



Ocean County Department of Planning
 Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program
 129 Hooper Avenue
 PO Box 2191
 Toms River, NJ 08754-2191

PRESORT STANDARD
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 Permit No. 626
 Toms River, NJ



The Barnegat Bay Beat

Fall 2002
 A Quarterly Publication of the Barnegat Bay Estuary Program

Barnegat Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan Approved by EPA Administrator Christie Whitman



Photo by: Mary Judge

During the last six years, the Barnegat Bay Estuary Program has been working in partnership with the 33 communities of Ocean County (and 4 in Monmouth County), as well as federal, state, county, private industry, academic institutions and citizens to develop a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) to protect and enhance the environment of Barnegat Bay and its "watershed" -- essentially all of Ocean County.

The CCMP contains approximately 70 Action Items designed to protect and restore water quality, water supplies, habitat, and natural resources, as well as support commercial and recreational uses that

have been deemed important by the citizens of Ocean County. These Action Items translate into \$9 million in commitments, as well as \$8 million in recommendations for additional work. Some of the priority Action Items that will benefit the citizens of Ocean County include: (1) the reduction of non-point source storm water pollution; (2) the implementation of water conservation and drinking water quality protection measures; (3) the installation of sewage pump-out stations and pump-out boats in the Bay area; and (4) the incorporation of environmental curriculum in Ocean County schools.

(continued on page 2)

Annual Barnegat Bay Bash A Success

The 6th Annual Barnegat Bay Festival was held on Saturday, June 8, at Berkeley Island Park from 10AM until 4PM. The festival was a huge success with attendance at more than 1000. The festival focused on educating the public and provided various activities for all age groups. Approximately 30 environmental exhibitors set up informational booths and demonstrations throughout the park.

Festival-goers also enjoyed various food vendors, as well as shopping for environmental crafts, books and prints. The all-day musical entertainment included Home Cookin', a local bluegrass band, folk singers Spook Handy and Valerie Vaughn, as well as storyteller/flutist Kenneth Little Hawk. Individuals enjoyed children's crafts, face painting, seining, underwater search and rescue demonstrations, as well as a free naturalist-led boat tour of the beautiful Barnegat Bay.

Save The Date

The 7th Annual Barnegat Bay Festival has been scheduled for
JUNE 7, 2003
 Berkeley Island County Park

The Barnegat Bay Beat

Fishin' for Ideas

We welcome all contributions and story ideas for inclusion into *The Barnegat Bay Beat*. Please contact Shannon Shinault via email at sshinault@co.ocean.nj.us for more information.

The Barnegat Bay Beat is a quarterly newsletter produced by the Barnegat Bay Estuary Program. The Barnegat Bay Estuary Program is a partnership of federal, state and local interests. Our office is located in the Ocean County Planning Department at 129 Hooper Avenue, Toms River, New Jersey.

Barnegat Bay Estuary Program

Dr. Robert Scro
 Program Director
bscro@co.ocean.nj.us

Shannon Shinault
 Public Outreach Coordinator
sshinault@co.ocean.nj.us

Mary Jerkowicz
 Program Assistant
mjerkowicz@co.ocean.nj.us

Mary Judge
 Program Assistant
mjudge@co.ocean.nj.us

Bob Dieterich
 EPA Program Coordinator
 USEPA
dieterich.robert@epamail.epa.gov

On the Web:
www.bbep.org



The Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders

Joseph H. Vicari, Director
 John C. Bartlett, Jr., Deputy Director
 John P. Kelly
 James F. Lacey
 James J. Mancini
 Steven L. Pollock, Administrator

Ocean County Department of Planning

Alan W. Avery, Jr., Director

Prepared by
 The Barnegat Bay Estuary Program Staff
 Shannon Shinault, Editor

Printed by
 The Ocean County Printing and Graphic Arts Department

Plan Approved...(cont. from page 1)

Last year, the draft CCMP, containing more than 70 Action Items, was released for public review and comment. Subsequently, the Final Draft CCMP was approved by Acting Governor DiFrancesco and sent to USEPA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. for final review and approval. The CCMP was approved by EPA Administrator Christie Whitman on May 15, 2002. This marked the beginning of a long-term implementation phase of the program to be administered by the Barnegat Bay Estuary Program (BBEP) Office, within the Ocean County Planning Department.



To commemorate this event, a signing ceremony in Ocean County is being coordinated jointly by the BBEP Program Office, the US Environmental Protection Agency, the Governor's Office and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. A date has yet to be determined; however, both Administrator Christie Whitman and Governor McGreevey are expected to attend.

Did You Know...?
The area of watershed in Barnegat Bay is 660 square miles.

I N T H E C L A S S R O O M

Estuary Live!

E*stuary Live!* is an interactive field trip on the Web. This event is a celebration of the 14th Annual National Estuaries Day and will be webcast on October 3 and 4, 2002. This year the Barnegat Bay Estuary Program will be partnering with the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve on October 4 from noon until 1 pm. Trained naturalists will lead the event, telling the tales of our diverse estuaries and the plants and animals who live there. Students and teachers from around the globe can email questions and have them answered live over the internet. Visit www.estuaries.gov to learn more about National Estuaries Day and *Estuary Live!*

Barnegat Bay Environmental Educators Roundtable

The 2002 Fall Environmental Educators Roundtable will be held on Saturday, October 26, 2002, from 9 am until 2 pm. This workshop features an array of hands-on activities and field trips to motivate teachers to incorporate Barnegat Bay Watershed topics into their curriculum. Register now for what promises to be an informative and adventurous program: exploring our watershed, networking with environmental educators, and gathering resources, ideas and lesson plans to take back to your schools. Five Professional Development Hours will be awarded at the end of the program. To register and/or obtain more information, please call the Ocean County Soil Conservation District at (609) 971-7002. *Pre-Registration Required by October 15, 2002.*

Getting to Know Our Neighbors



Photo by: Richard King

The habitat in the Barnegat Bay Estuary System is used by an abundance of wildlife. The Brown Thrasher, *Toxostoma rufum*, pictured at left can be found in thickets at woods' and water's edge. The bird is brown above, white below, with dark brown streaks; long-tailed and short-winged, slightly to strongly curved slender bill and yellow eyes. The species is a good to excellent singer of a variety of musical phrases, each repeated twice; but their call sounds more like a smacking of lips! The retiring and secretive Brown Thrasher feeds on the ground, scattering dead leaves with its beak in search of insects.

Compost Those Leaves

Mary Judge, BBEP Program Assistant

Composting is very simple, great for the environment, and something the whole family can participate in together. If you're not looking forward to stuffing those 30-odd (expensive, non-biodegradable) plastic bags with leaves to sit on the curb in front of your house for weeks on end, this fall would be a great time to start composting. There are many good instructional books and videos in your local library to teach you everything you ever wanted to know about composting, but here are some basics.

There are many reasons to compost:

- ◆ Saves \$ -- sprinkled around the garden, compost releases its nutrients slowly -- as plants need them -- unlike expensive, petroleum-based fertilizers.
- ◆ Saves water -- you'll improve the soil's structure, texture, and aeration, increase its ability to hold water and make your plants stronger and more able to *naturally* withstand disease and insect infestation.
- ◆ Stops overloading our landfills -- over 20% of household trash in North America is made up of yard clippings and kitchen scraps. All materials (even organic), when dumped in an airtight landfill, are kept from decomposing properly because they don't get any air or moisture. Also, organic materials react with other non-organic materials in a landfill and create toxic leachate that may contaminate nearby streams or groundwater.

Now that you're convinced, you can buy or build very fancy bins of all descriptions, but all you really need to start with is some flexible wire mesh or fencing and two posts (for example, the stakes that held up your tomato plants this summer). Find a spot behind the garage, pound the posts opposite each other into the ground, wrap the wire mesh in a large circle around the posts, secure with string or wire, and you're ready to go. Rake those leaves onto an old sheet and throw them in the bin. Add a small amount of water, stir occasionally with your pitchfork and you're done. If you're going to add other compostables (food scraps, etc.), you should cover the pile with a tarp to keep the moisture in and prevent over-soaking from rain.

Composting ingredients are either "brown" (dry materials like wood chips, dried leaves, dried grass and other plants) or "green" (fresh, moist materials such as grass cuttings and food scraps -- nothing that's been cooked!). Don't compost any weeds or plants that are invasive or have gone to seed. Alternate browns and greens as much as possible in your bin and always cover fresh food scraps with other composting materials. Moisten the pile until it's about as damp as a wrung-out sponge.

Don't add meat, dairy products, or anything that's been cooked to your compost pile.

Hopefully, composting will make you more aware of just how much you're throwing away unnecessarily, when you're headed for the trash and it crosses your mind, "Gee, I should really compost this."

Ocean County Backyard Composting Demonstration Site

To increase awareness and further educate residents about the benefits of home composting, Ocean County developed a demonstration site at its Northern Recycling Center. Ocean County residents have expressed their strong interest in backyard composting by supporting the environmental benefits it provides. The demonstration site is open to the public for their viewing Monday through Saturday from 7:30 am to 3:00 pm. The site displays various types of home composting units and an information kiosk that describes the composting process as well as providing educational literature for visitors.

Any group or organization that desires a presentation on home composting at the County's Recycling Education Center by a Master Composter should contact Kathleen Avery, Assistant Recycling Coordinator, at 732-506-5047. For further information, visit their website at www.co.ocean.nj.us/recycle.



Photo by: Kathleen Avery



Barnegat Bay Proposed A No Discharge Area

The establishment of Barnegat Bay as a *No Discharge Area* is one of the major Action Items that has been identified in the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Watershed Management, Atlantic Coastal Bureau has worked with the New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium, Ocean County Planning Department, Barnegat Bay Estuary Program and the New Jersey Clean Vessel Act Steering Committee to obtain this designation for the Barnegat Bay.

The designation is contingent upon a number of factors, including the availability of pump out stations, dump stations and accessibility of marinas that have operating pump out facilities to all vessels (recreational, commercial, and private) of various size that could accept the amount of waste projected to be generated by vessels operating throughout the bay.

The DEP is awaiting final official approval from the Permits and Pretreatment Section at the USEPA Region 2. Once the designation is approved, it will be published in the *Federal Register*.



Photo by: David McKeon

Pump Out Boats

Ocean County is proud to sponsor the operation of two of the three pump out boats operating in New Jersey waters.

The "Circle of Life" is entering its fifth year of operation off of Island Beach State Park, in central Barnegat Bay. The "Waste Watcher" is the newest boat in New Jersey and is operated by the Tuckerton Seaport. The boat services the Little Egg Harbor Bay area.

At the request of Freeholder Director Joseph H. Vicari, Ocean County just approved the purchase of a third boat to serve the northern portion of the Barnegat Bay. It is anticipated that the new boat will be in service by Memorial Day 2003.

Funding to operate both pump out vessels is provided by the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Ocean County Utilities Authority. The boats were purchased through grants from the New Jersey Clean Vessel Act Program.

The pump out boats are usually in service Friday through Monday and can be contacted on the marine VHF radio channel 9 by identifying the boat and its location. There is no charge for the service.

Open Space - Vital to Healthy Drinking Water

Permission to reprint the following article was generously given by the Morris Land Conservancy and was co-authored by Roberta Dyrsten, Development Director and Laura Szwak, Assistant Director.

Land and water have a natural connection that is vital to our well being. As New Jersey endures a drought emergency, we are becoming ever more mindful of the sources of our drinking water. Land that is many miles away from our own backyards impacts the water that flows from our taps. Undeveloped land helps to store and purify the water used for our water supplies.

In forests, for example, the green canopy above and the decaying leaves underneath collect rainwater, allowing the water to seep slowly into the soil. The silt cleanses and scrubs the water, filtering contaminants as the water trickles through the clays and sands of New Jersey. This process allows cleaner water to replenish underground reservoirs called aquifers. We tap these reservoirs with wells. If you drink water directly from a well, like many New Jerseyans, you rely on silt, rocks and leaves to give you a clean glass of water.

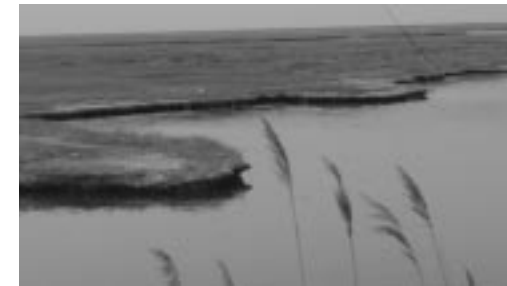


Photo by: Shannon Shinault

Wetlands and floodplains perform similar storage and cleansing functions. By slowing the flow of water from a storm, these areas ensure that water will stay in New Jersey longer and not rush out to sea via rivers and streams.

Vegetated slopes allow rainwater runoff to enter waterways more slowly. An increasing amount of rainwater can then be absorbed in the lower wet areas and streams. Lakes and streams feed the aquifer, and sometimes the aquifer feeds the lakes and streams.

Nature provides these services for "free," making the world's ecosystems a valuable yet under-appreciated asset. In place of water storage tanks and expensive water treatment plants, the land helps provide the clean water we need to live healthy lives. Often we only become aware of the value of these services when they are lost to us.

The valuable ecosystem that now helps to provide plentiful, clean water supplies to our homes is being threatened by over-development. As people develop and use land, its natural ability to store water decreases, leading to rapid runoff of rainwater, which is carried directly to our rivers and streams and then the ocean where it is essentially lost as fresh drinking water. In addition, when rainwater hits tightly manicured lawns or impervious surfaces, like pavement, it picks up pollutants such as oil, road salt, and lawn chemicals. This toxic runoff flows through storm drains to rivers and streams.

Bulb Planting

Sue Norman, President
Ocean County Master Gardeners

Fall is the time to order your bulbs to have them in time for fall planting or you can visit your local nursery.

Select bulbs that are long-lived. Daffodils and hybrid tulips are good choices.

Bulbs should be planted in a location that gets at least half a day's sun exposure.

You should plant your bulbs when the soil temperature is about 60 degrees F (after October 15th) and at a depth of 6 inches. Dig out an area for planting that is deeper than needed. Mix compost with the soil that was removed from the hole. Add the mixed soil back to achieve the proper depth for the size bulb being planted (3x height of the bulb). Mix in some bone meal then place bulb in and space them accordingly (3x width of bulb on center).

Your existing bulbs should be fertilized in the fall (Oct/Nov). Apply a bulb fertilizer. *New bulbs do not require fertilizer the first year.*

Bulbs should be watered during the growing season.

Deadhead flowers so the plants will not waste energy for seed production. Bulb's leaves should turn yellow before removing them. Leaves should be yellow before moving them to another location.

In the fall, mulch bulb beds to a depth of 2-3 inches.

10 Ways to be Good to the Bay

1. **USE A PUMP-OUT BOAT SERVICE** or a Marina Pump Out facility for your marine waste.
2. **BE A RESPONSIBLE PERSONAL WATERCRAFT USER.** Limit riding in ecologically sensitive areas (shallow waters) where fish spawn and birds nest. When in these waters, keep watercraft at idle speed.
3. Always **PICK UP** pet waste.
4. **AVOID OVERUSE** of fertilizers. Do not apply before a heavy rainfall.
5. Pesticides are as toxic to marine life as they are to bugs. **FOLLOW LABEL DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY**, or even better, use organic alternatives whenever possible.
6. **DON'T TEACH YOUR TRASH TO SWIM:** never throw litter in the street or down storm drains - it will end up in the bay swimming next to you.
7. **TAKE YOUR CAR TO A COMMERCIAL CAR WASH** where the wash water is recycled.
8. **CALL 1-800-557-3292** to find out where to dispose of paint thinners, moth balls, drain and oven cleaners, and other hazardous waste materials.
9. **RECYCLE!** Re-use grocery bags, compost your yard and kitchen waste, separate your bottles and cans away from other trash, and take used motor oil to a recycling center. Did you know that recycling brings more revenue to your town?
10. **PRECYCLE!** Be an environmentally savvy consumer - consider a product's packaging before you buy.

From the desk of: The Barnegat Bay Watershed and Estuary Foundation

By Richard Bizub, Chairman

The Barnegat Bay Watershed and Estuary Foundation is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the waters of Barnegat Bay and all the waters that drain into the Bay. Founded in 1994 as the Barnegat Bay Watershed Association, The Foundation has evolved into an organization that now consists of individuals, families, corporations and others concerned about protecting the natural environment of the Bay and watershed.

The Foundation has recently been chosen as the lead nonprofit organization to assist in implementing goals of the Barnegat Bay Estuary Program. This will be accomplished through fundraising, education and providing opportunities for public participation in Estuary Program activities. As active participants in the development of the Estuary Program's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), we will also be responsible for specific Action Items in that plan. A strong Foundation with solid funding will therefore result in greater protection of the Bay and watershed. In other words, even though the Estuary Program and the Foundation are two separate entities, one a government program and the other a nonprofit organization, we have formed a unique partnership for protecting a national treasure.

The Foundation has been involved in a number of activities

since our inception. In the past, the Foundation has hosted seminars to resolve conflicts and foster understanding and consensus by various user groups in the watershed. The Foundation sees this as a vital function and will continue in this capacity, to provide a neutral forum to resolve potential user conflicts. Some of the seminars that we have sponsored during the past five years have been on the topics of *Personal Watercraft Conflicts, Housing Development vs. Open Space, Wastewater Reuse, A Build-Out Analysis of Ocean County, and How Air Deposition of Chemicals Affects Water Quality*. The personal watercraft seminar resulted in the formation of the Personal Watercraft Task Force, which brought together individuals with varying viewpoints to develop sound, workable policies for the Bay. Informative summaries of these seminars are available on our website for the public to review.

We publish *Watershed Waves* to inform our members and others about events occurring within the watershed, volunteer and action opportunities, and articles highlighting watershed-related topics. This newsletter is currently available twice a year and can be reviewed on our website or at the Ocean County Library.

Through funding from the Barnegat Bay Estuary Program, the Foundation has re-manufactured

our Bernie Waterfront Access signs. These colorful signs feature "Bernie, the Crab" and ask people to "Help Keep Our Waters Clean." The signs remind people that they are in the Barnegat Bay Watershed. The Foundation will provide each municipality with a sign for installation at public access locations, such as parks, beaches and boat ramps. In addition, we've been marking the inland limits of the watershed along major roadways with similar signs to build awareness of the connection of the inland waterways and Barnegat Bay. You may have already seen these signs in such places as Freehold, Plumsted, and Jackson Townships.

With the new and demanding tasks that we have set for ourselves here in the Barnegat Bay Watershed, the Foundation is looking for your help. Businesses, organizations, families, and individuals are encouraged to become a member of the Foundation and take part in protecting our watershed and estuary. Become an integral part of protecting your community. Since the Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, your donations are tax-deductible. For more information, visit our website at www.BBWEF.org or email us at BBWEF@aol.com. We can also be reached at (732) 505-3671 or BBWEF, c/o Ocean County Extension Center, 1623 Whitesville Road, Toms River, NJ 08755.

The Barnegat Bay Estuary Program

Our Mission

In cooperation with our community, the Barnegat Bay Estuary Program (BBEP) is committed to action to restore, maintain, protect, and enhance the natural resources of the Barnegat Bay Estuary and contributing watersheds through the 21st century. We are guided by the following principles:

- Encouraging and motivating residents and visitors to maintain an ethic of responsibility for the bay and watershed.
- Educating people about the cultural heritage, historic traditions and natural estuarine resources of the BBEP region.
- Implementing community-based environmental planning for an increased quality of life and economic viability for the region.
- Integrating scientific data to prioritize the focal issues of point and nonpoint sources of pollution, habitat loss/open space, water quality degradation, and the multiple interests in the watershed region.
- Promoting sustainable management of operative efforts of citizens, businesses, local, state, and federal governments and other stakeholders.
- Acknowledging and planning for the rising population and increased uses of ground and surface water.
- Maintaining recreational and commercial fisheries through a healthy watershed.

A Note from Our Freeholder Liaison, James F. Lacey

The impressive and unique qualities of Barnegat Bay attract many visitors each year, not only from the US, but from other countries as well. Residents throughout New Jersey flock to Ocean County each year to enjoy the richness of its coastal resources, from the clean sandy beaches to the barrier islands that border the Bay, to the vastness of the Bay itself. Consequently, NJ residents have a relatively short distance to travel to enjoy a national treasure. At the heart of the state's tourism slogan, "New Jersey & You, Perfect Together," is the Jersey Shore and the bountiful opportunities in and around Barnegat Bay. Our clean waters, healthy seafood, and diverse recreational opportunities highlight this. Each year, tourists spend approximately \$1.7 billion in Ocean County and 51,100 jobs are supported. But the true value of the Bay transcends economics. Like many youngsters who grew up in Ocean County experiencing the abundant pleasures of Barnegat Bay (fishing, boating, crabbing, or just spending the day relaxing near the water), I was left with an appreciation for the natural beauty of the environment in which we live.

Whether you live in Ocean County, or visit the Barnegat Bay area, we invite you to join us as a partner in this important endeavor.



A Note from Our Program Director, Dr. Robert Scro

In 1995, Barnegat Bay was nominated by then-Governor Christie Whitman for inclusion in the National Estuary Program, and was accepted into the Program the following year by the US Environmental Protection Agency. As one of the 28 estuaries in the United States designated as a resource of "National Significance," it was recognized that Barnegat Bay is of immeasurable value and is one of the most precious and beautiful natural resources in our country.

The recent approval of the Barnegat Bay CCMP signifies the beginning of the long-term implementation phase of the Barnegat Bay Estuary Program. Since planning and implementation are two sides of the same coin, much work needs to be done to successfully execute the CCMP. An effective watershed management program must be able to progress from technically based findings and recommendations to implementable (institutionally and financially feasible) watershed management actions. The diverse partnership that was responsible for developing the CCMP over the last six years is now charged with the equally difficult task of carrying out its commitments. We look forward to your involvement in maintaining the vitality of Barnegat Bay and its watershed.

