

**2018 October-November, Bi-Monthly Report, Education & Outreach, Becky Laboy, E&O Specialist
November 15, 2018**

Outreach Programs, Conferences and Events:

- **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) **(15 participants)**
- **September 28:** ANJEE Conference, presenting "Inspiration for a Jersey-Friendly Yard" with Karen Walzer: *Grow a Jersey-Friendly Yard at home or at school, using nature as your inspiration. We will take a meadow walk to explore our natural surroundings. Topics discussed will include: how to landscape with native plants, maintain healthy soil, conserve water, and provide habitat for wildlife. We will make connections to the "8 Steps to a Jersey-Friendly Yard", as featured on the Jersey-Friendly Yards website: www.JerseyYards.org, and learn how this web-based tool can guide you towards the creation of a healthy landscape that benefits your community and environment.* **(25 participants in our workshop)**
- **October 6:** Fall Forestry Festival at the FREC. OCSCD participated in the "Scavenger Hunt" – new this year to encourage folks to stop by tables, do a craft/activity and check-off their scavenger hunt list for a "prize". OCSCD had lots of kid visitors stop by the table this year! **(750 attendees)**
- **October 10:** "Designing a Jersey-Friendly Garden for the Benefit of Wildlife" program for the "Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards at the Lighthouse Center" grant (free native plant giveaways) (*Rescheduled from Sept 17.) **(5 participants)**
- **October 20:** 2nd 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 **(134 attendees)**

Anticipated Outreach Programs, Conferences and Events:

- **November 15:** UAC grant project culminating program at Clifton Elementary School, "Healthy Soil, Healthy Food, Healthy You" – hands-on learning and activities, plus a "Food Distribution" to 75 families **(150 anticipated students and parents to attend)**

Grants and Projects:

- **Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards** grant, funded by Barnegat Bay Partnership, an education outreach initiative to bring awareness to NPS pollution prevention through using best landscaping management practices. OCSCD ordered plant signs with remaining funds. Becky is working on writing the Final Report for BBP.
- **Urban Agriculture Conservation Initiative** grant, funded by NACD. This grant project builds capacity in the Lakewood community to create access to fresh food within the community. The raised vegetable beds were installed at Lakewood High School and Horticulture Teacher, Brian Surgent, and his students harvested their first vegetables from the garden: turnips and peppers. They donated them to the local food pantry through Christ United Methodist Church. A culminating program will take place on November 15 which includes a program about soil and fresh grown food – 150 students and parents are anticipated. There will be a Food Distribution organized through "Farmers Against Hunger" – who has packaged apples, potatoes and onions for 75 families. The "Community Gardens Network" group continues to be active. Meetings for next year are tentatively set – 1 per quarter. Becky and Sue Servidio of RCE attended a "School Gardening" PD offered by RCE, as an extension of the UAC program, and to continue learning and outreach.
- **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 management practices. This grant project has been completed and OCSCD's Final report was sent to Pola Galie, who will send an official Final Report (Report #2) to The Watershed Institute. (Reports #1 and #2 attached.)
- **Jersey-Friendly Yards Conference:** Our 2nd Annual Jersey-Friendly Yards Conference was held on **October 20, 8:15-3:00pm** at Ocean County College – Gateway Building. It was deemed a great success! **(134 attendees)**

Anticipated Grants:

- In partnership with BBP, OCSCD submitted "**Bay-Friendly Stewardship Program**" proposal, requesting \$92,756.65 total, of which **\$53,500** is designated for OCSCD. (Anticipate hearing from NJDEP in December)

- OCSCD submitted an application to EPA’s “Local Foods, Local Places” program for an opportunity to receive a two-day training workshop on how to create a strategic plan – with the premise of creating opportunities to grow fresh food in Lakewood. (This is a non-monetary grant.)

Professional Development:

- October: Webinar, USDA/NRCS “Role of Agroforestry in Supporting Pollinators”
- November 8: Rutgers Cooperative Extension “School Gardening – Growing and Managing an Edible Garden”