



Deep Cut Gardens

September/October 2011

Spotlight On...Construction & Repair

From putting things up to tearing things out to keeping things beautiful, the crew at Construction and Repair are always busy keeping our buildings and grounds in top working order.



Carpenters Ryan Bennett and Eric Testa install a new plaque at the Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center to acknowledge grants & gifts from park benefactors.



Plumber's Helper Gary Waters (left) and Senior Electrician Mike Vaccaro (right) remove an old fire hydrant from the front lawn of the Visitor Center.



Painters Pat Cernak (kneeling) and Senior Carpenter John Schanck spruce up a picket fence at Longstreet Farm.

Event Swap!

Outdoor Adventures and Sports & Fitness teamed up this year to offer our first ever Family Funtathlon in May. Modeled after the Amazing Race, this new event was added to replace older races that were dropped from our annual line-up. The inaugural Funtathlon could not have attracted a more enthusiastic—or well-dressed—group of participants.



In all, about 20 teams raced and were acknowledged for the effort (that's Jan Galanti of Outdoor Adventures offering a round of applause!)



They biked, ran, played, and paddled (oops, and some overturned.)



Many Funtathlon families showed serious team spirit with a selection of matching outfits... or "tattoos."

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



“THE TIME IS NOW”

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.” This may be true today as it was in the time that Charles Dickens wrote

about. No one enjoys going through an economic recession, but our citizens are fortunate to have so many close-to-home recreational opportunities. Whether at a local, county, state or national park, we have access to a wide variety of facilities and services at a reasonable cost.

Families are able to enjoy these benefits today because our predecessors had the foresight to consider the future wellbeing of our communities. Ironically, a number of our nation’s local, state and national parks were created during the 1930s, a time of economic hardship in our country. Also, increased use of public recreation facilities and services has historically been during periods of economic stress and conflict, such as during World War II.

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We have, I believe, opportunities during our current economic downturn to be of greater service to our county residents by providing expanded facilities and services that are both convenient and reasonably priced. We also have an opportunity to continue to acquire open space and park lands that will protect our county’s natural, cultural and water supply resources. We know that the land we preserve today will be what is left when our county is “built out.” There is no question that “the time is now” to act and not miss this opportunity.

“Destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice; it is not a thing to be waiting for, it is a thing to be achieved.”

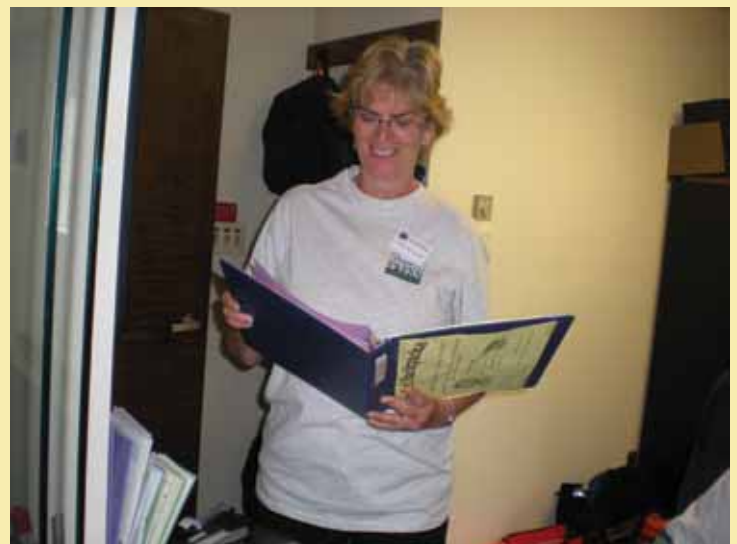
--William Jennings Bryan

Late 19th/Early 20th Century American Politician

Volunteer Corner



Coordinator of Volunteers Melissa Kelly (left) created a new training program for volunteer docents in 2011. She is pictured here with trainee Chelsea Livingstone.



The Park System now relies on the talent and dedication of volunteers to staff the desk and serve as docents at Huber Woods and Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Centers, Bayshore Waterfront Park Activity Center and Deep Cut Gardens. Pictured at Huber Woods are Mary Baechle (top) and Debbie Matulonis (bottom).

Park System Graduates 27th Class of Rangers

The graduation ceremony, held at Hominy Hill Golf Course in April, marked the 27th Basic Course for County Park Rangers; the first class was held in 1981.

This year's class consisted of 15 Park Rangers (those in white shirts are Park Managers). Two Park Rangers from Middlesex County and two from Burlington County also attended the program. Congratulations to all the Rangers for successfully completing their training, with special acknowledgement to those winning achievement awards.



(back row, l to r) Bryan Whalen, **Silver Oak Recipient Andrew Stegner**, Frank Sardoni Jr., Sean Pierson, William Neugebauer, Middlesex County Rangers Robert Morris and Raymond Manship, and Keith Heckman. (front row, l to r) Shea Gilliland, Kevin Dunn, Denise Dudas, Matthew Douglas, Dennis Bergstrand, **Valedictorian Alison Astalos**, Ralph Apicelli, Gregory Alexander, and **Golden Oak Recipient Edward Docker**.

History Heats Up In 2011

It's not just the trees, grass and trails that make the parks beautiful, it's the rich history carefully preserved in our parkitecture. This includes our barns, sheds and corn cribs, our beautifully converted estates and homes, and our dedicated historic sites. Staff from our Historic Preservation Office as well as Historic Walnford and Longstreet Farm were particularly busy at a number of promotional activities this year.

In April, Historic Walnford hosted the second annual New Jersey Living History Advisory Council meeting (covered last issue), with talks and demonstrations on historic music, accessories & furniture, interpretive techniques and volunteers.

In May, staff from Longstreet Farm, Historic Walnford, Public Information, and the Friends attended the Spirit of the Jersey's State History Fair, hosted by Allaire State Park. Staff from Operations helped out the Allaire crew with tents and seating for the event. Highlights included a sheep shearing; "Raise the Rafters," where participants "built" a timber-frame model without hammer or nails; and woodworking/wool demos. *Continued, page 4*



Staff on-hand for the Spirit of the Jersey's State History Fair, hosted by Allaire State Park. (l to r) Walnford Seasonal Staffer Al Trenton, Lisa Bonelli of Public Information, Manasquan Reservoir Park Manager Kevin Dunn, Asst. Superintendent of Parks Tom Fobes, Walnford Site Supervisor Sarah Bent, Longstreet Farm Senior Park Manager Sandy Byard, and Longstreet staffer Debra Senese. Not pictured, Jim Register from Operations who packed and hauled all the materials (except the sheep, who received a private ride in Sandy's truck) for the display.

History Heats up...continued

In late May, the Park System was honored by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection for the thoughtful exterior renovation of the Huber Woods Environmental Center, built in 1927 by the Huber Family to resemble a German-Swiss Alpine country cottage. According to Supervising Historic Preservation Specialist Gail Hunton, the roof tiles were perhaps the most challenging aspect of the project. We didn't want to take off all the old tiles because many were still good, which meant the crew had to painstakingly insert new tiles into the old. Plus, the new tiles needed to match in appearance, so they had to be custom-fabricated. And, terra cotta tiles are no longer made of pure clay as they once were, today they are reinforced with additional materials. Add to this the many odd angles of chimneys and sections of roof, and you've got one very complicated project.



In a Park, You Can Do As You Please: Under no obligation to "work," this little visitor was happy to hold up a bench as others got busy assembling the timber frame at the Spirit of the Jersey's History Fair, at Allaire State Park.



The award-winning exterior renovations to the Huber Woods Environmental Center, April 2011.

In June, the County of Monmouth helped host the annual NJ Historic Preservation Conference at Monmouth University. This professional gathering offered a series of workshops on topics such as renewable energy in historic buildings, historic archaeology, using historic buildings as housing and many more. Gail Hunton gave a presentation on Disaster Recovery of Historic Buildings, a subject in which she is now very well-versed, detailing some of the expertise we developed from our experience with the Visitor Center fire. Public information staff were also on hand as exhibitors.

De-Construction News

In a sad note, the 130+ year old European Copper Beech, beloved superstar of trees on the Visitor Center front lawn at Thompson Park, dropped a major limb this past spring. Apparently, water was collecting in the tree's thickly branched trunk. When the tree leafed



out and got wet from the rain, the limb could no longer hold the weight and came crashing down (the same thing happened to another Copper Beech a hundred yards away just last year).

Thompson Principal Park Ranger Travis Bryan and Ranger Ralph Johnson check out the felled branch.



View from the second floor. The limb made such a loud crashing sound, VC staffers all came outside to see what happened.



First responders: crew from the Monmouth County Shade Tree Commission came right over when they received our call; and within a few hours, they helped clear the large limbs from the walkway.



What's New & What's News

An Earth Day Clean-Up & Revival

What comes to mind when you imagine a clean-up in one of our parks? Did using heavy equipment to unearth old machinery enter the picture? If not, then it should because that's what staff and volunteers needed to clean up a section of Longbridge Annex at Thompson Park. Using a front-end loader to pull out some buried farm equipment, and rope + manpower to haul this old box out of the water, the group recycled 1,660 lbs of steel, 238 lbs of glass/aluminum and hauled out an additional 2,580 lbs of bulky waste. The total weight of trash collected for the day: 4,478 lbs (over 2 tons).



Volunteer Gerry Lingner digs out old machinery at Longbridge Annex in Thompson Park.



(l to r) Volunteer Gerry Lingner, Sr. Park Manager Rick Royle, Volunteer Lee Anderson, Senior Ranger Ken Hecceg and Volunteer Bob Hutzel pull what looks like an old animal pen from the water.

Thompson Senior Ranger **Ken Hecceg** (pictured above) recently earned a special thumbs-up for his quick thinking to fix a problem. When the Park System rented its mobile arts stage to Freehold for their Memorial Day Parade, a power failure prevented announcers and stage entertainment from using their microphones (and what's a parade without some noise?). Kenny thought to pick up one of Thompson Park's generators, then drove it out there and saved the day.

Meanwhile...at another Earth Day Event, the Naturalists at Huber Woods revived some old favorites, the Frog Toss and Lawn Bowling, while keeping classic wildlife shows front and center indoors.



Seasonal Naturalist Katie Nolan (left) and Volunteer Katha Larity manage Earth Day activities at Huber Woods.



Principal Park Naturalist Karen Jarmusz can't help but smile at this little visitor's improvisation to get a closer look at some wildlife.

Archery Takes Off

People like us, who work in the outdoors have probably noted various fitness trends through the years: tennis, in-line skating, aerobics/jazzercise are just a few examples. Is archery the next new fitness craze? Free drop-in programs in the Activity Barn at Thompson Park, inclusion as an event at the Family



Funtathlon, and a large demonstration at this year's Outdoor Expo were all well-attended, so time will tell.



A new Archery Demo was featured at Outdoor Expo in May. Volunteer Dave Roche gives this little girl some pointers. Check out the high-tech bow design.



This participant takes aim to pop balloons with an arrow at the Family Funtathlon.

CONSTRUCTION NOTES

- Construction on a second 2-mile section of the **UTT** is underway, up to Davis Station Road. When complete, there will be 4 miles of trail open.



A new parking lot for the trail at Hominy Hill Golf Course.

- The parking lot access and directional road signs are now in place for the new, wooded 1 mile trail at **Hominy Hill**, located on Matthews Road.



Signs to get you there. The trail.

- Also at **Hominy Hill**, work has begun on construction of an equipment wash-down station.

- Ongoing vegetation management efforts are underway at **Fisherman's Cove** and already complete at 3 sites in **Thompson Park** and the Battery Lewis section of **Hartshorne Woods**. According to Assistant Director Bruce Gollnick, "The impact of invasive species on the environment is astonishingly substantial once you see what's been removed."

- The former Marlboro Airport Site has been formally named **Deep Run Recreation Area**.



The newly named Deep Run Recreation Area.

- Construction of a new parking lot and trail access at **Big Brook Park** is now complete (shown in June, below). Visitors can now park at **Big Brook Park** and access the **Henry Hudson Trail South** to Freehold using a 0.9 mile trail connector.



New parking lot to access HHT at Big Brook

Construction Close-Up

Putting in a new parking lot may just seem like just laying pavement, but there is so much more to it than that. Take a look at recent improvements to the maintenance area employee parking lot at **Thompson Park** (and this isn't even the complete picture!)



First they had to clear the trees...



and remove the soil...



and grade/prepare the base...



and connect new sections to old...



and build walkways to the buildings...



Then, they finally began laying asphalt.

Staff Shots



Jeanne Bezio has a laugh with Tom Fobes in the human resources office at Headquarters.



You may be more familiar with his Safety Advisories than the person himself, Brian Corrigan of Human Resources-Safety.



Principal County Park Ranger at Shark River Park, Alan Boyce gets the park ready for another busy picnic season.

Oops! The Green Link apologizes for mis-naming one of our new rangers last issue. Robert (not Raymond) Smith was hired last summer and now works at Dorbrook.

September

- 1 Patrick Vivalo
- 2 Michele Demaree
- 3 Diane Allen • Ronald Bomma
- Kelly Cole
- 4 Lauren Gerber
- 5 Justin Birk • Wayne Connelly
- Angela Kochon
- 6 Howard Dombroski
- 7 David Whalen
- 10 Brad Bradach • Jim Mowczan
- Jeff Wyant
- 11 Susan Stafford-Smith • Mark Szemiot
- Susan Williams
- 13 Emerald Platzer
- 16 Carol Hobbs • Tom Petraglia
- 17 Mark Borchert
- 19 Edward Docker • Katie A. Stone
- 23 Robert Morris
- 25 Joe DePierro
- 26 Ken Herceg • Jim Janeczko
- 27 Chuck Raftery
- 28 Dave Mishkin • Jim Register
- George Richdale
- 30 Eric Cadenelli

October

- 1 Bob MacDonald
- 4 Gary Waters
- 7 Paul Bagdanov • Joanne Jubert
- Patrick Killeen • Skip Supczynski
- 8 Barbara Berry • Amy Pease
- 9 Bill Murray
- 13 Bob Duncan • Ron Luepke
- 14 Tom Mullens
- 15 Shea Gilliland • Tom Sheehan
- 17 Dawn Clayton • Matt Douglas
- 18 Barry Barone • Stacey Maloney
- 20 David Hollabaugh • Bill Shaffer
- 21 Dave Dellett • Laura Garavuso
- 22 Matt Coleman • Claire Morris
- 23 Terry Grewen
- 27 Rocco Mayo • Jenn Troisi
- 28 Michele Clampffer • Maribeth Gardner
- 29 Kivin Brown



November

- 1 Ivan Gottstein
- 2 Frank Bradford
- 3 Rich Pillar • Paul C. Zimmer
- 4 Susan Liu
- 5 Fran Lorelli
- 11 Bill Diehl • Tony Eng
- Mark Miller • Jim Truncer
- 16 Paul Basquill • Faith Hahn
- Sean Pierson
- 17 Ryan Rochelle
- 18 James F. Foligno, Jr. • Jed Jesiolowski
- 19 Daniel Buecher • Mark Foulks
- John Wallace
- 21 Christina Miller • Bob Petrow
- 23 Mike Dollear
- 24 Ann Marie Osnato
- 25 Philip Patterson
- 26 Tom Ketcham • Keith York

Green Link, A bimonthly newsletter for employees and volunteers of the Monmouth County Park System.

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Green Link



An Employee &
Volunteer Newsletter
of the Monmouth County Park System

Monmouth County Park System
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September/October 2011

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MONMOUTH CO.
PARK SYSTEM

Guess The Employee?

You think you've been here a long time? You think you know people? Then prove it by showing how quickly you can recognize these employees, each in a type of "camouflage." LEFT: You will need to peel back the years to spot a younger version of this former Marine (bottom row, right) who kept up his career in uniform both before and during

his time in the parks (Hint: not as a ranger). RIGHT: Can you see past the scuba gear of this known adventurer? Recognized more for his adventures on land (that's a hint!) this is a long-time park employee with a few recent appearances in this newsletter.

Answers inside, p. 6.

