



The Ocean City Surfrider Foundation

The Ocean City Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation was formed to heighten the awareness of our residents and visitors for our fragile and beautiful environment. And through its initiatives, enhance and safeguard when and wherever possible our waves, dunes and beaches for the enjoyment of all- present and future.

Initiatives for the 2006 Season



HOLD ON TO YOUR BUTTS

“clean beaches through good habits” The popularity of this effort continues to grow, as evidenced in bumper stickers. From local shops and Assateague State Park this “clean sand” effort will hopefully spread to beach vendors.



ADOPT YOUR BEACH

For our 6th year, the Chapter is continuing its “pet” project—surf site stewardship. The partnership of SRF volunteers with resident groups and condo association includes not only regular beach/dune cleanups but also development of indigenous plants and dune grasses. The blue pet waste bag dispensers and crossover trash cans have become a familiar sight in some areas. This opportunity is open to any interested group.



LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS

The newest of SRF initiatives may have the largest visual impact of any effort thus far; even beyond the environmental car bumper stickers. The 2006 beach season will find “please leave only your footprints” stenciled on the blue trash barrels along the entire 10+ miles of Ocean City beach. With the cooperation of the Town of OC Public Works and approval of the Mayor and City Council, surfrider volunteers, SDHS students and SU “greeks” spent several Saturdays this spring painting the 500 barrels with this message.

This only the 1st installment in the Chapter’s 5-year plan focused on this beach-goer- specific initiative.



HA’AWI HO’IHI- LOA’A HO’IHI”

“give respect-get respect”- The surf etiquette initiative, though possibly universal, is directed to boarders. With clean water, pristine beaches, and easy access to our beaches, our final hurdle will be our interaction in the surf-zone.

Local “surfriders” hope to impart this...

“code of conduct” and pass on good in-water habits. As the popularity of our sport grows, so do the crowded conditions and numbers in the line-up and proper conduct will enable all to enjoy their ocean experience.



RESPECT THE BEACH

Awareness and education are the common threads tying all Chapter initiatives together. Our activities involve as many and as diverse a collection of participants as possible. The on-going relationships with Salisbury University and Stephen Decatur High School are vital parts of this expanding program. We are pleased to continue our in season weekly sessions with the Assateague State Lifeguards and the Ocean City Beach Patrol Junior's program. Our year-round service learning projects enable area students to not only fulfill their graduation requirements but also heighten our community's environmental needs. We hope more educators will take advantage of our enthusiasm for student involvement.



SCHOLARSHIPS

In 2005 The Chapter offered its 1st scholarship for graduating area students- a \$1000 - the CLEAN WATER SCHOLARSHIP- furthering their education in related environmental studies. To further that end, the “oc legends” will be awarding (3) \$1000 scholarships to avid ocean-water sports locals who will be attending institutions of higher learning in the coming fall.



ALOHA GARDEN & NORTHSIDE CLEANSWEEP

The 1st Chapter community effort (2000) engaged volunteers in wetlands cleaning along the 125th Athletic Complex adjacent to the Montego Bay Community. By removing accumulated trash and debris, SRF hoped to help minimize the odors associated with the marshy area. Shortly there after, this initiative grew to wetlands protection and enhancement, in the form of a vegetated wetlands buffer. The” Aloha Garden” not only adds color to the Athletic Complex, but also inhibits intrusion into the large northern bay wetland area.