

Green Link

Monmouth County
Park System



An Employee &
Volunteer Newsletter
of the Monmouth County
Park System



Thompson Park

January/February 2011

2010 Employee Recognition Ceremony

This year's 50th Anniversary Employee Recognition Ceremony featured special guests to help us celebrate, sales of the new Park System book (the author was available to answer questions and sign copies), a meal sponsored by the Friends of the Parks, and of course, the dozens of employees being honored for reaching a milestone in years of service or going the extra distance in their jobs, including a special award this year for Assistant Director Bruce Gollnick (see p. 2).



Welcome Back, Retirees! These former park employees joined us for a visit. (l to r) Bob Cain, Glenn Reilly, Karen Eastin, Jerry Savitz, Lou Joline, James Newman, and Bill Greene (back) Other retirees were in attendance but didn't make the photo: Patty O'Rourke, Ray Moylan, Mary Rochford, and Howard Olt.

Service Milestones



5 Years of Service: (l to r) Stephanie Weise, John Eisemann, Kevin Dunn, Ron Bomma, Jeanne Bezio and Eric Doren. Also celebrating 5 years, but not in this photo are Patti Burke, Eric Cadenelli, John Lillis, Anna Luiten, Rich Meister, Tom Noordzy and John Wallace.



10 Years of Service. (front row, l to r) Paul Basquill, Jen Nixon, Susan Stafford-Smith, Cindy Ross, Theresa Secks, Barbara DeLorenzo, Donnamarie Dugo, and Paul Zimmer. (middle row, l to r) Hal Ayers, Tom Ketcham, Darrin Morrissey, Chris Brawley, Ann Marie Osnato, Leigh Schneider, Gregg Wolff. (Back row: l to r) Keith York, Al Weaver and Jim Butler. Other 10 Year Honorees not pictured: Phil Andras, Erika Bozza, Terry Grewen, Jim Januszkiewicz and Josh Storch.



(l to r) **15 Years of Service.** Alison Petruzzo, John Schanck, and Fran Lorelli. Alan Archer and Jim Mowczan not pictured.



20 Years of Service: (l to r) Mark Borchert, Mary Mautner and Alan Roberts. Ed Luzzi (not pictured) is also celebrating 20 years.

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER



“What It Takes”

I had the privilege and pleasure of honoring Bruce Gollnick our Assistant Director at our September 8th, 2010 Annual Employee Recognition Program. In preparing for this presentation I thought about the qualities that an individual(s) should possess in order to be successful in creating a “legacy organization” such as ours. So here goes—an individual who...

- is dedicated
- believes in the organization’s goals
- gives of himself/herself
- cares about his/her life’s work
- wants to make a difference
- puts service above self
- knows that quality is the hallmark of his/her work
- knows that details are important
- cares about his/her fellow man/woman
- is observant and a good listener
- gets along with others
- enjoys their work and doesn’t think of it as work

Assistant Director Bruce Gollnick was recognized for having “What It Takes” at the Employee Recognition Ceremony this year. What this photo doesn’t show is an entire room of more than 230 park employees and guests on their feet giving Bruce an extended, heartfelt and much-deserved standing ovation.



I recently received a job announcement for the Executive Director position at a park system in Ohio. It provided a list of the “Management Style and Personal Traits” that they are looking for in a candidate. While we may not often talk about this, I thought it might be interesting to review the criteria they desired...

- Mature and professional in stature, so as to project a strong personal and park presence that establishes credibility and respect.
- Trustworthy, forthright and transparent in dealing with all stakeholders.
- High levels of energy, initiative and patience along with the ability to lead and manage multiple priorities and processes.
- Passionate about the environment and the education of the community regarding environmental issues.
- Able to deal tactfully and directly with adversity.
- Intellectual and analytical abilities to dissect issues, utilize statistics and comparative data, draw conclusions, formulate recommendations and develop successful strategies.
- Perceptive, pro-active, anticipatory, creative and innovative in dealing with issues, challenges and opportunities involving the parks.
- Management style and approach that is founded on and viewed as being accessible, visible and approachable by all staff and the Board.
- A leader by personal example and a mentor, encouraging high standards of performance, ethics and personal conduct.
- A sense of humor and humility.

We can all be proud of the work that we do in making the Park System Monmouth County’s Best Idea. Also, I know that the following is true: a good leader is a person of both action and intellect.



25 (and 30!) Years of Service: (front row, l to r) Andy North, Joe Smith, Sandy Byard, Andrew Spears, and Maryann Goodwin who was celebrating 30 Years in 2010. (back row, l to r) Chris Davidson, Drew D'Apolito, Tom Fobes, and George Richdale. Also honored, but not pictured: Ron Luepke.



35 Years of Service: Debbie Tamburello, Dave Compton, and Sue Baranowski.



40 Years of Service: Congratulations to John Caddock!

Employee Achievement Awards



Outstanding Customer Service. Based on a series of positive visitor reviews about the staff for being so helpful and for keeping the park and campsites in such great condition, Tom Fobes presented the Turkey Swamp Park Ranger Staff with this award. (l to r) Eric Doren, Keith York, Al Picerno, Darrin Morrissey, Mike Towle, Chris Plantamura, William Oakes, and Scott Schaff.



Innovation Award. Ann Sage (left) pictured with Rachel Cohen, was recognized for her exceptionally creative programming ideas at Cultural Services.



Heroism Award. Turkey Swamp Park Rangers Albert Picerno (far left), William Oakes (center left), and Keith York (far right) and were acknowledged by Park Manager Chris Plantamura (center right) for their quick action during an ice rescue last March when a visitor went into the water while trying to save his dog.



Above and Beyond. Helen Fiore was recognized for her exceptional professionalism, commitment, her willingness to take on extra projects, and for always putting the very best into all the work she is assigned.



Leadership Award. Tom Fobes received this award for setting a great example for his staff, his willingness to take on extra responsibility, and for representing the principles that make this Park System great.



Ranger Image Award. Ivan Gottstein was recognized for his professionalism and appearance, technical skills and willingness to put in the extra effort whenever needed.



Rookie of the Year. Gary Waters (right) was recognized by Mike Janoski for his excellent plumbing skills, exceptional growth and always having a good attitude.



Community Service Award. Matthew Ruding & John Skimelis (not pictured) were acknowledged for going out of their way to help a groom find his lost wedding ring in the sand during one of the busiest weekends on record at Seven Presidents. (Although the couple ended up borrowing a ring for the ceremony, the Rangers ultimately found the original and returned it to the groom in time for the reception!)



County Fair Spirit Award. Susan Williams was recognized by Terry Grewen and Fran Martone for her organizational skills and leadership at the Fair's Home & Garden Tent each year. She is an inspiration to her co-workers!

Special Appreciation Certificates:

- **For Outstanding Employees:** Patricia Douglas of Reservations, Barbara Delorenzo of A&D, Katie Stone of Creative Arts Center, and Martin Gonzalez of Charleston Springs Golf Course
- **For Outstanding Team Effort:** Charleston Springs Golf Course, Creative Arts Center, Construction & Repair and Equipment Services, and Seven Presidents Lifeguard Crew
- **Bruce Gollnick** was recognized by Jim Truncer for years of consistent, intelligent leadership and dedication

Friends We've Lost...

Retired Park Ranger John Brennan, Retired Golf Course employee Ralph Stout, Retired Deep Cut Librarian Mae Fisher, Recreation Commissioner Michael Brim, Retired Naturalist Jeffrey Hendricks, Retired Park Ranger Beth Stauch.

STAFF SCENES



Side-Car. Golf Course Admin. Superintendent Ron Leupke (left) and Art Edelman, the "ILC" or Inter-Location Courier for mail to/from the golf courses each day, sit in Art's personal ride. (This is not the vehicle Art uses to deliver mail, by the way.)

Retiree Offers a Helping Hand in History. While we didn't catch a photo of him at the Employee Reception in September, Park System Golf Course Retiree Howard Olt did stop by the Visitor Center



this past summer to help staffers solve a little history mystery. As an employee when Hominy Hill was still a farm, Howard helped explain why there was a white bull on the golf course in a photo that appeared in a past issue of the Green Link. Living locally, Howard is enjoying his retirement and continues to golf frequently, often at our courses.

Then & Now. We don't know of any other place where a photographer can catch the same two employees, doing the same thing, more than 35 years apart! Truth be told, Deep Cut Librarian Susan Henschel and Principal Park Naturalist Andy Coeyman graciously agreed to re-create the older shot for our entertainment—since they both still work for the parks though now at different locations.



An information table; Monmouth College, 1975.



In the newly renovated A&D building, Thompson Park 2010.

Celebrity Wildlife Siting. Asst. Public Info Officer Lisa Bonelli could barely contain her enthusiasm when—while attending the state-sponsored Wild Outdoor Expo at Assunpink Wildlife Management Area in Upper Freehold—she got to have her photo taken with



Smokey Bear. She was overheard saying afterwards, "It was just like meeting Brad Pitt!" Did you know? The Smokey character is reportedly based on a real bear cub that was rescued from a fire and nursed back to health by forest service staff and not unlike some other celebrities, is sensitive that his correct name be used (not "Smokey the Bear," just "Smokey Bear").

Wild Wildlife

The Turtle, the Humans, and the Hare. This charming series of photos shows how Deep Cut staff helped this Eastern Box Turtle survive her unfortunate choice of nest site.



The mother digs her nest June 29 and begins laying eggs, 8 in total, which she covered with dirt and some leaves for camouflage. She hid the nest so well, you couldn't even tell the ground had been disturbed!

Staff placed protective cones and an explanation around the nest, located in the high traffic area below the gate for the All America Selections Garden, to keep people from stepping on it.



The first offspring began emerging on September 14.



Oh Baby!



A bunny shows its curious side, tentatively approaching the nest, perhaps to challenge the turtle to a race.

Squirrel Moves Into Owl Nest. Last fall, this Southern Flying Squirrel took up residence in an owl nesting box at Huber Woods. Abundant throughout the state, you might not be familiar with this creature since it is mostly active at night (notice the exceptionally large, dark eyes). Flying squirrels do not really “fly” but use



the use a fold of skin between the ankles and wrist of each leg (patagium) to to glide from point to point.



Crab Takes It All Off, Cited for Indecent Exposure.

Just kidding about the second part. A common shore resident (and dinner special), the Blue Crab grows by molting or shedding its old shell to grow a new one. Note how the backside of the shell is open--this is where the entire crab comes out. Everything is shed in one piece including the legs, claws, antennae and even the eyeballs. Molting occurs throughout the summer and early fall months.

Piebald Deer on Display. Sporting a noticeable coat of different colors, this rare piebald deer was spotted



at Hartshorne Woods. The coat coloring is caused by a genetic variation (not disease). It has such an unusual appearance that naturalists have created a display about it at the Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center.



Snake in the Grass, Literally.

This Eastern King Snake, which measures about 4½ feet, takes a stretch and some fresh air out on the lawn at Huber Woods, near its home in the Reptile House. Even at this length, staffers have to keep a close eye on them, so they don't slip into a nearby animal hole and disappear.

Awards & Accolades

Every year, Mercer County's Howell Living History Farm hosts a Plow Match, and 2010 was the event's 26th year. This year **Longstreet Farm's Phil Andras** finished 2nd place in Fine Plowing. This was our best showing ever and it occurred during a year when the competition had its largest field of competitors ever. Also, at an impressive 7 months pregnant, **Sarah Duterte** plowed in another division and won as well. Congratulations to the staff at Longstreet Farm for their exceptional skills!



Champion plower Phil Andras tests his technique at this 2010 plow match.

Congratulations to **Supervising Park System Planner Joe Sardonía (and the entire team of county/ municipal planners and engineers)** for receiving the Water Resources Protection and Planning Award from the NJ Section of the American Water Resource Association (NJ-AWRA) for their work on the Courtyard Rain Garden Project at Village Elementary School in Holmdel. This project was federally funded, through the state DEP to Monmouth County. The grant was managed by the Park System and Joe served as the project's Construction Manager. It received this award because its creative design improved storm water runoff while offering a variety of environmental education opportunities.



With the help of Joe Sardonía, Holmdel's Village Elementary School asphalt lot and courtyard (left) is now an award winning series of rain gardens (right).

Park News, Notes & Construction Updates

At long last, and with many helping hands, the gristmill's original Risdon Turbine has returned to Walnford as a display piece. This massive, cast iron water turbine once powered the mill and is the site's newest, and heaviest (over a ton), interpretive artifact. Although no longer functional, it will help visitors better understand how water was able to power the mill in the 1800s.



Frank Biddle of Equipment Services helped transport the 1 ton turbine from its restoration site to its new home, back at Walnford.

George Dallavale, also of Equipment Services, hoists the turbine from the truck into its display spot, in the shed across from the mill.



Improvements and upgrades continue throughout the parks...

There's a new white (historically accurate) roof on the pergola at Deep Cut Gardens.



The newly opened Claypit Creek Area at Hartshorne Woods Park now hosts visitors using the site to walk their dogs, go birding and eat lunch on the picnic tables.

The first two miles of the Union Transportation Trail in Upper Freehold opened on September 25. The event's 75 attendees included park staff, Freeholders, Recreation Commissioners and local residents who all hit the trail together to ride horses, bicycles, or just take a stroll.



Farewell Retirees!

Dolores DeMaria,
Longstreet Farm 10/1/10

Carol Stasik,
Administration 12/1/10

Donna Browne,
Administration 12/1/10

John Caddock,
Monmouth Cove Marina 1/1/11

Welcome New Hires!

Denise Dudas-County Park Ranger, Holmdel

Frank Sardoni-County Park Ranger, Holmdel

Gregory Alexander-County Park Ranger, Hartshorne

Andrew Stegner-County Park Ranger, Hartshorne

Sean Pierson-County Park Ranger, Seven Presidents

Bryan Whalen-County Park Ranger, Deep Cut

Keith Heckman-County Park Ranger, Bayshore

Russell Finkelson-County Park Ranger, Crosswicks Creek

Dennis Bergstrand-County Park Ranger, Thompson Park

Shea Gilliland-County Park Ranger, Turkey Swamp Park

Melissa Kelly-Volunteer Coordinator, Visitor Services

Matthew Chalupski-Recreation Leader, Urban Recreation

Lawrence Cunningham-Assistant Golf Superintendent, Hominy Hill

Rocco Mayo- Greenskeeper, Charleston Springs Golf Course

William Bellingham- Greenskeeper, Charleston Springs Golf Course



January

- 4 Mary Mautner • Jen Nixon
- 5 Diane Elwood • Tom Swords
- 6 Valerie Ferris
- 9 Pat Cernak • Joe Smith
- 12 Keith Heckman • Alvin Lopez
• Beverly Miller • Jerry Ostrander
- 14 Andrew Wehmann
- 15 Bob Melick
- 16 Kathleen Ferraro • Paul McCue
- 17 Greg Shannon
- 18 Patrick W. Becker
- 19 John Caddock
- 20 Russ Anderson • Courtney Bison
- 22 Steve Moraghan
- 23 Jan Galanti
- 25 Shelagh A. McCarthy
- 26 Brad Roe • Gregg Wolff
- 27 John Schanck
- 28 Rachel Cohen
- 29 Lisa Horner • Andrew Stegner
- 30 James Januszkiewicz • Dave Pease
- 31 Bob Schneider

February

- 1 Michele Maggio • Andy Spears
- 2 Chris Davino • Cheryl Stoeber-Goff
- 6 George Dallavalle • Lynn Duncan
- 8 Gail Hunton • Maria Wojciechowski
- 10 Mike Towle
- 11 Ralph Johnson
- 14 Sarah Duterte • Bill Oakes
• Barbara Zarella
- 16 Ronald Chevestick
- 17 Denise Dudas
- 20 Jeremy Schaefer
- 24 Alison Petruzzo
- 25 Jennifer Kaczala
- 26 Jim Butler

March

- 1 Edward Dobrosky Jr.
- 2 Erika Bozza • Andy Nunes-Vais
- 3 Ralph Apicelli • Chris Brawley
• Ruth Ann Zobel
- 4 Philip Andras
- 5 Bob Laauser
- 6 Christina Carlson
- 7 Ann Reinhardt
- 8 Jeff Faistl • Bruce Gollnick
• Theresa Secks
- 9 Maryann Goodwin
- 10 Matt Bezahl
- 12 Steve Matthews
- 13 Karen Jarmusz • Brad Rogers
• Scott Simpson
- 18 Peter Kucker
- 21 Ben Friedman • Diane Hughes
• Ryan Kimble • Debbie Tamburello
- 24 Sandy Byard
- 25 Barbara DeLorenzo • Maryann Elwood
- 28 Chet Scalzo
- 31 Tim Mariner



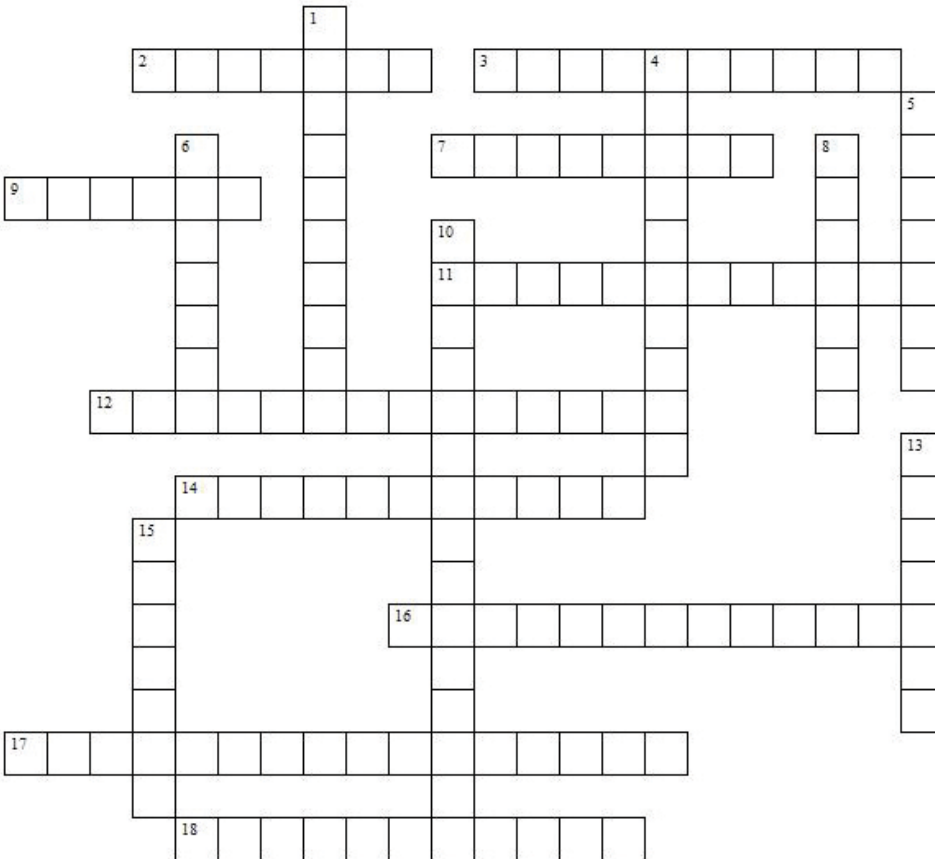
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Park System Crossword!

By Ben Friedman, Operations



ACROSS

- 2 Gold and _____
- 3 One of only two parks in the county where shot guns are permitted for hunting
- 7 Some say the MCPS logo resembles this delicious food item
- 9 The commissioner with a noisy last name
- 11 Site of the five day extravaganza, usually during a heat wave
- 12 The "dog beach"
- 14 If you can't go to Blizzard Beach, head to this in Colts Neck
- 16 This landmark building is like the phoenix
- 17 24 miles long? That's a lot of litter picking
- 18 Murky name, beautiful park

DOWN

- 1 The Secretary-Director
- 4 The first county park
- 5 Cross-country runners fear "the bowl" at _____
- 6 Act up in one of our parks and you'll get hit with one of these
- 8 The first of our Rules & Regulations says you can't have this in any park
- 10 Dunes? What dunes?
- 13 Important safety tip: Aim away from the face (Hint: Ask a ranger)
- 15 Actor Will Smith's favorite place to play golf