

## 2017 Jan-Feb, Quarterly Report, Education & Outreach, Becky Laboy, E&O Specialist

### Outreach Programs, Conferences and Events:

- January 20: **ANJEE** (Alliance for New Jersey Environmental Education) 2017 Annual Conference. Presented a 1 hour workshop: "**Jersey-Friendly Yards: Inspiration for Environmentally Friendly Gardening**"; Co-presented with Karen Walzer, BBP. **25 participants**.
- January 24: **Delaware Estuary Science & Environmental Summit** Bi-annual Conference; Presented "Jersey-Friendly Yards program with Karen Walzer. **35 participants**
- February 2: **Rutgers Garden Series** Presented "Soils", one of a series of 4 programs offered by various instructors through Rutgers OC Ag Extension. **19 participants**
- February 27: Outreach program for Toms River South Intermediate Afterschool Environmental Club. **17 students**
- March 7: Outreach program for Berkeley Township Elementary School – Potters Creek Crusaders Afterschool Club. **16 students**
- March 11: **Pinelands Short Course**; exhibited and presented "**Jersey Soil**" program; **56 participants attended**.

### Anticipated Outreach Events:

- March 17: New Jersey Conservation Association Land Rally, theme: *Healthy Land and Healthy Water*; presenting **Landscaping for Healthy Land and Healthy Water**: Promoting Jersey-Friendly Yards, an easy-to-use, online source of information about how to landscape for a healthy environment in New Jersey.
- March 18: **Native Plant Society of New Jersey** Spring Conference, Medford Leas, Medford. OCSCD will exhibit a Soil Health table display and share literature about soil health and JFY.

### Grants and Projects:

- **From Lawn to Garden – Going Green, Saving Green**: Submitted the Final Report. (Attached)
- Submitted a proposal to Barnegat Bay Partnership for the 2017 CEC grant, **Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards**. OCSCD was selected for funding for this project: \$10,000! Proposal will be a continuation of the installation of *Jersey-Friendly Yards* gardens in partnership with Cattus Island, Pine beach Environmental Committee and island Heights Library; and Becky will continue educating about the JFY website and the importance of building your garden on a foundation of healthy soil to prevent non-point source pollution.
- Received regrets from NJDEP 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. We were not selected for funding.
- Annual Poster Contest: Received numerous entries for this year's theme: "**Healthy Soils are Full of Life**"; Board will choose Grand Champion Winner, today.

### 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 assists with the Outreach programs and exhibiting.

### Professional Development:

- January 31: Rutgers Volunteer Master Gardeners Training Course: "Botany", presented by Charlene Costaris (3 hrs)
- March 9: Contractors Training workshop at Burlington Soil Conservation District (4 hrs)

### Planning Ahead, 2017:

April:

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

May:

- 13<sup>th</sup>: Envirothon

June:

- 4<sup>th</sup>: Barnegat Bay Festival

July:

August:

September:

- 29<sup>th</sup>: ANJEE Fall Conference

October:

- 7<sup>th</sup>: FREC Forestry Festival