



- Sunational "Sunset at Sandy Hook"
- Ocean Scientists Trade Coasts for Ocean Protection Action
- Make a Difference - Fall Beach Sweeps, October 23

October 2004 Highlights

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Clean Ocean Action
PO Box 505
Sandy Hook, NJ 07732-0505
732-872-0111
www.CleanOceanAction.org
Institute of Coastal Education
Wildwood, NJ 609-729-9262



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STAY INVOLVED IN YOUR COALITION!

MAILING LIST RENEWAL 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.
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Enclosed is my check for (please check one):

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Please make check payable to
Clean Ocean Action, PO Box 505, Highlands, NJ 07732

Contributions are tax deductible.

October 2004

October 2, Saturday
- **Underwater Cleanup**, 9AM,
Belmar Marine Park, L Street
ramp. Weather dependent.
For updates, www.DiversTwo.com
or call 732-776-7755.

October 3, Sunday
- **Cattus Island Nature Festival**,
8:30AM-3PM, Cattus Island
County Park, Toms River.
Call Kari at COA to volunteer.

October 7, Thursday
- **Fall Student Summit**, 9AM-
1:30PM, Island Beach State Park.
Schools must have applied.
Call Julie for more information.

October 23, Saturday
- **COA Beach Sweeps**, 9AM-
12:30PM, over 40 locations from
Keyport to Sandy Hook, to Cape
May, NJ. For Sweeps sites and
meeting locations, see insert
inside, call COA, or visit
www.CleanOceanAction.org.

COA PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS Featuring... *The Marine Academy of Technology & Environmental Science*

The marine environment is the basis for a unique high school program, open to students in Ocean County. The **Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science (MATES)** started as a "shared time" program in 1994, which became the building block for the full time Academy that is part of the Ocean County Vocational Technical School (OCVTS).

The MATES Academy, for students in grades 9 through 12, is a comprehensive high school program developed around the marine and environmental science theme. All the required academic subjects for high school graduation, driven by the New Jersey Core Curriculum Standards, are part of the program.

The opportunity for participation in externships in laboratories, fieldwork, and industry is made available to students during junior and senior year. Students are eligible to take college level courses as high school seniors, and are prepared to enter undergraduate college programs at four year colleges.

To expand on their classroom and laboratory learning, MATES students are active in their communities, gaining valuable hands-on experiences and leading and participating in programs with organizations, such as COA. Each October, MATES students are peer educators at COA's Fall Student Summit at Island Beach State Park. At the Summit, MATES students teach middle school students from central and south Jersey about the marine environment, leading them in scientific observations, experiments, and discussions. MATES students also are active participants in COA's Beach Sweeps twice each year.

The MATES Academy is housed in the OCVTS building in Toms River and plans for a new state of the art building for the Academy are finalized, but a site is pending. For more information about the MATES Academy and how to apply, call 732.473.3100 extension 3065, or email Mates@mail.ocvts.org.

Adapted from OCVTS website.

SUNSATIONAL "SUNSET AT SANDY HOOK"

Since 1998, Sunset at Sandy Hook, has emerged as a widely anticipated fall premiere event thanks to fabulous food, fun, dancing, terrific camaraderie and, of course, the spectacular setting. The Sea Gulls' Nest, with its panoramic view of the ocean and bay, inspire and enthrall event-goers.

This year, though remnants of Hurricane Ivan threatened to swamp the evening, Mother Nature held back and the upper deck was rocking with over 250 guests dancing to the awesome tunes, feasting on fabulous food generously donated by local restaurants and caterers, and engaging in the variety of games, including Clam Shell Auction, Silent Auction, and 50/50. Guests were treated to a lush and attractively decorated event thanks to Guaranteed Plants & Florists, and a display of beautiful handcrafted fish plaques by Kathleen Gasienica, gifted to COA supporters. Guests were presented with a colorful string of fishbeads, called the "event fishstivity," which are now sure to become family heirlooms. **Coors Light** and **Shore Point Distributors** sponsored this year's event along with **Monmouth Cardiology Associates**, Long Branch.

Beachy Games of Chance

The Clam Shell Auction, coordinated by committee member Patty Gordinier, is a unique maritime twist on the old standby of "the grab bag." Instead of grabbing a bag, guests purchase a clamshell that has a hidden number and players win the corresponding numbered prize—everyone was a winner. Prizes were valued from \$10-\$290, including a toy-filled beach bucket, one-hour massage, restaurant gift certificates, and a photography session. In the midst of festivities, the highly-anticipated moment arrived for pulling the ticket for the terrific door prize, a sea kayak, donated by Coors Light and Shore Point Distributors. The lucky winner was John Riley of Shrewsbury. At the close of the evening the ticket for the 50/50 was pulled and the winner was Ellie Mondini of Monmouth Beach, who generously donated a portion of the winnings back to COA. *Shhhhhhhh*. The Silent Auction had the creative theme of "Reuse and Recycle" and featured such beautiful gifts as a restored antique mirror that was original to the Pollack estate in Long Branch (donated by Maureen and Bill Bay), a week vacation in a lake front cottage in Maine (donated by Atlantic Office Systems, Atlantic Highlands) and an estate jewelry set of a cultured pearl choker necklace with matching earrings (donated by Gem of an Idea, Fair Haven).

Marine Melodies and Other Highlights

Guitar soloist **Karl Gordinier (Patty's husband)** was kind enough to donate his talent and welcomed guests with lively tunes while cocktails and hors d'oeuvre were served. At sunset, Ed Segall launched the traditional Sunset Ceremony at the SeaGulls' Nest and US Congressman Frank Pallone (D-6) and NJ Assemblyman Steve Corodemus (R-11) where thanked for attending. **Line Drive** kicked into high gear with fantastic groovin' tunes that got everyone hoppin' and the dance floor jammin'.

Volunteers Extraordinaire

Students from Brookdale Community College Culinary Arts Department, the Peer Leadership Program at Forrestdale School, Rumson, and the Rumson-Fair Haven High School Environmental Club volunteered, assisting in serving food, as well as wherever else needed, giving the event a professional touch and youthful charm. Volunteer bartenders Rick Jones, Michael Karoly, Joe Schluter, and Scott Thompson helped spread good cheer throughout the evening.



Joe Schluter, Ed Segall, and Scott Thompson spread cheer at the Sunset.

For more pictures and special Sunset details, see insert inside.

COA STAFF NEWS

Ocean Scientists Trade Coasts for Ocean Protection Action



Jennifer Samson, Ph.D., joined COA's staff as Principal Scientist, and Kristen Milligan, Ph.D., moved to Oregon where she is working for the Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO) as Program Coordinator at Oregon State University. Jennifer (*left*) grew up in California and completed her doctoral and post-doctoral work in NJ. Jenni's experiences in academia, government, and industry led her to COA where she

will use her skills and expertise in marine science to advocate for the protection of the marine ecosystem. COA is pleased to have Jenni on board.

Dr. Samson earned her Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from Rutgers University in 2002 where she conducted ecotoxicology-based independent research. Recently, she completed a two-year National Research Council funded Post-doctoral Fellowship at the National Marine Fisheries Services' James J. Howard Marine Science Laboratory at Sandy Hook. Her research investigated the condition of young-of-the-year bluefish from two estuaries (Hackensack River-contaminated and Great Bay-relatively pristine) to identify adverse impacts of pollution to essential fish habitat and understand the role of habitat quality on fish health.

Jennifer obtained her Masters Degree from Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, FL, studying the effects of teratogenic (embryonic) exposure of methyl mercury on early development of zebra fish, and was also Principal Investigator in numerous other studies to assess impacts from pollutants to fish species. Her work has been published in several research journals, including *Aquatic Toxicology* and *Marine Environmental Research and Journal*, among others.

Jennifer resides with her husband and son in Summit, NJ.

Kristen Milligan, Ph.D., Staff Scientist for COA for nearly six years, migrated to the Pacific coast. She moved to Oregon to work with PISCO, a long-term program of scientific research and training that is dedicated to advancing the understanding of marine ecosystems along the US West Coast. To reach Kristen: email Kristen.milligan@science.oregonstate.edu, call 541-737-8862, or mail to Department of Zoology, 3029 Cordley Hall, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331-2914. Best wishes to Kristen and her family.

CONTAMINATED SEDIMENTS

Jennifer Samson, Ph.D., 732-872-0111, Science@cleanoceanaction.org
For more information or to review comments,
visit Action Alerts at www.CleanOceanAction.org

First Glacial Till Proposal Under USACE & USEPA Memo

The US Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Public Notice (FP63-AKCA2-2004) is the first test of the "Joint Federal Position on Testing of Glacial Till Dredged Materials from Selected Areas of New York-New Jersey Harbor," established by the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region 2 and USACE New York District. The project states that 83,500 cubic yards of Pleistocene glacial till dredged material meets the required standards set forth in the joint memorandum and is therefore exempt from further testing and eligible for placement at the Historic Area Remediation Site (HARS). An additional 804,000 cubic yards was classified as Pleistocene Red Clay to be placed at HARS. It was necessary to request the additional "Glacial Till Determination" document to investigate specific information on core locations, numbers, and sediment descriptions for Contract Area 2. Upon review, COA found some serious discrepancies between the classification of the sediments as Pleistocene and the actual description of the sediments; including an area designated as "Pleistocene Glacial Till" that was described in the core log as containing black and gray silt material with a "petroleum odor" down to 50 feet. COA has documented our issues in a letter to USACE and requested a meeting.

COASTAL WATER QUALITY ISSUES

Save NJ - Fast Track Law Must Be Repealed

The Save NJ Coalition continues to battle the Fast Track law. The key focus of Save NJ is repealing the law. Legislators, federal and state agency officials, lawyers, technical experts, and executives from environmental, public health, and civil liberties organizations have all documented and demonstrated that elements of the Fast Track Law: 1) threaten public health and the environment, 2) are contrary to good government policies, and 3) undermine due process. Legislation is required to address these fatal and fundamental flaws. While a legislative initiative to outright repeal the law would be preferred, a comprehensive legislative package to address the major problems within the existing law could retain a workable framework for better growth management supporting development in appropriate places. For information about Fast Track and Save NJ, visit www.savenj.net, or call COA, a member of Save NJ.

Elements of the Fast Track Law threaten public health and the environment.

Aerial Spraying of Herbicide at South Jersey Park



Several local and state environmental and citizen groups, have expressed opposition to the use of aerial and ground spraying of the herbicide glyphosate (Rodeo) with the surfactant polyethoxylated tallow amine, to remove *Phragmites australis*, the controversial species, at both Cape May State Park and Cape May Migratory Bird Refuge. According to USACE, the purpose of applying this herbicide is to eliminate Phragmites, commonly called Reed, from this area and establish other emergent wetland vegetation types to provide "improved" habitat for wildlife and other plant species.

The proposed "eradication" procedure has been in use by Public Service Electric and Gas (PSE&G) since 1996 at several Salem County Estuary Enhancement sites. Despite eight years of repeated aerial spraying and spot treatments with glyphosate, PSE&G has failed to rid the areas of Phragmites. As soon as PSE&G ends the spraying regime, Phragmites quickly recolonize the areas. In addition to spraying, PSE&G has tried burning, mowing, and even goats to eliminate Phragmites, with no success.

Failures, such as at the Salem County sites, show that this procedure is ineffective and will not produce the desired results of eliminating Phragmites and establishing other emergent vegetation types. The current habitats within the State Park and Refuge appear to be functioning adequately as they are inhabited by a wide variety of plants, birds, amphibians, reptiles, fish, insects, and invertebrates including several rare, threatened and endangered species. The use of glyphosate at the State Park and Refuge will only result in long-term habitat management and a need for repeated application of the herbicide in an unsuccessful attempt to alter a functioning habitat.

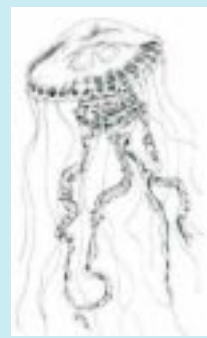
Coastal Creature Feature



Salp
Thalia and *Salpa* species

August's coastal creature feature was the **salp**. Even though they look like grapelike jellyfish, salps are actually more closely related to fish, mammals, and other bony animals. Salps are harmless, free-living tunicates, which are invertebrate chordates. When they are young larvae, they and other tunicates have some similar characteristics to bony animals. For example, salp larvae have a notocord, or a precursor to a spinal cord, which is lost in the adult salp. A salp has a barrel-shaped body and five muscle bands which pump water through its body for respiration, feeding, and locomotion. A pair of distinctive projections, or horns, marks the back end of the body. These animals are found individually or in long chains that are easily separated. Salps frequent the Jersey shore when ocean currents and winds bring warm Gulf Stream waters close to shore. There were no correct entries for this creature feature.

This month's creature feature is a jellyfish with a sting. It is sometimes called a "summer jellyfish," and is the dominant and conspicuous jellyfish of the bays and estuaries where it tolerates a wide range of salinities. Recently, it has been seen in Barnegat Bay. To enter for a chance to win a COA T-shirt, send your guess by mail, fax, or e-mail (PO Box 505, Sandy Hook, NJ 07732; fax 732-872-8041; e-mail SandyHook@CleanOceanAction.org).

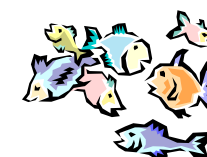


October Coastal Creature
(What's Cool at Ice and Coastal Creature Feature appear every other month.)

ARTIFICIAL REEFS

Public Comments Sought

Recently, USEPA released a document entitled, "Draft National Guidance: Best Management Practices for Preparing Vessels Intended to Create Artificial Reefs." This document can be viewed on USEPA's website by visiting www.epa.gov/owow/oceans/habitat/artificialreefs. The website includes a link to electronically submit comments, which are due **October 1**. COA is reviewing the document and preparing comments.



Help clean up our waterways and beaches. Join COA for the Underwater Cleanup and Fall Beach Sweeps.



Ocean City Intermediate School enjoyed the Sweeps in the spring. Come join the fun on October 23!

FLOTSAM & JETSAM

Volunteering is for the Birds

The National Atmospheric and Ocean Administration Office of Response and Restoration and the NY/NJ Baykeeper are teaming up with SEANET (The Seabird Ecological Assessment Network) to help perform beached bird surveys that will identify and record information about bird mortality along the northeastern US coast. These surveys will also help detect mass mortality events such as oil spills.

Volunteers are needed to carry out these surveys, which will start in spring 2005. SEANET volunteers will walk a designated stretch of beach approximately twice per month and record location information, date, conditions, and if they find a bird carcass, details on the specimen are recorded, including basic measurements and condition. Volunteer training workshops are scheduled for October 1 (1PM or 3:30PM) and 2 (9AM or 11:30AM) at the James J. Howard Marine Sciences Laboratory, Sandy Hook. To attend these sessions or to volunteer, contact Megan Callus at 732-888-9870 or megan@nynjbaykeeper.org.

NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION

Underwater Cleanup Rescheduled

The Underwater Cleanup has been rescheduled for October 2. Registration is 9AM. Participants should meet at the "L" Street Beach parking lot next to the boat ramp in Belmar. Non-divers are needed for a shoreline cleanup and to assist divers with debris removal and data collection. Weather dependent. Visit www.DiversTwo.com or call 732-776-7755 for updates.

Make a Difference - Beach Sweeps, October 23

The 19th Annual Fall Beach Sweeps and Waterway Cleanup will be held on Saturday, October 23, from 9AM to 12:30PM. Join us at nearly 50 cleanup locations on "Make a Difference Day." See the insert for details. Please pre-register groups of 15+ by calling COA one week before the cleanup.