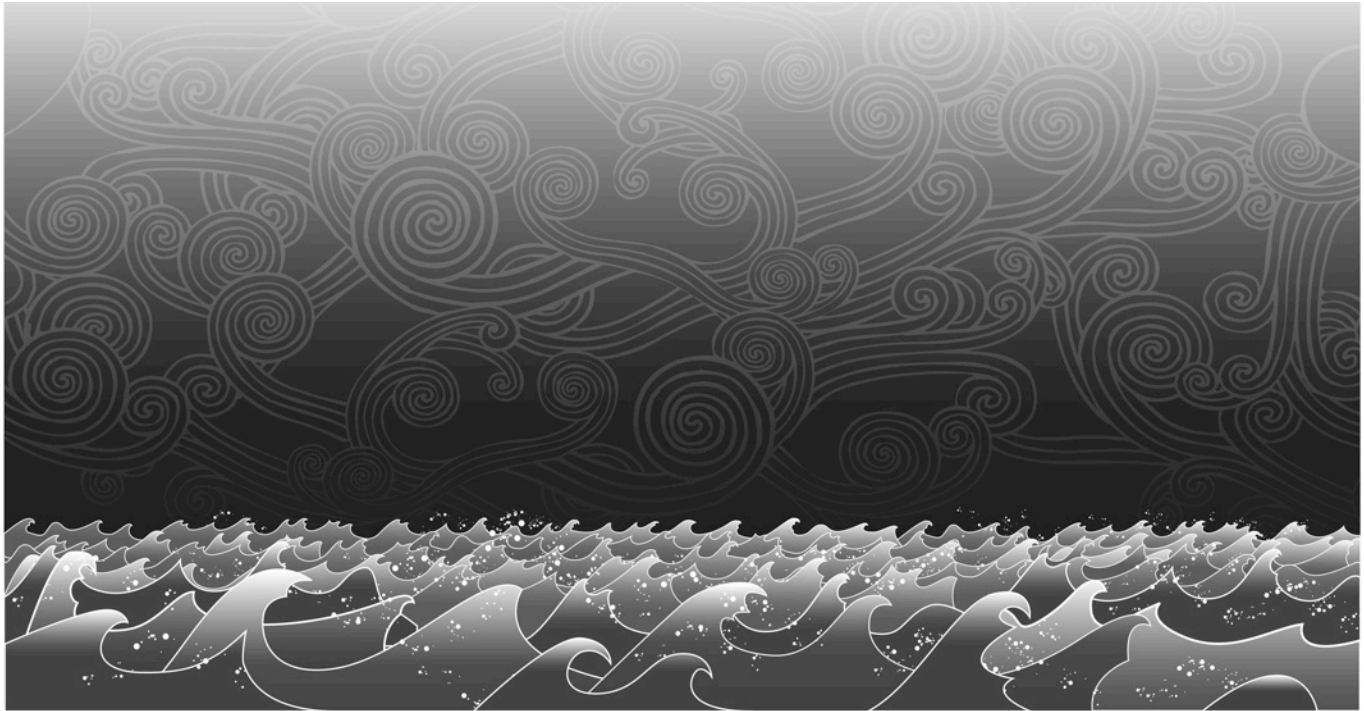




FALL/WINTER NEWSLETTER



A Look Back at the 2009 Season

After a welcomed revitalization to the organization, ALO kicked off its 22nd season with testimony at the Department of Interior's "Outer Continental Shelf Energy Hearing," held at the Atlantic City Convention Center, April 6. (See full details on page 4.)

A couple of weeks later, ALO held its annual Earth Day clean up. An estimated 1,018 pounds of garbage were collected from six sites up and down the Island and on the causeway.

Next came a reorganized headquarters and newly dubbed "green room." In our own efforts to create a more environmentally friendly office and to better promote new platforms, the retail and education committees reevaluated our product selection and educational materials.

Many items for sale have been replaced with greener offerings that will enable our consumers to

become greener as well. One of ALO's new and ongoing campaigns is the reduction of the use of plastic – a huge threat to the environment. In keeping with this idea, we now offer tote bags and re-useable water bottles for sale at the office. "These are just a few changes we were able to make this year. This is an ongoing effort," said board member and retail committee chair, Kellie Karolkiewicz.

The table top display ALO uses at various events was deemed outdated as environmental awareness has evolved so rapidly over the past few years and because ALO is focusing on new issues that are not reflected in current materials.

Summer intern Courtney Sexton stepped up and created a compelling PowerPoint presentation that effectively illustrates the problems caused by the overuse of plastics. The public was very drawn to this

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Letter From The President

Dear Friends and Members,

Post-Chowderfest begins the quieter season on LBI. Speed limits are increased; traffic lights are turned off; and many of the businesses shut down. But the Alliance for a Living Ocean is extremely busy this time of year. What are we doing? We're getting ready for next summer. . . putting all the pieces together so that we can bring another slew of weekly environmentally-themed programs to locals and visitors alike. Environmental activism doesn't get time off, and there's no vacation from pollution. We also stay on top of the issues important to the Island environment. Some things to consider this winter:

Nitrogen pollution is killing our bay. It's a fact. What can you do about it? Explore and identify alternate fertilizer options for your spring gardening. We discourage the use of nitrogen fertilizers. There are several more effective and environmentally-friendly ways to keep your lawn green. The best way to fertilize a lawn is by not removing the vital chemicals from it in the first place. When clippings are bagged, the nitrogen and other elements in them are no longer available to nourish future growth. This is why nitrogen fertilizer is seen as needed.

Use mulching mowers to leave finely cut clippings on the lawn. You can compost clippings if you don't want to leave them on lawn. This enables the clippings to break down into a form that can be used as a natural fertilizer in gardens or even on the lawn itself.

One alternative to nitrogen fertilizer is the application of lime to change the pH of the soil. Soil that is too acidic will inhibit the growth of healthy grass. Lime decreases the acidity of the soil (and raises the pH). The application of lime is not harmful to the environment.

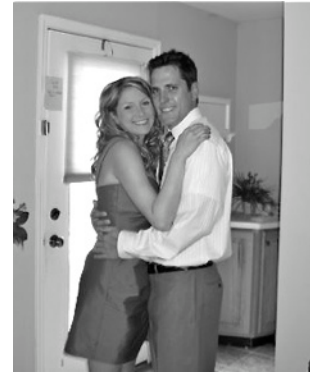
Another alternative to nitrogen is the application of iron pellets. By increasing the iron content in the soil, the green color of the grass also is increased. Iron, like lime, is a naturally occurring substance and will not harm the environment. (See more on page 3.)

There is a huge amount of garbage, literally **thousands of pieces of plastic** alone, that washes up on our beaches after every significant storm event. We know, we've picked them up, spent the whole day doing it, only to find just as much the next week in the same place. Google "*combined sewer overflow*" (CSO) and be amazed by the results. On many occasions this year, our Island has been the recipient of an onslaught of debris, including home use syringes, which most likely originated from the NY/NJ metropolitan area. We plan on starting a campaign against this type of pollution, but we need your support, which brings me to my next point. (See more on page 4.)

Please contribute to our *end-of-the-year* campaign. We simply cannot do what we do without contributions and donations from our friends and members. Please help us to keep this Island clean.

Finally a HUGE thanks to everyone who sponsored, volunteered, and attended our seasonal events. Again without you – none of it would be possible!

-Tom Beaty
ALO President



A Generous Gift Born of Marital Bliss

Kristin Neal and Bud Stahler of Ship Bottom are getting married on October 9, 2010.

As a gift to all of their guests they will be purchasing each person a one-year membership to ALO.

"We feel it is so important to support local charities that mean so much to us and Long Beach Island. We are having our ceremony on the beach because of what a gorgeous setting in which we are blessed to live. Thanks to ALO we are working on keeping it that way. Thanks for everything you have done for the Island we live on!" wrote Kristin in a note to ALO.

Kristin and Bud have been volunteers for ALO since Earth Day 2009. In addition, Kristin stepped in as the director's associate this fall, while Executive Director Elizabeth Burke was out of town working on a 3-month professional project.



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LESS NUTRITION, HEALTHIER BAY

Anyone who boated, swam, or fished in Barnegat Bay this season probably complained about the over abundance of “jellyfish.” In particular, why the sudden population explosion of sea nettles – a species that was rarely found en masse off the New Jersey coast until recently? Current bay conditions — classified as eutrophic — cause fish to leave the bay in search of water with more oxygen and food. Fewer predators and competitors for food, plus warmer waters make an ideal habitat for these stinging jellyfish.

What has caused these damaging changes in the Bay? In this case, too much of a good thing is bad. Simply put, Barnegat Bay is being polluted by too much nitrogen. Primarily coming from man-made sources such as emissions from carbon combustion (burning fossil fuel to create electricity, power cars, heat homes, cook food, etc.) and more often from fertilizer, this phenomenon is known as eutrophication.

When fertilizers run off lawns or emissions settle out of the atmosphere, the nitrogen winds up in the waterways (streams, lagoons, rivers) and eventually makes its way into the bay. Too much nitrogen from anthropogenic sources disrupts the entire ecosystem. In a healthy bay, algae and other aquatic species are kept in check by proper quantities of nutrients that limit



their growth. Extra nutrients from human sources allow for massive algae blooms, which clog the water column, blocking sunlight and using all the oxygen. This in turn, harms sensitive species like sea grasses, clams, scallops, blowfish, and gar that are too stressed to be able to grow and reproduce in these conditions.

This is highly preventable and must be reversed before it is too late. Rutgers University estimates that 30% of nitrogen entering Barnegat Bay is directly from fertilizer. ALO is partnering with Save Barnegat Bay to raise awareness about proper fertilizer use. Here are a few tips if you do use a nitrogen-based product:

- Choose slow-release nitrogen (non-water soluble nitrogen) fertilizer
- At most, use fertilizer once in spring and once in fall
- Don't leave fertilizer on impervious surfaces such as sidewalks and driveways
- Don't fertilize when rain is expected within next 24 hours or within 10 feet of a waterway

For a full list of “bay-friendly” ways to fertilize, visit savebarnegatbay.org. Senator Bob Smith (D-17th District) is currently working to draft legislation addressing lawn fertilizer. Save Barnegat Bay and ALO will provide comments to Smith's office on this issue.



Student volunteers Russell Hand of Brick and Kyle Nicholl of Jackson both members of an environmental science class at Ocean County College show the garbage they found on the beach in Surf City during the global InterCoastal Cleanup, Sept. 19. The event was sponsored by Ocean Conservancy and hosted locally by ALO. In place of class that day, they along with 15 other students and Professor Tim Sweeney participated.

THAT DOESN'T BELONG ON THE BEACH!

Harkening back to the late 80s when ALO was founded, LBI experienced some trashy and unwelcome “visitors” on the verge of two major summer holidays – Fourth of July and Labor Day weekends. Intense rain and onshore winds caused a wash up of plastics, home use syringes, and other garbage. Lifeguards, health department officials, and volunteers helped clean the beaches in time for the weekend visitors.

Assemblymen Nelson Albano (D-Cape May) and Matthew Milam (D-Cape May) are attempting to increase the monetary fines for illegal ocean

dumping under proposed measure A-3271. The bill passed the Assembly and awaits a Senate floor vote. ALO supports strict enforcement and prosecuting of environmental criminal acts, but does not believe this measure will alleviate garbage wash ups. In fact, the garbage is likely reaching N.J. beaches from the north where many larger cities (in particular New York City) have old sewer infrastructures that combine sewer wastewater with storm water.

The only action currently in place to prevent this, according to the EPA's Floatables Action Plan (FAP), is that the Army Corps of Engineers conducts flyovers to spot garbage slicks in the N.Y./N.J. harbor complex. If one is found, skimmer boats retrieve the debris before it escapes the harbor. But, if poor weather inhibits flyovers, as it did this summer, the garbage can escape.

Off-shore wind conditions moved the floating debris (floatables) onto the LBI coastline creating a hazard to beach goers. Tom Beaty, ALO President, said "New Jersey beaches, including LBI, bear the burden of trash escaping the N.Y./N.J. harbor complex. Communities lose revenue through less visitors because of dirty beaches."

The FAP relies heavily on surveillance, utilizing helicopters, booms, and boats to pick up trash after it enters the harbor, which is retroactive and not fail safe. According to ALO, the FAP should also focus on infrastructure improvements such as increasing capacity of sewers to prevent overflow and catching floatables as they enter the water. Under the FAP, New Jersey requires municipalities with combined sewer systems to have a bar screen to catch and remove solids and floatables. However, "New York needs to get on board and make this a requirement as well," said Kelly Quinlan, chair of ALO's Issues and Legislation Committee. "Until these improvements are made, LBI will continue to be at risk for wash ups of northern New Jersey and New York garbage." ALO will be asking legislators to update the FAP so New York's floatables will be stopped at the source. This is a huge undertaking in a time where infrastructure budgets are extremely limited.

Local action is critical too. Keeping storm drains clear of debris and keeping the lid on garbage containers are just a start. Join ALO's "Adopt-a-Storm Drain" program. It's easy. For details stop by or call the office.

NO DRILLING ON OUR COASTS

Before President Bush left office, he allowed a 26-year moratorium on oil and gas drilling on the East Coast to lapse. This spring, at the request of President Obama, the Department of the Interior held open meetings to get public opinions about the future of offshore energy.

Along with concerned citizens and other non-profits, on April 6, ALO spoke out in support of renewable energy at the only East Coast hearing held at the Atlantic City convention center.

ALO President Tom Beaty testified, "Fossil fuel exploration and the minimal energy relief it might bring is not worth the risk, and an oil spill would destroy our economy worse than what an energy crisis might bring."

"We want clean beaches and clean energy, both of these are vital to our coastal economy," said ALO board member and chair of the issues and legislation committee Kelly Quinlan in her testimony. "As stated in the Draft Proposed Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program (DPP) 2010-2015, it will take an estimated 5 to 10 years for production to actually occur. Instead, in this timeframe, we should invest and develop renewable, sustainable energy resources. The funds seismic testing would require [to be spent] should instead be used to invest in clean, renewable energy."

Three other public meetings were held in April in New Orleans, Los Angeles, and Alaska, while written comments were accepted until September 21, after which Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar said "I heard broad agreement that we must confront our dangerous dependence on foreign oil, build a clean energy future, and make wise use of the limited resources we have while protecting our land, water, and wildlife."

Of late, opponents to drilling have won a few battles. According to a press release from U.S. Senator Robert Menendez' (D-NJ), on September 23 he spearheaded an effort that blocked an attempt by Senator David Vitter (R-LA) to pave the way for coastline drilling.

Menendez, working with Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL), led the Senate in a 56-42 vote against Vitter's attempt. Menendez also is the sponsor of the COAST Act to permanently ban drilling along the Atlantic coast from North Carolina to Maine.

In other progress, Fisherman's Energy, a community-based offshore wind developer made up of a consortium of East Coast fishing companies, completed a first phase assessment and began a second phase. The company already has a lease at The Port of Paulsboro. "This is still only the beginning. Until there is a law in place banning offshore drilling on our coast, there is always a chance another bill will get through," said Quinlan.

A LOOK BACK continued

at the different outside events ALO took part in over the summer. It also was used during several presentations ALO gave to students.

Kelly Quinlan, board member and chair of the issues and legislation committee and the education committee commented, "Revising our collateral will be a top priority this off season and the plastics presentation gave us a great starting point."

Speaking of plastics, the Earth Day cleanup also marked the beginning of ALO's bottle cap collection effort. The rigid plastic used for most bottle caps is not recyclable. This includes caps that twist on with a threaded neck such as caps on shampoo, water, soda, milk, and other beverage bottles, flip top caps on tubes and food product bottles (such as ketchup and mayonnaise), laundry detergents, and some jar lids such as peanut butter.

ALO's Executive Director, Elizabeth Burke, discovered the "Recycle Caps with Aveda" program and put the word out. (Aveda is a leading beauty company that has an environmental sustainability policy built into its mission.) The company repurposes the caps into new packaging for its products. ALO's result has been overwhelming as is evident when you walk into the office and see boxes and boxes and boxes of caps.

"At this point, I have lost count!" said Burke. "Our two cleanup days alone [Earth Day and the International Coastal Cleanup], yielded almost 1,800 caps." An official count will be released once calculated, but collection is ongoing.

The rest of the season was filled with table events such as Long Beach Island Foundation's Barnegat Bay Day and the Southern Ocean County Chamber of Commerce's Merchant Mart, summer programs, and two larger fundraisers. A recap follows.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

Perhaps the most exciting time to be involved with ALO is during the summer months as the Island is bustling with visitors and natives, and ALO's weekly educational programs are in full swing. This summer saw record attendance at many events, and thanks to several dedicated volunteers, fun and learning abounded.

Under the expert supervision of ALO's resident naturalist, Kevin Knutsen, the "Sea Critter Round-Up" seining program was a huge success. Kevin has

volunteered for environmental causes such as the Marine Mammal Stranding Center and the National Audubon Society; and he served as naturalist in Seaside Park conducting educational kayak tours of Sedge Island.

With an average of 65 participants weekly, seining days provided a great opportunity for many families to learn more about local sea life. Second to seining in popularity was the puppet theater program. Also held weekly and sometimes biweekly, this year's puppet theater, which featured a new stage with re-written scripts (and, of course, ALO's mascot Aloysious the Dolphin), drew many new and returning audience members to each showing.

The "Hands on the Bay" nature walk program encouraged participants to get an up-and-close look at local flora and fauna. A guided marsh walk coupled with a seining session provided a comprehensive understanding of LBI's coastal environment.

Since the traditional bus ride Island eco-tours proved fruitless this year, new and more environmentally-friendly ideas for next year's tours are already in the works.

UNITHON

The annual LBI Unithon, held this year on June 6, began 11 years ago when Bridget Sproul (an ecologically



minded summer visitor and ALO fan) and her friend rode their unicycles the 18+ mile length of the Island to call attention to ALO's work. Thereafter, interest grew and this year 20 riders participated. According to the Unithon facebook page, "Riders from past Unithons have come from as far away as Germany, have been as young as 9 and as old as 50+." All proceeds from registration

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A LOOK BACK continued

benefited ALO, along with pledges that many riders solicit on their own to support the organization.

The event has been run by Raphael Lasar for the last three years; Raphael is a long-time Unithon participant who broke his leg and is now unable to ride. Rather than bow out, he generously agreed to handle all logistics including maintaining a Web site and facebook page, to promote the ride. His friend, Alan Hollowell - a Unithon rider as well - generously donated the design and the t-shirts through his business, AJH Designs Screen Printing of Mount Holly.

ALO volunteers provided transportation back to Holgate once the race was over, secured food and beverage donations, and manned snack stations.

Ravioli & More of Ship Bottom once again stepped up and donated half the pizzas for the lunch. Costco of Manahawkin provided the water. In addition, the Long Beach Township Police department guided the riders on a safe route. This unique event is always a spectacle. Close to \$1,000 was raised for ALO. The 12th annual LBI Unithon is slated for June 5, 2010.

CASEANO NIGHT

Texas Hold 'em is now the featured event at the World Series of Poker. This year almost 6,500 people paid the \$10,000 entry fee for a chance to play.

ALO didn't quite have such a crowd or entry fee at its premier Texas Hold 'em and CaSEAno night fundraiser on August 6 at the Beach Haven Fire House, but those who did attend played hard and had lots of fun.

Sixty people played Texas Hold 'em for a chance to win the first prize of a \$2,500 Visa gift card, and dozens more played traditional casino games for the chance to win first prize of a \$1,000 Visa gift card, plus other tricky tray prizes.

Pearl Street Market catered resoundingly delicious food. Thanks to the Beach Haven Fire Department for donating the space and to table and prize sponsors: Between The Sheets, Black Whale Cruises, Blue Water Café, Boathouse, Captain's Quarters Bait and Tackle, Fresh Cuts, Gross & Company CPA, Haymarket, Hawkin' Deli, Holgate Marina, Island Arts, Morrison's, Pinziminio, Reggco, Sun Dog, Stevens Realty, and Undertoe.

LONGBOARD SURF CONTEST

On Sunday August 30th, ALO hosted the first-ever LBI Longboard Classic. This vintage-style surf contest and beach concert featured old school longboards and a surf instrumental band right on the beach. Everyone

was "stoked" to be there and join what will hopefully become an annual event.

Longboards had to be three feet taller than the rider with no leashes or modifications. Tom Beaty, president of ALO and owner of Wooden Jetty Surf Shop of Beach Haven, produced the event and noted that the event aligned well with the mission of the organization as it seeks to preserve the pristine conditions so long associated with LBI.

Mother Nature rewarded ALO for its activism by delivering head high waves and super clean conditions for the contest. Almost \$1,200 was raised for the group.

Winners for the day were: men- 1. Tucker McGrath,



2. Billy Webster, and 3. RJ Hanson; women- 1. Alexis Brook, 2. Elizabeth Burke, and 3. Kristin Neal; kids – 1. Kevin Budd and 2. Luke Mutterer; and tandem – Kevin Budd and Luke Mutterer.

A special thanks goes to Ric Anastasi for emceeing and helping to organize the event; to the judges Anthony and Mike McCurio, Ken Gallant, and Sean Kelly; also to Don Myers of the Long Beach Township Beach Patrol for lending the P/A system; Don Kartan, Billy DeWitt, and Randy Budd for their help with the tent setup and tear down; and to ALO's dedicated volunteers. Beaty said, "Huge props go to the Diamondheads, who rocked the beach right up until the high tide was about to wash over the stage."

Sponsors of the day gave generously and include: LBI Trailer Park and Shore Homes, Pusta Del Sol Surf Team, LBI Coastal Cleaning, Fantasy Island Amusement Park, Tom and Nicola Dalglish, Allen Whipple, Kenny's Spirited Eatery, Lorry's Island End Motel, Bowker's South End Deli, Lily in the Valley Florist, Dan's Garden Auto Techs, Sunglass Menagerie, Country Kettle Fudge and Chowda, Bryan's Mobile Home Repair, theSurfersView.com, Oakley, and the Wooden Jetty Surf Shop.

LOCAL BUSINESSES JOIN ALO - WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Bagels & Beyond
Bay Village
The Beach House Restaurant
Country Kettle Chowda
Country Kettle Fudge
Dock Road Crab Shack
Estray
Farias Surf & Sport
Fisheads
For Shore Weed Control
Greenhouse Cafe
Harvey Cedars Shellfish Co.
How To Live
Island Child
Islander Motel

Ives Five Seasons, Inc
The Kelley Agency
Lucid Graphic
M&M Steam Bar Corp
Morrison's Seafood Inc.
Neptune Wines & Liquors
Parker Foundation
Precious Pets Grooming Salon
Quality Tire & Muffler Inc
Rommel's Liquor Store
Seaspray Service
Sportsman's Marina
Swell Colors
The Sandpaper
Township of Stafford
W.B. Grant Agency Inc.

Goodbye Summer!



The unofficial end of summer on LBI is always Chowderfest weekend, held this year on October 3 and 4. Above, ALO volunteers Kelly Quinlan and Kellie Karolkiewicz man the busy tent at Merchant's Mart.

Stay In Touch

Are you a friend of ALO? Join us on **facebook** to follow the latest events and issues in the off season.

Do you shop online?

Remember ALO this holiday season when you do your online shopping. You can raise money for the organization and *it won't cost you a thing!* Simply log onto **igive.com** and choose ALO as your charity of choice. When you shop through this portal at its 1,000s of your favorite stores, a percentage of your purchase goes to ALO.

Need a tax break?

As you tally up your yearly donations, don't forget ALO is a 501c3 and any contribution you make is fully tax deductible. Why give it to Uncle Sam when you can help keep LBI clean?! Donating is easy through PayPal when visiting www.livingocean.org

Love a parade?

Cheer on ALO and your other favorite local groups and businesses at the 30th annual Ship Bottom Christmas parade, December 5, 1 p.m.

Where does the money go?

- Beach clean ups
- "Adopt-a-Beach" & "Adopt -A-Storm Drain"
- Educational public summer programs
- Educational outreach to local schools
- Evolving our "green room"
- Expanding our membership and volunteer bases
- Development and support of headquarters through our Executive Director
- Helping us fight harmful environmental proposals
- Helping us support positive legislative changes



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