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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, April 28, 2023

ENJOY MAY IN A COUNTY PARK



LINCROFT — Perhaps the loveliest month of the year, May is the perfect time to enjoy your county parks. From nature walks to the ***Decoration Day Celebration***, the Monmouth County Park System fills the month with fun. Here's what is planned:

Spring Migration Madness Birding Walk

Thursday, May 4 from 9-10 a.m.

Wednesday, May 10 from 9-10 a.m.

Bayshore Waterfront Park, Port Monmouth

Search the woodland edges and beachfront to see what avian gems we can find during this exciting time of year. No need to be an expert. A limited number of binoculars will be available to borrow. Please dress for the weather and wear closed-toe shoes. Open to adults. **FREE!**

Spring Native Plant Swap

Saturday, May 6

Plant intake from 8:30-10 a.m.

Plant selection starts at 10 a.m.

Tatum Park, Middletown – Use Red Hill Road entrance.

Calling all native plant enthusiasts! Bring established plants in one-quart, one-gallon or two-gallon containers to exchange for plants in like sizes. Only plants native to the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States will be accepted. Please label all plants. **FREE!**

Embroidery Demonstration

Saturday, May 6 from 1-3 p.m.

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

View the lost art of applying decorative designs with a needle and thread. Be inspired by the various stitches and embellishments to create a beautiful piece of clothing or decoration for the home.

FREE!

Historic Battery Lewis Tours

Saturday, May 6 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sunday, May 7 from 12-5 p.m.

Historic Battery Lewis - Rocky Point section of Hartshorne Woods Park, Highlands

Tour the restored Historic Battery Lewis and learn about the history of this important former coastal defense site. **FREE!**

Hands-On History

Saturday & Sunday, May 6 & 7 from 12-4:30 p.m.

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

Explore some of our favorite “hands-on” items at the farm. Some of the unique items in our collections will also be on display for close-up, visual inspection only. **FREE!**

Historic Portland Place Tours

Saturday & Sunday, May 6 & 7 at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. & 2:30 p.m.

Wednesdays-Sundays, May 10-14, 17-21 and 24-28 at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. & 2:30 p.m.

Portland Place, Hartshorne Woods Park, Locust

Tour this beautifully restored 18th century house with exhibits that help tell the story of the region's history and the Hartshorne family legacy in Monmouth County. Tours are limited to 10 persons and may be suspended during inclement weather. Register on site at the Portland Place Visitor Center day of tour. **FREE!**

Mill Demonstrations

Saturdays & Sundays, May 6 & 7, 13 & 14, 20 & 21 and 27 & 28 at 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. & 3:30 p.m.

Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold

See the 19th century gristmill in action. Each demonstration lasts approximately 15 minutes. **FREE!**

Boat Tours of the Manasquan Reservoir

Saturdays & Sundays, May 6 & 7, 13 & 14, 20 & 21, 27 & 28 and Monday, May 29 at 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m. & 5 p.m.

Manasquan Reservoir, Howell

These 45-minute tours are narrated by Park System Naturalists and include opportunities to view local wildlife. The cost is \$6 per adult and \$4 per child, age 12 and under. Please call to confirm schedule as tours are both weather and water level dependent. All tours leave from the Visitor Center. Life-jackets required. Tickets can be purchased on day of tour only.

Splendid Spring Stroll

Thursday, May 11 from 10-11:30 a.m.

Huber Woods Park, Middletown - Meet in the Environmental Center parking lot.

Join a Park System Naturalist on a peaceful trail walk through the park. Sturdy footwear is recommended as trails used may have inclines or tree roots to step over. **FREE!**

Creative Arts Festival

Saturday, May 13 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Thompson Park, Lincroft

See the works of artists and fine crafters from all mediums including pottery, jewelry and painting. Admission and parking are free.

Cookstove Demonstrations

Saturdays, May 13 & 27 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

See what's cooking on the woodstove and discover how recipes, cooking techniques and kitchens have changed since the 1890s. **FREE!**

Climb Time

Sunday, May 14 from 12-3 p.m.

Freneau Woods Park, Aberdeen

Thursday, May 18 from 3-6 p.m.

Clayton Park Activity Center, Upper Freehold

Try the Park System's 25' portable climbing wall. You must be 42" or taller to climb. Open to ages 8 and up; under 18 with adult. **FREE!**

Shark River Family Hike

Tuesday, May 16 from 5-7 p.m.

Shark River Park, Wall - Meet in the Schoolhouse Road parking lot.

Explore a moderate hiking trail while learning about the park and how to interpret trail maps. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy hiking shoes. Weather permitting. The cost is \$5 per person; cash or check.

Casual Birder

Tuesday, May 16 at 9 a.m.

Hartshorne Woods Park - Meet in the Rocky Point parking lot in Highlands.

Tuesday, May 23 at 9 a.m.

Manasquan Reservoir, Howell - Meet in the Visitor Center parking lot.

Join a Park System Naturalist for a laid-back morning bird walk and meander through the park for about an hour and a half to see what birds we can find. Participants should expect to be walking a few miles (2-4) on sometimes uneven or muddy terrain. No need to be an expert at identifying birds to enjoy. A limited number of binoculars will be available to borrow if needed. **FREE!**

Nature Lecture Series: Horseshoe Crabs Trying to Survive in a Modern World

Thursday, May 18 from 7-8 p.m.

Bayshore Waterfront Park Activity Center, Port Monmouth

Discover why the population of horseshoe crabs is declining, what people are doing to protect the crab through research, and what you can do to help. **FREE!**

Open Shoot Archery

Saturday, May 20 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Thompson Park Activity Barn, Lincroft

All equipment is provided for this open shoot. No outside equipment permitted. This is not an instructional clinic and NOT designed for beginners. If you are new to archery, register for one of our instructional classes prior to attending. Open to ages 10 and up; under 18 with adult. The cost is \$10 per person; cash or check only.

19th Century Woodworking Demonstration

Saturday, May 20 from 12-3 p.m.

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

See how a woodworker studies his materials, plies his tools, and crafts beautiful and functional items. **FREE!**

Accordion Melodies of the 1890s

Saturday, May 20 from 1-3 p.m.

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

Hear melodies of the 1890s played on the accordion. **FREE!**

Walnford Day

Sunday, May 21 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold

Spend a day celebrating 200 years of Waln history with demonstrations, music and wagon rides. **FREE!**

Plant a Sunflower

Sunday, May 21 from 12-2:30 p.m.

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

Help the staff plant this year's sunflower field. Then return in the fall and harvest one to bring home. **FREE!**

Thompson Park Canoe Rentals

Saturday & Sunday, May 27 & 28 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Thompson Park, Lincroft

Canoes will be available for rent on Marlu Lake. All equipment provided; limited number of canoes available. Open to all ages; under 18 with adult. All rentals must be returned by 3 p.m. Fee is \$15 per boat for 1-3 people for two hours. Cash or check only.

Decoration Day Celebration

Monday, May 29 from 12-3 p.m.

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

Enjoy the good company of family and friends as we honor this early American holiday. **FREE!**

To learn more about these Park System activities, please visit www.MonmouthCountyParks.com or call the Park System at 732-842-4000. For persons with hearing impairment, the Park System TTY/TDD number is 711. The Monmouth County Park System, created in 1960 by the Monmouth County Board of County Commissioners, is Monmouth County's Open Space, Parks, and Recreation agency.

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