALITY ISSUES

Nicole Simmons, 732-872-0111, Policy@cleanoceanaction.org

Second Hearing on Oyster Creek's Draft Discharge Permit

On October 24, NJDEP held a second public hearing on the draft NJ Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit (NJPDES) for Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (OCNGS). The first hearing, held just before Labor Day, was sparsely attended, likely due to summer vacation and the new school year. Fortunately, NJDEP obliged the request for a second hearing. Several members of the public, as well as representatives from a variety of groups, attended.

After a review of studies describing the ecological harm caused by the current once-through cooling system at OCNGS and laws and regulations, as well as the

Write by November 7 to: Howard Tompkins, Chief, Attention: Public Notice NJ0005550, Bureau of Point Source Permitting, Region 1, PO Box 029, Trenton, NJ 08625.

technological advancements, it is clear that the only acceptable, responsible, logical, and appropriate action is to require the plant to retrofit the once-through cooling water system to a closed-loop system (also NJDEP's preferred alternative). OCNGS must join

the 21st century and free Barnegat Bay from this obsolete and barbaric system.

At the hearing, representatives from groups expressed a variety of concerns. Tom Fote, Jersey Coast Anglers Association, pointed out that once-through cooling systems kill large numbers of fish that are important to the fishing industry and that closed-loop systems would significantly reduce this impact.

The public is urged to submit written comments by November 7, 2005. COA is finalizing comments and invites concerned citizens and organizations to sign-on (please notify Nicole by November 5 at Noon). For a detailed position paper and action alert, visit COA's website (follow links for "Issues & Campaigns" & "Oyster Creek").

OUTREACH

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

COA Public Awareness Campaign -- An Update

After its June 9th launch, COA's Public Service Announcement (PSA), featuring fun "beachy" images of children and adults and music by Bruce Springsteen, has inspired support from new and existing ocean advocates. Since the PSA broadcasted on television, radio, and the internet, COA has received many requests from people of all ages to volunteer at events, an increase in online donations, and requests from organizations and companies to collaborate on various exciting community and fundraising events.

"With the launch of the PSA, COA's 20-year success story will be carried to a new audience. Our goal is to connect residents who care about our waters with information about ocean pollution. We believe once the facts on ocean pollution are understood, this knowledge will energize concerned residents into action," said Brian Pasch, PSA Committee Chair, at the June 9th premiere.

Some key accomplishments of COA's Public Awareness Campaign to date are:

- The PSA aired on television stations WPIX/WB11 New York, WABC New York, and TV40 WMGM-TV NBC South Jersey.
- The PSA's big-screen premiere will be at the Two River Film Festival at Monmouth University on November 4 (see article to the right; for ticket information, visit www.tworiverfilmfestival.com).
- Listen for the PSA and look for links on these radio stations and their webcasts and websites: The Breeze (107.1-FM), B98.5-FM, G106.3-FM, and Real Oldies 1410-AM.
- The print advertisement has been featured in OCEAN Magazine, Night & Day Magazine, Currents, MAR Magazine, Two River Times, Rumson Journal, Holmdel Journal, and on the TV screens on Seastreak Ferries.

COA staff, PSA Committee Chair Brian Pasch, and Committee Members Jeffrey Wrightson, Kurt Bruckmann, Grace Wrightson, Read Murphy, and Doug Rossbach continue to work full speed ahead to air our important message across the region. Please call Kari with suggestions and contacts for PSA broadcast and print ad placement.

FLOTSAM & JETSAM

NJ Governor Brings Back Public Advocate

Acting Governor Richard Codey signed legislation (A1424) in July that brings back the Department of Public Advocate to NJ. The Public Advocate, created in 1974 by former Governor Brendan Byrne and eliminated in 1994 by former Governor Christine Whitman, serves as an independent voice for the people representing the interests of the citizen against all others, including government itself. The Department of the Public Advocate will be established on January 17, 2006. The incoming governor will appoint the Public Advocate, who will serve during that governor's term.

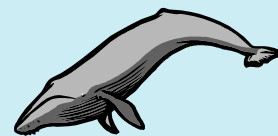
New York Groups and Agencies Discuss Ocean Initiatives

Recently, COA attended the "New York State Ocean & Great Lakes Symposium." The purpose of the symposium was to hold informed discussions among a broad range of experts and representatives of key constituencies to identify policy actions that are most relevant for NY to enhance the State's coastal environment and economy. Some of the issues that were discussed included the siting of offshore energy infrastructure, ports, ocean governance, and pollution. To hear more about the symposium and the discussions, contact Kari at COA.

What's Cool at I.C.E.?

As the days get shorter, the Institute of Coastal Education (ICE) is looking ahead to sunny spring days! Now is the time to book your group programs in south Jersey for Spring 2006. Topics for these fun, informative, and interactive programs include: impacts of and solutions to litter in the marine environment; whales; and the pollution of marine habitats. To schedule a program, contact Tony Totah.

(What's Cool at ICE and Coastal Creature Feature appear every other month. Please see last month's newsletter to guess the October Coastal Creature Feature.)



Institute of Coastal Education
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Vinyl, Vinyl, Everywhere

Two River Film Festival Shows Award-winning Environmental Film and Conducts Panel

BLUE VINYL is a toxic comedic look at vinyl, the world's second largest-selling plastic. With humor, hope, and a piece of vinyl siding firmly in hand, Peabody Award-winning filmmaker Judith Helfand and co-director Daniel B. Gold travel from Helfand's hometown to America's vinyl manufacturing capital and beyond in search of answers about the nature of polyvinyl chloride (PVC). Her parents' decision to "re-side" their house with this seemingly benign cure-all for many suburban homes turns into a toxic odyssey with twists and turns that most ordinary homeowners would never dare to take. The result is a humorous, but sobering and uniquely personal exploration of the relationship between consumers and industry. The feature-length documentary, BLUE VINYL, won the cinematography award in the documentary competition at the Sundance Film Festival.

The 98-minute film is produced by Toxic Comedy Pictures and the Environmental Panel following the film is sponsored by Monmouth University's Urban Coast Institute. The panel that will discuss the future of manufactured materials includes: Tony MacDonald, Director of Urban Coast Institute at Monmouth University; Valerie Caffee of the NJ Work Environment Council; Cindy Zipf, Executive Director of COA; and a representative from NJDEP.

The movie and panel are on Friday, November 4th at 2pm, in the Pollak Theatre at Monmouth University. Tickets are \$8 or \$5 for students and seniors with ID. For information, call the Pollak Theatre Box Office at 732-571-3483.

EDUCATION

Holly Jantz, 732-872-0111, Education@cleanoceanaction.org

Over 300 Students Experience a Day of Science at the Beach

Threatening skies did not stop over 300 eager middle school students and educators from enjoying COA's 7th Annual Student Summit at Island Beach State Park (IBSP) on October 7. Eleven schools from four southern NJ counties learned about the marine environment. Students enjoyed field trips, as well as a series of hands-on learning stations, which included touch tanks, a non-point source pollution model, weather and solar energy activities, and, the favorite among students and volunteers, live horseshoe crabs.

Field trips and activities were led by volunteer educators from IBSP, Jenkinson's Aquarium, Wells Mills County Park, the Watershed Ambassadors Program, and the Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science. Students from Lower Cape May Regional High School served as peer teachers at the learning stations.

Special thanks to the staff at IBSP for their assistance, and Commerce Bank employees for volunteering and donating water and lunch for volunteers. As always, COA is grateful to C. Rooney Produce Company, Sea Bright, for the donation of fresh and tasty apples for participants.



Students seine Barnegat Bay



Students discover the wonders of the horseshoe crab