



*Our Roots Run Deep – Celebrating 25 Years of  
Local Connections, Culture and Conservation*

**Annual Barnegat Bay Environmental Educators Roundtable  
Jakes Branch County Park - April 27, 2022 - 2:30-8:30 pm**

**Sign-in: Starting at 2:30pm**

All guests are asked to please sign-in and receive a name tag and “goody bag.”

**Open House: 2:30pm – 4:00pm**

Peruse exhibitors’ tables offering an array of educational resources, network with other educators and nature enthusiasts, visit with colleagues and friends.

**Light Dinner: 3:00pm – 3:45pm** - Enjoy sandwiches and soft drinks from *Jersey Mikes*

**Opening Remarks and Welcome: 3:45pm – 4:10pm**

*Mike Mangum, Director, Ocean County Department of Parks & Recreation*

*Christine R. Raabe, District Director, Ocean County Soil Conservation District*

*Dr. William Pollock, Chairman, Board of Supervisors, Ocean County Soil Conservation District (Invited)*

*Becky Laboy, Education Outreach Specialist & Roundtable Coordinator*

**2-Hour Field Trips: 4:15pm – 6:30pm**

- A) **Cedar Bridge Tavern – History Underfoot** *Guide: Tim Hart (Ocean County Cultural & Heritage)* Soil not only holds clues to natural history but also to past cultures and historical events as well. Join Tim Hart and Ocean County Parks & Recreation staff as we explore the history of Cedar Bridge Tavern, highlighting archeological findings that helped to paint a clear picture of its rumored and colorful history. We will also touch on the significance of the surrounding ecology in relation to the taverns’ survival.
- B) **Double Trouble State Park – Window to Pinelands History, Culture & Ecology** *Guides: Andrew Anderson (New Jersey Division of Parks & Forestry) and Chris Claus (Ocean County Parks & Recreation)* Double Trouble State Park offers an outstanding example of the Pine Barrens ecosystem and a window into New Jersey Pinelands history. Take a trip back in time with a tour of some of the historic structures that remain and learn about the history of the cranberry industry and how the resources, chiefly soil, and water, played an integral part in local industry, culture and history.
- C) **Cloverdale Farm County Park – Macroinvertebrates of Freshwater Wetlands** *Guide: Patti Trasferini (Ocean County Parks & Recreation)* This program is designed to introduce teachers to freshwater macroinvertebrates, which are organisms that have no backbone (invertebrate) that live underwater in freshwater streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes. During this program, you will learn to differentiate between larval, nymph, and adult stages of different species. You will also learn how soil substrate can determine a species populations distribution and how they can be an indicator of water quality of freshwater bodies found throughout Ocean County.

*Healthy Soil is at the Root of Everything!*

- **D) Cattus Island County Park – Ecology of a Salt Marsh** *Guides: Nikki Vernachio and Megan Zorns (Ocean County Parks & Recreation)* The salt marsh is one of the most unique and important habitats in the Barnegat Bay Estuary. We will travel by van to witness the effects of sea level rise on the marsh and the surrounding maritime forest. Bring a pair of boots or old sneakers, as we delve into the salt marsh using hands-on activities to discover it's soil, flora, and fauna. If inclement weather, activities will take place inside the Cooper Environmental Center.

### **1-Hour Workshops:**

#### **Session One: 4:15pm – 5:15pm**

- **1E) Fire in the Pines** *Guide: Ben Ackerman (Ocean County Parks & Recreation)* “Only you can prevent forest fires”, but do we really want to? Though we view fire as destructive and dangerous, its absence from the Pine Barrens can cause degradation and damage to a once healthy ecosystem. This includes fire's relationship with soil. Join us as we dig down into the complex and fascinating field of fire science. We will discuss Fire History, Ecology, Management, Importance and the relationship between fire and soil.
- **1F) Soil Science Sampler** *Guides: Ocean County Soil Conservation District Staff* Dig deep and explore the chemical, physical and biological properties of soils in the Barnegat Bay watershed through fun, hands-on, “classroom ready” activities. Lessons are also applicable to school garden soil preparations.

#### **Session Two: 5:30pm – 6:30pm**

- **2G) Gateway to the Pines – Tour of Jakes Branch Nature Center and Grounds** *Guide: Michele Urban (Ocean County Parks & Recreation)* This on-site field trip will offer educators a sampling of what Jakes Branch County Park can provide to their students. Located just on the fringe of the Pinelands National Reserve, the park provides a snapshot of typical Pinelands habitats and is a great place to further explore iconic Pinelands topics such as soils, watersheds, fire ecology, wildflowers, reptiles, amphibians, history and culture. Educators will walk away with a variety of field trip/activity choices they can take advantage of with their students.
- **2H) Cultivating Connections: Soil and Plants** *Guide: German Georgieff (Ocean County Parks & Recreation)* It is believed the Pine Barrens acquired its name from early potential farmers who found the sandy, acidic, and nutrient-poor soil unsuitable for traditional agriculture – declaring it “barren”. Join OCPNR naturalist German Georgieff as he identifies and discusses the native vegetation that has adapted to these unique conditions, some of which are known only to New Jersey.

**Dessert: 6:30 – 7:00pm** - Enjoy tasty treats and network with attendees.

**Door Prizes: 7:00pm** All registered guests will receive a ticket for a Door Prize when they sign-in at the event. Door Prize tickets will be called and prizes will be distributed.

**Keynote: 7:45pm** Collective Viewing of *Kiss the Ground* - Starting around sunset, finishing around 8:30pm

*Kiss the Ground*, narrated by Woody Harrelson, is an educational documentary film that aspires to resolve humanity's greatest challenge: balance the climate, restore lost ecosystems, create abundant food supplies, and secure our species' future through sustainable regenerative agriculture. The Kiss the Ground website offers a plethora of [educational tools and resources](#) for educators, including the [Children's Education Pathway Kit](#) and the [Soil Story Curriculum](#).

Please contact Becky Laboy at [education@soildistrict.org](mailto:education@soildistrict.org) or 609-991-1534 with any questions. For additional information: <https://soildistrict.org/environmental-educators-roundtable/>

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