



# Green Link

An Employee & Volunteer Newsletter of the Monmouth County Park System



Deep Cut Gardens

May/June 2013

## Seven Presidents Back To Normal For 2013 Season

Following months of winter activity to get the site back in shape after Superstorm Sandy, the staff at Seven Presidents plan to re-open for “business as usual” this Memorial Day weekend. As of early March, here is just some of what they accomplished:

- Removed 3,000 linear feet of damaged chain link fence
- Logged 3,300 staff hours plus 1,400 equipment hours related to storm clean up
- Filled 15 30-yard dumpsters of mixed debris
- Sent 8 large rack truck loads of material to recycling

In addition to clearing debris and repairing flooded restrooms/buildings, staff also rebuilt the damaged boardwalks.



*(l to r) Boardwalk repair started with Seven Presidents Park Rangers, such as **Pat Becker** shown here, pulling up the flood damaged boards, many of which had buckled.*



*(l to r) Then, Construction & Repair got to work putting the deck together again, rebuilding it from the foundation up. (l to r) Carpenters **Dan Desoucey, Ryan Bennett, Chuck Longo & Joe DePierro.***

### Outdoors by the Numbers: How US Men & Women Compare

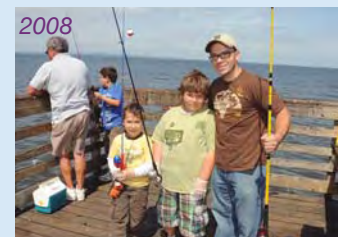
Most staffers could probably guess—or even see with their own eyes—that men outnumber women in certain outdoor activities here in the parks. While it may be shrinking, the following statistic illustrates just how big that gap still is...

	Men	Women
Anglers	73%	27%
Hunters	89%	11%

From 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation Final Report. Available at: [www.census.gov/prod/2012pubs/fhw11-nat.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/2012pubs/fhw11-nat.pdf). Accessed Dec 20, 2012.



2006



2008



2012

Anglers at the Bayshore Waterfront Park Pier haven't changed much over time. It still seems to be a sport enjoyed mostly by men.

# DIRECTOR'S CORNER



## “IT ALL DEPENDS”

As we all are aware, there are a number of factors that determine how successful we are in delivering our programs and services. We know that our customers

look for and expect quality experiences. We also know this means we need to provide experiences that surprise and delight those we serve. To this end, we commit time and thoughtful planning to deliver quality products and services. This year will be no exception as we continue efforts to recover from Sandy and make improvements to serve more visitors with limited resources.

The one factor we are unable to control is the weather. We are, to a great extent, weather dependent.

*For better or worse, our success is often weather dependent.*

We may be fortunate and have a mild winter followed by an early spring, adding extra days for outdoor activities that translate into increased attendance and revenue at our golf courses. Sunny, warm summer days should also increase both attendance and revenue at Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park. Unfortunately, last year's weather

in the latter part of July forced the County Fair to be a disappointment in spite of everyone's hard work. I am pleased to report that the County Fair Committee has been hard at work to make this year's Fair one of the best ever.

For better or worse, our success is often weather dependent, not unlike that of the farmer. As we move forward into the New Year, we need to continue providing improved quality and value-added products and services that our customers have come to expect in spite of the weather.

**“Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.”**

*Theodore Roosevelt  
26th U.S. President*



*In preparation for the 2012-2013 winter season, staff at Thompson Park set up a comfy Ski Hut with a firepit, where visitors could relax while renting their snowshoes and cross country skis. Unfortunately, our area had just one truly decent snowfall for outdoor activities, shown here in February.*



*Well-established beachgrass on the dunes at Seven Presidents prior to Sandy. The goal is for the dunes to fill in and one day look like this again.*

## A Classic Grass to Stabilize the Dunes

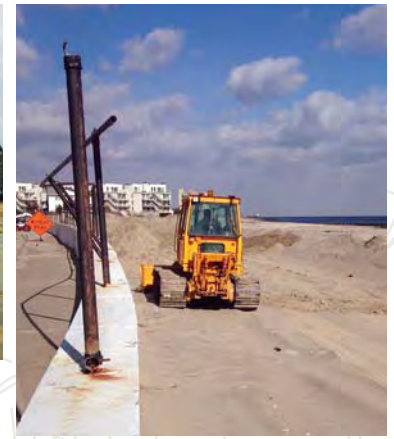
The Park System ordered 20,000 individual tufts of protective dune grass to be planted at Seven Presidents and Bayshore Waterfront Park. The grass is planted as tufts called culms, in a varying line along the dunes, a foot or so apart. The goal is for the dunes to one day look like they did before Sandy, with well-established dune grass covering the dunes (left).

The species selected was the industry-standard American Beachgrass (*Ammophila breviligulata*). This is the predominant species used along the Atlantic Coast for initial stabilization of frontal sand dunes.

## Staff from Around the Parks Pitch in at the Beach

The beach itself also required some serious rehabilitation. A special work crew was selected from around the parks to operate equipment—removing excess sand from where it didn't belong (the SkatePlex for instance) and returning it to rebuild the beach and protective dunes.

Once the sand was repositioned and dunes were rebuilt, snow fencing was put in place to stabilize the new dunes.



(clockwise, above and right) Crews from different park areas worked throughout the cold and windy winter months to get the sand back where it belonged.

With snow fencing in place, volunteers of all ages pitched in to plant the American Beachgrass.

Then, in early March, park volunteers pitched in to begin the arduous process of replanting the dune grass. In addition to snow fence, this grass forms another layer of stabilization for the dunes and has to be planted before early spring while still dormant.



Volunteers **Renee Low**, **Cheryl Fulmer**, and **Lina Garina** pause from planting to pose for a photo.



Volunteers **Mandy Hintelman** (seated) and **Jim Baye**.

### What makes American Beachgrass such a great species for this use?

- Spreads 6-10 feet per year (via underground rhizomes)
- Grows 2-3 feet in height so it tolerates sand accumulation up to 1 foot
- Leaf surface area and an optimal number of stems make it good at trapping sand
- It conserves moisture with long, leaves that roll up to avoid heat/wind. PLUS, its rough upper leaf surface has openings (stomata) that orient away from the direction of the wind.



American Beachgrass, up close.

# Bayshore “Jail” Demolition Reveals ‘Cure For Meanness’?

Prior to rebuilding the dunes and pier, Bayshore Waterfront Park underwent a different post-storm improvement. The old “jail” (named for its barred windows), which served for many years as a trusty storage outpost, finally lost its battle against both age and the elements and was taken down this past February. It was irreparably damaged by the nor-easter after Sandy (not Sandy itself).

It is rumored the building was once a barber shop located in Middletown, that was moved to this site when the town wanted to tear it down. The bars were added so no one could get inside, and the Park System has been using it for storing for program equipment such as seining nets, boots, buckets, etc.

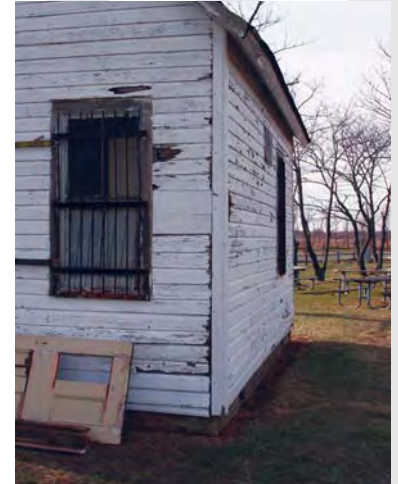


The “jail” storage building is shown, BEFORE, all the way to the right.



After demolition

Before demolition got underway Naturalist Joe Reynolds cleaned the place out and discovered—among other things—an old almanac page stuck to a piece of old furniture, probably from 1870s. That’s almost 150 years old, a long time for a piece of paper to survive such rustic conditions.



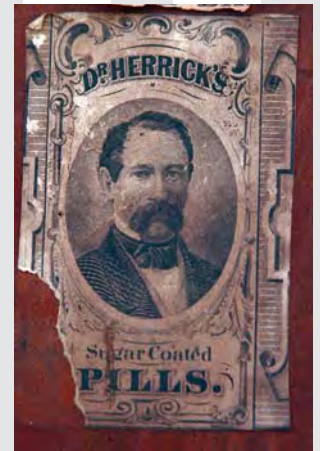
(left) **Joe Reynolds** cleans out the “jail” before demolition. (right) Note the jailhouse bars on the windows.

The advertisement is for Dr. Herrick's Sugar Pills, and a bit of research by our Museum Curator at Historical Services, Cheryl Stoeber-Goff, uncovered the following description of its uses:

*The **Meanest Man** in town is the one who always wears a frown, is cross, disagreeable and short and sharp in his answers. In nine cases out of ten it's not the poor fellow's fault, it's his liver and digestion that make him feel so miserable, he can't help-being disagreeable.*

*Are you in danger of getting into that condition? Then start at once taking Dr. Herrick's Sugar-Coated Pills for your **l i v e r** - - the safe, sure and reliable vegetable liver regulator. Ask for a free sample. Sold by Wood's Drug Store.*

*Minneapolis Morning Tribune April, 1870  
Winona State Univ., D. W. Krueger Library, Minnesota*



*Dr. Herrick was found 'hiding out' in the old jail.*

According to the US National Library of Medicine in Maryland, these pills were just one of many ‘quack cure’ medicines sold by local druggists in the 19th century. The pills were sold as a liver remedy derived from vegetable fiber (usually sawdust) and coated with a flavored sugar shell.

## Drama At The Eagle's Nest

On February 7, 2013, Park Naturalists received a truly startling piece of news. An eagle hatched at the Manasquan Reservoir in 2008 had been confirmed as the new male of the nearby 'Shark River Eagle's Nest.' His leg bands (both the NJ and the federal) were photographed and used to make confirmation.



*One of these eagles is NJ #C-47, shown in the 2008 nest.*

According to Naturalist Susan Harasty, "This is the first time we have evidence of one of our banded birds in the area. [It's] very exciting."

But alas! Nature can be unpredictable and a report a few weeks later revealed there was a 'love triangle' of sorts at the Shark River Eagle Nest. Our male was apparently trying to displace the original male, who was still on the nest. Observers reported that both males had mated with the female and were tending the nest, bringing sticks, etc.

They were last seen fighting and sadly, on February 25, 2013, observers confirmed the death of male #C-47.

He was found on the ground near Earle Naval Station by animal control and sent to the state for evaluation. According the Endangered and Nongame Species Program at the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife who performed the necropsy, he died of multiple injuries from conflict wounds "consistent with fighting with another eagle."



*Our 2008 hatchling # C-47 this past winter 2013. Photo courtesy of Dennis Ruffe.*

On a happier note, eagle hatching was officially called on March 4th at our own nest at the Manasquan Reservoir. According to Susan, "We are now awaiting how many heads pop up in a week or two and will keep you posted." Here's to new beginnings!

## CONSTRUCTION NEWS & NOTES



*BEFORE and AFTER, Park Ranger **Pat Becker** (formerly of Manasquan Reservoir, now at Seven Presidents) helps assess the damage along the perimeter trail post-storm (above). Manasquan Reservoir Park Ranger **Ivan Gottstein** (right) helps repair the damaged bridge.*



*A new chimney for the forge in the blacksmith shop was installed at Longstreet Farm. That's Ranger **Bill Neugebauer** cleaning up around the shop, above.*



*The bulkhead along the Manasquan River and Inlet at Fisherman's Cove had reached the end of its natural life. In conjunction with the State DEP, it has been replaced it with a new steel bulkhead, stabilized by rocks.*

# STAFF PHOTOS

## An Interesting Character

In this particular instance, we don't mean Superintendent of Parks **Dave Compton** (right) but the very colorful fellow to his left on the trumpet. Apparently, this musician is also an athlete who won the E. Murray Todd Half marathon years ago. He showed up at the race this year and set up "shop" at the 10 mile mark (of this 13.1 mile race) to cheer on his fellow runners with a trumpet, playing music from his car speakers, and general shouts of enthusiasm.



## People at Podiums



**Ryan Kimble** speaks about Geocaching at the Monmouth County Greentable in the Thompson Park Visitor Center on February 5, 2013. Hosted by **Fran Martone** of A&D, this meeting—open to individuals, groups and governments interested in or working to preserve open space—was attended by almost 60 people.

**Ken Thoman** of our Planning Department also spoke at the Greentable about our trail system.



**Bruce Gollnick** gave a talk at the annual Friends of the Park breakfast meeting; he gave an overview of Sandy relief effort in the Parks.

## 5 Volunteers Reach a BIG Milestone

At this year's Volunteer Reception, the following individuals were recognized for reaching an exceptional number of hours devoted to the parks. (back, l to r) Public Information Officer Karen Livingstone, **Volunteers Patrice McCoy (1000 hours, Nature Interpretation), Barry Miller (1,000 hours, Trails Team and Therapeutic Recreation), and Louise DeCollo (4,000 hours, Therapeutic Recreation)**, Supervisor of Therapeutic Recreation Lauren Gerber, Coordinator of Volunteers Melissa Kelly and Park System Secretary-Director Jim Truncer. (front, l to r) **Volunteers Patricia Farrell (1,000 hours, Cultural Services) and Lois Lyons (1,000 hours Outdoor Adventures)**, Freeholder and Liaison to the Park System Lillian Burry, Board of Recreation Commissioners Chairman Ed Loud and **Emma Caccavalle (1,000 hours, Outdoor Adventures)**.

## Then & Now



Well, well, well...40 years and not much of a difference! Thanks to our skilled carpenters, the wellhouse at Longstreet Farm has been beautifully redone. Last repaired in 1975 by **Carl Bruder** (left), it was completely rebuilt again in 2013 by **Ryan Abbott**. He agreed to copy Carl's pose, which helps remind us how the more things change...

## Uniform Staff at Work



Super-busy! With only one solid snowfall followed by decent weather this past winter, Holmdel Park Rangers had their hands full at the sledding hill in February. Here, Ranger **James Januszkiewicz** patrols the hill and sledders.

Outdoor Adventure staff **Michelle Clampffer** and **Jan Galanti** practice what they 'preach'—they walk from point A to B in Thompson Park instead of taking a cart (or car).



## Welcome New Hires!

Six new County Park Rangers:

Effective 2/25/13

James Curry - Thompson Park

Jenna Pesano - Holmdel Park

Francisco (Frank) Masini - Turkey Swamp Park

Michael Sullivan - Turkey Swamp Park

Jason Zinger - Manasquan Reservoir

Effective 3/25/13

Russell Kohlman - Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park

## In Memoriam: Betty Fish

Park System staff were very sad to learn of the passing of our 'favorite time-keeper,' Betty Fish on March 26, 2013. Betty started with the parks in 1992 and retired in July, 2012 after almost 20 years of service. As Asst. Payroll Supervisor, Betty was in charge of tracking all our hours and timesheets, and she always made sure everything was done correctly. "Nothing got past her," according to Secretary-Director Jim Truncer. "If she believed something was not right, you could guarantee you would get a call from her...including me!" he laughs. She is remembered warmly -and with a smile- by her friends and co-workers.

## Animal News Around The Parks

### Turtles Get Friendly with the Friends



Naturalist **Chris Lanza** (right) with help from Seasonal Naturalist **Patrice McCoy** (who is also a member of the Friends) gave a turtle demonstration at the Annual Friends of the Parks breakfast meeting in March.

### Double Vision on the Farm



Mule Team



Percheron Horse Team



Two cows in a row

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### MAY

1 John F. Carey 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  
7 Jason Zinger 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 12 Diane Stasik  
14 Laurie Marswillo 15 Chris Davidson 18 Helen Fiore  
18 Karen Livingstone 20 Tom Noordzy 21 Shawn Allen  
21 Susan Harasty 22 Matthew Robinson 25 Hank Schreiber  
26 Michelle Scolletta-Gosha 27 Dan DeSoucey 27 Jeff Szalc  
30 Gary Stedman

### JUNE

2 Liz Huntington 3 William Neugebauer 7 Andy North  
7 Bill Vaughn 8 Regina DeVeau 9 Spence Wickham  
12 Jeanne Bezio 12 Christopher DeMaio 13 Nick Podsvirov  
15 Aileen Desiata 15 Nick Samaras 16 Stephanie Weise  
18 George Moran 18 Matt Ruding 19 Tom Dillon  
19 Eric Doren 19 George Siebert 19 Edward Zarella  
22 Karen Rutt 23 Alan Archer 24 Vern Hasselbrock  
26 Mike Janoski 26 Betty Leong

### JULY

2 Travis Bryan 2 Jason Miller 3 William Vega  
5 Anthony Ribera 6 Richard Brunelli 6 Thomas Osborne  
6 Charlie Todd 8 Brian Corrigan 8 Bryan Whalen  
9 Chris Plantamura 10 Keith Bennett 10 Glenn Miller  
13 Dennis Janwich 13 David Loichle 14 William Bellingham  
14 Paul DeJesus 21 Larry Cunningham 21 Donna Dugo  
21 Barbara Reeves 23 Kerry McKenna 24 Anna Luiten  
24 Mike Vaccaro 27 Bill O'Shaughnessy 30 Harold Ayers  
30 Pat Douglas 30 Martin Gonzalez 30 Paul Lippert  
30 Ryan Ponnwitz 31 Jose Bruno

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

Lisa Bonelli, Writer/Editor • Michelle Scolletta, Graphic Artist • Maribeth Gardner, Photographer

Questions, Comments, Story Ideas? • Mail: Lisa Bonelli, Thompson Park, Visitor Services • Email: lbonelli@monmouthcountyparks.com • Phone: 732-842-4000, ext. 4336



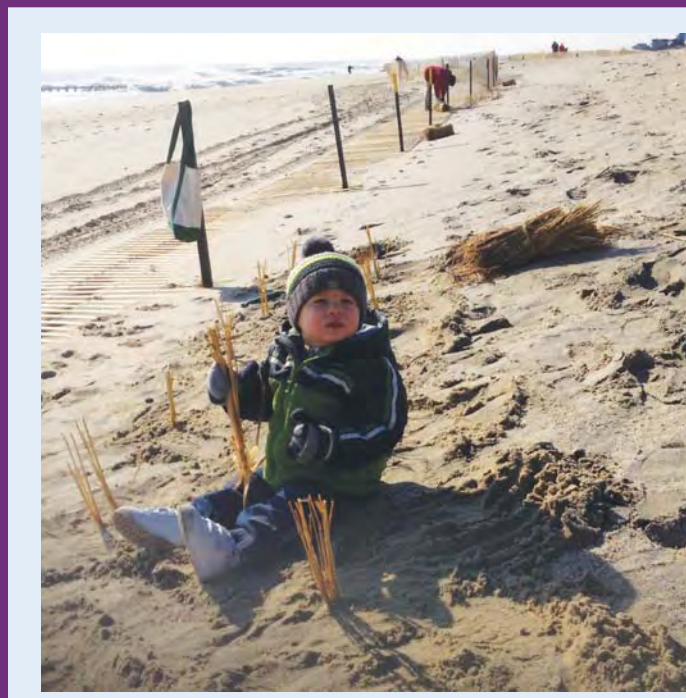
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Monmouth County Park System  
805 Newman Springs Road  
Lincroft, NJ 07738-1695

May/June 2013

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
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PARK SYSTEM



## Our Youngest Volunteer Ever?

*This little guy did his part to help us restore the shoreline at Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park in Long Branch. In addition to planting beach grass to protect our newly formed sand dunes, he also left us with a trail of 'sand angels' to decorate the beach. Story inside, pg. 3.*