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Margo Pellegrino Earns Cleanup Award from the New Jersey Clean Communities Council

MEDFORD LAKES – July 07, 2016 – Margo Pellegrino has received the “Stewardship of Public Lands Cleanup Award” from the New Jersey Clean Communities Council (NJCCC) for her clean water paddling.

On August 13, 2014, Pellegrino started her nine-day journey, paddling from Trenton to Newark in a kayak. Along the way she collected water samples for pollution testing and raised awareness of water contamination in New Jersey.

Pellegrino is a Seaweed Rebel and Ocean Explorer for Blue Frontier Campaign, an organization that encourages community members to help clean and protect national coast lines. She is currently undertaking a project for Blue Frontier campaign with her 2014-2016 paddle from New York to Chicago raising awareness for the “clean water and healthy ocean” message regarding inland waterways.

Last summer, Pellegrino paddled an outrigger canoe 1,500 miles from New York to Chicago, the first leg of her two-part journey to New Orleans. Her paddle was focused on educating people about the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Clean Water Rules that are designed to protect waters throughout the United States and their affects on our rivers and downstream ocean.

Pellegrino is paddling the second leg of her journey this August for healthier rivers, bays, and oceans. She is going to be making her way down the Sanitary Canal, the Illinois River, the Mississippi River, up the Ohio and Tennessee rivers into the Kentucky Lake, and into the Ten-Tom Waterway to Mobile Bay to finish in West New Orleans.

“I paddle to get people thinking, talking about, and taking needed action to protect our nation’s waterways,” said Pellegrino.

“We are proud of Margo’s unbelievable hard work and dedication to make our fresh waters cleaner and safer,” said NJCCC Executive Director Sandy Huber. “She saw the pollution in our local waters and decided to do something about it.”

NJCCC is a comprehensive, statewide litter-abatement program that has served New Jersey residents and visitors for more than 25 years. Learn more at njclean.org.

You can also read more about Margo's paddling adventures, including her trip from New York to New Orleans, at <https://paddle4blue.wordpress.com/>

PHOTO CAPTION: From left to right: Fresh water paddler Margo Pellegrino accepts the "Stewardship of Public Lands Cleanup" Award from NJCCC President Patrick Ryan.

