

Green Link



An Employee & Volunteer Newsletter of the Monmouth County Park System

July / August 2008

2008 FAIR TO FEATURE "A BUNCH OF NEW STUFF!"

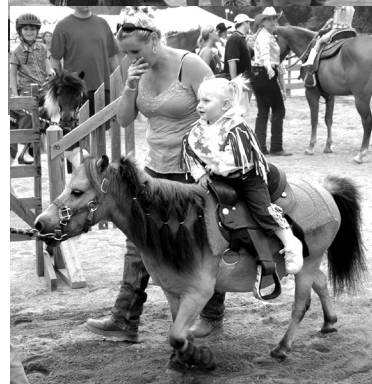
There's no time like the present and this year's Fair Committee, headed by Chair Carol Stasik, have acted on comments made in past years that the event could use some "freshening up." Both fair-goers and staff will experience the changes firsthand in 2008.

With Fair planning almost complete, maybe you have already seen or heard about new activities planned for the underutilized Outdoor Entertainment Area. Of course, all the usual favorites will be available, but here's a summary of what's new:

- **Wednesday:** MotorSports night opens early and Billy Biker will entertain fiery food lovers with his spicy cooking antics.
- **Thursday:** Circus Night! There will be a big tent, clowns, jugglers, magicians, the amazing Mapapa Acrobats and an aerial act will be on hand, along with a new, inflatable crawl train ride for the kids.
- **Friday:** It's the Wild West Night with pony rides, a mechanical bull, and country western music (on the main stage). But that's not all, it's the first-ever Backyard BBQ and Cook-Off, where fairgoers can watch the experts cook, taste BBQ at its best, and get great cooking tips.
- **Saturday:** Laser-Tag will be offered for the first time, and the Backyard BBQ heats up as the dishes are tasted and judged.

But that's not all. Other new fair features include:

- New employee area behind the vendor trailer where staffers can "get away from it all"
- New display rack for the quilts and tiered shelves for the baked goods in the Home and Garden Tent
- Table covers in the dining tents and a new baby changing station
- New "shed" buildings instead of trailers for the Fair Office and First Aid.



2,345

The total number of hours logged in the county parks during 2007 by people sentenced to perform community service work. This past year, 18 adults and 44 juveniles helped out at the following parks: Shark River, Holmdel, Turkey Swamp, Thompson, Hartshorne, Seven Presidents, Deep Cut, Dorbrook and Bayshore Waterfront.

Director's Corner



"GET OUT AND GET DIRTY"

Several of us had an opportunity to hear a presentation by Gina McCarthy, Commissioner of the Department of Environmental

Protection for the State of Connecticut, at this year's New Jersey Recreation & Park Association (NJRPA) Conference. Commissioner McCarthy developed a program, called "Leave No Child Inside."

The program encourages people to visit state parks on specific dates participate in outdoor activities that connect kids with nature. The first year, eight of the state's lesser known parks were chosen to host a one-day visit. The program got the public's attention. Families and kids enjoyed a state park visit, and the activity brought back some basic outdoor activities. The families who visited all eight state parks received a reward and recognition. As it has often been said, *nothing gets peoples interest and participation like a competition.*

Connecticut's successful program has not only resulted in renewed public interest in the state parks, but has lead to political support for additional funding for the state park system.

Interestingly, I also recently saw an interview on television with Jeff Foxworthy, a comedian and one of the original "red neck" guys. He has authored a series of humorous books, and his most recent—called *Dirt on my Shirt*--is a collection of poems about the outdoors. During the interview, he spoke about the need for children to get outside, play and get dirty. He also talked about how important he felt his own experiences were growing up.

I couldn't help but think that both of these individuals were talking about our business, what we are all about, and the great outdoors. The importance of children spending time outdoors, using their imaginations, learning and being involved in physical activities, may well be in a resurgence. Let's hope so.

"May you always keep your youth."

--Mark Twain

These girls enjoyed their time outdoors at Holmdel Park last spring when the flowering trees were in full bloom.



Two Sunnyside HORSES Move On to Greener Pastures

This past March, after a 30-day trial with the Asbury Park Police Department's new Mounted Patrol Unit, staff discovered that "Teddy Bear," a thoroughbred at Sunnyside, was probably better suited to police work than what he was doing at the Therapeutic Riding Program. So the Park System donated Teddy to the Asbury Park Police Department. Teddy



Stable Manager Cindy Ross (left) stands next to Teddy with Officer Tony Butler (center) and Officer Mike Cassidy on Guinness (right) in Teddy's new beat, the streets of Asbury Park.

established an incredible working rapport with his new rider, Officer Tony Butler, and enjoys the company of the other members of the unit, Officer Mike Cassidy and "Guinness."

On a much sadder note, Sunnyside staff also reported the passing of beloved therapy horse Aries in April. Aries battled a sinus infection and eventually developed pneumonia. He lived to the respectable old age of 31.

Aries—a Quarter Horse/Arabian—was donated to SPUR in 1997 by the Jacob Family of Farmingdale. In March, 2004 he was inducted into the New Jersey Veterinary Foundation's Animal Hall of Fame for his work in the therapeutic field.

The Sunnyside staff feels as though they lost a dear friend and wise teacher. "We all learned so much from him," said Stable Manager Cindy Ross. "In all the years I've known Aries, I never saw him do anything wrong," said Tom Mullens, Sunnyside Animal Attendant.



Therapy horse Aries with program participant Melanie.

Deer Management Update

A total of 444 deer were harvested during the 2007-2008 season. The proposed 2008-2009 **Deer Management Plan** has few changes, and no new sites will be added to the roster of park sites open for hunting.

PARK SYSTEM HITS THE JACKPOT AT NJRPA AWARDS IN "AC"

The Park System was recognized with two awards at this year's New Jersey Recreation and Parks Association (NJRPA) annual conference, held in Atlantic City.

Sunnyside Equestrian Center's Advanced Riders and Independent Equestrians of SPUR (**ARIES**) Program—named in honor of the beloved therapy horse Aries—won the **2008 Excellence in Therapeutic and Wellness Programming Award**. Designed to benefit high functioning 4-18 year olds with disabilities, ARIES offers advanced equestrian skills to riders who have mastered the basics. Grooming and tacking the horses; riding independently at the walk and trot; and trail rides, obstacle courses, and games are all used to refine student horsemanship.

Head Instructor Liz Haenchen was instrumental in creating the program, and Instructor Christine Landuyt came up with the program name, which the staff felt was perfect. Stable Manager Cindy Ross is also a program instructor.



Cindy (left) and Liz (right) stand alongside ARIES program participant, Shawn, who is riding Halik.

VOLUNTEER CORNER...

Training for the Park System's Volunteer Pruning and Gardening Team was held at Dorbrook Recreation Area on April 7 and 14. This year's class will join current members who work at Thompson Park, Dorbrook and Deep Cut Gardens.

Also this past spring, volunteers held a clean-up in Thompson Park. Thirty-four volunteers removed a total of 14,250 pounds of "stuff," that included 9,960 pounds of scrap metal and 950 pounds of glass (all recycled), and 3,340 pounds of actual "junk."



Volunteer Pruning Team: Left to right: Jim Henry, Joyce Henry, Ron Daggett, Bruce Siegel, Werner Aehlich, Ernestine McCormick, Arnold McCormick, John Bauer, Linda Pollack, Patricia Worrell, Joe Videtti, Jim Carney, Pia Videtti, Sandy Burn.

The **Green Heritage** also earned an award at the conference. It received a **2008 Agency Showcase Award** for outstanding achievement in the Printed Material Category. Published every year since 1967, the Green Heritage was recently redesigned.

Designed by Graphic Artist III Maryann Goodwin (no one would ever notice all the good stuff packed inside this newsletter if not for Maryann's amazing and colorful new layout) and edited/written by Asst. Public Information

Officer Lisa Bonelli the Green Heritage is truly a collaborative effort of multiple park departments. All the following 2007-2008 contributors share in this year's recognition.

- The naturalists always contribute wonderful and interesting articles to the Nature Corner feature. This past year, articles were written by Joe Reynolds, Sam Skinner and Janet Ryan.
- The beautiful photos of special events and park scenery are taken by staff photographers Maribeth Gardener and Andi Monick. Naturalists Bob Henschel, Joe Reynolds, Sam Skinner and Doug Krampert also contribute lovely wildlife and scenic photos.
- Staffers at A&D write the Open Spaces/Livable Places feature, covering topics relevant to our Land Acquisition and Management, Planning and Historic Preservation efforts. This past year, items were contributed by Faith Hahn, Gail Hunton, Ken Thoman and Anna Luiten (Rich Pillar also pitched in for an article on landscape tree recommendations).
- The Home Gardener portion of the Green Heritage was written by Program Coordinator Karen Livingstone (now the Park System Volunteer Coordinator) and is now written by Senior Gardener Randy McHaney. Karen and Randy also provide almost all the photos for this section of the newsletter.



Maryann, Green Heritage designer.



Green Heritage editor, Lisa.

IN MEMORIAM...

Dr. Alvin H. Saltzbart

Retired dentist and seasonal golf ranger, Al Saltzbart passed away on March 28, 2008 following an illness. His friends at Howell Park Golf Course, where he worked from 1997-2006, knew him as a man who loved golf, his co-workers and his teams—the Giants and the Mets. According to Senior Golf Ranger Amy Pease, he was a "great guy" and a "father figure" to Howell Park staff, who were still feeling the loss of his passing well into this year's golf season. He will be dearly missed.



NEW!!! THE GOOD NEWS GRAPEVINE...

- **Susan Liu**, Assistant Superintendent of Recreation, recently cut her long hair and donated it to a charity that makes wigs for women who have lost their hair to cancer treatment.
- Did you know? Hominy Hill Golf Ranger **Michele Santore** is an aspiring actress who regularly auditions for projects as she awaits her big break. A member of the Actor's Equity Union and NJ Repertory Company (Long Branch), Michele has a MFA from DePaul Theater School. Her credits to date include many theatrical roles, appearance as an extra on Saturday Night Live, and serving as a model for the faerie Michaela in the book, *Through a Faerie Stone: The Secret Life of Fairies*.
- Apparently, **Amanda Tanay** has energy to spare after editing the Activity Directory and writing brochures for Visitor Services all day. She entered—and won—an online writing contest this past spring. TheWritersWay.org offers a weekly “prompt” or topic, and writers send in their 250-word stories in response. The best entry gets posted online.

• Overheard...some staffers wondering what to get their assistants for **Administrative Professionals (AP) Day** last April. For those APs who haven't made their gift preferences known, here's how: try to subtly mention your favorite baked good, flowers, or other goody sometime during the course of the year, increasing the mention of said item as AP Day approaches (it falls on April 22 in 2009) For example, “I saw Martha Stewart make these amazing chocolate cupcakes on her show the other day, and I just can't stop thinking about them. I sure do like chocolate cupcakes.” (See, it's easy!)

• **George Dallavalle** of Equipment Services was honored on May 7th, 2008 with a Distinguished Service Medal, the highest military award given to combat veterans from New Jersey and a Vietnam Service Medal, for NJ residents who served in the Vietnam-Thailand-Laos-Cambodia region between 1960-1975. Army Spc. Dallavalle was part of a group of 163 Monmouth and Ocean County veterans who were recognized for their service at the annual Remembrance Day Ceremony held in the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Holmdel (near the PNC Arts Center). An article on the ceremony and honorees appeared on the front page of the Asbury Park Press the next day.



Do you enjoy reading about your fellow employees? Others do too! So please continue sending the good news, notes and kudos for the Green Link to Lisa Bonelli, either by phone (732) 842-4000, ext. 4336 or email lbbonelli@monmouthcountyparks.com.



Accounts Payable The Staff Who Pay Our Bills

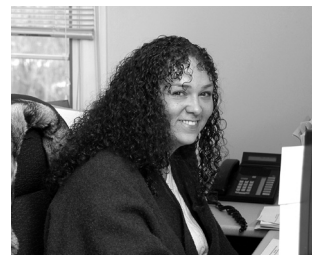


Laura Garavuso

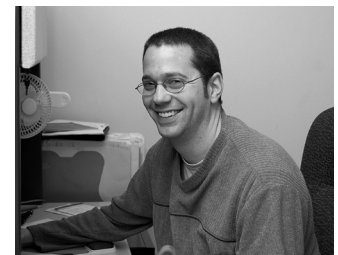


Mary Naughton

The Specialists...



Barbara Berry takes care of our golf courses by managing resale merchandise inventory and the tee-time reservation system.



Matt Bezahler is the Park System computer guru.

Administrative Services

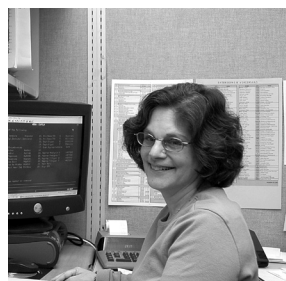
At the front desk, these staffers answer all the incoming calls and welcome visitors to our headquarters.



Jennifer Papp



Phyllis Storms



Patty Burke



Barbara Urbinato



Marijane Bruncati



• The **Visitor Center** foundation steel frame, wood frame, and walls are now in place (as of this writing, late May). Check out the steelworkers assembling the steel frame (photo), they had *some* view of the park from their perch.

VC steel frame construction.

• At **Thompson Park**, the staff at A&D had to pack their bags and move shop to the former Central Supply buildings as major renovations to their building got underway. The A&D offices were housed in the oldest building in Thompson Park; the original structure dates back to 1786. The foundation will be reinforced, HVAC will be upgraded and space will be reallocating for enhanced accessibility.

• A second universal access, barrier-free playground is currently in the design phase at **Seven Presidents**. Like the Challenger Place Playground at Dorbrook, it will contain features that make it easy for individuals with disabilities and impaired mobility to use. The new, larger playground will replace the old one at this site.



Smokehouse before

• Did you know there is a smokehouse at **Dorbrook**? Located behind the Polhemus House (the small, wood shingled house, located just past the main entrance when you pass it on the left), the smokehouse was recently restored with the assistance of our Construction and Repair staff. Used for smoking meat when the property was a tenant farm, carpenters rebuilt the roof and door with plans from A&D staffer Andy North.



and after.

Happy Birthday

July

- 2 Travis Bryan
- 3 Harold Ayers • Mike DeMauro
- 5 Anthony Ribera • Phyllis Storms
- 6 Richard Brunelli • Charlie Todd
- 8 Brian Corrigan
- 9 Chris Plantamura
- 10 Keith Bennett
- 14 Paul DeJesus
- 21 Donna Dugo • Barbara Reeves
- 23 Kerry McKenna
- 24 Anna Luiten • Mike Vaccaro
- 27 Bill O'Shaughnessy
- 30 Pat Douglas • Martin Gonzalez
- 30 Paul Lippert • Ryan Ponnwitz
- 31 Jose Bruno

August

- 2 Betty Fish
- 4 Rose Lang
- 5 Eric Kaplan
- 6 Frank Biddle • Jim Gregory
- 6 John Sheridan
- 8 Louise McCook • Robin Ostrowski
- 9 Ronnie Grothusen • Irma Philmus
- 10 Glenn Reilly • Rick Royle
- 13 Joe Reynolds
- 14 Michael Bernard • Walter Craig
- 15 Gary Johnson
- 16 Ilona Varga
- 17 John Skimelis
- 18 Andy Coeyman • Frank Mead
- 19 Greg Sharin
- 21 Bob Brannan
- 24 Don Davison
- 25 Nancy Borchert
- 26 Fran Martone
- 27 Russ Finkelson
- 29 Amanda Tanay

September

- 2 Michele Santore
- 3 Ronald Bomma • Kelly Cole
- 4 Lauren Gerber
- 5 Wayne Connelly
- 6 Howard Dombroski
- 9 Ray Smith
- 10 Bradford Bradach • Jim Mowczan
- 10 Jeff Wyant
- 11 Susan Stafford-Smith • Mark Szemiott
- 11 Susan Williams
- 13 Emerald Platzer
- 16 Carol Hobbs • Tom Petraglia
- 16 Troy Schinzel
- 17 Mark Borchert
- 19 William Maldonado
- 23 Robert Morris
- 25 Joe DePierro
- 26 Ken Herceg • Jim Janeczko
- 27 Chuck Raftery
- 28 Dave Mishkin • Rich Olsen
- 28 Jim Register • George Richdale
- 30 Eric Cadenelli

Welcome, New Hires:

Emerald Platzer County Park Ranger-Thompson Pk.	3/3/08
Gloria Cohen Architect	4/14/08
Jose Bruno Electrician	4/14/08
Christina Carlson Recreation Leader-Creative Arts Ctr.	4/14/08
Barbara Reeves Park Naturalist-MREC.	4/19/08
Richard Brunelli Greenskeeper-Shark River G.C.	4/21/08
Jerry Ostrander Greenskeeper-Howell Park G.C.	4/21/08
Jed Jesiolowski Bldg. Maintenance, Manasquan Res.	5/3/08



Ahoy Mateys! It looks like these kayakers at Fisherman's Cove have enlisted the service of their own Captain Jack (Russell Terrier, that is) to navigate the high seas. Check out the tiny canine life jacket!

Farewell, Retirees!

Philip Byard
Carpenter/Locksmith 5/1/08

Glenn Reilly
Asst. Superintendent of Parks 7/1/08

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A bimonthly newsletter for employees and volunteers of the Monmouth County Park System.
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