

2016 Quarterly Report, Sept-Oct: Education & Outreach, Becky Laboy, E&O Specialist

Outreach Programs and Events:

- **Sept 11:** WILD EXPO; an estimated **3,500 people attended** on Sunday, 7,000 total 2 days
- **Sept 18:** Monthly program, “Assessing Your Soil Health” canceled due to low registration. This program was combined with October’s program and presented in tandem on Oct 8, instead
- **Oct 1:** FREC Forestry Festival. OCSCD -Jean Baluski- exhibited; an estimated **350 people attended**
- **Oct 8:** Monthly program: “Assessing Your Soil Health” presented by guest presenter Eileen Miller, and “Soil Food Web Gardening” presented by guest presenter Jennifer Krumins. **12 people attended**
- **Oct 20:** Rally for the Navesink, sponsored by the Monmouth County Conservation Foundation, a community education and engagement event designed to bring awareness to stormwater pollution and runoff, the importance of soil health and the importance of native plants in the landscape; becky and Karen Walzer presented the Jersey-Friendly Yards website and completed projects; **55 people attended**

Grants and Projects:

- **From Lawn to Garden – Going Green, Saving Green:** Monitored the completed gardens at the 3 locations: Toms River, Brick and Jackson. Lost only one plant in Brick, otherwise the 3 gardens are showing 100% plant survival rate, they look beautiful! Compiled Case Studies for each garden and completed Report for Barnegat Bay Partnership on Oct 4.
- Waiting to hear back from DEP regarding submitted proposal: **Jersey-Friendly Yards in the Metedeconk River Watershed** - a community engagement and education initiative designed to increase awareness and prevention of water quality impacts due to non-point source pollution from stormwater runoff, and improve resiliency from storm events in the Metedeconk River Watershed.
- Anticipate writing and submitting a proposal to Barnegat Bay Partnership for the 2017 CEC grant. Proposal will be a continuation of the installation of Jersey-Friendly Yards gardens in partnership with OceanFirst, and Becky will continue educating about the JFY website and the importance of building your garden on a foundation of healthy soil.
- Offering support to Visitation Relief Center as they implement their BIP “Beneficial Indigenous Plants” program, a project funded by BBP. Becky presented an hour long soil program component as part of their workshop series designed to educate the community about native plants and the Jersey-Friendly Yards website.
- Annual Poster Contest: theme has been announced, “**Healthy Soils are Full of Life**”; promoting through Constant Contact

SHIP Gardens:

- Becky will be teaming up with Jakes Branch County Park staff to draft a plan to manage the gardens in 2017.

Volunteers:

Rita Varneke continues to volunteer on a regular basis on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30-1:00pm to help organize the filing cabinets. She assisted with the implementation of the OceanFirst gardens, with the facilitation of the October monthly program, and with the NPSNJ Conference exhibit.

Mike Gerrity, in the position of Rutgers Environmental Steward “in-training”, assisted with the implementation of the OceanFirst gardens. He has now completed his Project Report and was awarded his Rutgers Environmental Steward certification on Nov 9th.

Website:

Becky is continuing to update the OCSCD website - Education & Outreach pages, adding (and cataloging) photos, organizing pages for easy access to information.

Professional Development:

- Aug 31: An Overview of NRCS’s PLANTS Database and Website – Part 1; through USDA Science and Technology Training Library; this website was used as a primary resource for the JFY website

- Sept 13: Soil Health Impacts on Pest Management; through USDA Science and Technology Training Library
- Sept 28: An Overview of NRCS's PLANTS Database and Website – Part 2; through USDA Science and Technology Training Library; this website was used as a primary resource for the JFY website
- Sept 30: Soil and Water Conservation Society sponsored Xerces Workshop at Pinelands Nursery
- Oct 17: Project WET workshop

Planning Ahead, 2016:

Programs and Events:

November:

- 19th: OceanFirst monthly education program: "Turtle Gardens – Creating Native Habitat Along Jersey Shore Backyards" with guest presenter Dr. John Wnek; **10 people registered**

December:

- 4th: OceanFirst monthly education program: "Matching Your Garden to Your Soil" with guest presenter Fred Schoenagel
- 6th: Soil program for BTES Potter Creek Crusaders

Planning Ahead, 2017:

Programs and Events:

Jan:

- January: Poster Contest theme: "Healthy Soils Are Full of Life".
- January 14: (tentative) Monthly Education Program Series at Jakes Branch County Park: "*Planning for your Jersey-Friendly Garden*", with Karen Walzer of BBP.
- January 20: ANJEE Conference, presenting: "*Planning for your Jersey-Friendly Garden*", with Karen Walzer of BBP.
- January 24: Partnership for the Delaware Estuary Biennial Conference, co-presenting *Jersey-Friendly Yards* with Karen Walzer of BBP. <http://www.delawareestuary.org/Summit>

Feb:

- February 8: "Create a Jersey-Friendly Yard" presented by Becky Laboy and Karen Walzer of BBP for the Tuckerton Seaport/JCNERR, *Lunch N Learn* program series.
- February 25: (tentative) Monthly Educational Program Series at Jakes Branch County Park: "*Healthy Soil is for the Birds*", presented by Becky Laboy.
- February 27: Soil program for Toms River Intermediate South Environmental Club

March:

- March 11: Pinelands Short Course

April:

- April 19: OCSCD's 20th Annual Barnegat Bay Environmental Educators Roundtable. This year's theme: "Re-Discovering Barnegat Bay".

May:

- May 13: Envirothon

June:

- June 4: Barnegat Bay Festival

July:

August:

September:

- September 29: ANJEE Fall Conference

October:

- October 7: FREC Forestry Festival