

**2018 August-September, Bi-Monthly Report, Education & Outreach, Becky Laboy, E&O Specialist  
September 20, 2018**

**Outreach Programs, Conferences and Events:**

- 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) **(12 participants)**
- August 12: “Native Plants in the Landscape” program for the Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards at the Lighthouse Center grant project (free native plant giveaways) **(11 participants)**
- August 16: “Jersey-Friendly Yards – Landscaping for a healthy Environment” at the new Long beach Township Marine Field Station **(13 participants)**
- 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) **(13 participants)**
- August 23: “Edible Natives” program for Master Gardeners at the Rutgers Cooperative Center **(60 participants)**
- September 8 and 9: Wild Expo **(2000 attendees** on Saturday; no in attendance on Sunday due to rain)
- 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) **(22 participants)**

**Anticipated 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)
- September 28: ANJEE Conference, presenting “Inspiration for a Jersey-Friendly Yard” *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](http://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.*
- October 6: Fall Forestry Festival at the FREC
- 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.)
- 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, an education outreach initiative to bring awareness to NPS pollution prevention through using best landscaping management practices. OCSCD is in the final reporting period of this grant. The remaining Jersey-Friendly education programs have been implemented. 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, has been successfully growing vegetables in the beds for the past month. The Mercy Garden continues to be productive and vegetables are being harvested and donated to the local food pantry through Christ United Church. A meeting has been set-up with Lakewood School Administrators on September 24 to discuss the progress of the grant and decide on an alternative culminating activity to the “Food Distribution”, which we determined is not feasible for this grant project/grant period. The “Community Gardens Network” group continues to be active and is scheduled to meet again on September 25 at Beach Haven Community Garden, who will be showcasing their garden as a model for others and to share information and advice on how to establish and maintain a community garden.
- **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 through educational programs supporting Jersey-Friendly Yards, 2 garden tours of select Jersey-Friendly gardens in the Barnegat Bay Watershed and offer 1 event. The final garden tour

will take place this weekend at Cattus Island, and the September 17 program at the LHC was rescheduled to October 10 due to inclement weather. The Jersey-Friendly Yards Conference in partnership with BBP and Rutgers Cooperative Extension, is the event which this grant is partially supporting.

- **Jersey-Friendly Yards Conference:** Registration is open for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Jersey-Friendly Yards Conference on **October 20**, 8:15-3:00pm at Ocean County College – Gateway Building. Planning Committee is meeting on Sept 25 to review room logistics.

#### **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. (Proposal attached)  
(\*Christine also submitted two additional grants.)

#### **Professional Development:**

- July 19: Pinelands Summer Short Course, offered by the Pinelands Commission at Stockton University – Becky attended “Heart of the Pines” tour, led by Dr. Ryan Rebozo. Visited several sites in the Pine Barrens and discussed soils, vegetation and adaptations to fire regimes, and wildlife in this unique habitat.