



Mantoloking Environmental Commission/Green Team Newsletter

Fall 2023



Message from the Chairwoman

Hopefully this newsletter finds you and yours healthy and safe during this beautiful fall weather that we're currently experiencing.

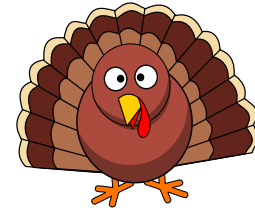
In this Fall Edition of our newsletter are a number of articles on environmental topics. The first article covers how to minimize the population of Stinging Jellyfish in Barnegat Bay, followed by an article on reversing the decline of Monarch Butterflies, and then our regular column on recycling.

Are you interested in getting involved? Whether you're interested in hands on work or simply want to conserve our environment, we have a need for your assistance. The more hands, the more we can do! If you're interested, come to one of our monthly meetings. We meet the 4th Tuesday of every month at 5:30 pm in the Steve Gillingham Community Room at Borough Hall. Come and see what we're about!

Look for our next newsletter during the Spring of 2024. In the meantime, I encourage you to visit the Mantoloking Environmental Commission Facebook page.



*Warmest Regards,
Barbara Hood Benz*



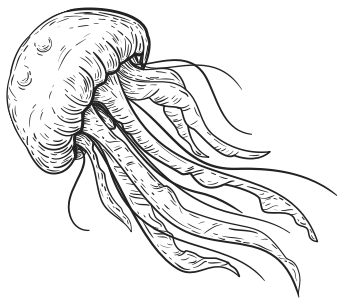
Upcoming 2024 Events

May 24, 7 PM,
Mantoloking Yacht Club

*The Rozalia Project,
presented by
Rachael Miller*

All are welcome! Rachael is the founder of the Rozalia Project for a Clean Ocean. She is an expedition scientist, inventor, National Geographic Explorer, Explorers Club Fellow and co-inventor of the Cora Ball, the world's first microfiber-catching laundry ball. And, she is a former head sailing instructor at Mantoloking Yacht Club.

Rachael captains the 60' sailing research vessel, American Promise, that, among other things, she uses to collect plastics and microplastics. She and her team have collected and cataloged over 1 million pieces of trash. For more information and to find out how to support the project's work, go to <https://www.rozaliaproject.org>.



Minimizing the Proliferation of Jellyfish

As many have observed, the increase in stinging jellyfish in Barnegat Bay, both bay nettles and clinging jellyfish, has made it un-swimmable in many areas. The unique combination of poor water quality (low salinity, low oxygen, available nutrients) and hard surfaces (floating docks and bulkheads) found in Barnegat Bay's numerous lagoon communities, provide extensive potential breeding areas for jellyfish.

In partnership with Save Barnegat Bay's Stop the Sting campaign, Berkeley Township Underwater Search and Rescue volunteer divers have been scrubbing lagoon bulkheads to remove polyps in an attempt to reduce the jellyfish population.



You can help control the population of jellyfish by doing the following:



Increase the quality of our Bay's water by preventing stormwater runoff of pollutants

- Limit or eliminate altogether the use of any fertilizers or pesticides
- Properly dispose of prescription or over-the-counter medications in the drop box at Borough Hall

Remove your floating docks for the season, thereby minimizing the hard surfaces where polyps can grow



Scrub your bulkheads in the Fall, thus removing any polyps that have already developed

Click [here](#) to view a map of the 2023 Clinging Jellyfish population as provided by the NJ DEP.

Monarch Butterflies



There are many reports that have been published which provide alarming statistics regarding the demise of the monarch butterfly population. The numbers are staggering. The monarch has recently been added to the Red List of Threatened Species.

We must be cognizant of the fact that monarchs are pollinators. So if their population is in decline, then other pollinator populations are likely in decline as well. Some of the factors that are contributing to this are the use of pesticides and herbicides, deforestation of fir trees in Mexico, fewer host plants that provide safe harbor before, during, and after migration, and also climate change.

How can we here on the Jersey shore help reverse this decline of the monarch population?



Designate one area of your property or part of your gardens and landscape as an area for monarch host plants. Monarchs need milkweed in the spring to lay their eggs, and after they hatch, the larvae feed on the leaves. Then in the fall, they rely on nectar plants to give them energy for the long flight south. Some plants that provide nourishment in the fall are asters, goldenrods, marigolds, and ironweed.



Milkweed will eventually form a root system that acts as a labyrinth maze of rhizomes resulting in many milkweed plants, so if you have a larger area, you can create a wonderful milkweed haven for our vibrant and colorful monarch pollinators.

Do your part and plant some milkweed and nectar plants in your yard. Even just a few will help, and the monarch caterpillars in the spring will put on a beautiful show in the fall when they return as magnificent butterflies for all to enjoy.



Recycling News and Tips



Is the US Getting Better at Recycling?

In 1960, approximately 7% of US waste was recycled or diverted. Since then, the percentage has increased to 35% but there's still room for improvement.

So what can we do on a local level to help?

Don't Contaminate Your Recyclables!

Contamination has two overall causes:

- (1) *Placing non-recyclables into the recycle bin can cause the whole load to be scrapped.*



IF IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!

- (2) *Food residue and grease contained on recyclable items can cause cross-contamination with paper that's being recycled. This "contamination" therefore crosses over onto the paper and because grease does not mix with water, the whole "slurry" ends up tossed out.*

LIGHTLY RINSE OUT ALL RECYCLABLES! AND like pizza boxes, IF THE GREASE CAN'T BE REMOVED, THROW IT OUT!

Recycle Coach



STILL NOT SURE WHAT CAN BE RECYCLED?

Download and use Recycle Coach, a free phone app which has been customized for Mantoloking's use.



Download it to your iPhone through the [Apple Store](#)

Download it to your Android device through [Google Play](#).

