



Green Link

An Employee & Volunteer Newsletter



Historic Walnford

January/February 2015

Announcing...Our Newest Park:

Freneau Woods

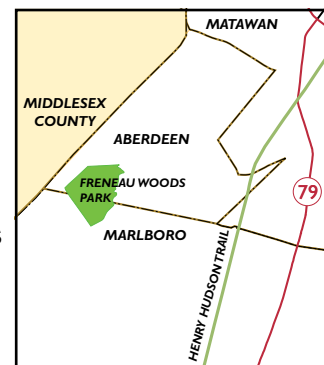


The woods and water of Freneau Woods Park (this pond is located on our first purchased parcel).

The Park System closed on its first parcel (33 acres) for our newest park, Freneau Woods in Aberdeen and Marlboro along the County's northern border. This park will protect a unique collection of woodlands and waterways in what is otherwise a very densely populated area.

The park is named for Philip Freneau who grew up in Monmouth County and was known as the "Poet of the American Revolution". His work is said to have influenced the writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson and James Fenimore Cooper, and his grave is not too far from the park.

--Excerpted from This Week in the Parks 10-24-14, Andrew Spears



Park Achievement Awards

This year's achievement awards ceremony was held at the Barn in Thompson Park, where staff enjoyed an idyllic late summer evening for our celebration. Did you know? In the past, this event has traveled to different

parks from year to year—Sunnyside Recreation Area, Turkey Swamp Park, Dorbrook, Manasquan Reservoir and the latest Fort Monmouth—but in recent years, it's been held primarily at Thompson Park.

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER



“RECOGNIZED”

This past October 15th, the Commission on Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) held its “The Best of the Best” Program in Charlotte, NC. Our Park System was recognized for the outstanding work you do,

and as a result, we were granted reaccreditation for another five (5) years.

Our success, I believe, depends on the things we do each and every day—what we do and how well we do them. How we present ourselves also says a lot about us. (People make up their minds about an individual within the first few seconds of the first meeting.)

As well as being judged as individuals, we are similarly judged as an organization. In his book “View from the Top”, Dr. Michael Lindsay, President of Gordon College, noted how people in power see and shape the world. His research, based upon interviews with 500 successful leaders, concluded that they:

- Lead from their life;
- Embrace excellence and service;
- Possess the ability to persuade;
- Are committed to their organization;
- Have established organizational rituals and routines; and
- Devote their time to work and family, with not much time left for anything else.

There is no question in my mind that our strength as an organization is a credit to each of you and the dedication you bring to a calling that is ‘greater than ourselves.’ We can all be proud of being recognized by CAPRA as one of the “Best of the Best”. Congratulations!

“Don’t aim for success if you want it, just do what you love and believe in, and it will come naturally.”

- David Frost, British Journalist



CAPRA LOGO: The CAPRA team noted how well-prepared we were for this evaluation and complimented our “professional, energetic and vision-oriented” staff.

Two special acknowledgements started the night. Park System Secretary-Director **Jim Truncer** was honored for reaching his 50 year milestone (the Park System’s first and only!) Staffers also said a fond farewell to **Michael ‘Spike’ Fowler** upon his retirement after 26 seasons as Lifeguard Supervisor at Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park.

The Achievements portion of the ceremony recognized those park employees who accomplished something exceptional during the past year.



Leadership: Seven Presidents Park Manager Ryan Rochelle was acknowledged for treating staff with respect and appreciation, and for maintaining his positive attitude throughout the stressful summer months at the beach. Senior Golf Ranger **Wayne Connelly** was recognized for being a great boss who is able to motivate his employees while treating them with respect and fairness.



Above and Beyond: Engineer Heng Chin of Design & Development was recognized for taking the initiative to become a self-taught solar panel and geothermal expert as she was managing the installation, repair and tracking of these systems throughout the parks.

Outstanding Customer Service: Monmouth Cove Marina Senior Park Ranger Chet Scalzo was given this award for restoring his site following Superstorm Sandy, and for doing so with professionalism, consideration for our customers, and a smile.





To mark Mr. Truncer's 50th Anniversary, Freeholder Director and Liaison to the Parks Lillian Burry gave a speech about his accomplishments. The two share a successful history of working together for Open Space Preservation in Monmouth County. Throughout his tenure running the county Park System, Ms. Burry has been a consistent and tremendous supporter of the parks as local councilwoman in Matawan Twp., committee woman and Mayor of Colts Neck, and multiple terms as Freeholder.

Lifeguard Supervisor Spike Fowler received a proclamation plaque to recognize his retirement from the Park System.



Here are the stand-outs for 2014:

Rookie of the Year: Sunnyside Equestrian Center Asst. Managers **Jackie West** and **Stephanie Hunt** were recognized for hitting the ground running, completing an impressive list of accomplishments during their first year. Shark River Golf Course Greenskeeper **Henry Torres** was honored for being an efficient and hard worker and for his willingness to help his fellow co-workers. Sorry, no photo.



County Fair Spirit: **Helen Fiore**, Manager, Administration was honored because she designed t-shirts so awesome that people actually wanted to buy them, found novel acts to delight our crowds who attend year after year, all while managing to squeeze in some sprucing up of site infrastructure.



Community Service: Public Information Officer **Karen Livingstone** received this honor for heightening the image of the Park System with her professionalism while handling public and media inquiries.



Innovation: **Jean Mount** of Administration was recognized for mastering our new payroll system and then helping with its implementation.



Heroism: Turkey Swamp Park Principal Ranger **Scott Schaaf** (pictured) and Ranger **Francisco Masini** were recognized for their calm and professional rescue of a stranded pair of hikers who were lost in a marshy area of the state's Wildlife Management Area, next to their park.



Ranger Image: Holmdel Park Ranger **Scott Simpson** was recognized for being responsible and well-respected and for his ability to keep a cool head in pressing situations.

During the Milestones portion of the event, these employees received acknowledgement for reaching the following terms of service:



5 Years (l to r): **Ben Friedman** of Administration, **Katie Stone** from the Creative Arts Center and Park Ranger **Marcia Floden**, all from Thompson Park; and Park Ranger **Bill Neugebauer** from Longstreet Farm. Not present: **Ralph Apicelli**, **Barbara Reeves** and **Gary Waters**.

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10 Years (front row, l to r): Lauren Gerber of Therapeutic Recreation from Dorbrook and **Barbara Zarella** from the Creative Arts Center, **Jim Gregory** from Central Supply and **Lisa Bonelli** of Public Information, all from Thompson Park. (back row, l to r) Seven Presidents Senior Park Manager **Matt Coleman**, **Chris Davino** of Sports and Fitness at Dorbrook, and **Ilona Varga** of Administration and **Ryan Kimble** of Training Center at Thompson Park. Not present: **Edward Bannon**, **Benny Cammarata**, **Henry Kikolski**, **Susan Madden**, **Samuel Skinner** and **Mark Szemiot**.



15 Years: (front row, l to r) Asst. Superintendent of Recreation **Karen Jarmusz**, Dorbrook Recreation Area; **Jennifer Kaczala** of Purchasing at Thompson Park; **Rachel Cohen** of Cultural Services at Dorbrook; and **Sean O'Herron** of Operations and Maintenance at Thompson Park (back row, l to r) **James Vacchiano** (seasonal) Howell Park Golf Center, General Manager of Golf Courses **Jeremy Schaefer** at Hominy Hill, **Matt Bezahler** of Computer Services at Thompson Park, and **James Quigley** (seasonal) at Howell Park Golf Center. Not present: **Gary Stedman**.



20 Years: (front row, l to r) Senior Park Manager at Dorbrook **Rick Royle**; Supervising Thompson Park Ranger **Travis Bryan**; **Barbara Berry** of Administration at Thompson Park; Pine Brook Golf Ranger **Tom Swords**; and Principal Shark River Park Ranger **Mile Dollear**. Not present: **Werner Hasselbrock**; **Jennifer Troisi**.

25 Years: Senior Park Ranger, Operations **Steve Clayton**. Not present: **Robert MacDonald**.

35 years: Crosswicks Creek Senior Park Ranger **Paul Lippert**.

40 Years: Crosswicks Creek Principal Park Ranger **Skip Supczynski**, East Freehold Principal Park Ranger **Hank Schreiber**, and **Andy Coeyman** of Acquisitions at A&D/Thompson Park.

Wild Wildlife



Pollinators at Play.

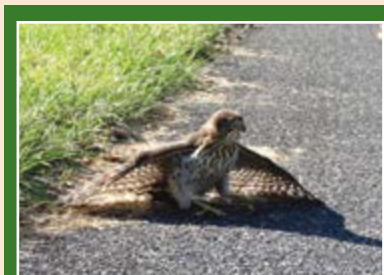
This must be one very popular zinnia patch—a bumble bee flies in to join this Tiger Swallowtail for lunch at **Deep Cut Gardens**.



Fawns, Out for a Stroll.

Because he is often outside, inspecting property in and around our park sites with camera in hand, Construction Inspector **John Eisemann** often captures some unusual wildlife scenes, like these two fawns casually strolling down a farm access road that crosses over the UTT. John was standing on the new trail section under construction by Herbert Rd.

Cooper's Hawk Down. This distressed Cooper's hawk was spotted along the Maintenance Road at Thompson Park late last summer. Staffers suspected the bird was injured or sick, although it still had enough energy to charge at them, including Landscape Architect **Heng Chin** as she took these photos. When Senior Dorbrook Park Manager **Paul McCue** drove by, Heng asked if he could remove the marauding bird from the park. Paul fortunately had some previous Cooper's Hawk catching experience, but unfortunately the bird died not too long after it was caught.



It is obvious this bird is unable to fly away (or it would have). In spite of distress, the hawk was able to charge at park staff. Note the Cooper Hawk's distinctly banded tail.

M.A.S.T High School Students Design New Site Panels at MREC

The Marine Academy of Science and Technology (M.A.S.T) is part of the Monmouth County Vocational School District. These students, who study oceanography and technology/engineering with a focus on marine sciences, received a \$10k grant from the NJEA Frederick L. Hipp Foundation for Excellence in Education to produce educational panels on wildlife and environmental issues for the Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center (MREC).

Working with Senior Park Naturalist **Chris Lanza** and other park staffers, their teachers and an outside expert, the students completed most of the design and writing for two sets of professionally produced information panels:



M.A.S.T students proudly unveil this Watchable Wildlife Panel.



- **5 Wayside Panels Outside MREC:** Watchable Wildlife, Our Pond, Our Bog, Native Plants, and Pine/Oak Forest.
- **4 'Biomimicry' Panels Inside MREC:** Pitcher plant, Hummingbird, Woodpecker, Orb Web Spider.

The MREC bog was the subject of this panel.

Staff and Volunteers Plant Pollinator Garden

Park Naturalists and Volunteers aren't just sitting around waiting for the last of our bees and Monarch butterflies to simply disappear. After researchers noted declining numbers of these important pollinators, they have teamed up to do something about it! This past spring, they added a variety of new native varieties in front and outside the bird viewing area at the Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center.

With guidance from Ecologist **Ken Thoman**, Naturalists **Susan Harasty** (pictured, top right) and **Patrice McCoy** worked with volunteers **Ronnie Liebowitz** and **Lou Whitaker** (pictured, bottom right) and **Cheryl Fulmer** and **Gary Shunk** to put in some plants purchased with a grant from Freehold Soil Conservation. Now, they plan to continue plantings, track the progression of the garden and observe how it functions as a pollinator refuge. Stay tuned...



Corner

Volunteer

VOLUNTEERS TRAIN FOR INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL TEAM

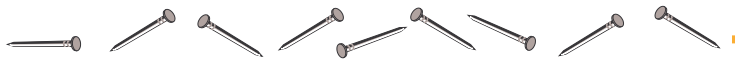
A new volunteer group held its first training session this past summer to learn more about the many invasive plants in the parks, and how to safely remove them. For now, the Invasive Plant Removal Team (ages 16 and older) will focus their efforts on mechanical removal of damaging plants from the park's common landscape areas. Later, the group may expand their efforts to include other problem areas in the parks.



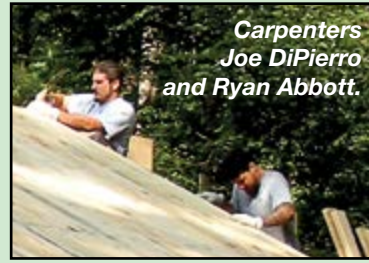
*Invasive Trainer and Public Information Officer **Karen Livingstone** shows volunteers how to identify a mile-a-minute weed in the holly shrubs behind Thompson Park's Visitor Center.*

*Invasive Trainers **Gerry Lingner** (seated) and **Jim Henry** (standing behind) also help with identification. While back there, the team discovered two other invasives (pokeweed and porcelain berry) as well as a 'nuisance native' (poison ivy)*





Bayshore Beach Replenishment. This photo taken last June shows the replenishment process as it was underway. Look at the background to see how much new sand was added to widen the beach.



*Carpenters
Joe DiPierro
and Ryan Abbott.*



*Installing a well requires
some big equipment.*

A New Well and Cabin No. 3 at

Turkey Swamp. The old well at the campground was beginning to silt, so a new well was drilled and the pump was replaced last spring. Since the cabins are popular and booked every weekend, a third cabin was added and will be available next season.



HHT East Creek Bridge Replacement.

One of the most recent post Sandy Repairs to be made was the Henry Hudson Trail's East Creek Bridge (on Jersey Ave, between Shore Rd. and Harris Ave.). During Superstorm Sandy, the East Creek literally lifted this bridge right off its foundation. Today, it is back in place new and improved.



Portland Place Restoration at Hartshorne Woods.

New HVAC, electric and fire suppression systems were installed in 2014. The roof and exterior also underwent significant repairs. Did you know? The unique blue color on the underside of the front porch was original to the house and found by scraping away recent layers of paint.



Holmdel Park Shelter Walkway & Lot Renovations.

As one of the busiest sites in the Park System, the Holmdel Park shelter along with its bathrooms, walkways, and parking lot experience a lot of traffic and wear and tear. As part of renovations to exterior areas this year, Design staff from A&D included a new "sightline" from the parking lot that lets visitors see beyond the shelter to the trail, grass and pond.

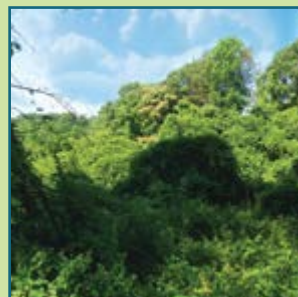


The shelter, before and after (right).



Timolat Farm Phase II of Invasive Species Management.

This project removed a thick layer of woody invasive shrubs and vines (grape, porcelain berry and bittersweet) from this nearby field and treeline. Take a look at these before and after photos. It's hard to believe it's the same field. You can also see how deeply the vines were invading the trees now that they are dead and brown.



Before and After

OUT & ABOUT



Game of Thrones Wedding in the Parks. Check out this uniquely themed wedding held at **Deep Cut Gardens** in September. Even the attendees dressed up!

Staff Set-Up for Currier & Ives: Park staff and members of the Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame teamed up to install the Courier and Ives Harness Racing Exhibit of Lithographs that ran at Historic Wainford through November.



From the Harness Racing Hall of Fame, Museum Curator Rebecca Howard and Librarian Paul Wilder look over packed exhibit items with Park System Museum Curator Cheryl Stoeber-Goff (right).



Park System Historic Services staff Morgan Glossbury and Sally Weiner were part of the display team.

NOTE WORTHY

Chief Construction Inspector **Steve Matthews** received an Administrative Medal from the County Fire Marshall on October 5 recognizing all his hard work making sure the Park System buildings are fire safe. Congratulations Steve!

While attending the UN General Assembly in New York City, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Augustin Matata Ponyo, visited Monmouth Beach for a meeting. He landed (and departed) by helicopter at **Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park**, where Park Rangers were on site to secure the area.

Welcome New Employee!



Kimberly Ambrose
Equipment Services Clerk,
Thompson Park
(permanent part-time)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

January

4 Mary Mautner 4 Jen Nixon 5 Diane Elwood 5 Tom Swords
6 Valerie Ferris 9 Pat Cernak 9 Phyllis Malek 9 Joe Smith
12 Keith Heckman 12 Alvin Lopez 12 Beverly Miller
12 Jerry Ostrander 15 Richard Carpenter
16 Kathleen Ferraro 16 Melissa Kelly 16 Paul McCue
17 Jenna Pesano 17 Greg Shannon 18 Patrick W. Becker
20 Russ Anderson 20 Courtney Bison 22 Steve Moraghan
22 Kevin Wilhalme 23 Jan Galanti 25 Shelagh McCarthy
26 Brad Roe 26 Gregg Wolff 27 John Schanck
28 Rachel Cohen 29 Lisa Horner 29 Andrew Stegner
30 James Januszkiewicz 31 Bob Schneider

February

1 Andy Spears 2 Chris Davino 2 Cheryl Stoeber-Goff
6 George Dallavalle 6 Lynn Duncan 8 Gail Hunton
8 Maria Wojciechowski 10 Mike Towle 11 Ralph Johnson
12 Stephanie Hunt 14 Jean Mount 14 Bill Oakes
14 Barbara Zarella 16 Ronald Chevestick
16 Henry Torres 20 Jeremy Schaefer 24 Alison Petruzzo
25 Jennifer Kaczala 26 Jim Butler

March

1 Edward Dobrosky Jr. 2 Ryan Bennett 2 Erika Bozza
3 Ralph Apicelli 3 Chris Brawley 4 Philip Andras
5 Bob Laauser 6 Christina Carlson 7 Ann Reinhardt
8 Jeff Faistl 8 Theresa Secks 10 Matt Bezahler
11 Dennis Bergstrand 12 Steve Matthews
13 Karen Jarmusz 13 Brad Rogers 13 Scott Simpson
15 Ivan Sanchez 21 Ben Friedman 21 Diane Hughes
21 Ryan Kimble 21 Debbie Tamburello 24 Sandy Byard
25 Barbara DeLorenzo 25 Maryann Elwood
27 Debra Senese 28 Chet Scalzo 30 Robert Smith
31 Tim Mariner

Oops!

The Green Link would like to apologize to Bayshore Waterfront Park Ranger James "Jay" Januszkiewicz for spelling his name wrong last issue.

Green Link

An Employee & Volunteer Newsletter



Monmouth County Park System
805 Newman Springs Road
Lincroft, NJ 07738-1695

January/February 2015

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
MONMOUTH CO.
PARK SYSTEM

Keeping Up...

This parcel of the **Swimming River Greenway in Tinton Falls** was one of the youngest properties on our park inventory, along with Fort Monmouth, until this past fall. But things have changed! There's a brand new park in the works...

