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LABEL

CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE  
March 2019

## Mark Your Calendars

### Rally for the Navesink Public Meeting

March 28, 7pm

Bingham Hall, Rumson, NJ

### Beach Sweeps

April 13

Over 60 NJ Locations

### Aveda Earth Month

April 2019

### Oyster Farmers Screening

May 2, 7pm

Rumson Presbyterian Church

### Run the Hook

May 12

Guardian Park, Sandy Hook, NJ

### Rally for the Rivers Eco-Fest

June 8

Victory Park, Rumson, NJ

Visit [CleanOceanAction.org](http://CleanOceanAction.org) for more info!

Visit [CleanOceanAction.org](http://CleanOceanAction.org) to register!

05.12.19 / / SANDY HOOK, NJ



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## Tributes

Photo courtesy of Joe Reynolds

### In Memory of:

Steve Atkins  
Patricia Coren  
Dolores & Samuel Karinja  
Patricia Lupo  
Carol Anne Ross  
Connor Sharkey  
Paul Wilberscheid

### In Honor of:

Sheri Grover  
The Montecalvo Family

On February 1, Clean Ocean Action achieved  
the prestigious 4-Star Rating by Charity Navigator  
for the 4th consecutive year! (see inside)

CHEERS to 35 YEARS

On February 26, Clean Ocean Action celebrated 35 Years of Ocean Advocacy!



## CLEAN OCEAN ADVOCATE

Defending the Sea Since 1984

Ryan Struck Photography

March 2019

Volunteers of all ages needed at over 60 NJ locations for COA's Beach Sweeps on April 13!

Peter Blair, Policy Attorney; [Policy@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:Policy@CleanOceanAction.org)

## Blast Offshore Drilling & Seismic Testing at Cape May Rally

As we await information on the final areas President Trump will open to offshore oil and gas developments, five companies await the final permit to begin seismic blasting in the Atlantic. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is expected to approve the final permits sometime in March.

Help protect the Jersey Shore by joining Clean Ocean Action and others on March 18, at the Cape May Convention Hall from 12 noon – 2pm at a rally opposing offshore oil and gas developments, including seismic blasting in the Atlantic. The rally is sponsored by the Cape May Chamber of Commerce. For more info visit [CleanOceanAction.org](http://CleanOceanAction.org).



Oppose seismic blasting and other offshore oil and gas developments in the Atlantic at the March 18 Rally at the Cape May Convention Hall, 12 noon



## Make New Jersey a Leader in Energy Efficiency and Conservation

Clean Ocean Action submitted formal comments to the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities outlining the importance of energy efficiency and conservation techniques as the cheapest, cleanest and most environmentally beneficial way to combat climate change. Visit COA's blog to read the comments.

## New York to Hold Public Hearings on Dangerous Natural Gas Pipeline

On January 25, 2019, the Federal government formally approved the controversial Williams/Transco Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (NESE), which would require building 23.49 miles of new natural gas pipeline through the Raritan Bay and Lower New York Bay and into the ocean.

Despite the reckless action of the Federal government, the project can still be stopped at the state level. The New York Department of Environmental Conservation (NYDEC) hosted a public hearing on the project on February 26. An additional public hearing will be held on Wednesday, March 6, at 5 PM at the Rockaway Park High School for Environmental Sustainability, Rockaway, NY. Written comments may also be submitted to [NESEproject@dec.ny.gov](mailto:NESEproject@dec.ny.gov) before 5:00 PM on March 15. For more info contact Peter Blair at [Policy@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:Policy@CleanOceanAction.org).



The NYDEC hosted a public hearing on NESE on February 26. An additional public hearing will be held on Wednesday, March 6, at 5pm at the Rockaway Park High School for Environmental Sustainability, Rockaway, NY



# PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Spencer Munson, Resource and Event Coordinator, [Programs@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:Programs@CleanOceanAction.org)

## Frozen Slides at Patagonia Bowery Surf Gallery

It was an unusually warm winter day but that didn't stop the team at the Patagonia Bowery store from radiating some truly wintry vibes with the release of their Frozen Slides Winter Surf Gallery. All winter, the Bowery-based store asked folks to submit their favorite photos celebrating snowy, wintry days of surf.



Local photographers answered the call with some incredibly blustery submissions, the best of which were revealed at the Frozen Slides gallery event. The night also featured some tasty beers from Rockaway Brewing Company, warm treats from Rockaway Beach Bakery, great tunes and some good old fashioned ocean advocacy from the staff of Clean Ocean Action.



The Frozen Slides community gallery opening at Patagonia Bowery raised over \$1,000 for COA.

## A Field Trip of the Clean Ocean Nature!

On February 7, COA's staff joined former COA Intern and current Beach Sweeps Captain Derek Noah, now an Account Manager at TerraCycle, at their Trenton, NJ headquarters for a lesson on recycling! It was a wonderful day meeting many of the incredible TerraCycle team, including another COA alumna and TerraCycle Publicist, Charlotte Maiden. COA's staff was treated to a total immersion TerraCycle experience, surrounded by repurposed and functional artful furnishings.



Former COA intern, Derek Noah, now Account Manager at TerraCycle with shredded plastic pieces to be recycled at TerraCycle's Trenton, NJ warehouse.

Derek provided detailed presentations on the way TerraCycle is truly changing the wasteful waste system by flipping the dynamics and economics to create powerful solutions. Following the presentations, COA staff enjoyed a tour of the warehouse where a dedicated team is challenged daily to unpack, sort, track, manage, and ship a large variety of product streams, of which the volumes of some of the materials are quite immense!



In preparation of the launch of a major product in the US made from beach plastic collected and recycled by TerraCycle, COA's Staff Scientist, Swarna Muthukrishnan, PhD was interviewed by a media outlet about COA's participation in the program.

# SCIENCE

Swarna Muthukrishnan, PhD, Staff Scientist; [Science@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:Science@CleanOceanAction.org)  
Alison McCarthy, Watershed Protection Coordinator; [Outreach@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:Outreach@CleanOceanAction.org)

## Committed Citizens Brave the Cold for Rally Meeting

Presenters at the last Rally for the Navesink meeting on January 31st provided updates on the Navesink River to a full house at Bingham Hall. Dr. Swarna Muthukrishnan PhD, COA's Staff Scientist, gave an overview of the results from the Environmental Canine Services (ECS) source trackdown investigation conducted throughout the watershed in November 2018. The investigation was a collaborative effort between COA, ECS, and NJDEP, and identified several hotspot locations that may be contributing to pathogen pollution in the Navesink River.



Nearly 40 citizens braved frigid temperatures to learn about the health of the Navesink River at the January meeting!

Bill Heddendorf and Scott Chernoff from the NJDEP Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring also shared results from the Navesink River citizen science water quality sampling program, which included year-to-year and seasonal comparisons of pathogen levels at each location. Finally, Bill Shadel, Coastal Projects Manager at the Nature Conservancy, educated the audience about the benefits of living shorelines and shared exciting plans for a living shoreline along private waterfront property on the Navesink River in Red Bank. **Be sure to save the date for the next Rally for the Navesink meeting on Thursday, March 28th at 7pm at Bingham Hall in Rumson.**

## Clean Ocean Action at Delaware Estuary Science and Environmental Summit 2019

The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary (PDE) is one of 28 National Estuary Programs designated by Congress and helps protect the Delaware River. PDE hosts a biennial conference, the Delaware Estuary Science and Environmental Summit, where experts meet to review studies & discuss actions to improve water quality.

This year's summit, "Estuary 2019 - saving our system through collaboration", was held in Cape May, January 27-30. COA's Dr. Swarna Muthukrishnan and Alison McCarthy presented two COA initiatives at the summit: (1) Restoring the Navesink through the COA-NJDEP citizen science ambient monitoring, as well as canine scent tracking and (2) Reducing Litter along the New Jersey side of the Delaware River through an action framework. Both presentations were well received. Swarna also served on the judge panel for student posters that were showcased at the summit.



COA's Swarna Muthukrishnan, PhD at the Delaware Estuary Summit

## Become a Green Infrastructure Champion in Your Community

Rutgers University's Water Resources Program and Jersey Water Works is conducting a series of free educational workshops on "Green Infrastructure Champions Training Program" that began in February. The goal of these workshops is to help create GI Champions who can work toward implementing green infrastructure practices in their local communities. GI is composed of nine workshops that cover topics such as identifying potential projects, securing grants, and expanding programs to different groups such as schools. Upon successfully attending a minimum of five sessions, an individual then becomes a certified GI Champion.



Dr. Christopher Obropta presenting at Rutgers University's Green Infrastructure Workshop. Visit [water.rutgers.edu](http://water.rutgers.edu) to register for an upcoming, free Green Infrastructure Workshop.

# OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Amanda Wheeler, Volunteer & Education Coordinator; [Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:Citizens@CleanOceanAction.org)

## Students Put Watershed Mindfulness Education into Action



Carl Sandburg Middle School Students learn about Watershed Mindfulness with "Soak it Up" and Enviroscope.

The Environmental Club at Carl Sandburg Middle School in Old Bridge is expanding its connection to clean water this winter. The Club's advisors, Liz Georger and Kacey Corsentino, invited Clean Ocean Action to a recent meeting to have some Watershed Mindfulness science fun with *Soak it Up!* and the Enviroscope experiments.

The Club has participated in the Spring Beach Sweeps at the Cliffwood Beach site and is looking forward to this year's Sweeps on April 13th. Great job, Carl Sandburg Middle School!

## Spring Student Summit Application Deadline - March 29th!

The 31st Annual Spring Student Summit will be held May 15th and 16th in Gateway National Park on Sandy Hook. 5th through 8th grade teachers in Central and North Jersey counties can apply to participate in this FREE program. Applications will be accepted through March 29. Schools will be advised of their acceptance into the program as soon as possible after the deadline. For details of the program, visit our website.



The 31st Annual Spring Student Summit will be held May 15th and 16th on Sandy Hook.



For the fourth consecutive year COA has achieved a 4-Star Rating by Charity Navigator!

"Only 17% of the charities we evaluate have received at least 4 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that Clean Ocean Action outperforms most other charities in America. This exceptional designation from Charity Navigator sets Clean Ocean Action apart from its peers and demonstrates to the public its trustworthiness."



**Clean Ocean Action is honored and grateful to be awarded the 2019 Non-Profit Organization of the Year Spinnaker Award by the Eastern Monmouth Area Chamber of Commerce!**



From left to right are COA Board Member Bonnie Torcivia; Executive Director, Cindy Zipf; Board Member Kari Martin; Vice-president Leo Gasienica with Kathleen Gasienica; and Chief Operating Officer, Mary-Beth Thompson.