

# THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

[litterpreventionprogram.com](http://litterpreventionprogram.com)

March 3, 2019

Scientists are able to make organic plastic from a protein found in squid teeth. In a laboratory, they replicate the protein's design. No need to capture, injure or kill squid in the process.



## Squid science = alternative to plastic

The squid's ability to manufacture a strong, flexible and elastic, silk-like substance in its mouth to wrap and anchor its food has led scientists to discover a natural alternative to plastic that could reduce and prevent ocean pollution. A team at Pennsylvania State University manufactured a protein in the lab that mimics the protein found in squids' teeth, which enables the creature to produce the unique substance. Through genetic engineering, the material can be produced without the need for any real squid.

## Canada's litter monitoring project

Sable Island Institute and Parks Canada have formalized a partnership for monitoring litter on the island, a 42-km protected area located 175 km southeast of Nova Scotia. Any litter found on Sable Island shores comes directly from the ocean, giving researchers a healthy and unvarnished sampling. The information gleaned will help inform the Institute on the design of education and citizen science programs. Having a federal partner means the Institute can now ramp up its efforts to regularly monitor, identify, count and catalogue and make the data more widely accessible. Ultimately, they would like their detective work of tracing the origin of the items wherever in the world that might be to lead to measures taken at the source to reduce the risk of ocean litter happening at all.

## DID YOU KNOW?

In Georgia, a proud Brunswick-Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce is getting set to unveil its sixth and final litter-stuffed sculpture on March 13 as part of the 2019 "Marsh Madness" cleanup campaign. [Dolphin Litter Sculpture Installation](#) will take place at Neptune Park, St. Simons Island.

## Festival drops plastic bottles

Glastonbury Festival won't be selling water in plastic bottles anymore, starting with its 2019 summer music extravaganza. The extreme mess left behind at the festival site on Worthy Farm in southwest England in past years blemished the event. Organizers made the move this year in a bid to reduce the litter. They are telling fans to bring reusable bottles and refill them for free on site. The festival [website](#) lists what not to bring: glass, excess packaging, sky lanterns, wipes, glitter nor "too much stuff so you can't take it home again". Environmentalists see this as a first step only.

## Happy Clean Up Australia Day

By the time our Australian friends read this, the 30th annual [Clean Up Australia Day](#) is over. A thumbs-up to all who helped. According to a recent survey pumped out ahead of March 3rd, two-thirds (69%) of the 1,000 Australians surveyed said they would report someone they saw commit an act of littering in a national park.

## HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (FEB 24 - MAR 3)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

### **Philly getting 100 more eyes on dumping** [\(2/28\)](#)

By the end of the year, Philadelphia will have 100 new motion-detecting, night-vision, swivel, zoom cameras in place to scan for acts of dumping, another step in trying to shake its "Filthadelphia" image. Fifty of the \$4,000 cameras will be in place by the spring.

### **Keep America Beautiful opens grant process** [\(2/27\)](#)

The race is on for funds from Keep America Beautiful's purse for the Cigarette Litter Prevention Program. Communities have until March 29 to apply for a share of \$300,000+. Successful applicants agree to follow the agency's prescribed methods for cutting down butt litter.

### **South Carolina legislator duke it out** [\(2/27\)](#)

Camps are divided in the South Carolina legislation over banning plastic bags. At issue is whether the state will allow local governments to ban the bags. Thirteen cities and counties already have bans in place. A bill backed by retailers, to be debated by a Senate committee, calls for a state override of local ordinances.

### **Contamination fears halt villagers' efforts** [\(2/25\)](#)

On advice from Public Health England, Wiltshire Council has forbidden all litter picking near the Salisbury site of the Novichok nerve agent attack against Sergei Skripal, 67, and his daughter Yulia, 33 last March.