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## **Shellfish Restoration as an integration of science and education**

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### **Abstract Text:**

The Barnegat Bay Shellfish Restoration Program, now in its third year has received great recognition in its aims to educate people while “ReClamming” the Bay. The focus of the program is primarily to link people’s actions to water quality and bay ecology through growing shellfish as a teaching tool. As part of the program, volunteers are trained in various topics, and then grow clam and oyster seed in land based upwellers through the summer. The volunteers work with the shellfish through each stage of growth until they are ready to be released into a conservation area in the bay. Volunteers also provide education and outreach to the general public based on their cleaning, growing, and shellfish monitoring activities, stressing good stewardship and positive environmental practices.

### **Impact Statement:**

To date, approximately 80 volunteers have raised 3.6 million clams and 500,000 oysters to be released into Barnegat Bay with an estimated value of their volunteer time at around \$68,000. In addition, thousands of citizens have been reached through innovative outreach programs, printed articles and brochures, radio news spots, television interviews and local fairs and festivals.