

Clean Ocean Action Beach Sweep



Sun by-the-sea contributing writer, Jessica Westerland (far right), Captain of Poplar Ave. Beach Sweep for Clean Ocean Action in NJ poses with students from Wildwood High, who volunteered their time on October 23, 2010. **Congratulations to Jessie Westerland & Kyle Mumford (pictured next to Jess) who were engaged on February 21, 2011 ♥**

The Fall 2010 beach sweep had a great turnout and made a great conclusion to Clean Ocean Action's 25th year of beach sweeps.

The top items found were: Straws=395 Caps/Lids= 283 Beverage/Soda bottles= 215 and Cigarette filters= 197

Of the 99 categories of trash listed on the cards, only 11 items were not found on Wildwood's beach. The oddest things found were a rubber mat from a waterpark, a beach chair, a traffic cone, and a car panel.

There were approximately 80 volunteers, who collected 45 trash bags of items. There were local couples, families, and students from Wildwood High School (Peer Leaders and ROOTS groups) All together, we collected approximately 3,453 pieces of trash! A big thanks to all the people who made it possible, and for such lovely weather!

Hope to see you on Poplar Ave. beach bright and early April 23rd!

When people think about Wildwood, most people picture the boardwalk, free beaches, and the night life. The one thing people don't realize is that as wonderful as the boardwalk is, its close proximity to the beach also means a lot more trash and debris end up on the sands and in the water. For this reason, the Wildwood beach sweep is especially important, so we can help keep the beaches clean for many more great memories to be made.

Wildwood has a large population in the summer, but during the rest of the seasons there are mostly only locals on the island. To see groups of locals come out to help their home, to help keep the environment that they enjoy everyday clean, makes me really proud.

This past fall, out of the 94 different items listed on the trash item score cards, only 8 items were not found on our beach. It is shocking to realize how many different types of trash are found just within several blocks. When you think about how many different ways that trash can harm the balance of the sea and the creatures within it, it really lends a sense of importance to picking up trash off of the beach.

It truly is the volunteers that make the beach sweep successful, and I am so thankful for everyone that comes out and helps keep Wildwood's beaches beautiful and safe for marine life! ~Jessica Westerland

Save the Date!
Spring Beach Sweep
April 30, 2011
9:00 - 12:30



"If everyone just changes a few everyday habits, they can help make their environment a better one. Being "Green" and "eco-friendly" doesn't have to be scary and take over your life. It can just be a small part of your life. The sea will thank you for it. Like E. E. Cummings said, 'It is always ourselves we find in the sea.'"

P.S. High Schoolers gain Community Service hours at Beach Sweeps!

Visit Jessie's Blog:
www.greenwithoutthescene.wordpress.com