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The Barnegat Bay Beat

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Barnegat Bay Project Nominated for President Bush's Watershed Initiative

During the fall of 2002, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requested nominations for President Bush's Watershed Initiative, a program to provide assistance to state and local communities to protect and restore inland and coastal watersheds. Governors were invited to submit nominations for projects that would help promote and advance the successes of efforts in up to 20 watersheds. Project awards would range from \$300,000 to \$1,300,000.

Rep. H. James Saxton, R-N.J. and the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders urged Governor McGreevey to nominate Barnegat Bay for a piece of this \$21 million federal program. Subsequently a request was received from the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection on behalf of Governor McGreevey for an application on behalf of the Barnegat Bay Watershed.

The application for funding was jointly submitted by two Barnegat Bay Estuary Program partners, Ocean County and the Brick Municipal Utilities Authority. This project focuses on protection of the Metedeconk River and will result in implementation of five High-Priority Action Items in the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan, a document approved by USEPA Administrator Whitman on May 15, 2002. The application seeks to address known pollution sources and also includes a unique regional storm sewer cleaning proposal to address Non-Point Source Pollution contributions to the Metedeconk River.



The Barnegat Bay Beat

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Fishin' for Ideas

We hooked one -- see page 5

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.

Mark Your 2003 Calendar Now!

The 7th Annual
Barnegat Bay Festival

has been scheduled for
Saturday, JUNE 7, 2003

Berkeley Island County Park

Good News, Bad News

Governor McGreevey shared some good news with the state during January by declaring the end to New Jersey's 10-month drought emergency. Above average rainfall occurring throughout the fall and early winter provided for the lifting of the restrictions.

The state's coastal south and southwest regions remain under a drought warning. This includes almost the entire Barnegat Bay watershed. While this designation does not impose direct restrictions on water use, it does encourage residents' awareness of water use and voluntary conservation. Water levels in the Barnegat Bay Watershed are slow to respond to rainfall due to the storage capacity of sandy soils.

IN THE CLASSROOM

Barnie the Crab Curriculum Arrives at Elementary Schools

The Barnegat Bay Watershed and Estuary Foundation (BBWEF) developed a curriculum packet for kindergarten through third grade addressing the Barnegat Bay Watershed and related environmental and cultural issues. Twelve lesson plans and supporting materials were mailed to every elementary school in early February. In addition, the BBWEF is offering a teacher loan kit that includes Barnie the Crab costume props for the teacher to use and a Barnie the Crab Character Cut-Out Photo prop. The BBWEF hopes the student's "Barnie" photos will be sent home with the child as a reminder to the student and the parents of the importance of protecting Barnegat Bay's natural resources. The BBWEF would like this project to foster an environmental ethic in all citizens of the watershed.

This project was made possible by a grant from the Trust for Public Land's Barnegat Bay Environmental Grant Fund. Copies of this curriculum can be obtained by contacting the Foundation at BBWEF@shorenetworks.com or 732-505-3671.

Barnegat Bay Environmental Educators Roundtable

The 6th Annual Spring Environmental Educators Roundtable will be held on Wednesday, April 30, 2003, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. This workshop will feature 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. Three 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 April 11.*

Getting to Know Our Neighbors



The habitat in the Barnegat Bay Estuary System is used by an abundance of wildlife. The Mallard Duck, *Anas platyrhynchos*, pictured at left can be found in ponds, rivers, streams, and estuaries. Mallards grow to 28 inches and females exhibit a loud "quack" sound. Females have

a mottled brown color with a white tale; whereas, males have a green head, white neck ring, a chestnut breast, and gray body. Mallards are the most abundant duck in the world and some are year-round residents of the Barnegat Bay.

You may think you are helping ducks through a long, cold winter by feeding them bits of bread, potato chips or other types of human food, but while ducks seem to love bread, it merely swells up in their stomachs, making them feel full and less likely to eat foods with the proper nutrients found in duck food (insects aquatic vegetation, etc.). **So remember, let the wildlife be wild, and DON'T FEED THE DUCKS!**

Spring Clean-Ups

Clean Ocean Action's next Beach Sweep is scheduled for April 26, 2003, 9:00 to 12:30, rain or shine. www.cleanoceanaction.org

ALO's Spring Clean-Up Day -- ALO is cleaning up winter debris at The Edwin B. Forsythe Wildlife Refuge on Bonnet Island and the Causeway on Saturday, April 20th, from 10:00 to 1:00. Meet at the Dutchman's on Cedar Bonnet Island. www.livingocean.org

Organize a waterway clean-up in your town. The people at Water Watch would be happy to give you some pointers. Call Allison Cairo at Water Watch (732-249-4108) or e-mail her at allison@waterwatchonline.org to get you started. www.waterwatchonline.org

Metedeconk River Proposed For Tougher Pollution Protection

On January 8, at a press conference in Brick Township, Governor McGreevey announced that the Metedeconk River will be proposed for the federally developed Category One waterway designation in mid-February. Category One status is the most stringent pollution protection that federal law allows.

The Metedeconk River serves approximately 100,000 residents of Ocean County and is the source for approximately 50 to 75 percent of the drinking water for Brick and Point Pleasant Beach, (and a smaller percentage for Point Pleasant).

Category One status will allow agencies granting state permits to impose their most stringent restrictions in various areas, including buffer zones, impervious surfaces, and drainage. The status will also aid in the fight to slow increased development upstream in towns such as Lakewood, Jackson, Wall, Howell, and Freehold Township.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection anticipates this new designation taking effect as early as spring 2003.

Approximately 1,980 acres in the headwaters of the Metedeconk River have been purchased and preserved by the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders for parks, natural lands and other county properties.

Local Flavors Barnegat Bay Crab Meat Delight



12 oz. crab meat
1/2 c. chopped green pepper
1/2 c. chopped celery
1/2 c. milk
4-6 saltine crackers, crumbled
1/4 tsp. ginger
1 tbs. concentrated garlic or 2 cloves, chopped
4 oz. butter
12 oz. Mozzarella cheese, shredded

Melt butter in fry pan. Add garlic and mix well. Saute pepper and celery until just tender. Add ginger. Mix saltines to milk. Stir into fry pan. Continue stirring until the mixture thickens. Add crab meat and stir.

Place mixture into individual serving bowls or 1 large bowl. Cover top with liberal amounts of cheese. Place in broiler until cheese melts and begins to turn golden, approximately 5 minutes. Serves 3 people.

(This is a fantastic meal served with salad. It also can be prepared ahead of time and refrigerated. Add cheese just before heating.)

Source: www.cooks.com

New "Journal of Coastal Research" Released Impacts of Motorized Watercraft on Shallow Estuarine and Coastal Marine Environments Special Issue #37

The Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection convened a science workshop at Rutgers University on November 7-8, 2000, dealing with the impact of motorized watercraft on shallow water environments. This workshop focused on the habitat disturbances by motorboats and personal watercraft in these environments. Special Issue No. 37, which is the outcome of the Rutgers workshop, consists of contributions by individuals from academia, as well as various state and federal government agencies.

To obtain a copy of this journal, please email Editor, Dr. Michael J. Kennish at kennish@imcs.rutgers.edu.



The reservoirs may be filling up in New Jersey, but groundwater levels have not sufficiently recovered to forget about saving water. **Everyone needs to make conserving water a lifestyle choice and not an emergency measure.** One way to contribute to a future of clean, abundant drinking water is to trade in some high-maintenance lawn space with a low-maintenance "rain garden" in your yard. You can plant one or more (small or large) rain gardens with a variety of low-maintenance native perennials in any low-lying area of your yard. Rain gardens can be planted in any small depression in your yard, around the downspouts, or between side yards. This will direct the rainwater back into the ground, rather than allowing it to rush down the gutter and into the river or bay (bringing with it all kinds of unfiltered pollutants from our streets and yards). Let's get our rainwater back into the ground where we can use it instead of watching it go out to sea, where it is no longer available as drinking water.

Rain Gardens will filter and use rainwater, recharging groundwater supplies and reducing stormwater pollution, while providing attractive low-maintenance, drought-tolerant landscaping. A rain garden looks more like a valley than a mountain, so don't pile up your mulch and then dig out a little dip at the top. Double-dig or rototill (make sure the soil is

Here are some suggestions for your rain garden - start experimenting!
(Sources: *Wild Earth Native Plant Nursery Catalogue* 732-308-9777; www.raingardens.org; also see "Low Maintenance Landscaping for the Barnegat Bay Watershed" for instructions and plant recommendations - for a free copy e-mail me at mjudge@co.ocean.nj.us.)

WILDFLOWERS:

- Canada Anemone** (*Anemone canadensis*) - White, five-petalled flowers in spring.
- Coneflowers** (*Echinacea*, *Ratibida*, *Rudbeckia* spp.) - Purple, yellow, and white coneflowers.
- Cardinal Flower** (*Lobelia cardinalis*) - Hummingbirds flock to these blazing red flowers in late summer.

FERNS:

- Maidenhair Fern** (*Adiantum pedatum*) - One to two feet, lovely delicate fronds.
- Ostrich Fern** (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*) - Tall fronds, three to five feet tall. Spring fiddleheads are edible.
- Cinnamon Fern** (*Osmunda cinnamomea*) - Very green fern with decorative rust-colored spore fronds that last through the winter.

GRASSES AND SEDGES:

- Switchgrass** (*Panicum virgatum* 'Shenandoah') - Foliage has a reddish cast throughout the season. Slow grower; doesn't reach higher than 3'.
- Little Blue Stem** (*Schizachyrium scoparium* 'The Blues') - 2-3' tall, has a bluish cast throughout the summer.

SHRUBS:

- Blueberry** (*Vaccinium angustifolium*) - Five foot shrub with small leaves and small white bell-shaped flowers in spring, followed by blueberries!
- Winterberry Holly** (*Ilex verticillata*) - Brilliant red berries on the female plant.

TREES:

- River Birch** (*Betula nigra*) - A small birch with interesting bark, graceful branches. Nice in groups.
- Redbud** (*Cercis canadensis*) - A small, shade-tolerant tree with beautiful pink flowers and heart-shaped leaves.

dry!) your bed at *ground level* in a shallow, bowl-like shape, add sufficient organic material for healthy soil, and start choosing your plants.

GARDEN HOTLINE

Call a Master Gardener with all of your gardening questions. The Rutgers Cooperative Extension hotline (732-349-1245) is staffed from 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon, Monday through Friday.

Catch of the Month

As suggested on the back cover, "The Barnegat Bay Beat" always welcomes feedback and contributions to the newsletter. A special thank you to T. G. B. of Manahawkin for his beautiful letter expressing his appreciation of the Barnegat Bay.

"I am 76 years old and have enjoyed the beauty and benefits of experiencing the "jersey shore" from my birth year 1926 until today.

My Mother sailed from the Island Heights Yacht Club as a young woman and taught my brother and I to sail on the Tom's River in a Barnegat Bay 'Duck boat' from the time I was eight years old, maturing to a Snipe Class sailboat in the mid 1940's. During this time I did everything a kid could do at the beach, swam, fished, crabbed, seined with a 'dragnet', walked the shallows early in the mornings with a 'scap' net looking for 'softies and shedder crabs.' I speared eels in the back creek, surf fished at the 'Phipps Estate' now Island Beach State Park, and dug for Captain Kidd's Treasure. As far back as that, I noticed the changes to the environment over a period of years, as being active in the Boy Scout program and their commitment to conservation and preservation of our natural resources was a constant reminder.

Since moving to Manahawkin six years ago, experiencing the expansion first hand, illustrates the necessity of supporting organizations and programs promoting conservation of our natural resources."

Barnegat Bay Now and Then

The landscape of the Barnegat Bay watershed continues to change as the population increases, which can be seen in the maps below. The aerial photographs are of the same area: the intersection of State Highway 37 and Fischer Boulevard in Toms River. The photographs were produced in 2000 and 1930. According to *The Ocean County Data Book* (11th edition), Dover Township's population has grown from 3,790 (in 1930) to 89,706 (in 2000)!



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.

Mail this coupon to: Barnegat Bay Estuary Program, c/o Ocean County Department of Planning, P.O. Box 2191, 129 Hooper Avenue, Toms River, NJ 08754-2191, OR email us at: sshinault@co.ocean.nj.us

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

By Richard Bizub, Chairman

Since 1998, the Barnegat Bay Watershed and Estuary Foundation (BBWEF) has held a yearly seminar to help inform residents on specific topics that affect the watershed. Typically we have four or five experts, scientists, and others knowledgeable on a subject to share their research and experiences with everyone. These seminars are free and anyone interested in the topic is welcome. Over the years some of the topics have included: *personal watercraft issues, housing development vs. open space, wastewater reuse, and a build-out analysis of Ocean County*. During November 2002, we also co-hosted a workshop with the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions on *Septic Management for Clean Water*.

Our 5th annual seminar was called *Air Deposition in the Watershed: What Goes Up, Must Come Down*. Living in the Barnegat Bay Watershed, we may believe that air pollution is an issue that doesn't affect us all that much. Unlike residents of some of the more industrial areas of the east coast, here in Ocean County we don't see smokestacks spewing smoke or have to breathe smog associated with auto emissions. Our air quality is generally pretty good.

It might seem surprising to learn that contaminants like mercury and PCB's and a nutrient like nitrogen are settling on the land and waters of the Barnegat Bay

Watershed. Since winds can carry these contaminants a long distance, we are affected by the actions of others relatively far away. A good example is the mercury that is causing fish advisories throughout the state. Not even fish caught in our pristine Pinelands streams and lakes can escape mercury resulting from atmospheric deposition. (This was according to the four experts from Rutgers University, Cook College, New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection who were assembled for the 2002 annual seminar.) Joanna Burger, a behavioral ecologist at Rutgers University, has been studying the effects that various pollutants have on Barnegat Bay's herons, egrets, and terns for approximately 25 years. Using feathers from these birds to deter-

mine exposure to chemicals, she fears that pollutants as a result of air deposition, coupled with what enters our waterways from runoff, may contribute to poorer survival rates among some of these bird species.

Obviously, air deposition is a complex issue and probably the one that the average resident of the watershed has the least control over. However, as residents of the watershed, we can all become part of the solution to maintaining clean water in our streams, rivers and estuary. The easiest way is by supporting the work of the Barnegat Bay Estuary Program and the Barnegat Bay Watershed and Estuary Foundation. Even though we are two separate entities, we are both working together as partners toward the same goals of clean and abundant water for this generation and future generations.

**Barnegat Bay Watershed and Estuary Foundation
Membership Application**

Please choose from one of the following membership categories:

Individual ___ \$25 Family ___ \$35 Senior (over 62)/Student ___ \$20

Government ___ \$50 NGO ___ \$50 Corporate ___ \$100

Additional Donation _____ (BBWEF is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, making your donation tax deductible within IRS guidelines.)

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ EMail: _____

Please make checks payable to BBWEF and mail to: BBWEF c/o 1623 Whitesville Road, Toms River, NJ 08755 *Thank you for your support!!!*

The Barnegat Bay Estuary Program Presents:

*The Barnegat Bay
Photography Contest*
celebrating
The Beauty of the Bay

Take a photograph that celebrates the beauty of Barnegat Bay and enter it into the Barnegat Bay Photography Contest. All Ocean County high school students are invited to participate.



RULES: The photo must be black & white or color and be no smaller than 8"x10". Each submission must include an additional page with the following information: photographer's name, address, phone, grade, and sponsoring teacher. Also include your school's name and telephone number. Mail entries to Bay Photography Contest, c/o Barnegat Bay Estuary Program, PO Box 2191, Toms River, NJ 08754-2191. Entries must be postmarked by March 30, 2003.

Winning photographs will be displayed at the Barnegat Bay Festival on June 7, 2003. Winning entries may be featured in a poster.

All entries become property of the Barnegat Bay Estuary Program and cannot be returned. The Barnegat Bay Estuary Program reserves the right to reproduce any entry for use in publications.