



Green Link

An Employee & Volunteer Newsletter of the Monmouth County Park System



Manasquan Reservoir

January/February 2013

Editors Note: This issue of the Green Link was just going to press in the weeks after 'Sandy' hit our area. Our next issue in March-April 2013 will provide more extensive coverage of the storm and our staff response to its aftermath.

Reason To Celebrate: The 2012 Employee Recognition Event

From a life-saving response on the greens at Charleston Springs, to one staffer's decision to chair the Fair two years in a row, to finally closing one of the state's largest and most complicated land deals...ever, 2012 was a year to say "WELL DONE!" Congratulations to the staffers who were acknowledged for their outstanding efforts, and to those who reached an important service milestone this year.



Heroism. Golf Rangers **Wayne Connelly (left)** and **Maurice Byan (right)** of Charleston Springs Golf Course were commended by Manager Greg Wolff (center) for their skilled response to a golfer in cardiac arrest. The first few minutes are critical, and their quick use of the site's Automated External

Defibrillator (AED) helped keep the golfer alive until EMTs arrived (thankfully, the golfer survived the incident).

The 2012 Achievement Awards



Outstanding Customer Service. **Jean Kline** of Visitor Services (right) is a great listener who offers a friendly welcome to all who enter the front lobby of the Visitor Center, where she staffs the front desk. She goes to great lengths to track down information for in-person, phone and email inquiries and has fans among both

the public and her co-workers. She is pictured with Karen Livingstone (left).



Above & Beyond. **Karen Rutt** of Accounts Receivable was praised for her ability to work with departments across the Park System, coming in early and staying late to get everything done, and always being available and able to answer questions and concerns.



Leadership. **Bob Ward** is a dedicated and inspiring leader as Supervisor of the Sports & Fitness Division and this year he took on an even bigger role in training and getting to know our summer staff, followed by another busy season managing our summer camps all while serving as Vendor Chair at the Fair. His skills were recognized by Patti Conroy.



Innovation Award. **Matt Bezahler** our Computer Specialist is often called upon to singlehandedly diagnose and repair equipment failures both inside and outside the scope of his expertise. He was recognized this year for his quick ability to problem-solve, his willingness to respond, and his excellent success rate with phones and printers, as well as computers.



Rookie of the Year. Eager to work, highly motivated, and helpful to all are just some of the compliments given to successful new programmer at Visitor Services, **Allison Gibney**. It is for these reasons, and many more, that her supervisor Andrew Spears predicted that he might someday be working for her! (Allison is not just admired by adults—it is clear that children, like Ian North here, are also drawn to her positive energy.)

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER



“YOU CAUGHT THE PASS”

*By Secretary-Director
James J. Truncer*

It is not often we are asked to help respond to a statewide disaster. When the call for assistance came from the County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) on Tuesday, October 30th, we responded. Within hours we were operating the County's distribution center for receiving and sending out items to assist those who had suffered a loss due to “Sandy”, one of the most severe storms to impact our state since 1938.

Our experience in organizing and logistics paid off as we were suddenly asked to help manage a supply chain that moved donated items out to residents in need. Everyone, including employees and volunteers, who worked at Central Supply receiving, sorting, and delivering items are certainly worthy of recognition and praise.

Without the benefit of a formal operations plan in advance, Bruce Gollnick, Dave Compton, Andrew Spears and staff moved forward to develop and set in place an operations plan while at the same time receiving donations and deciding how to make electric and outside lighting available at the Central Supply building (which was still without power).

As soon as the storm subsided, we were in the relief business while at the same time accessing damages, reopening our parks and golf courses, and continuing with the cleanup. Fortunately, everyone pitched in and did an outstanding job in helping their fellow citizens during this time of need.



The operation required some quick thinking inside Central Supply to figure out how to set up shop so that supplies could be repackaged for distribution. Here former Central Supply Clerk Pete Waters and Recreation Supervisor Bob Ward sort items.

Everyone pitched in and did an outstanding job during this time of need.

You can all be proud of a job well done in ‘catching a pass’ that wasn’t in our playbook. Your ability to move down the field overcoming new and unforeseen obstacles is a testament to your professionalism and commitment to serve your fellow man.

My hat's off to all of you who did such an exceptional job. You can justifiably be proud of your efforts. You were part of an outstanding team effort that caught that unexpected pass.

“Life is under no obligation to give us what we expect.”

*Margaret Mitchell,
American Author*

It wasn't always easy or pretty, but staffers pulled together an impressive relief operation. Starting just days after the storm and still operational in early December, over 260 van loads of deliveries were shipped to the county's most hard-hit areas.



(l to r) Donnamarie Dugo of Howell Park Golf Course, Superintendent of Parks Dave Compton, Kathy Ferraro of the Friends of the Parks and Jan Galanti of Outdoor Adventures team up to organize palettes of supplies in the early days of the operation.



(l to r) Supply shipments soon began ‘pouring’ into the park, and staff had to think quickly about how and where to organize incoming material. (l to r) Thompson Park Ranger Paul Basquill, Supt. of Parks Dave Compton, Thompson Park Ranger Al Lopez, Asst. Director Bruce Gollnick and (facing back) Asst. Superintendent Mike Janoski.



Ranger Image Award. Ranger **Cathleen Barfield** has a smile that easily confirms that, as Park Ranger at Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park and the Wolf Hill Rec Area, she was appropriately recognized for her upbeat, happy demeanor and positive attitude in executing her duties. According to her supervisor Matt Coleman, she is a complete pleasure to work with and great example for others.



Outstanding Accomplishment. After 10 years of hard work with legions of lawyers, navigating layers of red tape involving 92 separate deeds, 1,000 pages of environmental reports, 16 sheets of survey maps, 100 descriptions, 13 easements, more than 150 monuments and countless days out in the field Land Acquisition Specialist **Andy Coeyman** was recognized by Fran Martone for completing the 428-acre Flemer Entities addition to Crosswicks Creek Park.



Fair Spirit Award. We can all appreciate the efforts by Assistant Superintendent of Recreation **Patti Conroy** for many of the new acts she brought in as Fair Chair this year including Dock Dogs, Hell on Wheels, the Amish Outlaws and the new skateboarding stunts. But there's more! Because the Fair was rained out so many days last year, she volunteered to stay on for a repeat performance in 2013.



Outstanding Teamwork. Signs, billboards, flyers, banners, brochures, score cards, invitations—the talented staff of the **Graphics Department** completes over 600 jobs to promote our parks and programs every year. For all the beautiful work they do making us all look good, they were recognized by Spence Wickham (far left). They are (from l to r) Michelle Scolletta-Gosha, Maryann Goodwin, Mike Alfano, John Carroll and Laurie Stoppiello-Marswilllo.

Service Milestones in 2012



40 Years. Patrick Cernak and Bob Brannan.



35 Years. Paul McCue and Dave Pease.



25 Years. (front row, l to r) Robin Ostrowski, Francesca Martone and Helen Fiore (back row, l to r) Ken Herceg and Kelly Cole. Missing from photo: Kivin Brown, James Janeczko and Jeff Willever.



10 Years. (Front row, l to r) George Dallavalle, Martin Gonzalez, Pete Leighton, Lisa Horner, Christina Miller, and Patricia Bernstein (Back row, l to r) Joey DePierro, Bob Melick, William Roberts, Jerry Collins, Cathleen Barfield, and Ann Sage. Missing from photo: Michelle DeMaree, Michael Janoski, Chris Lanza, Joe Reynolds, Greg Shannon, Scott Simpson and Walter Winrow.

20 Years. (front row, l to r) Beverly Miller and Laurie Stoppiello-Marswilllo (back row, l to r) James Chase, Bill O'Shaughnessy, Kerry McKenna and Jeff Szalc. Missing from photo: Lynn Duncan and Brian Sullivan



15 Years. Donald Davison, Frank Bradford, Bill Murray and Mark Foulks. Missing from photo: Howard Dombroski, Veronica Grothusen, George Moran, Robert Morris, Robert Schneider and Sue Williams.



5 Years. (Front row, l to r) Dan Bisti, Al Lopez and Michelle Scolletta-Gosha. (Back row, l to r) Ken Olsen, Kathleen Ferraro, Amanda Tanay, Marijane Bruncati, Bill Vaughn and Daniel Buecher. Missing from photo: Ryan Abbott, Brad Bradach, Matt Douglas, Laura Garavuso, Frank Mead, Wayne Ossner, Alejandro Roman, Donald Sadowski, Bill Shaffer, George Siebert and Ilona Szabo de Bucs.

Introspective: A Few New Things...

While some people might say we are comfortable with the idea of doing things the same way year after year (“if ain’t broke, don’t fix it”)—we do occasionally stretch to incorporate a novel twist into some of our more well-established events. New talent at the Fair this year is one good example, here are some notable others...



The Harvest Home Festival now has food vendors; an addition that visitors really seemed to enjoy! This event attracted 7,840 attendees this year, a new record!



Encouraging youngsters to get out & golf, Ilona Szabo de Bucs and Courtney Kling introduced another fun, new golf activity at Thompson Park Day this year (the first was the new Mini-Course at the Fair, mentioned last issue). They staffed this inflatable hitting net where little visitors could take a practice swing, with expert guidance from golf pro Lloyd Munroe (pictured).



Also new at Thompson Park Day, a zombie treasure hunt since—as you may have noticed—zombies (along with vampires, hobbits and other fantasy creatures) are very popular at the moment.



The Park System held its annual 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony at Mt. Mitchell Scenic Overlook at dusk this year, instead of during the day. Senior Park Ranger Allison Petruzzo is shown here ringing the bell against a dramatic backdrop of the NYC skyline.



Volunteers held their first-ever clean-up at the Manasquan Reservoir this past September. After 20 years of recreational use, staff began to notice some debris on the shoreline when the water level was lowest—usually near summer’s end. Volunteers navigated the challenging terrain like true professionals, slogging through mud and muck, and over tree stumps and roots to gather the litter.

Staff & Volunteers, Out & About



MCPS Staffers Attend NJSGA Annual Meeting. (l to r) Carol Hobbes of Charleston Springs, Kevin Wilhalme of Howell Park, Patrick Vivalo of Hominy Hill and Vic Barot of Shark River are the Park System representatives to the NJ State Golf Association, the organization that administrates the official GHIN handicapping system used by our golfers and managed through our golf centers. Of course, when golfers meet for an annual meeting there must be some golf involved, and so it was at Canoe Brook Golf Course in Union, NJ.



A Green Link Favorite--Staff in Costume. This year Helen Fiore of Operations takes the first spot of the season for her zombie bride attire, with Visitor Services Volunteer and seasonal staffer Dave Roche a close second as a Pirate—both at Thompson Park Day.



Osprey And Eagle Platforms Installed At The Reservoir

In another recent first at the Manasquan Reservoir, after noting that the Osprey (an endangered species) has NOT nested here for the last two years, staffers tried to do something about it.

For the first time in 20 years, there are no osprey nesting at the Manasquan Reservoir.

According to Naturalist Chris Lanza, ever since the park first opened in 1990, Osprey have been a big part of the seasonal rhythm, coming in early March (around St. Patrick's Day) and leaving in late August or September. Before the bald eagles arrived in 2001, the osprey and their nests were the main attraction of public boat tours. Staff could normally count on 5-6 nests per season, but slowly this number has dropped off.



Staff know the increasingly fragile shoreline trees at the Reservoir were expected to die off over time.

Naturalists hoped it was just the normal ebb and flow of life, but were saddened to observe that when veteran adult osprey died, they were replaced by much less practiced pairs who found building on the increasingly fragile, dead trees a nearly impossible challenge. They would build their nest, only to have the first spring storm destroy it before they even finished. Male ospreys are masterful nest builders, and have used both the site's dead-trees and a wooden tree stand (built behind the dam 6-7 years ago). But, for the past two years in 2011 and 2012, the osprey visited, but didn't stay. For first time in 20 years, there were no nesting pairs. Naturalists are hoping a new platform may help here as it has in other park sites.



With generous support from the Monmouth County Audubon, park staff and volunteers from New Jersey's Conserve Wildlife Foundation installed this new platform in September. Now it is up to the osprey...

Supporting the Eagles, Too

This year's eagle banding was not completed because biologists from NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, Endangered and Non-Game Species program were concerned that the branch supporting the nest was rotting and would fail. They suggested building a new platform on the same tree, in the hopes that the eagles would move to a more secure location when the breeding season starts in December.

In October, state biologists climbed the tree to place cedar boards into a more stable location. They also added an arrangement of dead branches to entice the eagles to the new platform.



This photo shows the original nest and the state biologist installing the new platform at a distance below. The existing nest can not be removed without a federal permit.

Wild Wildlife

The Squirrel Whisperer. Here's a great example of bringing your work home with you! When a baby squirrel got kicked out of his nest, and spent 1.5 days on the ground eluding both a red-tail hawk and the



neighborhood cats, Andy Coeyman and his dog had seen enough; they decided to take him in. Andy built the 6-7 week old squirrel, who they named Squirt, an elaborate habitat and nursed him back to health. At the time of this writing he was around 9-10 weeks and close to release.

Squirt drank milk (Esbilac) and ate a variety of solid foods (such as peanuts). Andy thinks they are amazing animals, even though they are not well liked by most people.

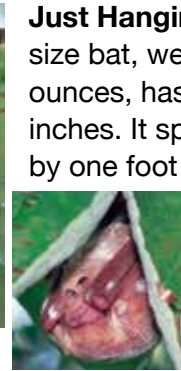
Pretty Smart, For an Insect. The beautiful Red-spotted Purple Butterfly mimics the size and coloring of the poisonous Pipevine Swallowtail to deter predators, such as birds. The Pipevine is poisonous because it feeds on toxic plants of the pipevine family, for which it is named. Other butterflies also mimic the Pipevine Swallowtail, including the eastern tiger swallowtail, black swallowtail and spicebush swallowtail.



Red-spotted Purple Butterfly



Eastern Red Bat



Just Hangin' Around. This medium size bat, weighing just 0.3 to 0.5 ounces, has a wing span of 11-13 inches. It spends the day hanging by one foot in the foliage of shrubs and trees (and seldom enters into caves). This one was spotted on the underside of a couple of leaves

along the Discovery Trail adjacent to the Huber Woods Environmental Center in August.

CONSTRUCTION NEWS & NOTES (PRE-SANDY)



There were many trail and bridge projects this past autumn.



Shark River Park, Hidden Creek Trail. *This view of the new boardwalk, is taken from the new bridge. The two structures were built next to each other on the trail.*



New Trail at Claypit Creek. *Cleared by Park System volunteers, this 0.7 mile trail features a new bridge and boardwalk. It will eventually link to the Buttermilk Valley section of Hartshorne Woods Park.*



Dorbrook Paved Trail. *The trail was re-routed, resurfaced, and regraded for better accessibility.*



Big Brook Park Trail Resurfacing. *The trail inside the park was resurfaced to connect to the Henry Hudson Trail.*



A Second 'Devil' & Other Wicked-Looking Wildlife.
Thompson Park may seem like a friendly place, but just look at what's lurking in the well-trimmed bushes of this inviting landscape or in its lovely meadows.



This is certainly not the first, nor will it be the last time a Hickory Horned Devil lands on someone's Smartphone; in this case belonging to Park Manager Dan Bisti. This is actually one of our largest caterpillars, for the large brown Regal Moth.

This meadow view seems slightly less picturesque when seen through the bizarre web of this common yellow and black Garden Spider. Note the thick, zig-zag line down the center.



Double Vision. It's not your eyes playing tricks on you, there are actually two bucks in this photo, one is standing directly behind the other.

Ryan Ponnwitz, Superintendent of Charleston Springs Golf Course, took this photo on Rt. 524. What's particularly interesting, is that he took it with his cell phone and it shows enough detail (at least in the original) to make out the velvet on the antlers.



Bridge Repair at the Manasquan Reservoir. Construction and Repair staffers Ryan Bennett and Joey DePierro recently repaired some bridge damage from wear and tear on this heavily used trail. After they finished, they posed with four visitors who were waiting to cross the bridge.

Other projects in the works include bulkhead restoration at Fisherman's Cove and the Monmouth Cove Marina.

Welcome New Hires!

Charles (Chuck) Longo is a new parks employee effective 8/27/12 as a Carpenter in Area 403.

Margaret (Peggy) Eschbach, started October 22, 2012 as a Permanent Part-time Clerk in Accounts Payable.

Congratulations & Farewell, Retirees!

General Manager Golf Courses Dave Pease, December 1, after 35 years.

Pine Brook Golf Ranger John Wallace, December 1, after 7 years.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

January

4 Mary Mautner 4 Jen Nixon 5 Diane Elwood 5 Tom Swords
6 Valerie Ferris 9 Pat Cernak 9 Joe Smith 12 Keith Heckman
12 Alvin Lopez 12 Beverly Miller 12 Jerry Ostrander
14 Andrew Wehmann 15 Bob Melick 16 Kathleen Ferraro
16 Melissa Kelly 16 Paul McCue 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 30 Dave Pease
31 Bob Schneider

February

1 Andy Spears 2 Chris Davino 2 Cheryl Stoeber-Goff
5 Kristin Ward 6 George Dallavalle 6 Lynn Duncan
8 Gail Hunton 8 Maria Wojciechowski 10 Mike Towle
11 Ralph Johnson 14 Sarah Duterte 14 Jean Mount
14 Bill Oakes 14 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 Ryan Bennett 2 Erika Bozza
2 Andy Nunes-Vais 3 Ralph Apicelli 3 Chris Brawley
3 Ruth Ann Zobel 4 Philip Andras 5 Bob Laauser
6 Christina Carlson 7 Ann Reinhardt 8 Jeff Faistl
8 Bruce Gollnick 8 Theresa Secks 9 Maryann Goodwin
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



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Mission Demolition: A New Park Is Born

This past fall, more than 20 metal buildings were demolished at the former Marlboro Airport Site by Park Staff, and it is now beginning to look more and more like its intended use as the **Deep Run Recreation Area**. This is one of the first stages of turning this property into a place where people can relax, play and exercise.



Before



After

This 54-acre site, next to the Henry Hudson Trail, will eventually be used for active recreation and trail parking.