



# The Barnegat Bay Beat

Volume 4, Issue 1

Winter 2005

A Quarterly Publication of the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program

## Is That A Fish On My Street?

Many public complexes and municipalities have been busy during the past few months labeling storm drains in accordance with the DEP Municipal Stormwater Regulation Program. You may have noticed a fish on your street. His name is Watershed Willy and he wants you to be part of the solution to stormwater pollution. Watershed Willy's motto, "Only rain in the drain, flows to Barnegat Bay," is part of an outreach effort to teach residents that EVERYTHING that goes into the storm drain is emptied into Barnegat Bay.

Ocean County College Water Watch, Student Government, and the Environmental Club were quick to volunteer to label the storm drains for OCC. Cedar Creek staff worked with Lacey Public Works Director, Casey Parker to clean up local beaches and label nearby storm drains with their Watershed Willy decals. We would love for our readers to share their experience with the storm drain labeling projects occurring throughout the watershed. Contact your town's stormwater coordinator to see if you can help.

Remember, you can always help by NEVER dumping anything in the storm drain! This empties directly into nearby rivers, creeks and streams to eventually reach Barnegat Bay. So please, keep any yard clippings, leaves, antifreeze, fertilizer, dirt, pet waste, pesticides, herbicides, motor oil, diesel fuel, etc. away from storm drains and out of the Bay!



Melissa Neuhaus, Jeanine Cava, and Ryan Kelly label storm drains at Ocean County College



***Save the Date! Mark Your Calendars!***

**The 9th Annual Barnegat Bay Festival is scheduled for  
June 25, 2005  
at a new location, OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE.**

**Mark your calendars for a fun-filled day celebrating the Barnegat Bay  
Watershed!**

***"If it rains or if it pours, we can finally go indoors!"***

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, volunteer, exhibitor, or vendor for this event, please contact Mary Judge at 732.255.0472 or email [mjudge@ocean.edu](mailto:mjudge@ocean.edu).

## I n t h e C l a s s r o o m

### **8th Annual Barnegat Bay Watershed Environmental Educators Roundtable**

The 8th Annual Barnegat Bay Environmental Educators Roundtable promises to be the best yet! This is Ocean County Soil Conservation District's largest educational event and highlights the expertise and resources available through our partners and members of the Steering Committee. Participants choose from a large variety of field studies or classroom activities that focus on the natural resources (and their management) within the Barnegat Bay watershed. Teachers leave with a wealth of ideas, lesson plans and supplemental resources for immediate application in their schools. The event has special appeal due to the fabulous door prizes and delicious food provided.

**It is scheduled for April 21, 2005 from 4:00 - 7:30 PM at the Lighthouse Center for Natural Resource Education in Waretown, NJ.**

Visit [www.ocsd.org](http://www.ocsd.org) for more information and a registration form.

Please contact the Ocean County Soil Conservation District at **609-971-7002**, or email [info@ocsd.org](mailto:info@ocsd.org) with any questions.

### **Getting to Know Our Neighbors**

*Mary Judge, BBNEP Assistant*

**Purple loosestrife** (*Lythrum salicaria* L.) is a European native which has become invasive in the United States after being introduced in the 1800s for ornamental and medicinal uses. This 6-foot perennial with lavender flowers has no natural predators in the U.S. (unlike the hundreds of insects which keep it under control in Europe), leaving it free to become a strong, robust, nearly indestructible invader of freshwater wet meadows, tidal and non-tidal marshes, river and stream banks, pond edges, reservoirs, and ditches. A local landscaper, Bryce Bennett, notified the College early this fall that he had spotted some purple loosestrife at the edge of the OCC pond on Hooper Avenue and was nice enough to volunteer to dig it out by hand, putting the plant in a black plastic bag until the decomposition process (heat) destroyed the seeds.

An **invasive** plant is one which spreads so rapidly that it crowds out native plants, thereby reducing the **biodiversity** of an area, which is crucial for a healthy ecosystem to exist. Loosestrife blooms from June to September, giving it plenty of time to produce millions of seeds, allowing it to out-compete and replace native grasses, sedges, and other flowering plants that provide nutrition for wildlife (no wildlife species are known to use purple loosestrife). The denseness of its stands also reduces habitat for waterfowl and deters other wildlife. Use of herbicides and hand removal will always be necessary to some extent in controlling the plant, but introducing the European insect predators may be the best long-term control of large infestations.

Even "guaranteed sterile" cultivars of purple loosestrife are still very fertile and are able to cross freely with purple loosestrife and other native *Lythrum* species. Therefore, purple loosestrife of **any** kind should be avoided, even though only a handful of states prohibit its sale. A good substitute for loosestrife in your garden is **Liatris (blazing star)** that has a gorgeous pinkish-purple flower spike and is a great source of nectar for our native butterflies and other insects.



Photograph by Glenn Foster

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT: PEARL SCHWARTZ

*"Pearl is one of my cherished mentors. She has promoted a holistic approach to environmental protection through her many contacts. She has been active in the League of Women Voters, Ocean Nature and Conservation Society, American Littoral Society, and the Ocean County Environmental Agency for several decades. Even in recent years she has given many educational talks to other residents in her Independent Living Community. Every community is in need of a 'Pearl Schwartz' to actively espouse about quality of life issues."* ~Jan Larson

On October 9, friends and family joined in a celebration of Pearl and Ed Schwartz's 50th wedding anniversary. The two met at a movie documentary on a Saturday night in 1954. It was there that Ed asked for Pearl's phone number and "the rest is history."

Perhaps what makes Pearl and Ed such an extraordinary couple is their passionate activism on various environmental issues. Ed is a well known nature photographer and Pearl has been active in the Barnegat Bay Watershed even before the existence of the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program.

Pearl is an example of that one person who can and does make a difference. Her kindness, knowledge and positive outlook have been a motivator in Ocean County with regard to preserving open space, improving local recycling efforts, and educating not only the public, but community leaders and elected officials about the natural resources of the Pine Barrens and the local watershed. The list of her accomplishments could go on and on.



Photograph by Ralph Krubner

### Volunteers Needed!

Rutgers Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences is seeking volunteers for the 6th annual Shore Bowl. The Shore Bowl is a regional academic competition for high school students that focuses on concepts surrounding oceanography and marine science. The event is one of 24 regional competitions around the nation whose winners will compete in the National Ocean Sciences Bowl in April 2005. Volunteers are needed to serve as moderators, science judges, rules judges, scorekeepers and timekeepers. In addition to a day of rewarding fun, volunteers will be generously fed and receive an event t-shirt.

For more information, visit <http://www.imcs.rutgers.edu/k12ed/shorebowl.htm>, or contact Eric Simms at 732/932-6555 x505 or [simms@marine.rutgers.edu](mailto:simms@marine.rutgers.edu).

### Name that Boat!

The Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve (JCNERR) has recently purchased a new boat and we need your help coming up with a creative and suitable name! The new 20-foot Maritime skiff will be used by the JCNERR research and education staff to better monitor the health of the water, plants, and animals in the Mullica River/Great Bay ecosystem that makes up the Reserve. The contest is open to classes of students in grades 3-8, including public, private, and home-schooling institutions and organizations. The winning class will receive a personalized field trip to the JCNERR, including lunch and a framed certificate.

For more information, visit <http://www.jcnerr.org> and click on "Education," or contact Madeline Gazzale at [mgazzale@marine.rutgers.edu](mailto:mgazzale@marine.rutgers.edu).

# **Restoration and Conservation Programs at Island Beach State Park: A Minigrant Success Story**

**Paul "Pete" McLain, Project Supervisor and Wildlife Biologist**

**D**uring the grant period from April 1, 2004 to October 15, 2004, the following programs and projects were undertaken as part of the proposed objectives of a minigrant award from the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program.

## **Planting American Beach Grass At Island Beach State Park**

Thirty thousand American Beach Grass (*Ammophila breviligulata*) were planted on the primary dunes at Island Beach State Park in 16 areas where the Atlantic Ocean storm tides had endangered the established dune line. The severe erosion could lead to possible breaching of the dunes creating major "blowouts" that would damage the only paved access road in the park.

This program was supervised by Diane Bennett-Chase, Staff Resource Interpretive Specialist. Kevin Knutsen also helped fertilize and direct the volunteer dune grass planting project.

A total of 507 volunteers, comprised of school groups, scouts, ecology and service clubs, university classes and industry, assisted with the dune grass planting. The Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Wakefern Corporation provided the funding to purchase the dune grass.

Surveys in September 2004 showed excellent growth and development of this planting program.

## **Research Study Evaluating Commercial Fertilizers and Oceangro Fertilizer**

A research study was conducted in cooperation with the Ocean County Soil Conservation District. A total of 12 study plots on the Primary Dunes were established to evaluate commercial fertilizer in comparison to the Oceangro fertilizer that was made available by the Ocean County Municipal Utilities Authority and the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

In addition, test plots were established to determine how Coastal Panic grass (*Panicum amarum*) and Coastal Bluestem Grass (*Andropogon littoralis*.) survive and grow under Primary Dune conditions.

## **Osprey Nesting Structures, Osprey Count and Banding of Fledgling Osprey**

This phase of the minigrant was directed and supervised by Paul McLain and fieldwork was accomplished by Field Leader, Amanda Adis, and volunteers Mark Truhan and Michelle Urban. A total of 35 osprey nesting structures were remapped and locations were established for each nest.

This research study showed that a total of 25 nests in this colony were used by 20 pairs of ospreys that produced 55 eggs, of which 35 hatched and survived to fledge.

An important part of this study was the construction of four osprey nesting structures by Troup 22 of Lavallette during the winter of 2004. These nests were erected on the Sedge Islands tidal marsh in February 2004. George Chase, a professional cinematographer, produced a video of the nesting structure program.



*Pete is currently devoting his efforts to a study and mapping of the Mullica and Wading River tidal watershed west of the Garden State Parkway in cooperation with Lisa Weiss, Coordinator of the Jacques Cousteau Reserve, which is located in this area of the watershed.*

## A Note From Our Readers

Dear Shannon,

We are in Bayville, 2 seconds from the wonderful Barnegat Bay all summer but head back to West Palm Beach each September. We should have stayed in NJ because an uninvited guest by the name of Jeanne entered our home and what a mess!! I receive your newsletter and support all your energies in caring for the Bay. And what a great teaching tool at the fingertips of all local schools. Just thought you would enjoy this short story. When my granddaughter visited we tried to turn an annoyance into a learning lesson! And probably just what many teachers do. ~ *Marian Brovero*

### THE JELLY REPORT

My new teacher will ask, "What did you do this summer?" I am all set. I have been out and about with Mother Nature. I have been to the library and I have gone online.

~ Research is my middle name.~

It started at the shore where my family always goes each summer. My brothers and I love every part of it. Even our dog swims with us. This summer everything changed.

Jellyfish invaded our lagoon. Have you ever seen one? They are ugly and terribly yucky. If you get bitten, it hurts a lot.

Now, you get to learn with me...all about the jellies.

Jellyfish are a part of the food chain, just not mine (if I can help it)! They love to feast on crabs, plankton and sea worms while sunfish, starfish, sea turtles and sea slugs feast on them.

You can see right through a jelly. Their top looks like a mushroom. I thought it even looked like a space ship. That's the part that is the jelly. Yes!

They have an eye under the ship or bell part and a mouth and...listen to this...feeding arms hanging down, down into the water. Those long stringy arms are called tentacles. And guess what? Those stringy parts can sting you. They can keep on stinging and hurting while you try to pull them off. Better ask mom for the alcohol and help.

Here's the special part: jellies have been on our planet for 560 million years. Maybe they were swimming right past ancient sharks or tickled tyrannasaurus's nose while he had a drink.

Unique is a perfect word for jellyfish. My grandpa says so. They have no brain. Home can be fresh or salt water. Invertebrates have no backbone. That's a jellyfish.

The only time they are pretty is at night when you shine a flashlight on the water. Sparkling back, like silver coins, are the baby jellies AND they are too small to hurt. Thank goodness, my grandma says.

What we going to do? The ocean belongs to the part of our world called nature. We just wish sea animals, like the jellyfish, would vacation in another spot.

You can do what my grandma and I did. Go to the library and become a jelly expert. Your teacher will look at you with a kind smile and your mom will be so proud.

That's just what happened to me.

~ Jenna Lee Brovero

### MAILING LIST:

- Please add my name to your mailing list for my free subscription to *The Barnegat Bay Beat*.
- Please remove my name from your mailing list. There's no more room in my mailbox, but I will be sure to check your website at [www.bbep.org](http://www.bbep.org).

---

---

---

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

## **Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program: 2005 Public Participation and Education Minigrant Program**

In an effort to increase public awareness, the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program (BBNEP) is soliciting proposals for public education and participation activities focusing on major environmental problems facing the Barnegat and Little Egg Harbor Bays, including multiple users' needs, and ecosystem health and sustainability. Projects should seek to increase public awareness and education; emphasize that this ecosystem is a living environmental and social resource; demonstrate that the public can help to protect the estuary; motivate people to actively participate in its restoration; and utilize innovative activities which involve people and lead to local action. Applicants are invited to submit a proposal in one of the following subject areas:

- Nonpoint Source Pollution Prevention
- Phase II Municipal Stormwater Management
- Water Quality Control
- Estuarine Education
- Citizen Monitoring
- Public Participation

Proposals are welcome from individuals, organizations and government agencies in the Barnegat Bay Watershed, including the following: nonprofit organizations with a membership constituency, and Internal Revenue Service 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) exemption; governmental or public agencies within the Barnegat Bay Watershed, such as environmental commissions or planning boards; private businesses and professional organizations whose activities affect Barnegat Bay; classroom teachers in the Barnegat Bay Watershed with projects that can serve as models for others.

Requests for a \$500 (minimum) to a \$7,500 (maximum) Minigrant will be considered by the reviewing committee. The grant amount cannot exceed 75% of total project costs. The applicant must provide a minimum of 33% of this federal grant amount in matching funds or in-kind services from other non-federal sources. Applications must be received by 4:00 PM on February 11, 2005. Awards will be announced by March 18, 2005.

For more information please visit our website at [www.bbep.org](http://www.bbep.org), or contact Mary Judge via email at [mjudge@ocean.edu](mailto:mjudge@ocean.edu) or via phone at 732.255.0472.

### **INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

Title: Interpretive Specialist Assistant

Island Beach State Park is one of New Jersey's outstanding state parks. Situated between the Atlantic Ocean and Barnegat Bay, this unique barrier island is protected from development. It teems with wildlife and provides the habitat for nine major plant communities, including a maritime forest and a tidal wetlands called the Sedge Islands. Interns will assist the Resource Interpretive Specialist in providing information and services to park visitors. Information pertaining to barrier island ecology will be provided so that the intern may assist with school and environmental group tours. Participation in research projects may also be part of the internship. Office work, trail maintenance and maintaining native plant gardens are also possibilities. Many activities are dependent upon the time of the internship. Please contact Diane Bennett-Chase at 732-793-1698 or [ibsp-nature@netcarrier.com](mailto:ibsp-nature@netcarrier.com).

### **Local Flavors**

#### **Baked Pineapple**

*A quick and delicious dessert for those last-minute guests.*

*submitted by*

**Rebecca Lythgoe**

- 1 stick margarine
- 2 eggs
- 1 20-ounce can pineapple tidbits  
pineapple with natural juice
- 1-teaspoon vanilla
- 1-cup sugar
- ½ cup milk
- 2 cups bread cubes (6 slices of  
white bread cut into cubes)

Cream together margarine and sugar. Add eggs one at a time. Mix well. Add remaining ingredients. Mix and pour into a 9 x 12 glass-baking dish. Bake for 1 hour at 325 degrees.

**A** big thank you to  
**Barbara Steele,**

Ocean County Director of Public  
Affairs, for a permanent loan of a  
beautiful brochure rack to the  
Barnegat Bay National Estuary  
Program.

### ***Help the Friends of Island Beach State Park and the Interpretive Staff***

Please bring your **empty** Printer  
Cartridge - (laser and inkjet), Desk  
Top Copier Cartridges, Fax Machine  
Ink Cartridges, and Old Cell Phones  
to Island Beach State Park Gate  
House, Nature Center or Friends  
Office. These items earn points  
which are redeemed for items useful  
to the Park and the Interpretive  
Programs. For more information,  
contact the Friends of Island Beach  
State Park, Inc. at 732.793.8220.

## **W h e r e ' s B a r n e y ?**

**A** big congratulations goes to Bonnie Golden, the first person to respond with the correct answer to the last edition's location (which was: in the Children's Garden at Island Heights).

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



### ***Green Lands, Clean Water***

#### ***NJ Community Water Watch 5th Annual Environmental Education Tour Comes to Ocean County!***

***Jeanine Cava, Ocean County College Chapter of NJ Community Water Watch Campus Organizer***

**T**here are mixed opinions about the best way to make a positive impact on our present environmental crisis. Some passionately believe that the only way to enact change is to develop public policy that makes the degradation of our air, water and earth illegal. Others believe that demonstrations, protests and civil disobedience will make the world see the error of its ways. But for many, the importance of teaching children the value of our natural resources, how to protect them and the consequences of not protecting them, remains the key to a healthy future for our planet.

Keeping with this theory, for the past five years, NJ Community Water Watch (NJCWW), a joint project between NJ Public Interest Research Group (NJPIRG) and Americorps, has been touring the state for an entire week in January teaching K-8th grade students these very lessons. The purpose of the event is to educate students throughout the state about the tremendous water quality issues facing us here in New Jersey. Education week attempts to not only teach children about the problems, but to also draw attention state-wide among New Jersey citizens to these problems.

For the first time, we will bring these fun, hands-on lessons to Ocean County on January 14th at the Crawford Rodriguez and Switlik Schools in Jackson Township. The theme of this year's Education Week Tour is Green Lands, Clean Water, teaching the connection between green, natural open space and water quality. The lessons are derived from Project WET and tailored for location.

NJCWW believes that providing young students with a basic knowledge about water resources, water pollution, and water conservation is the best way to begin combating these problems. An understanding that water is a vitally important natural resource is essential for the next generation.

Ocean County College  
Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program  
College Drive  
PO Box 2001  
Toms River, NJ 08754-2001

NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Permit No. 27  
Toms River, NJ 08754



## 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@ocean.edu](mailto:sshinault@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 interests. Our office is located on campus at Ocean County College, College Drive, Toms River, New Jersey.

## *The Barnegat Bay Beat*

Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program

**Dr. Robert Scro**  
Program Director  
[bscro@ocean.edu](mailto:bscro@ocean.edu)

**Shannon Shinault**  
Public Outreach Coordinator  
[sshinault@ocean.edu](mailto:sshinault@ocean.edu)

**Alison Leahy**  
Program Associate  
[aleahy@ocean.edu](mailto:aleahy@ocean.edu)

**Mary Judge**  
Program Assistant  
[mjudge@ocean.edu](mailto:mjudge@ocean.edu)

**Bob Dieterich**  
EPA Program Coordinator, USEPA  
[dieterich.robert@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:dieterich.robert@epamail.epa.gov)

**On the Web:**  
[www.bbep.org](http://www.bbep.org)



**Ocean County College**  
Dr. Jon Larson, President



**The Ocean County Board of  
Chosen Freeholders**  
Freeholder Liaison  
Joseph H. Vicari

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