



# Green Link

An Employee & Volunteer Newsletter of the Monmouth County Park System



Historic Walnford

March/April 2012

## Wild Wildlife In The Parks

### The Mushroom Hunters of MREC

The New Jersey Mycological Association (NJMA) has been doing annual forays into the forests of the Manasquan Reservoir for some time now to identify fungi (mushrooms, slime molds, lichen, etc.). Their trip this past July was particularly notable for a few reasons: (1) They wrote about it in a "Foray Report" in their newsletter, which is how the Green Link learned about the next two items. (2) When they found an interesting slime mold to examine that was guarded by a nest of yellow jackets, three of them were stung--one person 5 times! Obviously, these mycologists are one tough breed of naturalist as they reportedly treated themselves on the spot and carried on. (3) In all, they identified 41 different species of fungus.



Here's a mushroom that's hard to miss, whether you are hunting for them or not; the large Puffball often reaches the size of a soccer ball.

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Mushroom hunting (learning to identify fungi) is not a rare activity in these parts and, because there are many poisonous species, that's a very good thing! The public is welcome to the NJMA annual walk, which usually occurs in summer. Also, Naturalist Tanya Dinova runs a "Mushroom Walk" drop-in program at the Manasquan Reservoir (pictured) which is also very well-received, and mushroom identification for kids will be featured at least once during their Spring Break Camp at MREC this year.



Tanya identifies the orange "Apricot Jelly" fungus growing on the branch of a tree, along with some green-grey lichen.



This old, decomposing chanterelle from the ground was partially dry and therefore much harder to identify.

### It's All in the Numbers!

Number of emails received and responded to through our general email address in 2011, [info@monmouthcountyparks.com](mailto:info@monmouthcountyparks.com): **1525**

### Is This the Same Deer?

Huber Woods Park Manager Ken Olsen somehow managed to photograph what looks to be the same deer—in the exact spot—two years in a row. Note the identical piebald color pattern, and the slightly larger size and new antlers in the second photo. Sadly, not too long after this photo was taken, this same deer was spotted as a carcass on the side of the road nearby, apparently hit by a car.



September 2010



September 2011

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# DIRECTOR'S CORNER



## “Little Things Count”

As you are aware, financial support for providing park and recreation services from available tax dollars has become an increasing challenge. The cost of personnel benefits in the public

sector, as an example, continues to rise at a rate that is becoming difficult to sustain. Now more than ever, there is a need to reduce costs and to find new sources of revenue as we move forward to serve our increasing population.

Our ability to be creative, to identify savings and to use our resources more efficiently is now vital to our day-to-day operations. At the same time, we can not lose sight of the fact that we must continue to improve our image as we become more effective in delivering quality experiences to our citizens.

*Quality may be hard to define,  
but we all know it when we see it.*

The challenge is that while we do these things, we must also look for ways of developing additional revenue opportunities in order to be able to maintain what we have to the highest possible standards as we continue to grow. Citizen interest and support depends to a large extent on how well each of us do our jobs in delivering well maintained parks and quality services.

It has often been said that quality is hard to define, but we all know it when we see it. Continuing to maintain our credibility with our citizens is an important part of being a legacy organization. As we move forward, I can't help but believe that it will continue to be the little things that each of us can do everyday that will really count.

**“Failure is not fatal, but failure to change might be.”**

*--John Wooden*

*American Basketball player & coach*



*Seasonal Naturalist Fred Feldman of the Manasquan Reservoir received an enthusiastic thank you letter from a Scout Leader whose troop attended his program. Among other compliments, the leader noted “our cub scout motto is ‘DO YOUR BEST’ and this is exactly what Mr. Feldman portrayed.”*

## In Memoriam: Susan Liu

*It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to our friend and co-worker Susan Liu, who passed away on January 14, 2012. Susan held a degree in Resource Management from Rutgers University which she brought –along with her love of both nature and the arts– to her 25 year career with the Park System in Visitor Services. In 2001, she became Assistant Superintendent of Recreation, managing and mentoring the Naturalists and program staff from Urban Recreation, Creative Arts and Sunnyside Equestrian divisions. Susan was totally dedicated and loved her work, a fact that is demonstrated by the many lovely photos we have of her at the recreational programs/events that she helped develop and which brought joy, relaxation and good health to so many during her career. Susan was a well-respected and inspirational leader and her co-workers feel deeply both the loss of her guidance and her warm, caring personality.*

*Susan climbing the rock wall at the Urban Recreation Divisions Coastal Activity Center Picnic in Asbury Park, June 2008.*



Taffy (left) and Shuckie (right).

### Good Ridings in Small Packages

Two Shetland Ponies arrived at Sunnyside Equestrian Center this past year on loan to be explored for use as therapy horses in the SPUR Program (Special People United to Ride). With a variety of small horses and ponies, the program is able to meet many different needs. Shuckie, for instance, is currently active in the riding program while Taffy is used with smaller people to practice putting equipment on and grooming. She is also used to help transition riders who are initially fearful of large horses, as she seems to put a smile on everyone's face.



Horse height is measured in hands (one hand=about 4"). For comparison, Taffy is 9.2 hands (left) while full size Indiana (right) is 14.1 hands, they are standing with Recreation Program Specialist Claire Morris.



How about those feet! This live model from Jenkinson's Aquarium (and before that, of African decent) helped people get to know more about penguins. Did you know? They don't really like the cold but are forced to adapt since cold areas have fewer predators.

### Penguins in Our Parks?

Just one, invited here as a guest, and the first ever in our parks (that we know of). The Park System hosted a Meet a Live Penguin program in December at the Manasquan Reservoir and, according to staff, "all the visitors, employees and volunteers involved had a blast."



Penguins mate for life. The male penguin brings his chosen lady an offering of rocks and sticks, and if she accepts the offering they become a couple.



Barbara captured this lovely series of a chipmunk eating a samara seed in a bed of purple flowers.



### Colorful Nature Captured

Anyone who has ever taken wildlife pictures will tell you it takes a lot of patience, persistence, and luck to be in just the right spot with your camera to get a good shot. In addition to many of our naturalists, another staffer has now mastered this skill—please welcome Barbara Berry of Administration into the Park System's growing rank of accomplished nature photographers.

Do you have any interesting, unique or colorful wildlife photos taken here in the parks? If yes, please consider sharing them with the Green Link. Send to: [Ibonelli@monmouthcountyparks.com](mailto:Ibonelli@monmouthcountyparks.com).

## That “Special Something” About Walnford

The Park System receives many complimentary letters each year, but nowhere is the praise more effusive and universally poetic than the sign-in book at Historic Walnford. One of the reasons why this is so may have been answered in the last issue of the Green Heritage. Staff from A&D wrote about land preservation around Crosswicks Creek and the special effort that was made to preserve the scenic vistas around Walnford (which sits on the creek). This strategy seems to have created exactly the type of quiet, pastoral environment that inspires people to say such beautiful things. Here are just a few examples, bundled together by similar theme:



*Just beautiful! (What a beautiful place!)*

- *Just lovely!*
- *What a great place!*
- *Enjoyed the beautiful house and grounds!*

*Beautiful day—privilege to be here*

- *We never tire of this trip back in time*
- *Thank You!! Worth the trip*
- *What a great place—this made our weekend!*
- *What a fabulous trip!*



*Awesome! Can we live here? • Would love to live here!*

- *I want this house!*
- *I want to live here!*
- *I picked out my room, right corner upstairs!*
- *Is it for sale?*

*Magnificent tour (and we are only at the entrance)!*

- *Excellent tour—lovely area!*
- *Lovely setting.*

*Great—Charming park! • Absolutely delightful!!*

*Thank you!!! This includes multiple thank you's with heart emoticons ❤️ as well as basic declarations of love such as... Love it! Loved the tour! Love it very much! I love this place!*

*A treasure! • A jewel to be treasured!*

- *A hidden treasure!*
- *What a gem!*

*History Rocks! • Great—helps history come alive!*

- *Always brings you back*
- *Wonderfully historic!*
- *Thanks for keeping this going!*
- *Great restoration!*
- *A step back in time!*

*Inspiring! • Heaven on Earth—Inspirational! • Breath-taking!*

- *Absolutely divine!*
- *So peaceful! Relaxing.*

Finally, there were many enthusiastic, one-word compliments, all of them a pleasure to re-print...*Unbelievable! Unforgettable! Stunning! Spectacular! Wow! Best Ever!*

# Park News & Construction Notes

Last issue we covered some of the damage sustained across the parks after Hurricane Irene, a lot of it from flooding and water damage. But at sites like **Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park**, winds from a milder winter storm can cause some challenges for the ranger staff.



*Seven Presidents Park Manager Matt Coleman and Principal Park Ranger Mary Mautner (now at Dorbrook) survey the dunes and playground equipment buried after a windy winter storm last year.*

Following on the heels of our own 50th Anniversary Celebration, the NJ Green Acres Program celebrated theirs. To honor their achievements, which include funding more than half of our own 15,000 acres, we hosted a reception for the Green Acres Program Team at the **Visitor Center on Thompson Park Day**.



*(l to r): Former Freeholder Barbara McMorrow, Friends Executive Director Maria Wojciechowski, Freeholders Amy Mallett, Former Freeholder John D'Amico and Freeholders Lillian Burry; Green Acres Program Administrator Richard Boornazian, Bureau Chief Martha Sapp, Team leaders Terry Caruso and Renee Jones, and Project manager Larry Fink; Recreation Commissioner Ed Loud and Park System Secretary-Director Jim Truncer.*

The success of the annual Student Art Show held by the **Creative Arts Center** staff each December was helped this year by our Carpenters. How, you might wonder? They made their own contributions, which by choice, stayed mostly in the background. Check out the large black display blocks and white wall panels on which the student artwork was so elegantly arrayed.



*The Student Art Show at Thompson Park gave artists who craft at the Creative Arts Center a chance to show off their work, and raised over \$4,000 as visitors purchased many items as holiday gifts.*

Construction on the final two sections of the 4.5-mile **Paved Perimeter Trail at Thompson Park** got underway last fall and are nearing completion. As you may already know, the trail required two new bridges be built along Newman Springs Rd. (Rt. 520): one to cross Marlu Lake which is being administered by the Park System, and the other to cross Thompson Pond (near the park service entrance) called MT-52, which is being coordinated by the Monmouth County Engineering Department.



*Ryan Kimble of Outdoor Adventures tests the new bridge over Marlu Lake, completed January 2012. The bridge itself is 10 feet wide and 543 feet long-or 181 yards (that's almost two football fields, minus the end zones of course).*



*The MT-52 bridge along Route 520, as of late January.*

Also at Thompson Park, the new **Group Picnic Shelter** (just past the Visitor Center, off the paved trail by Old Orchard Parking Lot) is shown here nearing completion in January.



*The new Group Picnic Shelter at Old Orchard*

# Staff Photos

Park employees have sometimes been asked to “wear a lot of hats,” and last year—for some reason—many seemed to take this call to heart.



*Outdoor Recreation Program Coordinators Jan Galanti (left) wears a festive birthday top hat on a winter hike last year, while Michele Clampffer took on the role of “Grinch” this past winter.*



*Jim Butler of Sports & Fitness certainly fits his hat to his role, as he spends a lot of time coordinating our soccer programs.*



*The staff at A&D have been known to honor the season with fetching headware, but ONLY for special occasions. Here, they celebrate winter and the December retirement of Faith Hahn with some antlers (front, l to r) Terry Grewen and Fran Martone. (back, l to r) Anna Luiten, Andy North, Robin Ostrowski, and Gloria Cohen.*

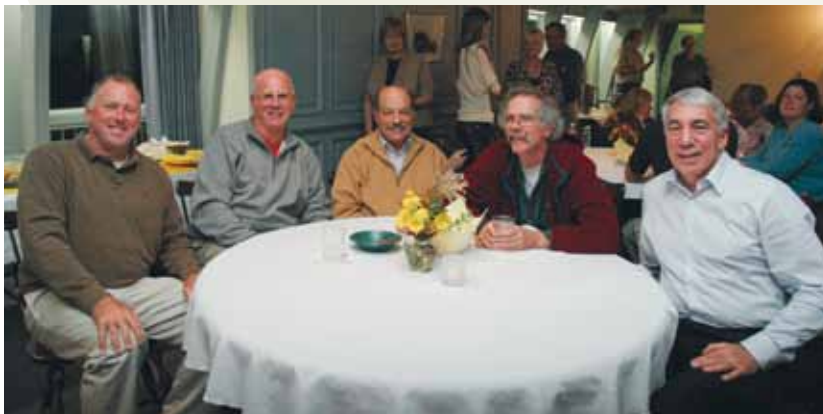
Of course, when a hat just won’t do, some enthusiastic staffers will put on a whole costume.



*No matter where they are in the field, programmers know how to insert a bit of fun into their work. Here the crew from Outdoor Adventures takes on Halloween during a Family Camping program at Turkey Swamp Park (l to r) skeleton ghoul Michele Clampffer, Ninja and volunteer Emma Caccavale and farmer Lois Lyons.*



*Every year the crew from Urban Recreation hosts a Halloween Party for the children at the Coastal Activity Center in Asbury Park, and every year they do NOT disappoint with their creative outfits. (l to r) Jane Fawcett made the most perfect Mary Poppins, Courtney Rogers rocked the racer girl look, Nikki Lombardi was all “Shrekked out,” Matt Chalupski came to the rescue as a firefighter, Courtney Bison spooked the crowd as a mummy, and Greg Eisemann appeared to have walked right off the farm to this event.*



## Editor’s Pick

*“Best Photo of Staff From Different Areas All Sitting Together at One Table” (l to r) Howell Park Greenskeeper Howard Dombroski, Frank Biddle and George Dallavalle of Equipment Services, Dorbrook Senior Park Manager Paul McCue and Retiree Terry Normand.*

# Volunteer Corner

Volunteers continue their work making our parks a better place. They improve our bottom line by volunteering in roles that we traditionally pay for, including those that require both in-depth knowledge (docent) and impressive expertise (trail repair and maintenance). As tough budget challenges and cut-backs continue, it is heartening to know the impact is softened by the dedicated people willing to work so hard for us in return for gratitude only. So please—if you haven't already done so—remember to thank a park volunteer. We couldn't do it without them.



After their training in December at the Visitor Center, you can now find these Volunteer Docents at the Environmental Centers and Deep Cut Gardens (l to r, seated): Irene Ferrant, Barbara Woerz, Stuart Jensen, Jill Briggles, and Linda Hoefling. Standing in back (l to r) Public Information Officer Karen Livingstone, Coordinator of Volunteers Melissa Kelly and Recreation Leader Diane Allen.



Friends of the Parks volunteers make fundraising look fun. Their success at selling 50-50 tickets is critical to financing certain special projects. Thank you Friends (l to r) Board President Heather Collella, Elwood Baxter (former Board member), Tom Sannelli (also former Board member), and Judy Baxter.

## OOPS! The Green Link would like to apologize



Christine Bremseth

for misnaming dedicated Friends member and volunteer, Chris Bremseth in the Nov./Dec. 2011 issue (we called her Laurie by mistake).

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Milestone birthdays are good all year, right? With that in mind, the Green Link couldn't resist reprinting this photo of Secretary-Director Jim Truncer (with Louise McCook and Bruce Gollnick) celebrating a very special birthday last November. Staffers, of course, surprised him with a cake...and now, a few months later, this photo!



### 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 Lauser
- 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

### April

- 1 Greg Hyland 2 Courtney Kling 2 Chris Lanza 4 Barbara Urbinato
- 6 Mike Bennett 7 Wayne Ossner 8 Jacques DiPane 8 Cindy Ross
- 9 Lisa Bonelli 10 Allen Boyce 10 Al Weaver 11 Susan Provost
- 12 Gloria Cohen 12 Al Picerno 13 Tom Fobes 14 Gregory Alexander
- 16 Bill Stevenson 17 Dan Bisti 17 Jim Chase 18 Sam Skinner
- 19 Sean Ramsey 20 Sue Madden 23 Scott Schaaf
- 24 Sean O'Herron 26 Jean Kline 28 Jeff Willever
- 29 Patty Burke 30 Ryan Abbott

### May

- 1 Drew D'Apolito 2 Steve Clayton 2 Vincent Maresca
- 3 Laura Lieneck 6 Tim LaVance 7 Heng Chin 7 Craig Fraser
- 7 Brian Sullivan 8 Patti Conroy 8 John Eisemann 9 Ken Thoman
- 9 Bob Ward 10 Ann Sage 11 Cathy Barfield 11 Marijane Bruncati
- 11 Rob Kolczynski 11 Janet Ryan 12 Dave Compton
- 12 Peter D'Angelo 14 Laurie Marswillio 15 Chris Davidson
- 18 Helen Fiore 18 Karen Livingstone 20 Tom Noordzy
- 21 Shawn Allen 21 Susan Harasty 25 Hank Schreiber
- 26 Michelle Scolletta Gosha 27 Dan DeSoucey 27 Jeff Szalco
- 30 Gary Stedman

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Volunteer Newsletter  
of the Monmouth County Park System

Monmouth County Park System  
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March/April 2012

PRSRST STD  
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PARK SYSTEM



*What kind of Egrets are these?*

## Bird Call!!!

That is, a call to test your bird identification skills. One of these is a Snowy Egret, the other is a Great Egret. Do YOU know which is which?

The major differences are beak and feet color. Great has a yellow beak and black feet. Snowy has black beak and yellow feet (“golden slippers”). The Great Egret is also larger, if you happen to see them side by side.

And by all means, please don't confuse either egret with this pair of juvenile Little Blue Herons, who will eventually outgrow their deceptive white plumage. In the meantime, their olive leg color may help you tell the difference.

Interesting bird ID tips like this one are posted regularly by our naturalists, this one by Chris Lanza, at [monmouthcountyparks.com](http://monmouthcountyparks.com). Click “Natural Resources/Nature Now” for wildlife and botany happenings throughout the parks.



*Little Blue Herons*