

GREEN HERITAGE



The 11th hole at Hominy Hill

County golf courses, parks & trails voted "BEST" IN NJ

Readers of NJ Monthly Magazine recently voted the Monmouth County Park System's Hominy Hill Golf Course in Colts Neck as the best public course in NJ! Charleston Springs Golf Course in Millstone was a runner up. Also, the Henry Hudson Trail was voted the best Biking Trail, while Hartshorne Woods Park in Middletown was listed as a runner-up in the best Hiking Trail category. (www.njmonthly.com, April 2010).

MYTHS, LEGENDS & HISTORY... AS THE PARK SYSTEM TURNS 50

A lot has happened in Monmouth County's parks over the last five decades, but there's also a lot of interesting history dating back even further—before the parks were public land. Many were farms or private estates; others housed inns, institutions and military installations; and one was a lover's lane. Here are a few stories about the former owners and unique features of the county parks before they were parks.

Home & Garden Features With a Sense of Humor

Often, the personalities of people who owned places that are now parks can still be seen. Consider the mini model of Mt. Vesuvius at **Deep Cut Gardens**, which was installed by the estate's former owner Vito Genovese, perhaps as a reminder of his Italian homeland. This sculpture has a space in back for a tinderbox to simulate "live volcano" activity such as smoke and sparks (depending on what you burn in the fire). Another is the stove/furnace now located in the men's room at the **Huber Woods Environmental Center**, made with humorous, hand-painted tiles of different animals.



From Personality to Physiology

A great way to learn about the personalities of former residents is to visit the Park System's carefully preserved historic sites; but don't try to guess at their physiology from the artifacts you see—it could be misleading! Displays at **Historic Walnford** for instance, some dating back over 200 years, might suggest that former residents were much shorter than we are today. Consider this carriage (pictured); it appears uncomfortably small by today's standards, but the truth is that people were on average only about 3/4" shorter than they are today. They just had a much smaller zone of personal space and were accustomed to sitting much closer to each other on carriage rides. As Walnford Site Supervisor Sarah Bent likes to point out, George Washington was the same height as Bill Clinton (both around 6'2").



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A Golf Course of One's Own

In 1965, Colts Neck resident, and shipping magnate Henry Mercer built himself an 18-hole golf course on his property to entertain some international business associates. He hired renowned architect Robert Trent Jones to design for him one of the most beautiful and playable courses in the area, **Hominy Hill**. The course was later sold to the County in 1976, on a handshake.

A Legacy of Farms & Estates

Many successful businessmen had land or farms in this area as country homes. **Dorbrook Recreation Area**, for instance, was a dairy farm once owned by Miles Shoe Store founder Murray Rosenberg. The Park System acquired this property and opened it as a park in 1985. That same year, another former dairy farm—the 452-acre Marlu Farm—was purchased as an addition to Thompson Park.

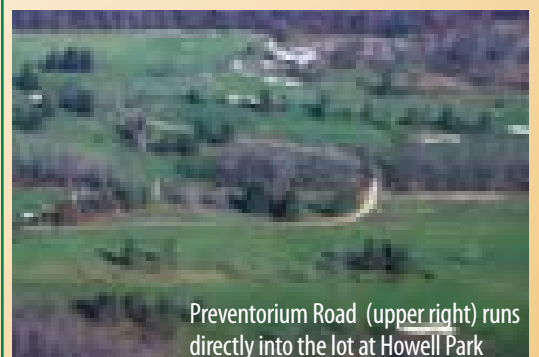
Thompson Park's original 215 acres were a gift from the estate of Geraldine Thompson. Used as a horse farm until 1960, many of the property's equestrian features are evident today. Earlier, the Thompson estate also had land dedicated to livestock for meat and dairy, orchards, herb and flower gardens, crops for animal feed, and

vegetable gardens; and remnants of these are evident as well. Did you know? This area of NJ was once as well-known for its asparagus as the state is today for tomatoes and blueberries. Reportedly, Geraldine Thompson once even sent local asparagus as a gift to her friend Eleanor Roosevelt in the White House!

Former Medical/Health Institutions

Like local gentleman farms, the Marlboro Psychiatric Hospital (1931-1998) once had an extensive agricultural operation with crops, dairy and possibly beef production, and a hog farm. These facilities allowed the institution to be self-sustaining and provided constructive work opportunities for the residents. Today, the land across the street from the now-closed hospital—formerly used for livestock, orchards and farming—is part of the undeveloped **Big Brook Park**. Acquired in 1997, park staff have been carefully removing old buildings (garages, shacks, outhouses and a multi-structure "piggery" with a pig run and slaughterhouse) to prepare the site for future use.

Tuberculosis or TB was the leading cause of death in the US from about 1900-1920 and a portion of the land that is now **Howell Park Golf Course** once served as a preventorium. This land was owned for a time by famous NY newspaperman Arthur Brisbane who donated property, supplies and equipment to the Tuberculosis Preventorium for Children. This was not a hospital, but instead a place where children ages 4-14 could be removed from homes with infected family members to enjoy fresh-air, pure food and supervision.



From Lover's Lane to 9/11 Memorial

Mount Mitchell Scenic Overlook in Atlantic Highlands was once a favorite spot for area sweethearts to park. The road through this site led right up to the overlook with its views of NY skyline (see photo, overlook is to the right). Heavily visited during the blackouts of the 1970s and when the tall ships came into NY Harbor, Mt. Mitchell became a go-to site when residents want to see what's happening in "the city." Crowded with onlookers following the attacks on the World Trade Center, and it has since become home to the county's 9/11 Memorial.

The Name of the "Game"...and a Park

By the 1960s, the turkeys that gave this park its name were all but gone due to habitat changes and hunting for food. But in one of the "greatest wildlife management success stories in the history of the state," the New Jersey Division of Fish and wildlife began a restoration effort in 1977 with the release of 22 birds, followed by a program to live-trap and relocate turkeys (www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/turkey_info.htm). Evidence that the population has rebounded can be seen in this recent photo of **Turkey Swamp Park**.

And They're Off...Former Racetrack Housing

Wolf Hill Recreation Area in Ocean Township now boasts ball fields and an off-leash dog area on the site of what was once part of Monmouth Park Racetrack. Jockeys, trainers, stable hands and other out of town guests would stay in a large guesthouse, now demolished, which once backed up to the racetrack parking lot.

Meet me at the "White House" Tavern

For most of the early 20th century (1918-1960), what is now the **Bayshore Activity Center** was a local inn. It started out as a fancy kind of place in the 1920s-1930s, but eventually became a more comfortable, neighborhood tavern where locals would hold family events or just hang out. This property was added to the parks in the early 1990s, and with recent renovations, now hosts nature programs about Raritan Bay.

Thank You, Uncle Sam

Add military installation to the list for former parkland uses and you have the majority of park histories covered. Due to its strategic height and location, the Rocky Point Area of **Hartshorne Woods Park** once provided the US military with prime coastal defense opportunities. The federal government later transferred more than 200 acres of this heavily wooded property to the Park System when the need for coastal defense declined. The Hilltop Area of **Holmdel Park** once housed Nike missile silos and the Red Hill Activity Center at **Tatum Park** was once an Army Radio Propagation Site—both were transferred to the parks when no longer needed.

The Mysterious Bel-Aire Babes!

On a final note...the history of this patch which likely originated from **Bel Aire Golf Course** sometime in the 1960s or 1970s, is shrouded in a bit of a mystery. If you or anyone you know was a "Bel Aire Babe," we would like to hear from you! Please call the Park System Historical Services staff at (732) 975-9747.



Mount Mitchell (1986); tall ships in NY Harbor



Turkeys at Turkey Swamp Park, March 2010



This entrance at Wolf Hill hints at its past use



The White House Inn during the 1940s, now the Bayshore Activity Center



From military facility to dance class venue, the Red Hill Activity Center has seen many different uses

\$2 Million Available To Monmouth County Municipalities

In the current economic climate, it may be tempting to defer municipal open space expenditures, but this is actually an excellent time to move projects forward. Anxious sellers and a lack of private sector buyers have brought acquisition prices down, and development costs have dropped as well as contractors compete aggressively for a smaller pool of construction projects.

Land prices are down and building costs have dropped...now is the time for towns to buy and build.

Municipalities with open space projects in the pipeline can get more for their local money by tapping into the County funding available through the Monmouth County Municipal Open Space Grant Program.

The purpose of the Monmouth County Municipal Open Space Grant Program is to expand park and open space opportunities for Monmouth County residents by providing County funding to assist municipalities with their local programs of park and open space acquisition and development. All Monmouth County municipal governments are eligible to apply for this matching grant program.

All Monmouth County municipal governments are eligible to apply for this matching grant program.

Funding is available for both acquisition of open space land and development of recreation facilities, but each municipality may only file one application per year. The maximum grant amount is \$250,000.

Historically, over sixty percent of eligible and complete applications have received funding. In accordance with established program priorities, land acquisition projects are generally favored over development projects, applications for projects that diversify or expand recreation opportunities will be favored over applications that replace aged or substandard facilities, and additional priority is given to State-designated Urban Aid communities.

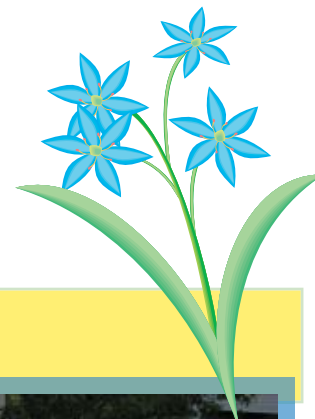
Applications for the eighth round of County grants for municipal open space projects were mailed to each Monmouth County Mayor, Administrator and Clerk on May 1. A September 22, 2010 deadline has been set.

For more information on the program and copies of the current application form and Policy and Procedures Manual, visit the Park System's website www.monmouthcountyparks.com and click on Municipal Open Space Program on the homepage directory. If you have questions or would like to schedule a pre-application meeting, please contact the Program Administrator at 732-842-4000, Ext. 4472.



West Long Branch received a Municipal Open Space Grant in 2003 for development of a piece of land the town had previously purchased. Today, this impressive facility is nearly complete and offers an abundance of recreational facilities all in one place: tennis and basketball courts; baseball, soccer and football fields; playground and picnic area; walking trail with fitness stations and plenty of parking.





What Every Monmouth County Garden Needs

Randy McHaney, Deep Cut Senior Gardener

Gardening is all about anticipation. And no summer is more anticipated than the next one. In my garden the anticipation is always a combination of flowers, fragrance, birds and butterflies, and I plan my garden accordingly. Also, the garden is always in transition. A huge pine is removed and a shade garden becomes a rose garden. Gardening keeps you young because you're always looking forward...anticipating. Gardening is considered the #1 recreation among senior citizens, but those of us who are a bit younger enjoy it as well.

It's never too late to dream about your garden. But with this comes a certain amount of reality. Plants are living organisms and will ultimately require a certain composite of variables in order to be successful:

- **Sun** –For sun-loving plants, 8 hours or more for plants like roses, or a minimum of 6 hours for vegetables like tomatoes and peppers. Less than 6 hours and you are in the medium light range, that's good for most perennials and annuals. Dappled light, partial sun is usually associated with shade loving plants such as hosta, astilbe and rhododendron. These are all expressions you will encounter when checking out those garden catalogs.
- **Soils** – In general, these need to be evenly moist but well drained. Many of the most popular garden plants will do best under these conditions. If the soil is too sandy and drains too quickly, or too heavy and doesn't drain well, compost should be incorporated. Succulents such as sedum like dry soil; whereas trees such as the bald cypress and dawn redwood, and the cardinal flower, prefer wetter sites.
- **Water** – A shortage of water has certainly not been a problem in the last couple of years; but too much water can be as damaging as too little. Therefore, well-drained soil is all the more important.
- **Fertilization** – You can use chemicals and/or organic formulations to provide plants with the necessary nutrients. If you have sandy soil for example, there is usually a shortage of organic matter and you will need to use some chemical amendments. For perennials, in general, a compost is always a good idea; you can mulch with compost as well.



After 29 years at Deep Cut Gardens, Senior Gardener and writer for the Home Gardener, Randy McHaney, has retired. We wish him all the best!



The lovely rose requires plenty of sunlight

Impact is Everything!

Whether cultivated at a horticultural park or in your personal garden, growing wild in a meadow or along the parkway, the following—in my humble opinion—represent the finest that Monmouth County has to offer. If the above variables are taken care of, the following plants should look as beautiful in your own garden as they do at Deep Cut Gardens.

Honeysuckle—the name alone brings to mind steamy August nights, wasps, and moonlit patios. Be careful not to plant the Japanese Honeysuckle, which is considered an invasive species. The 'Gold Flame,' a hybrid and recommended variety, is a twining climber and one of my favorites. This one has a lot going for it. For one thing it flowers over a long period in the summer and has an intoxicating, heady fragrance. The colors of the flowers are coral, fuchsia, hot pink and yellow. I also like the unbashful way the flowers present themselves, very upright, extremely attractive. The flowers don't just lie there, they really pop and perform for the eye. (Also, for a true native honeysuckle, 'Sempervirens,' with its beautiful red flowers, is recommended.)



Another August beauty that just keeps on flowering is the **Nicotiana**. Yes, that's flowering tobacco; not the smoking type, but it is the same genus. After many years of gardening I have to say I've grown lots of different Nicotianas but one that I particularly like is one just known as 'Lime Green.' This annual is extremely easy to grow and has nice height (about 2'). I'd grown this before but had forgotten about it until last year when someone dropped off extra seedlings at the Deep Cut Horticultural Center...and, the rest is history.



The Meadow Lily (*Lilium canadense*) is an attractive upright plant that is found in meadows; the moist to wet, low ground of wood edges, fields, and swamps. It is found throughout New Jersey but especially in the northern parts and less often seen on the Coastal Plain. But aside from all that, this is a really attractive garden gem. The dark green foliage is stiff and upright and can grow from 2-5'. The 3 1/2" flowers have attractive curved petals, with purple spots on the underside.



Ironweeds are upright and striking, especially because of their deep purple flowers, which form in late summer. This photo is one I spotted last summer in the meadow at Deep Cut Gardens. The contrast against the golden rod was eye-catching. This is probably a plant more suitable for the wild garden, and to be honest, I've never cultivated this plant at home. Maybe this will be the year. At 5" this is a real charmer.



Cardinal Flower is thought by many to be New Jersey's most beautiful native plant. Though these sorts of things are certainly subjective, I find it hard to disagree with anyone that wouldn't want to place this plant on the highest pedestal. Scarlet red flowers in late summer and a Hummingbird magnet, you can't do much better than that. The plant is of a nice height. It can grow to two plus feet. I especially like it near water, but I've also grown these in dryer areas with success. This is a plant I knew nothing about until Dr. Betty Knorr started donating them to Deep Cut Gardens in the 1990s.



No garden is complete without a large container of herbs. I usually put together a 24" or larger pot of dill, parsley, and heliotrope. The smells are wonderful, especially during the hot days of summer when the herbs' rich aromatics began to volatilize. **Fernleaf Dill** is the cultivar I used last year. It's an All American Selection and is more compact than the straight species. It grows to about 18". You're also likely to attract lots of Monarch butterflies, since dill and parsley are two of their absolute favorites for egg laying.



Oh, I could go on and on, but my time here is limited. Therefore, all that's left to say is, Happy Gardening!

In The Library: Garden Ideas To Inspire Children

Do you need help completing a Girl Scout badge requirement? Would you like to introduce kindergarteners to the wonder of growing plants? Have you thought about starting a family vegetable patch? There are extensive gardening resources to show you how at the Elvin McDonald Horticultural Library at Deep Cut Gardens. You will find hundreds of activities—as well as background information—in this unique collection of materials.



Plant a family vegetable garden! Learn how with resources from the Deep Cut Library.

Some books arrange projects by age group or skill level. For instance, *Beyond the Bean Seed* focuses on Grades K-6. Other references present concepts through a seasonal approach as in *Young Gardener*. Still others go beyond basic gardening to provide enrichment in the areas of nature and the environment. One such title is *I Love Dirt*, which suggests fifty-two nature activities for parents and children to share. You can explore the uses of plants in cooking, crafts and hobbies through such titles as *Nature's Art Box* and *Creating Fairy Garden Fragrances*. Resources include books, magazines and selected websites recommended by experts such as Brooklyn Botanic Garden, American Horticultural Society and our own Deep Cut staff.

Not only can you use the library for planning your garden/nature activities, you can also walk outside and actually picture those plans in action. Library hours are: Monday-Friday 9am-3:30pm, Saturday 10am-4pm. Please make sure to stop by!



Library is located in the Horticultural Center.

In Memoriam: Mae Fischer; From Volunteer To Librarian In Three Decades

Randy McHaney

After nearly 30 years at Deep Cut Gardens, Librarian Mae Fischer retired last December and this past March, Mae passed away.

Mae was always helpful, generous with her time, and patient (especially when I took books from the library without signing them out!) She is almost solely responsible for establishing the library for the Monmouth County Park System, and developing a combination reference/lending library at Deep Cut Gardens. She organized and cataloged a wide assortment of books, magazines and reports to make it easier for people to find the information. She also selected the most appropriate resources through recommendations and professional reviews, and took initial steps to computerize the library.

Mae was not a gardener, but worked with and appreciated those who garden, and once told me: "I don't like pink flowers." When Mae's husband passed away in the 1990s I had the florist make up an arrangement of all purple flowers. She pulled me aside after she had returned to work and told me that, at his wake, her attention had been drawn to that purple arrangement. I've always remembered that story because it made me feel good that I had that little bit of insight into her personality. Mae will be sorely missed by her friends and co-workers.



It's Time To...

July ✓



- Take note of any gaps in your garden, which plants you will want to divide in the fall or next spring. If you aren't keeping a garden journal, consider starting one.
- Check plants for insects/disease and use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) methods for dealing with problems. (Visit the Deep Cut Library to learn more.)
- Apply/replenish mulch to conserve water and suppress weeds.
- After bloom has finished, dig and divide irises, lily of the valley, Oriental poppies and bleeding hearts.
- Water thoroughly before and after transplanting container-grown plants.
- To keep vegetable gardens producing, harvest ripe produce regularly and ensure plants have 1" of water weekly. Water deeply, early in the day, and try to keep water off the leaves.
- Plant bush beans now for a fall crop.
- Keep lawns at least 3" high and do any watering in the morning, deeply, and less frequently, for a stronger, healthier lawn.

August ✓

- During dry spells, water your compost bin or pile to keep it active.
- Consider allowing some seeds to ripen for wildlife or to save for next year, otherwise, continue deadheading.
- Fertilize late summer and fall flowers.
- Sow late crops of radishes, lettuce, kale, spinach, cabbage, Chinese cabbage, and turnips into September.
- Start planning for Deep Cut's Fall Perennial Plant Swap, Sept. 26.

September ✓

- Fertilize lawns late this month. Now is the best time to reseed or renovate.
- Plant evergreen and hardy shrubs; mulch and water well.
- Plant spring-flowering bulbs in groups or drifts for best effect next spring.
- Acclimate houseplants to lower light before bringing them indoors this month. Thanksgiving and Christmas cactus may be left out until just before the first frost.
- Plant some pansies for fall color - look for two-season varieties that will bloom again next spring.
- Dig and pot some of your herbs to grow inside through the winter in a cool, sunny spot; allow the soil to dry slightly between waterings.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DAYLILY DAY AT DEEP CUT GARDENS Saturday, June 26, 10am-2pm

Presented by the Monmouth County Park System and the Garden State Daylily Growers. Free horticultural advice, displays, garden design ideas.

Free Admission/Free Parking

JERSEY SHORE ROSE SOCIETY 39TH ANNUAL ROSE SHOW Saturday, September 11

Information on the selection & care of roses. Garden and Rose Show tours. Watch as roses are prepared for exhibition (starting 8 am); judging complete by 12:30pm & entries will remain on exhibit for the public. Free Admission/Free Parking



BONSAI DAY Sunday, September 19, 1:30-4:00pm

The D. C. Bonsai Society & Deep Cut Gardens invite you to enjoy the Bonsai experience! See demonstrations and exhibits, talk to the experts. Visit Deep Cut Gardens' Jane Scott collection. Free Admission/Free Parking



THE GREAT FALL PERENNIAL PLANT SWAP Saturday, September 25, 10am-2pm

It's the gardening event of the season!

It's Fun - Free - Easy!

Bring your plants in 1-qt, 1-gal or 2-gal containers and trade them in for different plants of the same size.

Houseplants may also be exchanged, but no annuals, please.

Please label all plants. Call 732-671-6050 for more information.

CORNER

NATURE



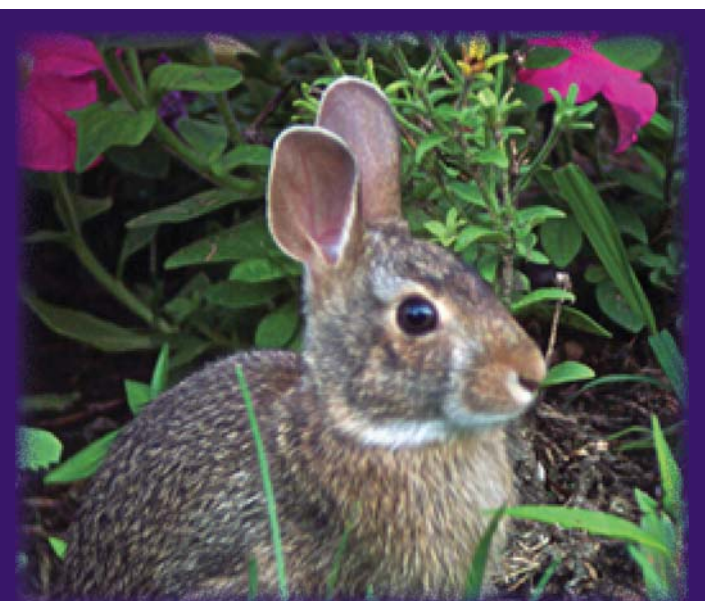
After the Sun Goes Down

Wildlife Nightlife

Allison Astalos, Park Naturalist

Screech Owl

As the sun sinks and darkness sets in we prepare for sleep. However, many animals are just beginning their “day;” they are known as crepuscular or nocturnal. **Crepuscular** means they are primarily active at dawn, dusk or in the twilight hours. **Nocturnal** refers to those that are active during the night. Activity during these hours is considered a type of niche differentiation. Over time these animals have developed adaptations allowing them to avoid or enhance predation. The crepuscular and nocturnal lifestyles provide important advantages for the survival of these species in the wild.



Rabbits make vulnerable prey while feeding during they day. But their large ears help them to detect territorial intrusions, and large eyes help them see at night.

Night Time: The Right Time to Avoid Predators

One of the most important benefits for nocturnal animals is their ability to avoid natural predators. While predators are active during the day, nocturnal animals are sleeping and hiding, and thereby avoid deadly encounters. Consider all the insects, toads, and frogs that are eaten by predators—such as hawks and snakes—who are active hunters during the day. Deer and rabbits are also most vulnerable when they are feeding, but they can evade predators if they do so at night.

Using the cover of night to avoid being observed is referred to as **crypsis**. But predators can benefit from hunting at night as well. If not adapted to the night lifestyle, their prey will be more vulnerable and easier to catch in the dark. Plus, hunters can use darkness to remain hidden and sneak up on prey better than during the day.



This Red-Tailed Hawk, with its prey firmly in its talons is just the type of capable daytime predator that crepuscular/ nocturnal animals hope to avoid.

Cooler and Damper Under the Stars

Typically the weather is more extreme during daylight hours. With the sun shining at full force, temperatures can become quite uncomfortable for people and animals outside. Since animals can't retreat into an air conditioned building like we do, they can avoid these extremes by being active at night. It allows them to avoid excessive water evaporation from their bodies. Toads and tree frogs especially lose water through their skin and risk dehydration if active during the day. The cool, damp night air provides a safer environment for these species.



On a hot summer day, this green frog stays moist by immersing in water.

Sharpened Senses Required at Night

To be a successful crepuscular or nocturnal species, animals must rely heavily on their senses. Their senses of smell, hearing, and sight have become highly adapted to make up for the lack of light. The eyes of nocturnal animals often have important qualities not found in the eyes of daytime animals, which allow them to see quite well in the dark. Almost all nocturnal animals have a *tapetum* present in their eyes. This is a structure behind the retina that reflects back light entering the eye. It gives their eyes that strange glow you may have seen when out at night.

Humidity in the night air allows odors to hang around longer. This makes it easier for predators to smell and locate their prey without relying on sight. Smell can also be used for attracting the opposite sex, detecting enemies or friends, getting members of the same species together, and as a defense mechanism. The air currents at night assist in dispersing the scents required for these activities. Nocturnal vertebrates have sensitive nasal olfactory senses, while insects may have organs such as antennae specialized for smell.

Many nocturnal animals produce sounds for communicating with each other at night, since visual communication would be difficult in the dark. They use sounds to scare away other animals, warn others of their approach, attract mates, and detect where predators or prey are located. Their calls and sounds can be heard better at night because there are fewer man-made sounds to interfere. It is common at night to hear many types of insects, birds, amphibians, and even mammals; each calling for its own reasons.

These sensory adaptations and the benefits of the night environment make it possible for nocturnal animals to thrive during these hours without light. Being able to take advantage of the night life allows for less competition in the wild. Crepuscular and nocturnal animal niches won't conflict with diurnal or daytime animals, preventing competition for food and habitat. Since we are not as well adapted to the dark it may be difficult for us to catch a glimpse of these animals. However, if we're out at night and try tuning into our other senses maybe we'll find them.



The opossum is the only marsupial ("pouched mammal") in North America. It is known for its ability to play dead when it feels threatened by another animal. They have a keen sense of smell which helps them locate food in the dark including plants, animals, fruits, and insects.



The big sound of this small, noisy frog—the Spring Peeper—can fill the forest at night.

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SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF A SUMMER NIGHT

CRICKETS

The chirping of crickets is probably one of the most common summer sounds. These insects are often confused with grasshoppers which are more likely to be seen during the day. The males have a song producing organ on their front wings called a stridulatory organ. They use their songs for calling and courting mates.



Cricket. Courtesy of J. Berger, US Bugwood.org.

LIGHTNING BUGS

One popular sight of summer is the pulsing glow of lightning bugs. These are small brown-winged beetles commonly found in wet or damp areas. Under their abdomen is an organ dedicated to producing the light. Special cells take in oxygen and combine it with luciferin to create the glow. Each species has a different pattern of flashes that they use to attract potential mates.



Firefly or Lightning Bug. Courtesy of Sam Houston, life.nbi.gov

SPRING PEEPER

Another familiar sound of the summer night is the peep of the spring peeper. This small brown chorus frog has a vocal pouch on its throat which expands and deflates, making the peeping noise. Only the males make this advertisement call to attract females and let other males know there is a breeding male in the area.

SCREECH OWLS

If you listen carefully you may here the plaintive trill of a screech owl. They are a small owl found in woodland areas. Screech owls have two songs. The male's most common song is the muted trill and the other is a descending whinny sound usually used during courtship. The males have a lower-pitched voice than the females and unless alarmed they do not call during flight.

LITTLE BROWN BAT

As darkness sets in it is common to see bats flying and diving across the evening sky. Occasionally you may even hear them as they let out a warning "honk" if they are on a collision course with other bats feeding. They are insectivores using echolocation to find their prey. While in flight they use their wingtips to catch larger prey or their mouths for smaller prey.



This raccoon is hiding out during the day.

RACCOONS

Often raccoons are thought to be mischievous and known for rummaging through our garbage cans. This mammal is noted for its intelligence and extremely dexterous front paws. Its most characteristic feature is the area of black fur around its eyes resembling a bandit's mask. This dark mask may enhance its ability to see at night by reducing glare.

COYOTES

This wild canine resembles a German Shepard and can be heard or seen throughout the county. It is not unusual to see them during the day but, because of increased pressure from humans, prefer the nightlife. They use various howls, yips, yelps, barks, and whines to communicate with each other. A long high howl is used to call the pack together, when they reunite they let out short yips and yelps making a yi-yi sound. Short barks warn others of danger while growls are used to establish dominance. Males and females establish bonds by whining and whimpering, and puppies are called using high-pitched barks.



This coyote was possibly made more obvious during the day due to injury, note how it is holding its front paw.



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PARK SYSTEM

THE MONMOUTH COUNTY FAIR IS COMING SOON: July 21-25, 2010

East Freehold Showgrounds, 1500 Kozloski Rd. • SO MUCH TO SEE AND DO!

Check Out "Best in Show" From Fair Days Gone By...

Calling all crafters and cooks! Anyone can enter the Monmouth County Fair Home & Garden competition. Needlework, quilts, canning, baking, horticulture—dozens of categories in all. And each year, just one very special blue ribbon winner takes the overall prize, "Best in Show." In 2006 it was a photo, 2007 sewing, 2008 an amazing lemon cake, and in 2009 it was needlepoint.

*What will it be this year? Perhaps something **you** dream up for consideration.*



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