**AMERICORPS NEW JERSEY WATERSHED AMBASSADOR PROGRAM**

**Watershed Management Area 13**

**Barnegat Bay**

Hello! My name is GraceAnne Taylor and I am the 2014-2015 AmeriCorps New Jersey Watershed Ambassador for the Barnegat Bay. I am serving municipalities that lie within the watershed boundaries. This includes most of Ocean County and parts of southern Monmouth County. I feel really fortunate to be a part of this community. I am working to educate, restore, and protect our watershed through stewardship projects, education and outreach presentations, and benthic macroinvertebrate research. I am hosted at the Barnegat Bay Partnership (BBP) in Toms River, NJ. BBP is located in Brown’s Woods a Green Acres property that boasts a gorgeous view of Long Swamp Creek and the Toms River.

I graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in Marine Science from Stony Brook University in 2014. Before that I attended the Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science in Manahawkin, NJ. Both of these schools gave me the tools and passion to pursue work in the environmental field. Serving in this AmeriCorps position is very satisfying when I can be a resource to members of the community for education and restoration, as well as networking. I have spent years in this watershed learning about different facets and growing connected to the ecosystem. It feels really wonderful to give back to a place near to my heart.

What can a Watershed Ambassador offer through their term of service? Many wonderful things! I am an absolutely FREE resource available for you and your community! You may see me around the Barnegat Bay Watershed with an Enviroscape model that displays the importance of watershed protection against non-point source and point source pollution. You may also see me with a bucket of Macroinvertebrates or as we like to call them, water insects! Our watershed can tell us a lot of information, and it is my hope to share with you exactly what it is telling us! I encourage you to contact me as a free resource for your scout groups, school groups, or community organizations. I look forward to serving with you this year!

**GraceAnne Taylor**

**Ambassadorwma13@gmail.com**

**(732) 914-8116**