

# The Barnegat Bay Beat

A Quarterly Publication of the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program



Spring 2009

**FREE**  
admission

## 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL Barnegat Bay FESTIVAL

"Passport to a Greener Community"

**SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2009**

**10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Rain or Shine**

**Waterfront Location! Wanamaker Complex in Island Heights**



Children and adults alike enjoy environmental exhibits at last year's Barnegat Bay Festival. *Photo by Linda West.*

### Children's Activities

Atlantic City Aquarium touch tank, Scavenger hunt, Animals, Seedling planting, Project Terrapin, Face painting, Sand art, Environmental crafts, and much more!

### On the Water

Take a canoe eco-tour of Dillon's Creek, Try seining for bay creatures, Learn how to crab, Tour the Toms River and Barnegat Bay by pontoon boat

### All Day Fun on the Main Stage

Live music with the Greater Pinelands Dulcimer Society, Exhibitor demonstrations, Guardian of Barnegat Bay Award, Choral presentation

### Crafters, Vendors, Artists, Barnegat Bay Culture

Customboat building, Marine and nautical arts & crafts, Found object art, Sea glass jewelry, Native plants, Woodcarving

### ...and Much, Much More

Purchase new items for your garden at the native plant sale, Learn more about solar power for your home, Enjoy traditional dulcimer music, Take your picture with the giant terrapin, clam, or mosquito, Spin the Ocean County tourism wheel and win a prize, Enjoy the tastes and smells of festival food! Yum!!

**See page 4 for more  
Festival information!**

## From the Director's Desk

Improving our understanding of, and addressing, eutrophication are the highest environmental priorities of the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program. It is important to understand what eutrophication is so we can take positive steps to fix it in the Barnegat Bay. Eutrophication is best defined as an increase in the rate of the supply of organic matter to an ecosystem (1). Its general cause in the Barnegat Bay is nutrient enrichment, which increases biological production.

Although increased production of desirable species, such as seagrasses, is a desirable outcome of nutrient enrichment – less desirable species respond more quickly to the nutrient enrichment and grow out of control. Examples of such undesirable production include blooms of the brown tide alga which is toxic to many bay animals, and blooms of benthic algae such as sea lettuce, which often drift with the tide and smother seagrasses.

While the relationship between specific nutrients and most symptoms of eutrophication is not well-known, manipulative experiments have demonstrated that two nutrients, nitrogen and phosphorus, are contributing to the excessive production of benthic algae and phytoplankton in the bay (2). Lawn

and other fertilizers are recognized for contributing to the loads of both nutrients to the Barnegat Bay (e.g., 8-15% for nitrogen) (3) and other coastal waterbodies in New Jersey. Loads of both nitrogen and phosphorus will continue to grow if future residential and commercial development includes additional areas of traditionally managed lawns. Reducing both nutrients is increasingly recognized as the most effective action for improving water quality (4).

Fertilizer ordinances have been established elsewhere in New Jersey, in coastal states (e.g., New York, Florida), and in other areas where excess nutrient loads are causing eutrophication. Such ordinances restrict application of fertilizer at certain times of year and during certain weather conditions, and typically require a number of best management practices (e.g., remove fertilizer from pavement). Establishing a fertilizer ordinance throughout Ocean County will help reduce the current load of nutrients to the bay. Enacting such an ordinance will likely not result in immediate improvements in the bay's condition. However, such an action will cut nutrient loads over time and thus represent an inexpensive first step to address eutrophication in

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## Shellfish Gardening – a Growing Program

**Dr. Jim Merritt**

*Program Director, Sedge Island Natural Resource Education Center*

In 2005, a small group of volunteers began working with Gef Flimlin, a Marine Extension Agent at Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Ocean County (RCE), to raise clams in Barnegat Bay. They began by purchasing thousands of tiny “seed clams” that they cared for as they grew throughout the summer in land-based nurseries. Many passers-by were attracted to their work and stopped to ask questions. Volunteers used this opportunity to educate people about clams and the bay ecosystem. In this way, the Barnegat Bay Shellfish Restoration Program (BBSRP) was formed. A main goal of the BBSRP is to use shellfish as an educational tool to raise public awareness concerning water quality issues in the Barnegat Bay watershed.

As one of those first BBSRP volunteers, I saw first-hand how the BBSRP classes provided a balance of aquaculture and environmental stewardship education, but thought that a shellfish cultivation or “shellfish gardening” course could teach volunteers even more about Barnegat Bay ecology and reach an even broader audience.

Working with ReClam the Bay, the non-profit, fundraising organization for BBSRP, I received a grant from the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program to develop a “Training and Certification Program for Shellfish Gardeners.” In the fall of 2007, I began to develop a formal curriculum for this training course. I reviewed materials from previous shellfish gardening classes taught through RCE and several other shellfish growing programs along the east coast to determine how their best practices

could be adapted for use in Barnegat Bay. Advice was sought from biologists and administrators in the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Bureau of Shellfisheries and Bureau of Water Quality Monitoring. This information was then compiled into a Shellfish Gardening Curriculum that used the Master Gardener Program as a model.

The 2008 Shellfish Gardener Training Program was spread over six months. The spring term consisted of seven basic classes. Beginning with shellfish biology, diseases, and predators, the students soon were leaning about shellfish aquaculture. Guest lecturers from the NJDEP emphasized the need to ensure that volunteers were aware of the importance of growing shellfish safely so that public health is not compromised. Entire classes were devoted to teaching about the Barnegat Bay ecosystem, and every class included information about watershed stewardship. The spring field trip was a visit to BBSRP shellfish leases. This trip provided an opportunity for students to have their first “in the water” experience as they handled clams planted under predator screens during the previous fall.

A summer practicum followed the spring term. Students spent a minimum of 20 hours working side-by-side with experienced shellfish gardeners. In addition to working at land-based shellfish nurseries, volunteers used the ReClam the Bay display at fairs and festivals to educate the public about growing shellfish and water quality issues in the Barnegat Bay watershed.

Fall classes were of a more technical nature and were taught by some of the best experts in the field. The



A BBSRP volunteer looks for clams in the rake portion of the commercial clam rake. *Photo by Dr. Jim Merritt*

course ended with a comprehensive assessment. On the last night, volunteers enjoyed a potluck seafood dinner. One of the volunteers prepared skate three different ways. Everyone agreed that it was good to eat one of the clam’s major predators!

All 48 volunteers successfully completed the requirements of the Shellfish Gardener Training Program and received a certificate of recognition by RCE. An additional land-based nursery at the Mantoloking Yacht Club was set up and over one million clams and 300,000 oysters were grown in eight locations around Barnegat Bay. BBSRP volunteers talked to thousands of people about the Barnegat Bay at festivals and delivered lectures and provided demonstrations on shellfish and water quality to various public groups. Giant painted clams appeared in front of businesses and public buildings throughout the watershed.

In April 2009, RCE will again offer the Shellfish Gardener Training Course. You do not need to have prior knowledge about shellfish to participate in the program. Anyone with the desire to learn how to improve the health of the Barnegat Bay watershed may take the course. Contact the RCE office by calling (732) 349-1152 or email [Flimlin@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:Flimlin@aesop.rutgers.edu).

## Eight Public Participation and Education Projects are Awarded Grants

In February 2009, the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program (BBNEP) announced the recipients of its 10<sup>TH</sup> Annual Public Participation and Education Minigrant Program. This year marked the first round of minigrants since the BBNEP completed its Strategic Plan in 2008. Applicants were challenged to use the Minigrant Program to help the BBNEP address some of the priorities in the new plan. Twenty-three proposals for projects totaling well over \$100,000 were submitted to meet that challenge. The BBNEP has awarded minigrants to eight of these projects and will contribute \$32,545 toward the total \$84,265 cost of these projects.

The Public Participation and Education Minigrant Program is designed to help increase awareness about the importance of the Barnegat Bay and its watershed, as well as promote knowledge and participation in protecting and restoring it. This program is open to individuals, schools, non-profit organizations, businesses, and government agencies.

Listed below are the eight projects that will receive funding.

**The Bay Head Environmental Commission's Rain Garden Project** will be planted at the Bay Head Reading Center. There it will serve to raise community awareness about the benefits of rain gardens, and will demonstrate the effective diversion of stormwater run-off from the Reading Center roof, and other impervious surfaces. Interpretive signage will be prominently located around the garden. A permanent display will also be located inside the Reading Center.

**The Borough of Lavallette Department of Public Works**, with help from volunteers from the community, will design and establish **Island Bay-Front Gardens** – an environmentally-responsible landscape for the Lavallette Bay-Front. Island Bay-Front Gardens will be created through careful design and planning, which includes soil testing and selection of plant species native to the Barnegat

Bay watershed. Educational signage will also be located in the garden to provide a greater understanding of the garden's benefits to visitors.

Through the creation of a **Coastal Rain Garden** on Long Beach Island in a high-visibility location, the **Long Beach Island Foundation of the Arts & Sciences** (LBIF) will demonstrate to others on Long Beach Island how a rain garden is designed and used to protect Barnegat Bay. The garden itself will help to remedy a low-lying area on the LBIF property that retains standing water near the facility entrance. To further educate the community on the benefits of rain gardens, the LBIF will produce and distribute a flier (on recycled paper) to local groups, landscapers, and realtors.

**The Master Gardeners of Ocean County**, will publish and distribute a **2010 Gardening Calendar** that will inform and educate the public about environmentally-friendly horticultural practices. The theme of the calendar will be how fertilizers and horticultural practices impact the health of the Barnegat Bay ecosystem and the native plant and animal species that reside there. Each month, the calendar will have a gardening "to do" list. Calendars will be made available this fall through Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Ocean County and the BBNEP, among other Ocean County locations.

Thanks to several motivated teachers at their school, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at **Nellie F. Bennett Elementary School** in the Borough of Point Pleasant will receive **special interactive lessons and presentations** about the importance of the Barnegat Bay ecosystem, what is threatening its health, and what they can do to protect this great resource.

A select group of teachers from the Toms River Regional School District will participate in a **five-day summer institute** led by the **New Jersey Audubon Society** with the goal of effectively integrating inquiry-based learning about environmental issues into the district's K-12 science curriculum. Through real-life experiences,

interactions with local natural resource experts, and focused facilitation, these teachers will use the Barnegat Bay watershed as the foundation for teaching about priority environmental issues identified in the BBNEP Strategic Plan.

Through the **Sustainable Landscapes Education Project, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Ocean County** will help to address water quality degradation and water supply/flow issues by increasing the adoption of landscaping best management practices among property managers and homeowners in the Barnegat Bay watershed. To accomplish this, they will establish six "Sustainable Landscaping Demonstration and Education Sites" in Ocean County, and then assess and analyze the practices used at those sites. A website will also be created to provide educational materials about the preferred best management practices.

**The Native Vegetation Education, Outreach, and Native Garden Walking Tour**, is a multi-phased effort with partners including: **the Borough of Seaside Park**, the American Littoral Society, the Urban Coast Institute of Monmouth University, Save Barnegat Bay, and now, the BBNEP. Plans for this project include securing commitment from at least 14 residential properties in the Borough to serve as "model" native coastal gardens participating in the educational walking tour. These properties will each display educational signage about their garden. Brochures and posters for the walking tour will also be produced through this project.

*A big thank you to the following volunteer members of the BBNEP Minigrant Review Committee for their continued dedication to this public education program: Lisa Auermuller, Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve, Scott Conklin, Ocean County Utilities Authority, Kathy Haake, Trust for Public Land, Kyra Hoffman, NJ Department of Environmental Protection, Cyndy Kopitsky, US Environmental Protection Agency Region 2, John LaMacchia, NJ Pinelands Commission, and Sandra Williams, Ocean County College.*

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"Passport to a Greener Community"

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2009

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. *Rain or Shine*

Waterfront Location! Wanamaker Complex in Island Heights

Stay close to home this summer and take a fun-filled journey that will help you better understand what it takes to protect and preserve the Barnegat Bay—come to the **12<sup>th</sup> annual Barnegat Bay Festival!** The day-long celebration will be held at the beautiful waterfront Wanamaker Complex in Island Heights with the Barnegat Bay providing the perfect backdrop. Join us for a free and entertaining Sunday of food, fun, and festivities. This annual celebration of the Barnegat Bay and its watershed is sponsored by the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program with support from our partners, Ocean County College and

the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

This year's theme: **Passport to a Greener Community: 12 Ways You Can Make a Difference** will help festival visitors fully experience the festival activities. Pick up your "Environmental Passport" at the Festival Information Booth and travel, exhibit-to-exhibit, visiting the dozens of environmental groups on hand to share valuable information and answer questions about the things you can do to make a difference at home or in your community. Use your Passport to connect to areas of environmental concern that interest you, and to meet like-minded people who want to share their knowledge. Use your Passport to explore opportunities to do one simple, worthwhile thing each month that will make a difference in how you landscape, shrink your carbon footprint, use water, or recycle and reuse.

Make your way to the stage for

lively and one-of-a-kind entertainment, presentations, and demonstrations, including choral and dulcimer music. Find out who will be honored as this year's Guardian of the Barnegat Bay.

Be adventurous and take a guided canoe eco-tour for an up-close view of Dillon's Creek with an Ocean County Park naturalist (registration is required by calling Betsy Hyle at 732-255-0472, extension 4). If canoeing is not your thing, take a ride aboard a pontoon boat for a tour of the Toms River and Barnegat Bay (tickets will be available at the festival on a first-come, first-served basis). Try your hand at crabbing or discover bay life while seining.

Save gas! Save money! Come join us for a fun-filled family day as you journey through the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Barnegat Bay Festival with your "Passport to a Greener Community". See [www.bbnep.org](http://www.bbnep.org) for directions and updated festival information.



Festival visitors shop for bay-friendly plants at the Save Barnegat Bay and Mantoloking Environmental Commission's Native Plant Sale. *Photo by Linda West.*

Get started on your bay-friendly garden by visiting the Native Plant Sale at the Barnegat Bay Festival. Low-maintenance native plants in our home landscaping conserve water, filter stormwater, and look great, but sometimes the plants can be difficult to find at local stores. Take the opportunity on June 7 to stock up and speak with exhibitors, such as the Master Gardeners or Master Composers of Ocean County about other ways to keep a bay-friendly home and garden.

## Mailing List

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- Please add my email address to your list serve for upcoming events and volunteer opportunities:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mail this coupon to: Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program, Ocean County College, PO Box 2001, Toms River, NJ 08754-2001, or email [mjudge@ocean.edu](mailto:mjudge@ocean.edu)

## Youth “Crusaders” Explore, Photograph, and Teach Others about the Potter Creek Watershed

By Lois Schoek

Retired teacher, Environmental Education Advisor, Berkeley Township Elementary School

The Potter Creek Crusaders (PCC), a small group of dedicated 6th graders from Berkeley Township Elementary School in Bayville, New Jersey, are enhancing their environmental studies by exploring the Potter Creek sub-watershed and its relationship to the Barnegat Bay estuary.

Potter Creek, which is adjacent to the school, flows through 115 acres of forest, wetlands, and marsh on its way to the Barnegat Bay. The land the students explore is forever protected – it was purchased for conservation in 2006 through a joint effort of the Trust for Public Land, Ocean County, and Berkeley Township. According to the Trust for Public Land, the property includes a mile of frontage on Potter Creek and is now owned and managed by Ocean County.

The students gather information by participating in field experiences with environmental educators, conducting research, and taking photographs of their observations in the field. They then used the photographs taken during each trip to the creek to develop a PowerPoint about Potter Creek to 5th and 6th graders at the school.

During the PCC meetings, guest lecturers from environmental organizations throughout Ocean County teach the students key terms and concepts. Students now understand what makes estuaries important ecosystems, and how urban runoff damages our water.

The PCC created Potter Creek Trading Cards about some of the animals and plants they photographed. Each

trading card includes information about the species and a photograph. Many of the students’ photographs of the Potter Creek area will be on display at the Berkeley Township Branch of the Ocean County Library in May.

In addition, the Potter Creek Crusaders have published a book entitled, *Lens on Potter Creek - A Photo Essay*. The PCC are also honored to have been invited to be the keynote speakers at this year’s Barnegat Bay Environmental Educators’ Roundtable.



With their cameras ready, the Potter Creek Crusaders embark on an exploratory field trip into the Potter Creek watershed near their school. Photo by Joyce Meilner

In an effort to share their knowledge and educate more people about the Barnegat Bay estuary, the Potter

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In the Classroom • In the Classroom • In the Classroom • In the Classroom

### In the Classroom

#### Interactive Lesson Plans Complement Educational Film about Barnegat Bay

Many local educators are familiar with the video, “Guardians of Barnegat Bay,” created in 2002 through a partnership effort led by the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program (BBNEP). This unique educational film gives the viewer a spectacular bird’s-eye view of the waters that flow through the watershed and into the Barnegat Bay-Little Egg Harbor Estuary, and illustrates new terms and concepts, such as how rainwater travels through our neighborhoods to the bay.

With the leadership of the Ocean County Soil Conservation District (OCSCD), seven interactive lesson plans were also developed to complement the film. These lesson plans - created for teachers, by teachers - provide educators with the necessary component to take the viewing of the film to the next level of learning. Classroom activities that span several subject areas, including

language arts, math, and science, directly expand upon and explain the contents of the film. These lesson plans increase the power of this film as an educational tool by helping teachers optimize its impact and usefulness in their classrooms.

This spring, those lesson plans were paired with a new DVD version of the “Guardians of Barnegat Bay” film and distributed to participants of the OCSCD’s 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Environmental Educators’ Roundtable, held on April 29, 2009, at the Lighthouse Center for Natural Resource Education in Waretown, New Jersey.

The “Guardians of Barnegat Bay” DVD tool comes complete with all seven lesson plans, two maps of the watershed needed for three of the lessons, and the “Guardians of Barnegat Bay” film. If you missed your chance to get a copy at the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Environmental Educators’ Roundtable, please contact Jeanine Cava at the BBNEP’s Program Office at [jcava@ocean.edu](mailto:jcava@ocean.edu), or (732) 255-0472, extension 2, to request a copy for your school, classroom, or community group.

the bay. Hopefully, such an action also serves as a model for protecting water quality in other coastal watersheds in New Jersey.

- (1) Nixon, S. W. 1995. Coastal marine eutrophication: a definition, social causes, and future concerns. *Ophelia* 41: 199-219.
- (2) Seitzinger, S.P., R.M. Styles, and I.E. Pilling. 2001. Benthic microalgal and phytoplankton production in Barnegat Bay, New Jersey (USA): microcosm experiments and data synthesis. *Journal of Coastal Research* 32: 144-166.
- (3) Bowen J.L., J.M. Ramstack, S. Mazzilli, and I. Valelia. 2007. NLOAD: an interactive, web-based modeling tool for nitrogen management in estuaries. *Ecological Applications* 17(5), p.S17-S30.
- (4) Conley, D.J., Paerl, H.W., Howarth, R.W., Boesch, D.F., Seitzinger, S.P., Havens, K.E., Lancelot, C., and Likens, G.E., 2009. Controlling eutrophication: nitrogen and phosphorus. *Science* v. 323, February 20, 2009.

### Related News:

This winter, scientists from Rutgers University and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) acquired nearly half a million dollars of federal funding for research into the complex process of eutrophication and its effects in the Barnegat Bay.

Mike Kennish, Ph.D., Research Professor at Rutgers University, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences and Research Coordinator of the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve, will lead the comprehensive study into the causes of nutrient pollution that is disrupting the ecosystem of Barnegat Bay. This two-year project will quantify nutrient loading to the bay with hard numbers and will use the collected data to support management measures. What's significant about this new research is its aim to provide localized findings, on the sub-watershed scale, regarding nutrient loads to the bay.

*Both Rutgers University and the USGS are key participants in the BBNEP's Eutrophication Workgroup.*

## Addressing Science and Technical Needs of the Estuary

As readers of the *Barnegat Bay Beat* know, there are a number of complex and challenging issues facing the Barnegat Bay ecosystem. One of the roles of a National Estuary Program is to bring together public and private stakeholders to collectively address critical issues. In 2008, the BBNEP established two technical work groups through its Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC); one to address the eutrophication issue and one to begin to address the estuary's declining fisheries populations.

The **Eutrophication Work Group** was established to build on recent efforts to delineate and implement a comprehensive strategy to address declining water quality and the impacts of eutrophication in Barnegat Bay. The work group's primary purpose is to pull together existing information and identify what other information is needed in order to address this very complex issue. The Eutrophication Work Group is also prioritizing both short- and long-term actions (restoration, mitigation, and monitoring), in order to reach our ultimate goal of restored water quality and a healthy Barnegat Bay estuary.

Current participation in the Eutrophication Work Group includes representatives from: American Littoral Society, Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program, Brick Utilities Authority, Clean Ocean Action, Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve, Monmouth University, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Ocean County Planning Department, Ocean County Soil Conservation District, Ocean County Utilities Authority, Pinelands Commission, Pinelands Preservation Alliance, Princeton Hydro, Rutgers Cooper-

ative Extension, Rutgers University, Save Barnegat Bay, United States Environmental Protection Agency, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and United States Geological Survey.

The **Fisheries Work Group** was established to address fisheries declines, a priority identified in the BBNEP's Strategic Plan. The Barnegat Bay estuary once sustained important local and regional fisheries. The estuary's surrounding wetlands provide important nursery areas for a variety of shellfish and finfish, many of which are commercially valuable and/or prized by recreational anglers. In addition, anadromous fish, which migrate from the ocean to freshwater streams to reproduce, use the bay during their migrations. Over the past several decades, however, many of these valuable fisheries have experienced drastic declines. It is important to gather critical information, such as population status and extent of fishing effort for key species.

The Fisheries Work Group is charged with identifying information gaps regarding crustacean, mollusk, and finfish ecology and/or fisheries (recreational and/or commercial), and to develop and oversee a request for proposals (RFP) to address those priority needs.

Current participation in the Fisheries Work Group includes representatives from: Barnegat Bay National Estuarine Program, Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve, Jersey Coast Anglers Association, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, Rider University, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Rutgers University, and United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

## New Member of the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program Policy Committee

The Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program (BBNEP) would like to



DiAnne Gove

welcome the newest member of its Policy Committee, Ms. DiAnne Gove of the Township of Long Beach, representing the Ocean County Mayors' Association. Ms.

Gove served as mayor of the Township from 2004 through 2008 and presently serves as its Deputy Mayor and Commissioner of Revenue and Finance. She grew up on Long Beach Island and returned to her alma mater, Southern Regional High School, where she spent her 30-year teaching career. In Ms. Gove's own words, "I have lived on Long Beach Island my entire life. It is a beautiful and wonderful place to live. I know how precious our bay is and how vital it is to our tourism, our ecosystem, and to our quality of life. We must preserve our precious Barnegat Bay."

Ms. Gove joins Barbara Finazzo (Acting Deputy Regional Administrator, US EPA Region II), Mark Mauriello (Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection), Joseph H. Vicari (Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders), Tom Fote (Citizen Representative), and Dr. Jon H. Larson (President, Ocean County College).

**A Big  
"Thank You" to:**

**Lisa Jackson, Alan Steinberg,  
and Bob Dieterich**  
for their years of service  
to the BBNEP

## Key Education and Outreach Leaders Participate in Successful Retreat

Education and Outreach professionals from throughout the coastal region joined together at the new Jake's Branch County Park this past February to brainstorm about the future of the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program's (BBNEP) public communications.

The more than 50 invitees were specifically asked to provide their input because of their valuable experience and knowledge regarding education, outreach, public relations, or marketing activities in the region. Topics discussed included: improving partnerships and partner relations, sharing resources, and critical audiences that need to be reached with important messages about Barnegat Bay.

The retreat was a preliminary step in a variety of activities that will take place over the next several months



During a break, retreat participants share ideas about their public education and outreach efforts.

as the BBNEP gathers information to develop its Communication Plan, the purpose of which is to align all the BBNEP's partnering organizations' programs, public education, and advocacy efforts with its 2008-2011 Strategic Plan. A final version of the plan is anticipated by fall 2009.

### *Youth Crusaders*, continued from page 5

Creek Crusaders encourage everyone to visit the school website to see their photo trading cards, view a slide show, preview the book, get an aerial view of the Potter Creek watershed, and more. It can be found under Educational Projects on the BTES homepage [www.btboe.org/bts/BTES](http://www.btboe.org/bts/BTES).

The extra-curricular efforts of the PCC were made possible by a Public Participation and Education Mini-grant awarded to the school in 2008 by the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program.

*According to the Trust for Public Land, protected lands in the Potter Creek watershed are open to the public for hiking and nature viewing on an existing trail. For more information about access to preserved lands in Ocean County, contact the Ocean County Natural Lands Trust Program at (732) 929-2054.*

## WHERE'S BARNEY?

Barney keeps on exploring the Barnegat Bay watershed! Think you know this month's location? Be the first to email the correct answer to [mjudge@ocean.edu](mailto:mjudge@ocean.edu) to receive your Barnegat Bay tote bag.

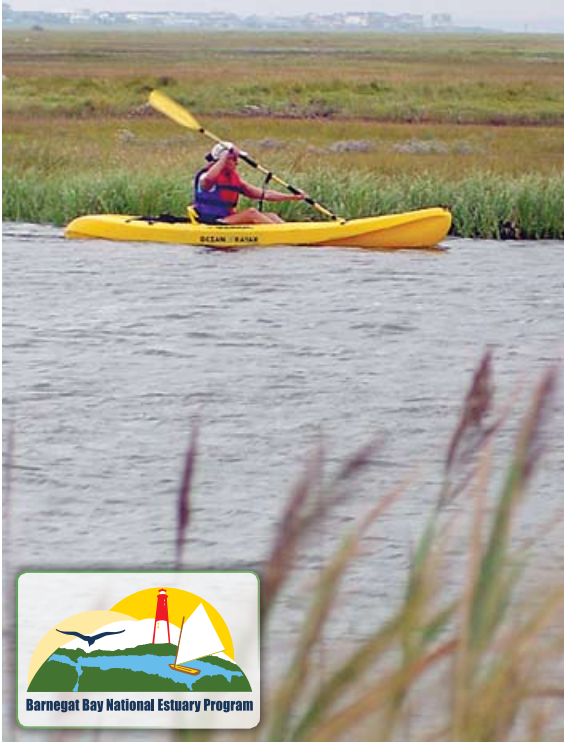


The lucky winner of the last "Where's Barney" was Lindsey Van Zile of Pine Beach, who correctly identified Barney as being at Georgian Court University (attending the BBNEP's State of the Bay Conference).

## Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program


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# The Barnegat Bay Beat



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## Fishin' for Ideas

We welcome all contributions and story ideas for inclusion into *The Barnegat Bay Beat*. Please contact Jeanine Cava via email at [jcava@ocean.edu](mailto:jcava@ocean.edu) for more information.

*The Barnegat Bay Beat* is a quarterly newsletter produced by the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program. The Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program is a partnership of federal, state, and local agencies and organizations. Our office is located on campus at Ocean County College, College Drive, Toms River, New Jersey.

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