

PRESS RELEASE

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OCEAN COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT HONORS THREE STATEWIDE AWARD RECIPIENTS

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The New Jersey Association of Conservation Districts recently selected three outstanding Ocean County recipients for awards at their annual conference. These awards are presented to recognize individuals, businesses, partners and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the conservation of natural resources in New Jersey and the goals of the Association. The New Jersey Association of Conservation Districts (NJACD) is a non-profit organization overseeing New Jersey's 15 soil conservation districts.

NJACD's mission is to advocate soil and water conservation through the implementation of conservation measures and through the promotion of conservation education programs for the betterment of New Jersey and its inhabitants. The Ocean County Soil Conservation District was proud to submit and have recognized the following:

**Laurita Winery, 35 Archertown Road in New Egypt
recognizing owners Ray Shea and Randy Johnson as
Outstanding Developers.**

This award is given to a land developer who has done exceptional work to control and prevent soil erosion and

sedimentation during construction and has implemented additional practices that exemplify the goals of the NJACD.

The 250-acre property is shared by the Laurita Winery, The Walkabout at Laurita Winery, The Laurita Equestrian Center, and the Dancer Bed and Breakfast. The development of this property included a large scale implementation of a natural areas master plan to serve as a way to enhance and unify the various elements of the property. This plan addressed issues of on-site stormwater infiltration and created and enhanced wildlife habitat. The near exclusive use of native plants, installation of nest boxes and feeders, a water feature, and a wildflower meadow all add to the beauty and value of the property for birds and other wildlife. Visit their website at www.lauritawinery.com for more information – or better yet, take a ride to explore the property this autumn.

The Barnegat Bay Beat, the quarterly newsletter of the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program, recognized for Outstanding Communications

This award is given to an individual, organization or a specific publication that provides consistent and valuable natural resource information. *The Barnegat Bay Beat* has continually provided high quality scientific information about the many BBNEP partners and their research and programs, human interest stories related to the bay and the watershed, and coverage about pertinent educational resources available throughout the Barnegat Bay region and Ocean County. The BBNEP has recently undertaken a survey about *The Barnegat Bay Beat* in order to assess its effectiveness and improve the newsletter to better serve the community.

Jeanine Cava, Public Outreach Coordinator and Newsletter Editor received the award at the NJACD Annual Conference at the Radisson Hotel in Freehold last week.

For more information about the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program or to check-out the latest issue of *The Barnegat Bay Beat*, please visit www.bbnep.org <<http://www.bbnep.org/>> .

Barbara Blaine, Ocean County Soil Conservation District, recognized as Outstanding Administrative Assistant

The OCSCD is proud to have Barbara recognized for her outstanding service to the District. For more than 22 years, Barbara has worked for the OCSCD and has been continually professional, pleasant and proficient. She performs a variety of administrative and clerical duties necessary to run the office effectively and efficiently. Barbara is the “go to” person for the OCSCD and is a valued member of the staff.

Visit the OCSCD website for more information about the District at www.ocscd.org <<http://www.ocscd.org/>> or call 609-971-7002.

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