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A Newsletter from the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium

EXTENSION

Rain Garden Projects Plant Seeds of Stewardship in All Ages

The NJSGC Water Resources Agents, Amy Boyajian and Jillian Thompson, recently worked with their colleagues from the NJSGC Extension Program and Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program to promote the benefits of rain gardens to stakeholders of all ages.

This spring Amy and Jillian spent time teaching third graders at Ethel Jacobsen Elementary School on Long Beach Island all about stormwater management. Using the "Stormwater Management in Your School Yard" educational program, the students learned about stormwater and how it can be managed through the use of rain barrels and rain gardens. Two demonstration rain gardens, both designed to attract butterflies and birds, were installed on the school's grounds by the Ethel Jacobsen Elementary School's faculty, staff, and students, with guidance from the Water Resources Program team. The materials for the rain gardens were provided through a Go Green grant the school received from the OceanFirst Foundation. The newly installed rain gardens not only add aesthetically pleasing gardens to the existing landscape, but also capture stormwater runoff from the school's rooftop before it enters the nearby Barnegat Bay. For more information about rain gardens and the "Stormwater Management in Your School Yard" youth education program, contact Amy Boyajian at boyajian@envsci.rutgers.edu or Jillian Thompson at jthompson@envsci.rutgers.edu.

In late June, the NJSGC Extension Program took the team lead to work with the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program (RCEWRP) to implement a stormwater management project at Morgan Marina located in Parlin. Morgan Marina, a designated New Jersey Clean Marina, has a steep hill on its property that is slowly eroding and in need of stabilization to prevent the sediment from entering nearby Cheesequake Creek. NJSGC's Marine Recreation Extension Agent Michael Danko became aware of the problem earlier this year during a Clean Marina visit and recognized it as a unique opportunity to put the knowledge and practices of the Water Resources Program to use at a waterfront business. After several visits to the site over the past few months, staff from both organizations along with the marina owners developed a plan to stabilize the hill by planting native trees, bushes, grasses and flowering plants on top of the hill and along the slope in an effort to attempt to stabilize the sediment and prevent further erosion.

NJSGC staff and RCEWRP staff and student interns with assistance from Morgan Marina staff sowed close to 400 plants including Eastern Red Cedar, Beach Plum, Seaside Goldenrod, and Indian Grass, whose root system can extend up to eight feet to help stabilize the sediment on the hillside. The flowering bushes and plants will also help to add aesthetic value to the project. Funding for this project was provided by the NJSGC, Rutgers, and the *I BOAT NJ* Program. The Water Resources Program team anticipates the plants will flower this summer and the vegetation will be well established before winter.

EDUCATION