

Coastal Cleanup  
October 2, 2010

By: Cathy Zimmermann, Beach Captain

- We would like to thank our Mayor, Pat Irving, and the all of Asharoken Trustees, who for the first time, appointed me Beach Captain and Deb Masterson, Co-Captain of the Annual Coastal Cleanup
- Thank you, Mayor, for signing the *huge stack* of Community Service Award Certificates that the young volunteers anxiously and excitedly received with heartfelt, beaming pride. Being there during the cleanup meant a lot to Deb and me -- along with the nearly 300 volunteers who come out the help get rid of the pollution affecting the shoreline, animals, birds and sea life.
- We would also like to thank the Asharoken Police Department and the Police Commissioner, Pete Masterson, with the help of Ken Savin, who *efficiently, graciously and tirelessly* directed & *escorted* the volumes of both the pedestrian traffic and vehicle traffic throughout the entire day -- *cheerfully*.
- Thank you to Barry Bradley who diligently came out and compacted the 2,738 pounds of collected shoreline trash in the Asharoken Garbage truck several times during the day,
- Thank you to David Pistacchio, our neighbor, who *delightfully* weighed the bags upon bags of 2,738 pounds of debris collected on the beach all day long.
- Thank you to Lou Copertino, my Dad, who purchased & donated supplies, along with my mom, Catherine Copertino, who both stayed up until midnight addressing envelopes. We'd also like to thank my Mom, Catherine Copertino, along with Cindy Prince & Caryn Burns who artfully & even used calligraphy -- hand wrote each of the volunteers names on their Award Certificates throughout the day of the Coastal Cleanup
- We would also like to thank the U.S. Coast Guard and Homeland Security for the special permission granted us for the volunteers to access the beaches through the lighthouse property.
- Thank you to Emilie Haridopolos, a senior at Northport High School and Marine Biology Major – for efficiently, politely and with the sweetest smile -- handing out the gloves, trash bags and data cards to the volunteers. She also spread the word at the high school to anyone who wanted to help clean the shoreline of pollution.
- I especially would like to thank my Co-Captain, Deb Masterson, for her enthusiasm and brilliance in planning this project. For the weeks we spent together researching the animals and sea life together. For her courage & confidence while we addressed the 1,000 middle school students in the Northport and E.Northport middle schools... and for contributing her own funds to print the flyers, posters, award certificates and maps along with the refreshments for the volunteers.
- Now, I'd like to give the floor to my Co-Captain, Deb Masterson...