



SAVE BARNEGAT BAY

117 HAINES RD.
TOMS RIVER, NJ 08753
732-830-3600

For over 50 years, SBB has been the **ONLY** independent non-profit organization exclusively devoted to the protection of Barnegat Bay and its watershed.

WINTER 2024

Dear Friend of Save Barnegat Bay,

It's hard to believe that another year has almost come to a close. As we reflect on 2024, we are reminded of the incredible things you have helped us accomplish. Your generous financial support has been instrumental in helping us protect the beautiful natural areas of Barnegat Bay for future generations to enjoy. **We invite you to make a difference with us once again.**

Thanks to your help, 2024 has shown us the power of progress as we achieved major milestones in some of our biggest and longest running projects, such as our Stop the Sting Initiative. Save Barnegat Bay and our amazing partners dedicated hundreds of hours to fighting invasive jellyfish, and after three years of hard work, community engagement, and meticulous research, the results are in from our scientist, the project works! Scrubbing bulkheads not only gets rid of Bay Nettle jellyfish, it can also help *get this invasive species of jellyfish out of our Bay*. But jellyfish are far from the only fight this year.

With escalating development pressures and limited environmental enforcement across our state, we have been busier than ever; these efforts are costly and we rely on the help of our Barnegat Bay family to help see us through. Thanks to **YOU** Save Barnegat Bay has...

- Successfully filed our appeal of Governor Murphy & the DEPs disgraceful deal at the **Ciba-Geigy Superfund Site in Toms River** to force the DEP to consult their own records. Flip to learn more!
- Partnered with Six Flags Great Adventure to secure a voluntary land protection agreement at their property in **Jackson** to help protect the headwaters of the Toms River.
- Continued our push for a **Barnegat Bay Sediment Management Plan** to support clean dredge materials being used to restore marshes rather than the outdated process of dumping it in a massive pile like the DOT did illegally in Eagleswood.
- After **19 years**, and thanks to our neighborhood partners, won our case against the DEP and DOT in **Eagleswood**.
- Over four years, hosted **34 clean-ups** across **16 towns with partners from around the state** to collect over **330 bags of litter** and divert **close to 2 tons of trash** from our natural spaces and waterways! Now that our Clean-Up Crew is launched the sky's the limit!
- **Expanded our teacher training** for educators beyond the classroom to include magical hands-on experiences and overnight trips at Sedge Island on Barnegat Bay. No one educates for the Bay better than inspired teachers!
- Wrapped up our **third Summer STEAM Series** (Science, Technology, EGINEERING, Art & Mathematics) giving **35 students** the opportunity to *turn science & technology into local action & education* with a presentation to the **Mantoloking Mayor and Council**.

You have shown us the power in **staying the course** no matter how long, winding, or tough the journey may get. While the threats to our home waters may seem overwhelming, we will never stop rising to the challenge to keep our Bay safe. Unfortunately, these challenges are as expensive as they are important. Save Barnegat Bay almost exclusively relies on charitable donations from friends like you to accomplish our mission. *We ask for your ongoing financial support*, so that we can continue to keep all of our programs free and ensure that everyone gets to enjoy *a clean Bay, a preserved watershed, and a healthy future*, not just today, but for our future generations to come.

Sincerely,

Britta Forsberg
Executive Director

Ed Vienckowski
Board Chair



Members from BTUSAR scrubbing bulkheads to remove invasive Bay Nettle jellyfish polyps from docks and bulkheads. Did you know that you can use a scrub brush to remove polyps just like the team seen here?

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West Creek

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Please circle the amount of your contribution in the boxes below.

\$30	\$50	\$100	\$500	\$1,000	Other _____
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Please, make checks payable to: **Save Barnegat Bay** Donations are Tax Deductible

MISSION STATEMENT

Working to restore and protect Barnegat Bay by collaborating with and empowering individuals and communities to live in harmony with our precious watershed.

For Donations by Credit Card visit

www.SAVEBARNEGATBAY.org

Click on "Donate" or scan the QR Code



YOU HAVE HELPED US MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



Brittany McLaughlin, SBB's Exec. Assistant & Community Engagement Coordinator powerwashes bulkheads with BTUSAR president Carl Mattocks to help remove polyps from bulkheading as part of our Stop the Sting Initiative

JELLYFISH

Over the last three years Save Barnegat Bay and our partners at Montclair State University and the Berkeley Township Underwater Search & Rescue dive team (BTUSAR) have worked tirelessly with the community to do one thing: Stop the Sting. After hundreds of hours of hard work, volunteer hours, and generous community members offering their homes as testing grounds, we now have proof from scientists: scrubbing bulkheads *will* help control Bay Nettle jellyfish populations, and can help get this nuisance species out of our Bay. This isn't just a win for Barnegat Bay, it's a win for community science everywhere and we couldn't be more grateful.

CIBA

Save Barnegat Bay has successfully filed our motion in the Appellate Court of NJ to force the DEP to look at their own records and do the homework they were initially supposed to do when they and Governor Murphy first cut their disgraceful deal with BASF. In addition to this victory, our organization has also found long lost footage definitively documenting the widespread harm Ciba-Geigy caused to the Atlantic Ocean with its insidious pipeline. Even if the DEP wants to, we will never forget the harm Ciba has caused to our community and its resources. If this deal gets remanded, we are hopeful for the potential good it can do for our towns if the DEP actually does the work and pursues meaningful restoration projects instead of superficial ones on top of a polluted site. Whether it's installing filters in storm drains or repairing the riparian and wetland areas downstream of the Ciba site, there are actual projects that can truly restore our water's health and make a difference in our communities. With the proper homework and vision, this settlement has the potential to actually right generations of wrongdoings and we won't stop until it does.



Over 200 people came out to our annual meeting in July to hear updates on our appeal of the DEP's disgraceful deal with BASF and to view a long lost documentary from Greenpeace showcasing the harm Ciba's pipeline caused to our Ocean



Brittany McLaughlin, SBB's Board Chair Ed Vienckowski, and Six Flags Safari Park Director Dr. Rives, get ready to survey our conservation easement.

SIX FLAGS CONSERVATION EASEMENT

For close to a decade Save Barnegat Bay and our partners have been working with Six Flags Great Adventure to help the company navigate its transition into becoming the first ever amusement park completely run on solar energy without compromising the unspoiled natural areas that surround the park. In doing so, we have secured a voluntary land protection agreement also known as a conservation easement, to protect these important wooded areas that not only support countless species of wildlife, but also surround and guard the headwaters of the Toms River. By maintaining this agreement, the source of Barnegat Bay's largest river will be protected forever, and we are incredibly excited to announce that we have taken the first steps to do just that. Our scientists and staff just completed our first survey of the site and we could not be happier!

SEDIMENT SUCCESS

For 19 years, neighbors in Eagleswood and Save Barnegat Bay have been fighting the DEP and DOT over their construction of an illegal dredge material facility on protected wetlands. This facility was constructed without valid permits and is responsible for dumping tons of dredge material on the marshland adjacent to the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge. Now, after close to *two decades*, we are proud to announce that the Superior Court of NJ has ruled in favor of our case! The DEP misrepresented the criteria in the initial permits it issued to the DOT for their facility and have violated state environmental law. There is still much work to do on this issue, but this win is a crucial step in our fight for a Barnegat Bay Sediment Management Plan as we work to push for clean dredge material to be used for marsh restoration projects.



Aerial photo of the DOT's now illegal dredge material facility adjacent to the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge. Photo attributed to Princeton Hydro



EDUCATION

This year our EcoCenter hosted teachers from around the state as a partner with Stockton University's Climate Change Learning Collaborative and with the Watershed Ambassador program for rain barrel workshop training. Our dedicated staff has also helped educators from around NJ make hands-on connections to Barnegat Bay with multiple overnight trips to Sedge Island to help bring experiential learning to their students. This year also brought huge success for our Student Grant Summer Research Experience. Water quality students from the program worked tirelessly with our towns to help improve the quality of our home waters in Stafford and Jeffrey's Creek in Bayville. 2024 brought with it incredible memories and experiences for students and teachers alike and we are so proud of the lasting impact they will have for our community!