

RING LEADER REPORTER



HI-CONE & RING LEADER VOLUNTEERS ‘SWEEP’ OSTERMAN BEACH

As part of its ongoing support for environmental causes, Hi-Cone and Ringleader has worked with the Alliance for the Great Lakes for nearly 20 years to enhance awareness about preserving and protecting some 1,700 miles of Lake Michigan’s shoreline.

Every year, Hi-Cone participates in the organization’s Coastal Cleanup, an effort for which groups of volunteers work on the lake’s beaches collecting accumulated debris. After the clean-ups, the trash is analyzed to identify major sources of litter and to support more informed public policy. “Adopt-a-Beach” volunteers and sponsors are individuals, schools, companies and community groups.

Hi-Cone employees donated their time on a beautiful September Saturday at Osterman Beach on Chicago’s north lake front. As usual, Hi-Cone volunteers were joined by Ill. Rep. Harry Osterman, for whose mother, Kathy, the beach is named. Seventeen ITW employees worked with more than 120 students from Chicago’s Senn and Notre Dame high schools to pick up trash on the beach.

“We were excited to see Gov. Quinn at the clean-up and appreciate his taking time to convey support for the Adopt a Beach program and encourage more Illinois residents to get involved,” said Hi-Cone’s Matt Hayden.

As in past years, cigarette butts accounted for the majority of beach litter. About 5,500 butts were scooped up by the volunteers. According to the Alliance, discarded cigarette butts contain cadmium, lead, arsenic and other chemicals that seep into the waterways.

Conversely, six-pack rings are a negligible amount of trash found on the beaches during the Cleanup. “We believe Hi-Cone’s Ring Leader recycling program is helping to reduce litter by fostering proper disposal of the plastic rings,” said Hayden.

Part of the world’s largest shoreline cleanup, the September Adopt-a- Beach event coincides with the Ocean Conservancy’s International Coastal Cleanup. The Alliance draws more than 1,500 volunteers every year who remove some 7,300 pounds of trash from 27 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline. During the Ocean Conservancy’s 2008 Cleanup, nearly 400,000 volunteers removed 6.8 million pounds of debris from 6,485 sites in 100 countries.