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December 2006 Highlights

- The Teenage Gift of a Cleaner Ocean
- Oil & Gas Drilling Rears Its Ugly Head
- Holiday Shopping & Gift Giving Tips and Gifts for Ocean Advocates

Eco-Tip of the Month
 Holiday Shopping & Gift Giving: See inside for tips to save resources, money, and time.

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.

Enclosed is my check for (please check one):

\$25 Individual/Family \$15 Student/Senior
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Name _____

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Please include organization name & contact, if applicable:

Please make check payable to
 Clean Ocean Action, PO Box 505, Highlands, NJ 07732
 To pay with MasterCard or Visa, please call 732-872-0111.

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

SAVE THE DATE

January 1, 2007, Monday
 - Polar Bear Plunge to benefit Clean Ocean Action and Challenged Youth Sports, organized by Sons of Ireland. See flyer inside for details.



Wishing ocean advocates
 a warm and wonderful
 holiday season and
 a happy and healthy 2006.
 - The Staff of
 Clean Ocean Action

ESNJ raises funds for NJ's leading environmental groups through workplace giving campaigns. To learn how your business can participate, visit www.earthsharenj.org.



a member of Earth Share
 OF NEW JERSEY

COA PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Featuring... *The Monmouth County Audubon Society*



Do you ever wonder about the birds on the beach, in the park, or in your yard? Help is here.

The **Monmouth County Audubon Society** (MCAS), a chapter of the National Audubon Society, is "dedicated to the enjoyment and study of nature, wildlife conservation, habitat protection and education." The organization inspires new and veteran "birders," and keeps abreast of national, state, and local conservation issues.

The MCAS hosts monthly meetings with guest speakers and sponsors field trips (for members/nonmembers; free or minimal charge). Also, MCAS's website is bursting with information: a checklist of Monmouth County birds, monthly newsletters ("The Osprey"), tips for what to do for an injured bird, articles, links, and answers to FAQs about birds.

Importantly, MCAS recognizes the need to work together in the environmental community, and has supported COA's campaigns over the years, including the Clean Ocean Zone.

"By pooling our resources we can try and influence the decision makers and let them know there are people and organizations out there who care and will hold them responsible if they make the wrong decision," said **Stuart Malmid**, MCAS President.

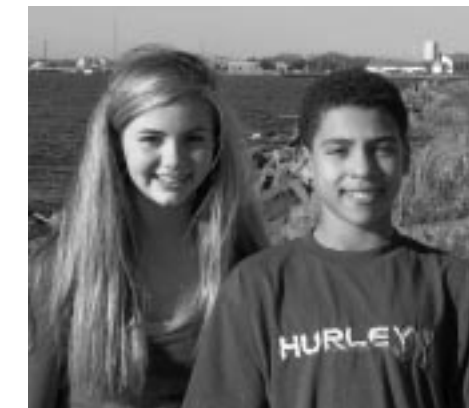
The MCAS invites volunteers everywhere to participate in Audubon's longest-running wintertime tradition – the **Christmas Bird Count**. Nearly 2,000 individual counts are scheduled to take place throughout the Americas from December 14 to January 5. Three "counts" will be held in Monmouth County and are subsidized by MCAS: Sandy Hook, Long Branch, and Assunpink.

For details about the counts, meetings, programs, and field trips, as well as membership, call 732-USA-BIRD or visit www.monmouthaudubon.org.

THE TEENAGE GIFT OF A CLEAN OCEAN

What gift do you give a thirteen-year-old girl or boy? Rather, in this case, the question is what gift does a thirteen-year-old give?

Last month, **Kate Incremona** and **Connor Reilly** (pictured to right), both of Fair Haven, NJ, donated \$300 of their cash gifts from a joint 13th birthday party to Clean Ocean Action (COA). Kate and Connor have been friends since Kindergarten and spend their summers floating in the waves, jumping in the surf, and enjoying the seemingly endless ocean. Since they share a "love for the ocean," they decided to donate money to an organization to help it.



Kate's favorite moment at the shore is paddling-out on her surfboard, watching the waves and fish go by, and filling her senses with the ocean. She can't imagine why anyone throws litter on the beach or tosses it out car windows. "I think those people are lazy," she says.

As a skimboarder and bodyboarder, Connor is in the ocean all day long when he's at the beach. He enjoys riding the waves and letting the waves "crush you." He says, "It's not fun when the ocean is not clean. Garbage in the ocean is gross."

When asked why they chose COA, Connor responded, "Because we love the ocean." Kate added, "Because a clean ocean gets me excited." They both agreed that they trust COA will do "whatever helps the ocean."

Kate and Connor's parents are proud of their young ocean-advocates. Nancy Incremona said, "They are our future. We believe this is a start of future actions for them because they saw how easy it was to give back and felt they made a huge impact."

Deanna Reilly said, "We feel that Connor and Kate experienced the true satisfaction that you get from getting and giving. It is a lesson to them and to all their friends that there are people and organizations in this world that need money more than them. I mean, how much money does a thirteen-year-old need?"

Fun Facts About Kate and Connor:

- **KATE**
 Birthday: September 10
 Favorite sea creature: dolphin
 "I like dolphins because they are fun, cute, and smart."
 What she wants to be: Dolphin trainer
 "I liked swimming with the dolphins when I was in Mexico and want to work to help them and other sea animals."
- **CONNOR**
 Birthday: November 12
 Favorite sea creature: octopus
 "They're big, and can take over lots of animals in the sea."
 What he wants to be: Pro-football Player for NFL
 "As an NFL player, I would give money to organizations and people in need."

CONTAMINATED SEDIMENTS

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

Expansion of Facility for Dredged Material in Atlantic Highlands

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) recently awarded a CAFRA permit to Atlantic Highlands allowing them to extend their Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) approximately 250 feet to the west, utilizing a parking lot formerly used to dry dock boats. The expansion will provide an additional 14,000 cubic yards of capacity to the CDF, which will still not be enough capacity to complete all of the dredging needs of the Harbor.

The expansion was proposed to make-up for lost capacity that resulted from required structural improvements to the existing CDF, including lowering and widening of the outer berm walls. The expansion design plans had to be modified several times to ensure the work would not impact any existing wetlands that surround the current CDF.

COA was disappointed to learn of the expansion, but look forward to working with Atlantic Highlands to develop long-term solutions to their dredging needs that include the beneficial re-use of dredged material instead of creating a huge pile of mud with no plan in sight. Visit our website to read our comment letter.

WASTING OUR WATERS AWAY

Limiting Pollutants and Reusing Wastewater in Two Rivers Region

COA submitted comments on the draft ocean discharge permit (NJ Pollution Discharge Elimination permit) for the Two Rivers Water Reclamation Authority. This wastewater treatment facility serves towns bordering the Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers and discharges an average of 10.4 million gallons of treated wastewater per day into the ocean east of Monmouth Beach.

COA is encouraged by several proposed additions to the permit requirements, including increased monitoring requirements for Ammonia and effluent limitations for Chlorine Producing Oxidants (CPOs). These improvements are certainly a step in the right direction. However, there are still some significant deficiencies in the monitoring frequency of several classes of contaminants and the absence of bacterial (enterococci) limits for the discharge.

The facility also requested authorization for the beneficial reuse of wastewater. COA supports the recycling of water for beneficial uses but is hesitant to support the current action as NJDEP does not currently have regulations or oversight in place to ensure beneficial reuse is conducted in an environmentally safe manner. Visit COA's website for our comments to NJDEP.

The facility discharges 10.4 million gallons per day into the ocean.

POINTLESS POLLUTION

COA & the NJ Clean Communities Team-up to "Can" Litter



Litter in and along our waterways is most often the result of wet weather and the resulting stormwater. When debris is thrown onto streets and roadways, it takes only a small amount of rain or snow melt to wash litter into storm drains, which empty into nearby waterways. For instance, a recent trash slick that washed-up at Sandy Hook included a parking ticket from Jersey City, NJ. It provides hard evidence that debris that is washed into storm drains inevitably makes its way to our streams, rivers, lakes, and oceans.

While several major waterway cleanups are held throughout the state each year, including COA's Beach Sweeps, efforts must be made to address the problem at the source -- people -- and enforcement of litter laws is a key aspect of this necessary effort. The NJ Clean Communities Program requires their individual town coordinators to report enforcement actions, including litter citations issues, violations assessed, and fines collected. To help stress this necessary component and to hold litterbugs accountable, COA is serving on a focus group within the NJ Clean Communities Program. For information about NJ Clean Communities Council, visit www.njclean.org.

CLEAN OCEAN ZONE

Oil & Gas Drilling Offshore Rears Its Ugly Head

As previously reported in the *Ocean Advocate*, a federal plan that would open areas off the nation's coast to oil and gas drilling was proposed and available for public comment. Contrary to the current Congressional Moratorium and Presidential Executive Order, both of which prohibit oil and gas exploration and production along the entire east coast, the Minerals Management Service (MMS) included an area off Virginia's coast (within 75 miles of NJ's coast) in its Proposed 5-Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2007-2012. This area, called the Mid-Atlantic Planning Area, is located off the Eastern Shore, including Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and Assateague Island National Seashore.

In addition to the environmental and economic issues cited in previous articles and action alerts, two additional reasons to not drill for oil and gas in this area were identified:

- ◆ If allowed, extraction of oil and/or gas is expected by **2030**. Based on MMS data for 2030 consumption rates, this area only contains enough recoverable oil and gas to last **1.8** and **3.4** days, respectively.
- ◆ The US Department of Defense opposes oil and gas development in this area. The US Navy conducts training and war exercises within the proposed area that utilize several different forms of live ammunition, including gunnery exercises, rockets, bombs, and antisubmarine rocket and torpedo firing. Naval training exercises and oil and gas activities are mutually exclusive and in direct conflict, and create a substantial risk to oil and gas exploration and production activities, and dramatically increases the likelihood of a major oil spill or other catastrophe.

Several elected officials expressed their opposition to the plan at a public information meeting hosted by MMS in November in Atlantic City, NJ. At this meeting, staff members of US Senators **Robert Menendez (D-NJ)** and **Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ)** presented comments strongly opposing the plan, as did staff members of **Representatives Jim Saxton (R-3)**, **Frank LoBiondo (R-2)**, **Chris Smith (R-4)**, and **NJ Governor Jon Corzine**. **Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ)** submitted written comments.

COA's comments to MMS are posted on our website (follow links for Issues/Campaigns and Offshore Oil and Gas).

CREATURE FEATURE



Eastern Oyster
Crassostrea virginica

The October Creature Feature was the **Eastern Oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*)**. These seemingly immobile creatures begin life as a free-swimming, planktonic larva that eventually settles onto mud, rocks, or other oyster shells, where they attach and grow. Once they settle they can no longer move, making them susceptible to many different threats, including pollution, habitat loss, and predation.

They can fend off predators with their thick, sharp outer shell and strong muscles, but because oysters are

filter-feeders, they must ingest the water and all its pollutants in order to get food and oxygen. Poor water quality has resulted in a substantial decline in the eastern oyster population throughout its range. There were no correct entries for this creature.

December Creature: These fish can be found along the east coast from Canada to Florida, where they are always very popular with anglers. In fact, during this time of year, fishermen "line" up along the shoreline of New Jersey, in hopes of snagging the big one. They just might lure one in using their preferred prey of live fish and invertebrates. **To enter for a chance**

to win a COA T-shirt, send your guess for the December Creature by mail, fax, or e-mail (PO Box 505, Sandy Hook, NJ 07732; FAX 732-872-8041; Education@CleanOceanAction.org).



December Creature

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

EVENTS

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

Enjoy the Holidays, Naturally, and Give Back

Join **Dean's Natural Food Markets Customer Loyalty Program** this holiday and support four local charities: Clean Ocean Action, Monmouth County SPCA, Emmanuel Cancer Foundation, and The Wellness Community.



It's easy! First, visit one of Dean's stores (Annie Sez Plaza, 490 Broad Street, Shrewsbury or 1119 Rt. 35, Ocean) and sign-up to be on the **Dean's List®**. You will receive a **Customer Advantage Club Card** with a "heart" punched in it. Every time you shop, Dean's will scan your card. You will get a "point" for every dollar you spend. When you reach 250 points, Dean's will mail you a \$9 gift certificate and \$1 is donated and matched by Dean's. Read more at www.deansnaturalfoodmarket.com.

From all of us at COA, thank you to Loretta and Dean Nelson and Dean's customers for this delicious way to fundraise for a healthy ocean.

SEASon's Greetings!

Please consider supporting a clean ocean this SEASon during COA's annual mail appeal. This important fundraiser raises vital proceeds for our ocean protection efforts and includes an update on COA's 2006 program activities.

On the appeal reply card is an option to specifically designate your donation to support "The Clean Ocean Zone", which is federal legislation to permanently protect the ocean off the NJ and NY coast. Also, enclosed in the mailing is a complimentary bumper sticker, which we hope you will use to spread the word about this pioneering legislative proposal. For more details visit www.CleanOceanZone.org.

To join COA's paperless appeal by e-mail in 2007, please contact Jennifer at (732) 872-0111 or at events@cleanoceanaction.org.

Holiday Shopping & Gift Tips for a Cleaner Environment

1. **Give gifts of experience.** Give tickets for the theater, concerts, museums, and aquariums as gifts, or gift certificates for restaurants and spas.
2. **Shop over and over again.** Buy and use cloth shopping/tote bags for groceries and gifts. Bring your clean, dry plastic grocery shopping bags to your local store for recycling.
3. **Read the label and buy products with eco-friendly packaging.** Look for these terms on the label before buying: recyclable, biodegradable, recycled content, unbleached or chlorine-free bleaching, not tested on animals, and CFC-free/ozon-friendly. Also, make better choices and choose products that have recyclable or reusable packaging. Buying in bulk helps.
4. **Give a gift that gives twice.** Purchase your gifts from an environmental organization or nature center (see *insert*). Proceeds will benefit that organization's efforts. Consider giving a membership, which may offer extra benefits to the gift recipient throughout the year.
5. **Recycle holiday wastes and save gift packaging.** Check with your town for the items that are mandatory to recyclable (e.g., plastic, glass, metal, newspaper, magazines/catalogues, and corrugated cardboard) and follow instructions for recycling. Also, save ribbon, bows, and wrapping paper in good condition for decorating next year's gifts.

(Portions adapted from *Better World Handbook* and USEPA)