

# Clean Ocean Advocate



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**March 2010 Highlights**

- Attend Public Hearing on Oyster Creek Permit to Help Barnegat Bay!
- Clean Ocean Action Celebrates 25 Years of Beach Sweeps!
- Over Two Thousand Valentines for Governor Christie - Groups and Students Await Presentation Opportunity
- Save the Day for "Beachy" fun in May at the Family Beach Ball for the Ocean!

Find out how you can help Barnegat Bay at [CleanOceanAction.org](http://CleanOceanAction.org)

## Citizens Created Waves of Ocean Emotion for Governor Christie

Over Two Thousand Valentines Standing By Groups and Students await Presentation Opportunity

Last month, Clean Ocean Action launched a "Call for Ocean Emotion." The campaign asked for citizens to make Valentines to welcome Governor Christie and to encourage him to act quickly on his strong commitment to the ocean.

Groups, businesses, students from pre-school to college, and citizens responded with gusto sending in thousands of colorful hand-made Valentines-many of them works of art. In just two weeks, the collection of Valentines poured-in from all over the state of New Jersey.



"We know these are tough economic times and Governor Christie is facing serious challenges. We want to send an early wave of support, encouragement and thanks to the Governor for commitments he made toward a clean and healthy ocean. The Governor clearly recognizes that coastal tourism is the back bone of the state's economy with hundreds of thousands of jobs," said COA's Executive Director Cindy Zipf. "We want the Governor to know we look forward to working with him to keep our ocean clean and industry free. We look forward to presenting him with the amazing expression of support."



Many school students and children made valentines and created awareness of ocean issues to their peers, including proposed liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals for importing foreign natural gas.

"Collecting and creating valentines to send to Governor Christie was empowering because it showed me that I can influence a decision about something very important to me - the ocean - and the need to keep it free of LNG projects," said Elizabeth Stockton a Manasquan High School sophomore.

COA volunteer Fran Donnelly worked tirelessly to get the schools of her community in Hazlet to participate. Fran's grandson, Peter Donnelly, a fifth grader at Beers Street School in Hazlet said, "I hope Governor Christie listens to the people of New Jersey and vetoes LNG projects. LNG is not safe and is not needed. President Theodore Roosevelt once said, 'We are not building this country for a day, but to last through the ages.'"

Participants in the Valentines for Christie campaign conducted by Clean Ocean Action include: The Monmouth County League of Women Voters; students of Hazlet schools; Fishermen's Conservation Association, New Jersey; Surfrider Foundation, New Jersey chapters; Food & Water Watch; Langosta Lounge, Asbury Park; Asbury Tower; students of Rutgers University; and many more environmental groups and citizen volunteers.

COA is currently working with the Governor's office to schedule a time and place where he can accept this overflow of ocean emotion provided by his many constituents from the tall to the small.



## Get Swept Away at the Beach Sweeps 25! Symposium

Clean Ocean Action will host the first Beach Sweeps 25! Symposium Against Beach Litter on **Saturday, March 13th, 2010 at Brookdale Community College in Lincroft, NJ, 9:00 am to 3:30 pm** followed by a cocktail reception.

Conference panelists will include scientists, legislators, and citizens who will present the truth behind the data, reveal the real harms of beach litter, and uncover the steps needed to reduce the problem. Speakers include **US Representative Frank Pallone, Keynote Speaker; State Senator Barbara Buono (D-18); NJ Clean Communities Council Director Sandy Huber; and Surfrider East Coast Regional Manager John Weber.**

Congressman Frank Pallone will address how clean beaches and waterways are essential for our economy, our health, and our environment.

During concurrent breakout sessions, participants can learn to take specific pollution prevention actions, such as how to advocate for a plastic bag ban in their community, integrate a recycling program in their local school, recycling problem plastics, or have fun with Beach Sweeps data through an educational activity.

**Register for the Symposium today to help us kick-off Beach Sweeps 25!**, a year long celebration to honor a generation of dedication and action toward a cleaner ocean. Reservations are required: Adult Admission \$10, Student Rate \$5, At-door \$25. Breakfast, lunch and light fare will be served. For more information and to register please visit [www.CleanOceanAction.org](http://www.CleanOceanAction.org) or contact Tavia Danch at 732-872-0111 or [education@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:education@cleanoceanaction.org).



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## 2010 SAVE THE DATE

### A Snapshot:

### COA Events & Programs

- March 13:** Beach Sweeps 25! A 2010 Symposium to highlight a Generation of Action Against Littered Beaches
- March 25:** Enviropalooza 6:30-9p.m. Rumson-Fair Haven High School
- March 26:** EarthShare Celebrates New Jersey Wine Tasting 6:30 p.m. Laurita Winery, New Egypt, NJ
- April:** Aveda Earth Month
- April 22:** Earth Day Brooklyn Bridge Walk for Water
- April 24:** 25th Annual Spring Beach Sweeps 9a.m. - noon; Statewide, NJ
- May 13 & 14:** Spring Student Summit; Sandy Hook, NJ
- May 23:** Beach Ball; Ship Ahoy Beach Club, Sea Bright, NJ
- June-August:** Corporate Sweeps; Sandy Hook, NJ
- September:** Sunset at Sandy Hook; Sea Gulls Nest, Sandy Hook, NJ
- October 7:** Fall Student Summit; Island Beach State Park, NJ
- October 23:** 25th Annual Fall Beach Sweeps; Statewide, NJ

Please clip and send to COA.

## STAY INVOLVED IN YOUR COALITION!

### ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP FORM

If you are already a member, and would like to receive the Clean Ocean Advocate via **email only** please detach this form and include your email address.

*Please print clearly. Thank you.*

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please include organization name & contact, if applicable:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Please take a minute to answer the following questions:

- \_\_\_\_\_ I agree with and support Clean Ocean Action's decision of an electronic newsletter. If not, here is why \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_ On a scale of 1-10 (one being minimum and 10 being maximum) please rate the effectiveness of the Clean Ocean Advocate on keeping you up to date with the latest ocean issues and events.
- Additional Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: **Clean Ocean Action, 18 Hartshorne Drive, Suite 2, Highlands, NJ 07732**

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

## COA POLICY NEWS

Dave Byer, Policy@CleanOceanAction.org

### NJ Voters Overwhelmingly Support Environmental Protections, But Does Trenton?

According to a recent Monmouth University/Gannett NJ Poll, NJ voters would strongly oppose any weakening of environmental regulations by Governor Chris Christie. Among registered voters, 42% would be very upset if environmental regulations are relaxed, 37% would be somewhat upset, 15% would be not too upset, and just 4% would be not at all upset. With 79% of voters clearly in favor of protecting the environment and only 4% having no interest in upholding standards, this is perhaps one of the clearest mandates to our elected officials in Trenton.

Unfortunately, many officials still haven't received the message. Legislators in Trenton are trying again to weaken environmental regulations by allowing developers to continue ignoring NJ's Water Quality Management Planning Rules. Bills A2070 and S1337 from Assemblyman Jerry Green and Senator Paul Sarlo, respectively, would undermine the Department of Environmental Protection's authority to prohibit the extension of sewer lines, with resulting sprawl, into environmentally sensitive areas, wetlands and rare species habitats. Governor Corzine vetoed a similar bill before leaving office and COA urges Governor Christie to do the same. COA demands more leadership in the legislature, following the lead of those who voted "No" last session, including Senator Buono and Assembly members Gove, Holzapfel, Rumpf, and McKeon.

COA is concerned with recent Executive Orders from Governor Christie that could undermine environmental protections. Executive Order 2 in particular sets standards that could favor industry and weaken current standards. COA is watching closely to make sure the Executive Orders do not lead to the undermining of our environmental protections.

### Smoke Free Beaches

On February 18, COA's Executive Director Cindy Zipf testified before the NJ Senate's Health Committee in favor of three bills that would limit cigarette smoking in certain settings. The bills were from Senators Barbara Buono and Loretta Weinberg (S669), Andrew Ciesla (S889), and Shirley Turner (S443).

Cigarette butts are the first or second most common piece of litter picked up by COA volunteers during our Beach Sweeps. In 2009, volunteers collected 30,784 cigarette butts during the bi-annual Sweeps. Cigarette butts can contain chemicals including lead, benzene and arsenic which are harmful to the environment and are often ingested by wildlife mistaking them for food. Cigarette butts persist as a pollutant in the marine environment, breaking into smaller pieces that can bio-accumulate in the seafood we eat. They also contain plastic elements that do not biodegrade.

Banning smoking on public beaches is an important first step in reducing this source of pollution. We must also work to reduce upland sources of pollution through enforcement of litter laws, as many pieces of pollution start inland, wash down storm drains to rivers and oceans and then back to our beaches. COA applauds these leaders in their efforts to "go green" to save our big blue.



## EDUCATION

TaviaDanch, Education@CleanOceanAction.org

### Spring into Action for Clean Water!

Just when you think this stormy winter will never end, spring emerges along with the quest for a green lawn, which often results in the improper use of fertilizer. Current fertilizer application rates are overwhelming and far exceed the amounts absorbed by plants and lawns. Excessive nutrients find their way to the nearest water body and have the potential to destroy its fragile ecosystem. The following tips can help you maintain a healthy and "ecofriendly" yard:

- Reduce the size of your lawn by adding ground cover and gardens. Lawns are high maintenance, expensive and add to runoff problems.
- Use native plants to increase water filtering and create a wildlife habitat.
- Don't fertilize your lawn or garden until you test the soil. Soil-testing kits are available at garden centers.
- If needed, use slow release, water insoluble and/or organic fertilizers. For a list of these see [www.nitrogenfree.com](http://www.nitrogenfree.com).
- Aerate your soil and remove dead organics by raking.
- Install rain barrels at your downspouts to reuse rain water and prevent runoff.
- Mow high and often. Leave clippings to fertilize naturally.

For more tips on lawn care, visit [www.CleanOceanAction.org](http://www.CleanOceanAction.org) and follow the links for "10 Tips."

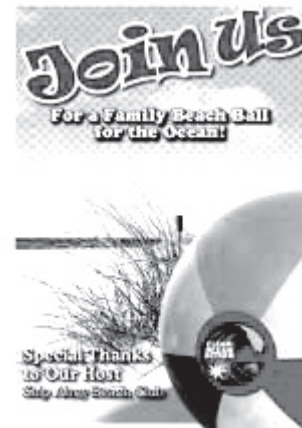
### Attention Middle School Teachers! Join COA for a Day of Science & Advocacy at the Beach

Middle Schools (grades 5-8) in Northern & Central Counties (Sussex, Warren, Hunterdon, Mercer, Monmouth, Middlesex, Somerset, Union, Essex, Hudson, Bergen, Passaic and Morris) are invited to participate in the **23rd Annual Spring Student Summit at Sandy Hook May 13 or 14 from 9am to 12:30pm**. Students enjoy a day of field trips and hands-on learning that focuses on the marine ecosystem, protecting the ocean environment and reducing marine debris. For information and the required application see [www.cleanoceanaction.org](http://www.cleanoceanaction.org) or contact Meg at [citizens@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:citizens@cleanoceanaction.org) or 732-872-0111.

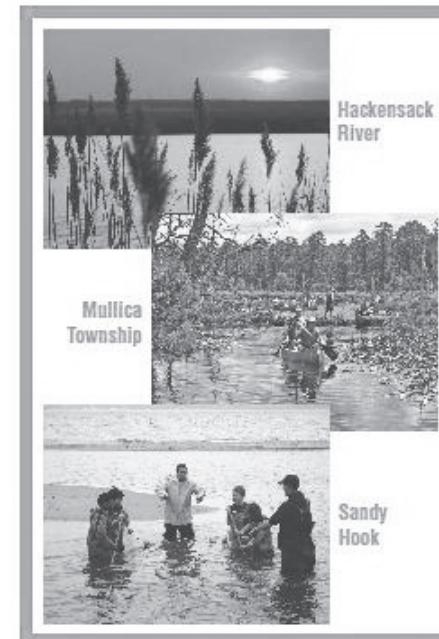
## EVENTS

Jennifer Smiga, Events@CleanOceanAction.org  
Emily Hackett, Programs@CleanOceanAction.org

### Beach Ball



**SAVE THE DAY FOR... "BEACHY" FUN IN MAY!**  
**Family Beach Ball for the Ocean**  
**May 23, 2009, 3-7pm**  
**Ship Ahoy Beach Club, Sea Bright**



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## COA SCIENCE NEWS

Heather Saffert, PhD, Science@CleanOceanAction.org

### Army Dismisses Public's Call for Environmental Impact Statement at Fort Monmouth

The Army has determined that the closure of Fort Monmouth, planned for September 2011, will have "no significant adverse effects on the quality of the human or natural environment." The decision was based on an Environmental Assessment (EA) of Fort Monmouth released last spring and public comments on the EA. Several environmental investigations were not completed or even included in the EA. COA and others found the EA to be inadequate and concluded that further investigation in the form of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was needed. The towns surrounding Fort Monmouth also called for an EIS. However, since the Army determined no significant impacts will occur, an EIS will not be done.

In addition, although further investigations are on-going or intended, the Army said that they could not wait for their completion. Despite the many public comments criticizing the EA, the Army still maintained that the EA was sufficient. The Army's determination can be downloaded from the following link: <http://www.monmouth.army.mil/C4ISR/brac/oed/FinalFNSIsignedFeb10.pdf>.

## SEA SCENES

### LUSH Cosmetics Supports COA's Fight Against Ocean Industrialization

As Clean Ocean Action's first international business supporter opposed to Liquefied Natural Gas, LUSH Fresh Handmade Cosmetics has made a generous donation to support COA's efforts against ocean industrialization.

"LUSH Cosmetics stands firmly behind supporting Clean Ocean Action's efforts against the proposed LNG projects. We have always held strong beliefs that the well-being of the environment, wildlife, and people should always come before profit," stated Erika Edwards, LUSH Cosmetics.

This is a critical time for outreach and education on the looming off-shore projects since the determination about whether or not to industrialize the Atlantic Ocean will be decided within the next couple of years. Support from LUSH Cosmetics and like-minded businesses will help our coalition and our supporters hold elected officials accountable. Special thanks to LUSH for their tremendous support! For more information on LUSH Fresh Handmade Cosmetics and their core beliefs visit <http://www.lushusa.com/shop/>.



### Get Involved! Volunteer Opportunities:

Volunteer to staff information and action tables at the following events:

**March 25: Enviropalooza 6:30-9pm**

Rumson-Fair Haven High School

**March 26-28: Paddlesport Presented by Jersey Paddler**

3/26, 12pm-9pm; 3/27, 9am-6pm; 3/28, 10am-4:30pm

Garden State Exhibit Center, Somerset

**April 7: Earth Celebration 10am-3pm**

William Paterson University, Wayne

Get ready for **Earth Month April 2010!** We have multiple events scheduled every weekend in April and need your help to cover all of them.

Find our volunteer form online at [cleanoceanaction.org](http://cleanoceanaction.org) under "Help Your Ocean." If you are interested and available to volunteer, contact Meg at [citizens@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:citizens@cleanoceanaction.org) or 732-872-0111.