

2019 December-January, Bi-Monthly Board Report, Education & Outreach, Becky Laboy, E&O Specialist
January 17, 2019

Completed Outreach Programs, Conferences and Events: (APO Item #5, Activity 5 & 13)

- **November 15:** UAC grant project culminating program at Clifton Elementary School, “Healthy Soil, Healthy Food, Healthy You” – hands-on learning and activities presented by OCSCD, Lakewood High School’s Horticulture Teacher, Brian Surgent, and Eileen Miller, plus a “Food Distribution” coordinated by Elise Yerrapathruni of Farmers Against Hunger for 75 families. Each family received about 8 pounds of fresh sweet potatoes, onions, carrots and avocados. **(approx. 100 students and parents attended)**

Anticipated Outreach Programs, Conferences and Events: (APO Item #5, Activity 5 & #13)

- **January 22:** The **Community Garden Network of Ocean County**, hosted by Rutgers Cooperative Extension, was created through a collaborative effort with community garden leaders throughout Ocean County. The group was a supportive part of the UAC project’s communication and outreach efforts. The CGN is offering our first education program, “Crop Planning, Seed Sowing and Winter Sowing”.
- **February 2-6:** **NACD Annual Meeting** in San Antonio, TX. Becky will be attending; received a \$1000 stipend to attend from NACD in association with our work on the UAC grant project.
- **March 9:** **Pinelands Short Course**. Becky and Karen Walzer are co-presenting, “Attracting Birds to Your Jersey-Friendly Yard”.
- **October 20:** We are planning for our **3rd Annual Jersey-Friendly Yards Conference**. Our theme is: “Putting Your Jersey-Friendly Yard into Practice”.

Grants: (APO Item #4, Activity 1)

- **Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards:** Grant is closed. Becky submitted the Final Report.
- **Urban Agriculture Conservation Initiative:** Grant is closed. Becky submitted the Final Report. Funded by NACD, this grant project helped build capacity in the Lakewood community to create access to fresh food within the community. The “**Community Gardens Network**” group, a tangential partnership with Rutgers Cooperative Extension, which resulted from the UAC project, continues to be active.
- **Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards at the Lighthouse Center:** Grant is closed. Becky submitted the Final Report. 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.

Anticipated Grants: (APO Item #5, Activity 1)

- OCSCD submitted a grant to Pollinator Partnership: “**Jersey-Friendly Pollinator Gardens**”. This project will result in the creation of a Jersey-Friendly Pollinator Garden curriculum. The curriculum will be based on the Jersey-Friendly Yards website and will guide teachers and students through the steps necessary to design, create and install their own Jersey-Friendly pollinator garden, using the tools and resources on the website. The Pollinator Partnership will be announcing their awardees in February.
- In partnership with BBP, OCSCD submitted “**Bay-Friendly Stewardship Program**” proposal, requesting \$92,756.65 total, of which **\$53,500** is designated for OCSCD. NJDEP will be announcing grant awardees in March.
- OCSCD had 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.) We were offered a semi-finalist interview with LFLP administrators, which we conducted on December 13, with our Steering Committee. LFLP will announce awardees in February (although it appears this project may be affected by the government shut-down).
 - Steering Committee:
 - 1) Becky Laboy, Education Outreach Specialist, Ocean County Soil Conservation District
 - 2) Shari Kondrup, Watershed Education and Outreach, Brick Township Municipal Utilities Authority
 - 3) Susan Emhardt Servidio, Horticulturist and Rutgers master gardeners Coordinator
 - 4) Jeanine Cava, Proprietor of *Soil to Soul*, member of the Leadership Committee for the Community Garden Network of Ocean County
 - 5) Jimmy Esposito, Lakewood Township Public Works

- 6) Janice Needham, Wrangle Brook Community Garden member, member of the Leadership Committee for the Community Garden Network of Ocean County

Special Events: (APO Item #5, Activity 4, 6, 10, 14)

- **2019 Trout in the Classroom:** Determining the date of the 2019 TIC Field Day at the FREC.
- **2019 Poster Contest:** Theme: “Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper”, promoted through Constant Contact. Deadline for entry is **February 28**. One Grand Champion Winner will receive \$50 and her/his school will receive \$500 in native plants (provided by Pinelands Nursery) for a Jersey-Friendly garden.
- **2019 / 22nd Annual Environmental Educators Roundtable:** will be held on **April 17** at the Lighthouse Center for Natural Resource Education. To date, presenters include: NJ Sea Grant Consortium, Conserve Wildlife Foundation, Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of OC, and ReClam the Bay, with Lisa Auermuller of JCNERR providing the Keynote.
- **2019 Envirothon:** scheduled for **May 11**. This year’s focus is, “Agriculture and the Environment: Knowledge and Technology to Feed the World”. Becky is preparing the Wildlife Written Test.

Professional Development: (APO Item #3, Activity 3)

- **November 8:** Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Essex County “School Gardening – Growing and Managing an Edible Garden”
- **November 19:** State Ethics Training at the Eco-Complex
- **February 1, 15 & March 6:** Rutgers Green Infrastructure Champions Program workshop series: “How to identify green infrastructure projects in your town”, “Moving from planning to implementation of green infrastructure”, “Maintaining green infrastructure practices/projects”.

Internships/Volunteers: (APO Item #5, Activity 12)

Accolades:

- Held a Press Event with OceanFirst Bank at Hooper Ave Administration Building – location of the award winning Jersey-Friendly Yard. (Press Release attached.) Photo and story picked-up by the Forked River Gazette and Green New Jersey Magazine Facebook page.