

2018 June-July, Bi-Monthly Report, Education & Outreach, Becky Laboy, E&O Specialist

July 19, 2018

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); in support of the "Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards" grant funded by BBP. **(52 attendees)**
- June 6: "Attracting Birds to Your Landscape, Using Jersey-Friendly Yards", program in support of the Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards at the Lighthouse Center grant (free native plant giveaways), funded by The Watershed Institute. **(16 attendees)**
- June 26: "Showcasing the Island Heights Library's Jersey-Friendly Garden", program and tour at Island Heights Library to showcase the new JFY garden (free native plant giveaways); in support of the "Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards" grant funded by BBP. **(9 attendees)**
- July 10: "Jersey-Friendly Yards: Landscaping for a Healthier Barnegat Bay, in collaboration with Karen Walzer of Barnegat Bay Partnership, location: Lacey Library (free native plant giveaways); in support of the "Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards" grant funded by BBP. **(19 attendees)**

Anticipated 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)
- 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: "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

Professional Development:

- July 19: Pinelands Summer Short Course, offered by the Pinelands Commission at Stockton University

Grants and Projects:

- **Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards** grant, funded by Barnegat Bay Partnership. (Please see attached Quarterly Report #4.) Plants for Homeowners were ordered from Cicconi Farms and arrived at the District on Tuesday, May 15. Homeowners picked-up their plants and installed their gardens. Homeowners are documenting their Jersey-Friendly garden installation and garden growth with photos. (See attached.) Becky will create "Case Studies" to document the projects which 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 several Constant Contact promotional "newsletters" have been electronically mailed out to advertise them to the public (see programs listed above for attendance numbers). As per the grant, Jersey-Friendly plants are being given-away to registered attendees ("Free Plant Giveaways"). These plants were also ordered through Cicconi Farms: (*Amsonia tabernaemontana*, *Asclepias tuberosa*, *Panicum amarum*, *Aster oblongifolius*, *Liatris spicata*).

- **Urban Agriculture Conservation Initiative** grant, funded by NACD. Lakewood High School and Georgian Court University partners have assembled the donated wood frames and created raised beds on campus. Beds have been lined with weed cloth; 24 tons of topsoil has been purchased from AC Hesse, through grant funding, and delivered to Lakewood High School. Lakewood Public Works picked-up compost from Ocean County Recycling Center and delivered it to Lakewood High School. With an approved modification in the UAC budget, 10 bails of “coir” was purchased to amend the soil for the raised beds at Lakewood High School. Next step is to fill the beds with the soil, compost and coir materials. The Mercy Garden raised beds were completed by subcontractors Rich Mohr and Eileen Miller; vegetables were planted and are now growing vigorously. Eileen is offering more time at the Mercy Garden to assist Rich with weeding, planting and growing the gardens. The Mercy Garden compost bin is being weeded and sculpted to better accept and manage compostable materials. UAC Partners met on Monday July 9, at Fulfill, to discuss a “Food Distribution Day” at Lakewood High School in the fall. Several UAC Partners attended another Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Ocean County “Community Gardens Network” meeting on July 16 at Wrangle Brook community garden, for a tour of the garden and FAQs answered re: “how to start and maintain a community garden”. We continue to make connections with other community gardeners, and receive 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 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. The Jersey-Friendly Yards Conference on October 20, is the event which this grant will partially support; planning continues for this 2nd Annual JFY Conference, with monthly meetings for partners: BBP, OCSCD, Rutgers Cooperative Extension.
- **Jersey-Friendly Yards Conference:** Planning is taking place for our 2nd Annual Jersey-Friendly Yards Conference. Confirmed date of **October 20**. Confirmed place: Ocean County College – Gateway Building. Met with Rutgers and BBP on February 14, May 1, and June 13, to discuss logistics. Speakers are being confirmed for the 6 planned workshops reflecting the 8 Steps to a JFY. Keynote Speaker, Kathy Salisbury, has been confirmed.

Anticipated Grants:

The District (Christine and Becky) attended an informational meeting on June 14, offered by NJDEP, to learn more about the RFP for their 319 upcoming grant opportunity. Christine met with Steve Yergeau and Karen Walzer on July 10 to discuss a partnership to pursue the grant together: develop a “Jersey-Friendly Yards Certificate Program” based on the River Friendly Program.