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Come Help Us Get It On In Ocean Gate, NJ

Sandy Hook, NJ -- The American Littoral Society will mark the anniversary of our Babies for the Bay program by making more oyster babies for Barnegat Bay. Come help us get it on in a brief ceremony at the Wildwood Avenue Pier in Ocean Gate, NJ on Tuesday, June 28 at 11 a.m.

The event will be followed, on Friday, July 15, with a parade of boats to ferry the babies to their new home in the bay. Time will depend on tide.

We'll get the baby-making started by pouring nearly 2 million oyster larvae into the spat tank on the Wildwood Avenue Pier. Everyone can lend a hand. The tank will be full of shell to which the babies will attach and begin to grow into oysters. Larvae that are attached to shell are called spat.

About one of every 20 larvae will become spat and, on July 15, there will be a parade of boats to deliver them to their permanent home at a man-made reef off Good Luck Point in Barnegat Bay.

The oyster nursery and reef are part of a larger project directed by the American Littoral Society. The project aims to help re-establish oyster colonies in Barnegat Bay. Decades of pollution, accelerated by rampant development along the bay's shores, have decimated the oyster population. Oysters help keep water clean and protect the shore. They are nature's water filters, each one able to clean up to 50 gallons of water a day. Oyster reefs also serve as speed bumps for waves during storms.

The Good Luck Point oyster restoration project is a collaborative effort led by the American Littoral Society. Partners include the Barnegat Bay Partnership, Stockton University, and ReClam the Bay, with support from Ocean Gate and Berkeley Township. The Good Luck Point Marina has also been instrumental in the project.

Contact the LittoralSociety at 732-291-0055 for more information.

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For more information about the American Littoral Society or to become a member, please visit www.littoralsociety.org or call 732-291-0055.

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