

Green Link



An Employee & Volunteer Newsletter of the Monmouth County Park System

November / December 2008

SPOTLIGHT ON SEVEN PRESIDENTS OCEANFRONT PARK: SUMMER 2008 SEASON



On Watch: Seven Presidents lifeguards (top, l to r) Taylor Crosby, John Venino and Michelle Tomaino. Standing Jordan Crosby and Aiman Meshal.

Lifeguards Tackle Busiest Rescue Season on Record

Lifeguards had their busiest season ever in 2008 with 182 rescues. They also performed 143 rescue assists, handled

11 incidents, gave assistance (first aid, etc.) to 187 visitors, found 23 lost individuals, and implemented an estimated 4364 preventive actions.

According to Ranger staff, some of these rescues were real "nail-biters." Calls would come in one right after another, and no sooner would the guards get one situation under control, when a second call would come in. Check out this letter from a visitor who experienced the hectic pace of rescues firsthand...



Seven Presidents lifeguards Andrew Fedick (back) and Chris Guido (front) hit the water to help a swimmer in distress.

"We visited Seven Presidents Beach yesterday, July 17th, and it was a rough day in the water...My brother and his wife had to be rescued, as well as at least 10 other swimmers while we were there. And I have to say, the lifeguards were the hardest working and nicest group I have ever seen. There was hardly a time that we were there that there wasn't a lifeguard out bringing someone back. They deserve bonuses for being in the water this past week, and for being as professional and polite as they were while doing a great job in the water."

LC, Clifton Beach

Comments like these (and the statistics, left) paint a dramatic picture. But, according to Lifeguard Director Mike Fowler, the truth is that saves/rescues are "a part of life" for the squad. It is what they are trained to do, and they do it day in and day out, all summer long.

Fin Whale Washes Ashore

The carcass of a 49-foot endangered fin whale weighing 123 tons (that's about 25,000 pounds) washed ashore on Sunday, July 6. Staffers from the Marine Mammal Stranding Center examined the whale and found it was



fatally injured by impact with a large object. After the exam, park staff had to use heavy equipment and dump trucks to remove the carcass and cart it away.

Spotlight Continued on page 2

Director's Corner



“THAT TIME AGAIN”

It is hard to believe it's time again to submit our reaccreditation information and prepare for the Commission for Accreditation of

Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) team visit. Our last full reaccreditation was in 2003. This year, our five (5) year self-assessment is due.

Before the middle of December of this year, we will be hosting a 3 member visitation team composed of our peers. They will randomly select and review 50% of the standards contained in our self-assessment. The self-assessment includes 152 standards; 35 are fundamental and must be met. Of the remaining 117 non-fundamental standards, 85% must be met.

When the visitation team completes their findings and report, the Accreditation Commission will consider our reaccreditation application at their meeting to be held in mid-March of 2009.

While the time and effort required to complete our self-assessment is considerable on everyone's part, the result is we are able to help answer the question: "How are we doing?" As our Country's first park and recreation agency to be accredited, we look forward to continuing this tradition.

I want to personally thank all of you who have worked so hard to make our reaccreditation possible.

“Ability is what you're capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it.”

--Lou Holtz

Summer at Seven Presidents: Skaters and Surfers Catch Some Air



Spotlight on Seven Presidents, continued

Women Win Sandy Hook Lifeguard Tourney...Again!

Five female lifeguards competed in, and won, the 24th Annual All-Women Lifeguard Tournament at Sandy Hook on Wednesday July, 30. This year's victory, against 10 strong teams from around the mid-Atlantic, was sizable. Michelle Tomaino, sisters Jordan and Taylor Crosby, Liz Luick, and Kelly Welsh racked up the points by winning 4 of 10 events, and placing in the top of most others.



(l to r) Jordan Crosby, Liz Luick, Kelly Welsh, and Taylor Crosby (missing Michelle Tomaino). This tournament received great press coverage, appearing in the NY Times as well as the local papers.

Park System Wins Invitational Surf Relays...Again!

On August 2nd, the team from Seven Presidents captured



Spectators and participants line the shore for the 9th Annual Invitational Surf Relays.

first place for the eighth time in the Invitational Surf Relays, an event that the Park System has been hosting for nine years. One hundred twenty area lifeguards competed in this year's event.

Park participants include: Mike Tomaino, Michelle Tomaino, Dan Haaren, Charlie Rooney, John Venino, Chris Guido, Ted Olsen, Tim Chambrovich, Kelly Welsh, Matt LaMura, Chris Hetem, Ryan Keenan, Taylor Crosby, Jordan Crosby, and Satchel Ryan.

Mike Fowler: Keepin' the "Life" in Our Lifeguards

According to staff, the lifeguards at Seven Presidents all swim, paddle and run every day before work, with their director leading the crew. They also compete in approximately 12 tournaments per season. The rigorous practice schedule combined with a busy rescue season, keeps the whole 22-member squad in top condition. Here, Lifeguard Director Mike Fowler (left) is pictured with Crew Captain John Venino. Mike has been a lifeguard at the Jersey Shore for 45 years, and is now in his 20th year with the Park System. He is frequently, and justly, credited for the Park System's high quality lifeguard staff.



Mike and John

Continued on page 3

Killdeer Makes a “Scene” at Beach Park

In addition to the endangered Piping Plovers, there’s another interesting plover nesting at Seven Presidents. The Killdeer, recognized by its striped neck bands and red eye ring, is a little bird with a flair for the dramatic. When an interloper approaches, the Killdeer protects its nest by acting out the broken wing syndrome, pretending to be injured and flapping its wings to lure the potential predator away.



First “Best Day” Event Held at Beach Site

On July 19th and 20th, Seven Presidents hosted two days of sand and surf activities for children with special needs. The event was designed to give the kids their “best day” ever at the beach, by making water sports and other activities more accessible. There were approximately 30 participants (and at least as many passionate volunteers) who enjoyed beach limbo, body boarding, surfing, kayaking, and a Coast Guard helicopter water rescue, where the “victim” was dressed as Spiderman.



The Best Day organization held their first east coast event at Seven Presidents (by permit). It was a great success for area children with special needs.



Park Patron Thelma Clayton Passes Away

On July 11th, 2008, Thelma Clayton, 93, passed away at her home in Allentown. Ms. Clayton and her father made a partial donation of land for what is now Clayton Park. Thelma lived a simple life, and spent most of her time with family. She was a devoted daughter and constant companion to her father until his death in 1991 at the age of 107 (her mother passed in 1967).



Thelma Clayton and her father Paul.

When asked to describe Thelma, friends commented on what a rare person she was because of her strong connection to the past. She loved to reminisce about her rural upbringing: her father selling tomatoes to the Campbell’s Soup Company, her mother’s prize-winning asters, and Thelma herself when young, with bows in her hair, reciting poetry at The Grange (an educational/social/political organization for farmers).

Thelma lived without extravagance and never drove. Her family preferred tradition to modern inventions; working the fields by horse-drawn farm equipment instead of a tractor and hand-pumping their own water from an outside well. It was no surprise to friends then that Thelma believed the traffic light to be one of our greatest modern day inventions. Born in 1915, she lived at a time when there were mostly dirt roads, no cars and no traffic signs, and this is where she still lived in her mind; though she also enjoyed local excursions and particularly liked her trips to Walmart. Thelma is survived by her own companion, a poodle named “Buddy,” and is warmly remembered by her friends.

Henry Hudson Trail Recognized by Exclusive Network



The Henry Hudson Trail was recently recognized by the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) as part of the National Rail-Trail Network. According to an RTC representative, this designation is given to “only the best trails in the country.” The Park System will be posting this sign at trailhead kiosks to announce this important new designation.

THE GOOD NEWS GRAPEVINE...

Summer Theatre Performer Pens



Cast photo from the Ugly Duckling (l to r) James Steele, Bill Brown, Kaitlin Wright, Sean Openshaw, Anthony Preuster, and Kelsi Galya (seated). Ray Dademo is seated on the stage, bottom left.

After starring in multiple Park System performances through the years, actor, singer and recent graduate Ray Dademo, 22, finally took Theatre Director Angela Flynn-Knox's advice and wrote a musical of his own. It is a clever, jewel-and-feathered adaptation of a Hans Christian Anderson fairy tale called *The Ugly Duckling or A Prayer for the Cosmetically Challenged*. Ray's cast of kooky characters turned this classic on its head with witty dialogue and music, embedded with references to old Hollywood and new fashion trends. The performance played to sell out crowds for three nights in July at Thompson Park and received enthusiastic accolades for its humor, creativity, and acting. Congratulations Ray, you are on your way!

New Musical

After starring in multiple Park System performances through the years, actor, singer and recent graduate Ray Dademo, 22, finally took Theatre Director Angela Flynn-Knox's advice and wrote a musical of his own. It is a clever,



Barry said swimming next to 2,400 other triathletes was like being in a washing machine. Here they are at the starting line.

Bayshore Ranger Completes Lake Placid Ironman

Bayshore Ranger Barry Barone trained for an entire year-3 hours each day when he had to work, and 4-6 hours per day when he was off-to compete in the famous Ironman Triathlon on July 20th. He completed the grueling 2.4 mile swim, 112 mile bike ride and full 26.2 mile marathon in just over 13 hours.

The event was marked by many challenges for Barry: he had a set-back in May that jeopardized his training. During the bicycle race he got a flat tire that cost him 20 minutes, and it rained heavily throughout the race-which made the steep hills around the mountains into a treacherous roadway on bicycle.



Barry during the event's 112 mile bike race. Note the slick road conditions.



Barry crosses the finish line, a profound physical and personal accomplishment.

Barry overcame each challenge in turn, and completed the race to honor a promise made to his mother, who passed away from ALS in 2001.

Her illness was a painful one, and he decided

to take on the physical demands of this race because of her suffering. Congratulations to Barry for his awesome commitment and impressive physical accomplishment.

Programmer's Photography Gets Noticed

Anyone who knows Dorbrook's Cultural Services Programmer Ann Sage also knows she is an avid nature photographer (and bug specialist!). Most of her work focuses on birds, animals and insects and almost all of it to date has been taken in Monmouth County; some in the county parks. Lately, her work has received notice by appearing in a few local exhibit spaces. In September, she displayed her work at the Little Silver Library. And, from November 6 - December 1, her work will appear in the new exhibit space at the Eastern Branch of the Monmouth County Library in Shrewsbury. Not just anybody can put their photos on display, they have to be screened and accepted. Congratulations to Ann for receiving the wonderful recognition she deserves!



Park Architect Wins Award



This past May, the Park System and Supervising Park Planner Joe Sardonía received a Merit Award for the Mt. Mitchell 9/11 Memorial from the NJ Chapters of the American Concrete Institute (ACI) and Concrete and Aggregate Association (CAA). It recognizes excellence in design and use of concrete in the "Parks" category. The Park

System's 9/11 Memorial was added to an existing site presenting some unique design challenges. These were overcome with an elegant design that ties the site's stone retaining walls, arbors, and sculpture all together. Mount Mitchell is a beautiful site and this is a well-deserved honor. Way to go, Joe (and all our park planners)!



Popamora Point “On the Map” With New Building

It may not look like much now, but this restroom building at Popamora Point represents the first step in making



this site the future north terminal node of the Henry Hudson Trail (HHT). Next steps include connecting it to the rest of the trail, which now ends at the HHT Activity Center on Route 36 about 3 miles west of this site. Until then, park staff are working with Highlands officials to develop an On-Street alternate route that bicyclists may take through town to get from one point to another.

Only in the Parks...Staff Find the Unexpected at Longbridge Annex

This summer while reorganizing storage at Thompson Park’s Longbridge Annex horse barn, Historic Services Curator Cheryl Stoeber-Goff and seasonal staffers Edward Stapley Brown and Dan Coghlan, uncovered a

few surprises: the oldest cultural artifact in our collection related to Tatum Park and a critter who had made a home beneath the floor grates.

Although Cheryl trains her seasonals to expect the



unexpected when it comes to errant wildlife-Edward and Dan came upon a snake in their midst rather “suddenly.” As they related the story to others (and the length of the snake grew with each telling) Cheryl surmised that they

found a corn snake and called Sr. Park Manager Rick Royle to relocate the reptile (who obviously had just eaten breakfast) to a new home. Cheryl mused, “So that’s where all the mice have gone.”

The artifact recovered was a Millville Atmospheric Fruit Jar, patented in 1861, popular just after the civil war and discontinued around 1871. It is intact, but lacks the Indian rubber gasket. The jar is significant because the metal never touches the food. Most of these jars were produced by the Whitall-Tatum Glass Co. (1838-1938) in their Millville, NJ glass plant. The plant went on to become the oldest, continuously operating one of its kind in the US, until it closed in 1984.



Extensive background provided by Cheryl Stoeber-Goff, who also sourced ‘A PRIMER ON FRUIT JARS’ BY DAVE HINSON. COPYRIGHT 1996 BY DAVE HINSON Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors.



November

- 1 Ivan Gottstein
- 2 Frank Bradford
- 3 Rich Pillar • Paul C. Zimmer
- 4 Susan Liu
- 5 Fran Lorelli
- 8 Terry Normand
- 11 Bill Diehl • Tony Eng
- 11 Mark Miller • Jim Truncer
- 13 Bob Holmes
- 14 Heidi Stehlik • Wayne Theilen
- 16 Paul Basquill • Faith Hahn
- 17 Patrick Cardwell
- 18 James F. Foligno, Jr. • Jed Jesiolowski
- 19 Daniel Buecher • Mark Foulks
- 19 John Wallace
- 21 Christina Miller • Bob Petrow
- 23 Mike Dollear
- 24 Ann Marie Osnato
- 25 Philip Patterson
- 26 Tom Ketcham • Keith York

December

- 2 Bill Schoenleber
- 6 Alejandro Roman
- 8 Steven DeSeno • Jim Fetter
- 8 Darrin Morrissey • Alan Roberts
- 11 Marcus Novak
- 12 Mary Naughton
- 13 Joe Sardonía • Pete Waters
- 15 Dolores DeMaria • Andrew Spears
- 16 Rich Meister
- 17 Stephanie Becker • Jeff Semanick
- 18 Tim Parkans
- 19 Don Sadowski
- 22 Ilona Szabo de Bucs
- 24 Ken Olsen
- 26 Susan Baranowski • Eric Testa
- 27 Joshua Storch
- 28 Dawn Haviland
- 29 Sarah Bent • Kevin Dunn
- 29 Peter Minotti
- 31 Scott Augun • Sam Camuso

January

- 4 Mary Mautner • Jen Nixon
- 5 Diane Elwood • Tom Swords
- 6 Valerie Ferris
- 9 Pat Cernak • Joe Smith
- 12 Alvin Lopez • Beverly Miller
- 12 Jerry Ostrander
- 14 Andrew Wehmann
- 15 Bob Melick
- 16 Kathleen Ferraro • Paul McCue
- 17 Greg Shannon
- 18 Patrick Becker
- 19 John Caddock
- 20 Russ Anderson • Courtney Bison
- 22 Steve Moraghan
- 23 Jan Galanti • Randy McHaney
- 24 John Megill
- 25 Shelagh A. McCarthy
- 26 Angela Knox • Brad Roe
- 26 Gregg Wolff
- 27 John Schanck
- 28 Rachel Cohen
- 29 Lisa Horner
- 30 James Januszkiewicz • Dave Pease
- 30 Carol Stasik
- 31 Bob Schneider

Welcome, New Hires:

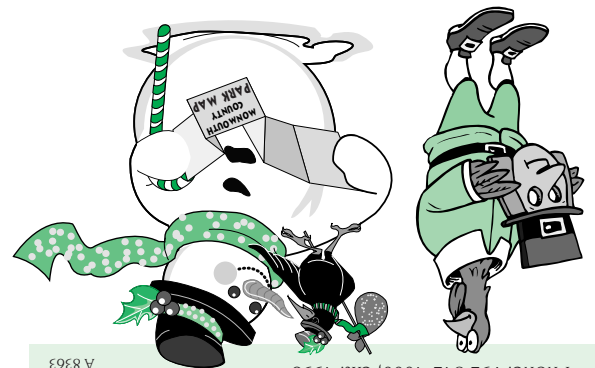
Matthew Ruding	
<i>County Park Ranger-Turkey Swamp Park</i>	7/21/08
Thomas Osborne	
<i>County Park Ranger-Holmdel Park</i>	8/4/08
Jeffrey Ward	
<i>County Park Ranger-Holmdel Park</i>	8/4/08
Patrick Killeen	
<i>County Park Ranger-Turkey Swamp Park</i>	8/4/08
Paul Bagdanov	
<i>County Park Ranger-Thompson Park</i>	8/4/08
David Whalen	
<i>County Park Ranger-Tatum Park</i>	8/4/08
Angela Kochon	
<i>County Park Ranger-Tatum Park</i>	8/4/08
Jason Miller	
<i>County Park Ranger-Hartshorne Woods</i>	8/4/08
Lawrence Bork	
<i>County Park Ranger-Hartshorne Woods</i>	8/4/08
Sean Ramsey	
<i>County Park Ranger-Seven Presidents</i>	8/4/08
Anthony Calderon	
<i>County Park Ranger-Dorbrook Park</i>	8/4/08
Ryan Shaughnessy	
<i>County Park Ranger-Bayshore Waterfront</i>	8/4/08



Staff photographer Maribeth Gardener captured this baby fox in the fields of Thompson Park. Elusive and very quick, this species is hard to capture on film.



Like many area residents, Park Naturalist Joe Reynolds followed the story of a dolphin pod in the Shrewsbury/Navesink Rivers with interest this past summer, and took this photo. As of late August, the dolphins had still not returned to sea.

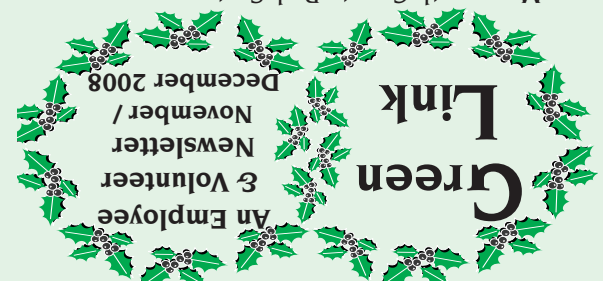


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Phone: 732 842-4000, ext. 4336
 Email: lboneill@monmouthcountyparks.com
 Mail: Lisa Boneill, Thompson Park, Visitor Services

Questions, Comments, Story Ideas?
 Andi Monick, Photographer
 Maribeth Gardener, Photographer
 Michelle Scollotta, Graphic Artist
 Lisa Boneill, Writer/Editor
 volunteers of the Monmouth County Park System.

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 Lincroft, NJ 07738-1695
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