

2016 Quarterly Report, July-August: Education & Outreach, Becky Laboy, E&O Specialist

Outreach Programs and Events:

- **July 30** OceanFirst monthly educational program: “Native Stars of the Summer Garden, Part 1, Outdoor Garden Tour – Rain Garden and Wet Garden”. **5 participants attended**
- **August 3, 17 and 24** BBP’s YMCA Summer Campers program: Participating campers rotated through 3 mini programs including “*Exploring Soil!*” by OCSCD, “*Seining the Toms River*” by BBP and “*Trash in the Bay*” by BEAR. Ages groups: 7-9th, 4th, and 5th. **Serviced 84 youth participants** *Betsy Hyle of BBP videotaped the programs on August 24 with BBP videographer Kirk Jarvis for a series of :30 PSA type videos highlighting science, projects, partners...all with a tag line....because we/I love Barnegat Bay! These can be used anytime on FB...websites...and will be available also for use during Estuaries Week in September. Betsy and Kirk also videotaped Becky at Jakes in the SHIP gardens connecting healthy soil with a healthy Barnegat Bay.
- **August 23** Outreach program for Berkeley Schools BRIDGE Summer School Program, “*Exploring Soil!*”, Grades 1-6th. **Serviced 28 participants**
- **August 28** OceanFirst monthly educational program: “Native Stars of the Summer Garden, Part 2, Outdoor Garden Tour – Butterfly, Sun and Shade Gardens”. **11 participants registered (Program Cancelled.** Due to the poor condition of the SHIP Gardens – additional assistance needed for weeding, watering and general maintenance – this program was cancelled. Becky is reaching out to Jakes Branch Staff to develop a SHIP Gardens Management Plan.)

NENACD Regional Conference:

- **Registration:** Constant Contact Registration Page set-up by Alexia Felice. Becky offered assistance updating and maintaining the Registration page, and offered support to Dennis Dougherty as registrations came in.
- **Name Badges:** OCSCD E&O created the Conference Name Badges and forwarded to D. Dougherty for distribution.
- **Sunday Tour:** OCSCD facilitated the Jakes Branch tour stop, featuring the SHIP Gardens Tour and a Jersey Fresh Lunch
- **Exhibitor:** OCSCD E&O exhibited at the Conference
- **NENACD Conference:** Becky attended the Monday Conference and Tuesday Coastal Tour
- **Conference Evaluations:** Becky created the Conference Evaluation and Analysis through Constant Contact. (Analysis attached)

Grants and Projects:

- **From Lawn to Garden – Going Green, Saving Green:** Installation of the 3 gardens has been completed. The Leesville Branch, Jackson, garden was completed on June 14. Native perennials supplemented Jersey-Friendly perennials and shrubs in a pre-existing bed around the perimeter of the building. Invasive Japanese Barberry was eliminated. The Adamston Branch, Brick, was completed on July 14. A new 200 sq ft bed was created using a sod cutter and rototiller. Native perennials were planted and the garden was mulched. The Toms River Branch was completed on August 4. The Toms River Branch 200 sq ft garden is almost identical to the Adamston Branch garden. Photos of garden installments are attached. The 3 projects were installed by Becky Laboy and Eileen Miller, with assistance from volunteer Rita Varneke and her children, Gwen age: 21, Pierce age: 14.
- Submitted a grant: ***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. (Waiting to hear from DEP.)
- Submitted a proposal for the 2017 NACD Urban & Community webinar program series. Waiting to hear back.

SHIP Gardens:

- Although the 5 SHIP Native Plant Demonstration Gardens at Jakes Branch received attention in regards to weeding, mulching and replacing plants, in preparation for the NENACD Conference Tour on August 14th, as well

as for the monthly education program walking tours of the SHIP gardens taking place on July 30th and August 28th, unfortunately, the near-drought conditions and lack of an irrigation system or consistent water monitoring had a negative effect on the success of the plants. Continuous maintenance is necessary to keep the gardens looking good. The August 28th monthly program: "Native Stars of the Summer Garden, Part 2, Outdoor Garden Tour – Butterfly, Sun and Shade Gardens" was cancelled. Becky will be teaming up with Jakes Branch County Park staff to draft a plan to manage the gardens.

Volunteers:

Rita Varneke continues to volunteer on a regular basis on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30-1:00pm. She is helping to organize the filing cabinets and helped install the OceanFirst Garden at Leesville Rd Branch and Adamston Branch. Lindsey VanZile, who volunteered her time weeding and mulching the SHIP Gardens, has returned to college.

Website:

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

Planning Ahead, 2016:

Programs and Events:

Sept:

- 10th and 11th WILD EXPO (Becky attending Sunday, Sept 11th, only)
- 18th OceanFirst monthly education program: "Soil Health Assessment" with Eileen Miller

October:

- 1st FREC Forestry Festival (Jean Baluski and Volunteer Rita Varneke representing OCSCD)
- 8th: OceanFirst education program: "Soil Food Web" with Dr. Jennifer Krummins

November:

- 7th: NPSNJ, Becky will be a featured presenter: "Soil is Full of Life", as well as an exhibitor
- 19th: OceanFirst education program: "Turtle Gardens" with Dr. John Wnek

December:

- 4th: OceanFirst education program: "Matching Your Garden to Your Soil" with Fred Schoenagel

Planning Ahead, 2017:

Programs and Events:

Jan:

- January: Poster Contest theme: "Soil is Full of Life".
- January 14: Monthly Educational Program Series at Jakes branch County Park: "*Planning for your Jersey-Friendly Garden*", with Karen Walzer of BBP.
- January 20: ANJEE Conference, proposal to be submitted for presenting: "*Planning for your Jersey-Friendly Garden*", with Karen Walzer of BBP.
- January 23-25: 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: Monthly Educational Program Series at Jakes Branch County Park: "*Healthy Soil is for the Birds*", presented by Becky Laboy.

March:

- March 11: Pinelands Short Course

April:

- April 19: OCSCD's 20th Annual Barnegat Bay Environmental Educators Roundtable. This year's theme: "Our Watershed is Full of Life!" based on this year's NACD Stewardship theme and Poster Contest theme: "Soil is Full of Life".

May:

- May 13?: Envirothon

June:

- June 4: Barnegat Bay Festival

July:

August:

September:

- September 29: ANJEE Fall Conference

October:

- October 7: FREC Forestry Festival