

**2018 April-May, Quarterly Report, Education & Outreach, Becky Laboy, E&O Specialist**  
**May 14, 2018**

**Outreach Programs, Conferences and Events:**

- April 1: Envirothon Training Session for Central Jersey High School participants
- April 13: BBP CEC Retreat
- April 18: Environmental Educators Roundtable
- May 5: Envirothon

**Anticipated Outreach Programs, Conferences and Events:**

- May 30: "Water, Plants, Soil & Gardening" program for Seaside Park Environmental Advisory Committee and Department of Public Works, in collaboration with Rutgers Cooperative Extension (free native plant giveaways)
- June 6: "Attracting Birds to Your Landscape, Using Jersey-Friendly Yards", program for the Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards at the Lighthouse Center grant project (free native plant giveaways)
- June 26: "Showcasing the Island Heights Library's Jersey-Friendly Garden" for the Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards grant project. Program and tour at Island Heights Library to showcase the new JFY garden (free native plant giveaways)
- July 10: "Jersey-Friendly Yards: Landscaping for a Healthier Barnegat Bay, program for the Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards grant project, in collaboration with Barnegat Bay Partnership, location: Lacey Library (free native plant giveaways)
- July 22: "8 Steps to a Jersey-friendly Yard" program for the Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards at the Lighthouse Center grant project (free native plant giveaways)
- August 12: "Native Plants in the Landscape" program for the Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards at the Lighthouse Center grant project (free native plant giveaways)
- August 19: "Cattus Island Gardens Tour" program for the Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards at the Lighthouse Center grant project, location: Cattus Island County Park (free native plant giveaways)
- September 8 and 9: Wild Expo
- September 12: "Designing a Jersey-Friendly Garden for the Benefit of Wildlife" program for the Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards at the Lighthouse Center grant project (free native plant giveaways)
- September 15: "Showcasing the Pine Beach Jersey-Friendly Garden" program for the Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards grant project, in collaboration with Barnegat Bay Partnership and Pine Beach Environmental Commission, location: Admiral Point Park, Pine Beach (free native plant giveaways)
- September 22: "Cattus Island Gardens Tour" program for the Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards at the Lighthouse Center grant project, location: Cattus Island County Park (free native plant giveaways)
- September 28: ANJEE Conference
- October 6: Fall Forestry Festival at the FREC
- October 20: "2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Jersey-Friendly Yards Conference: Inspiration for Your Jersey-Friendly Yard" in collaboration with Barnegat Bay Partnership, and Rutgers Cooperative Extension; event for the Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards at the Lighthouse Center grant project

**Grants and Projects:**

- **Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards** grant, funded by Barnegat Bay Partnership. We continue to implement the EJFY grant project. The 10 selected Homeowners all attended the three workshops which were conducted on **March 10, 18 and 24**. Soil samples were collected by participants and Rutgers Soil Testing Lab sent the results. The 10 Homeowners have selected appropriate plants using the JFY Plant Database and other resources offered on the JFY website. Plants were ordered from Cicconi Farms and arrived at the District on Tuesday, May 15, for pick-up by the Homeowners. Each Homeowner will be documenting their Jersey-Friendly garden installation with photos. "Case Studies" will document the projects and the information and photos will be featured on the JFY and OCSCD websites. For the "Educational Programs" component of the grant, the JFY programs and JFY Garden tour dates have been selected and a Constant Contact promotional "newsletter" will advertise them to the public. As per the grant, a Jersey-Friendly plant will be given to registered attendees. These plants were also ordered through Cicconi Farms.
- **Urban Agriculture Conservation Initiative** grant, funded by NACD. NRCS soil scientists Rich Shaw and Edwin Muniz visited Lakewood High School on March 16, to conduct soil tests in the tentative planting area of the

school grounds. Soil tests results were received and indicated that the soil does not contain any detrimental levels of metals and the soil is acceptable for planting edibles. Lakewood High School and Georgian Court University partners have assembled the donated wood frames and created raised beds on campus. Next step is to line the beds with weed cloth and fill them with soil, in preparation for planting. Attended Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Ocean County "Community Gardens" second meeting on May 1; we continue to make connections with other community gardeners, and receive information and advice on how to establish a community garden. UAC partners met on Monday May 14 to discuss next steps. We received an official extension to implement the grant until August 30, 2018, when the Final Report will be due.

- **Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards at the Lighthouse Center** grant, funded by The Watershed Institute, designed to bring awareness of the Jersey-Friendly Yards website to the public, and engage the community in best landscaping practices through 4 educational programs supporting Jersey-Friendly Yards, 2 garden tours of select Jersey-Friendly gardens in the Barnegat Bay Watershed and offer 1 event. Dates for educational programs and tours were selected (see above). The Jersey-Friendly Yards Conference on October 20, is the event which this grant will partially support; planning has begun for this 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual JFY Conference.
- **Jersey-Friendly Yards Conference:** Planning is taking place for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Jersey-Friendly Yards Conference. Met with Rutgers and BBP on February 14 and May 1 to discuss logistics. Confirmed date of **October 20**. (See attached Meeting Minutes.)

### **2018 Poster Contest:**

Theme: "Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home". Winner announced: Summer Sprague of Tuckerton, was the Winner of the 2-3 Grade Group and the Grand Champion. She received a check for \$50 from OCSCD. However, she attends school in Burlington County and so the \$200 award for her school was forfeited. Maria Cerezo Serano was the Winner for the 7-9 Grade Group; Chloe Lewis was the winner for the 10-12 Grade Group. There were no entries for the 4-6 Grade Group this year. OCSCD received a total of 72 entries this year. Rethinking prizes: offer cash prizes to Winners in all Grade Group: \$50 for 1 Winner of each of the 4 Grade Groups = \$200; eliminate the cash prize for the school and instead extend the offer of native plants from Pinelands Nursery to the winning school - to plant a native garden on campus. We reached out to Pinelands Nursery and are able to receive the plants in the spring (May), for the school to install.

### **2018 Barnegat Bay Environmental Educators Roundtable:**

Despite low registration, OCSCD facilitated a successful 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Barnegat Bay Environmental Educators Roundtable on April 18, 2018 at the Lighthouse Center for Natural Resource Education. Our theme was: "Back to Our Roots". We had a total of **40 registrants**, with 38 attending, plus 13 exhibiting organizations, 10 presenters, 5 staff, 1 intern and numerous volunteers, notably from Ocean County parks 7 Recreation. We also had a wonderful keynote speaker, Angela Andersen who discussed her debut film, "The Oyster Farmers", and the importance of oyster farming in the Barnegat Bay and within Barnegat Bay watershed communities. (See attachments for agenda, workshops and keynote descriptions.) Feedback from attendees was positive. (See below email from an attending teacher.)

-----Original Message-----

From: Donna Bridger [mailto:DBridger@otsdk6.org]

Sent: Friday, April 20, 2018 12:53 PM

To: Education@soildistrict.org

Subject: Round table

Hi Becky,

Just writing to tell you how wonderful the Roundtable was this year. Madeline and I walked away with so much informative information about all the resources that are free and available for educators. The keynote speaker gave an awesome presentation and brought about an awareness that many don't realize that how important it is to keep a balance in nature and how it affects us locally. Thank you for all you do for us and our environment!!!

Sincerely,

Donna and Madeline

Waretown School District