



Green Link

An Employee & Volunteer Newsletter



Manasquan Reservoir

November/December 2014

A Spring & Summer of Park Firsts...

COUNTY LIFEGUARDS TAKE NATIONAL TITLE

Congratulations to Mike Tomaino, Dylan Devesty, Taylor Crosby and Taylor Murray of the **Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park Lifeguard Team!** On Saturday, August 9, these Park System Lifeguards, along with other Monmouth County lifeguards, won the 2014 Nautica United States Lifesaving Association (USLA) National Lifeguard Championship in Virginia Beach, Va. The Monmouth County team snatched the title away from a Los Angeles County team who had a 27 year hold on the crown!

A Fitting Victory To Celebrate 50 Years

The county recently presented **Michael 'Spike' Fowler** with a certificate to celebrate 50 years of ocean lifeguarding at the Jersey Shore on the occasion of his retirement. A Professor of Marketing as well as a noted speaker, author and photographer, Mike has been Lifeguard Supervisor for the Monmouth County Park System at Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park since May 1990. He has also worked for Belmar and Avon-by-the-Sea. His emphasis on intensive training and conditioning earned him a reputation for very high expectations and stringent standards. So, it's no surprise that members of his team were able to help capture such an important national title (in addition to all their regular local wins through the years).



We Are The Champions (l to r) Lifeguards Mike Tomaino, Taylor Murray, Dylan Devesty, and Taylor Crosby with Supervisor and Retiree Mike Fowler

SEVEN PRESIDENTS HOSTS FIRST ANNUAL SK8 JAM

Avid skateboarder and Senior Park Manager Matt Coleman teamed up with the crew from Sports & Fitness to develop the Park System's first ever beachfront skate competition at the SkatePlex in Long Branch last May. About

35 kids of all ages competed to show off their skills, have fun and win a variety of great prizes, as family and friends look on.

Competition included Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced categories, which were further broken down by age.



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DIRECTOR'S CORNER



“FORTY YEARS”

It's hard to believe that it has been forty (40) years since the Park System and 4-H decided to work together to produce the Monmouth County Fair at East Freehold Showgrounds. The county Fair represents a tradition that speaks to our county's past as well as

life as we know it in our county today.

The summer edition of Green Heritage had an excellent article on more than a century of history about the Fair. It's worth a read. Family oriented events such as the fair today, as in the past, appeal to all ages by providing a wide variety of exhibits and activities.

Our ability to produce a successful Fair is the result of dedicated Park System employees who can be

The Fair is a tradition that speaks to our county's past and present.

proud of their labors. The comments I received this year from Fair attendees were all complimentary. This year's Fair was outstanding from the variety and quality of exhibits and activities to cleanliness of the eating areas and grounds. Our citizens recognize quality and excellence of service. Our reputation as an organization and as individuals has to be earned each and every day by how well each of us do our jobs. I am proud to say that our organization's strength is a result of your commitment to make us one of the best run park systems.

My hat's off to this year's Fair Chair, Committees, and each of you whose efforts produced a great 40th Annual Monmouth County Fair. You can all be proud of a job well done.

“If once you forfeit the confidence of your fellow citizens, you can never regain their respect and esteem.”

- Abraham Lincoln, 16th United States President



*Two Generations: Assistant Superintendent of Parks **George Richdale Jr.** is 'large and in charge' of Fairground operations, while his father **George Richdale Sr.**, is 'larger than life' in the announcer's tower—where he has been the voice of the Fair since our very beginnings (that's 40 years)!*

A Spring and Summer of Park Firsts...continued

News Flash! Plans are underway to build a new and improved **Skate Plaza at Seven Presidents** (maybe in time for next year's Second Annual Sk8 Jam). Plans for the new facility are different from the current set-up of traditional ramps and pipes. Instead, it will be designed with elements found in the urban-industrial landscape from which street skating emerged, featuring poured concrete, ledges and handrails.



Check out the elegant new design proposed for the Skate Plaza.



*Although still a bit too young to compete, Senior Park Manager **Matt Coleman's** kids (and wife) were on hand to show support.*

VC FEATURED IN TREASURE HUNT TWEET



This past summer, the popular Zac Brown Band mentioned us in their tweets as part of a promotional contest. **Amanda Tanay**, our social media specialist at Visitor Services (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram), discovered

that someone from the band's staff—or maybe even one of the band members themselves—stopped by **Thompson Park** and secretly left two tickets in an envelope on a table in the Visitor Center reception area. Then they Tweeted these two photos as a final clue.

The Visitor Center, Program Directory, SPUR and the Monmouth County Fair got some free advertising. And, we can confirm that the two fans who arrived here first (a man and his son) snagged the tickets.

FORT MONMOUTH POOL OPENS

The Fort Monmouth Recreation Center pool opened on schedule and our first guests were camp participants, shown here in July. Then in August, the Fort hosted its first family guests for Open Swim Days.



The pool is officially open—doesn't it look inviting?



*Asst. Recreation Supervisor **Jen Troisi** and Recreation Coordinator **Ann Sage** were on hand with a crew of seasonals to host our first swimmers at the pool.*



*Seven Presidents Park Manager **Ryan Rochelle** and Recreation Specialist **Jim Butler** from Sports & Fitness help get the event underway.*



Competitors performed in the street course and the bowl.



*Other activities that day included the climbing wall—Park Ranger **Paul Bagdanov** helped this participant gear up—and a 30 minute skate demo by 'Shop Team' from the Pro Skateboard Shop in Belmar.*

*Assistant Superintendent of Recreation **Patti Conroy** gave out prizes as both awards and raffle winnings. In this photo—it's a new skateboard deck.*



The Jam format, after which this event is named, involved 5 competitors out there at the same time doing a five minute run. The judges, who included local skateboard pros and shop owners, awarded points for difficulty, style and landing.



Corner

Keeping Up the Gardens. At Headquarters, these volunteers are hard at work keeping the flower and plants looking beautiful: **Jim Henry, Cheryl Fulmer, and Barbara Trouwborst and Michele Mancino.**



CONSTRUCTION NEWS & NOTES



The Pier at the End of the World. Bayshore Waterfront Park is currently undergoing multi-part restoration project. Part one, now complete, was the beach replenishment and from this photo, taken in July, it should be obvious what needs to come next. The pier needs to be extended back out onto the water (otherwise no one is ever going to catch any fish!). Here are the plans (anticipated completion July 2015):

- Restore beach to a width of approx. 95 feet (done)
- Rebuild protective dunes behind the restored beach
- Extend the fishing pier another 195 feet
- Install a 300 foot rock groin to prevent new sand from moving/driftng



UTT Spur at Upper Freehold Town Hall. Upper Freehold Township recently completed a short connector trail or spur from the parking lot at Town Hall (314 Route 539) to the Union Transportation Trail (UTT). This 560 ft. spur provides municipal employees and residents with convenient access to the UTT just north of the Jonathan Holmes Road trail parking lot. The project was completed with the help of a NJ Trails Grant.



“Upper” UTT Underway. Work continues on the upper, 4-mile section of the UTT from Route 526/Allentown-Lakewood Rd. up to Herbert Road by the Assunpink WMA. This photo shows the trail passing under I-195. The two sections will eventually connect in the middle.



Who is Digging Up Thompson Park? Not a groundhog! This trench is for a new gas line to the Creative Arts Center (CAC) and Construction & Repair, so they can upgrade their furnaces. In the future, the new line will also allow the CAC to add a larger gas-fired kiln (they currently have electric kilns).



An Unusual Display. Staff at Turkey Swamp Park’s camp office are all about customer service, and this shelf of nature artifacts (hornet’s nest, feathers, skulls and shells) is a fun way to keep visitors engaged as they wait to sign in.

STAFF SCENES



Here's Why You Don't Feed the Wildlife. These ducks— attracted to the concession stand at Seven Presidents because food is prevalent—are removed from their natural habitat and pose a nuisance to visitors. Park Ranger **Cathy Barfield** is therefore performing an important duty here by politely 'shooing' them off.

Craft Show Crew.

Cultural Services staff **Rachel Cohen, Dave Roche, Al Weaver, and Lauren Coleman** at their second annual spring craft show at Tatum Park, held in tandem with the Plant Swap across the street at Deep Cut Gardens.



Rangers Take Aim. What better way to learn the safe perimeter for an archery program, than to take a shot yourself. (l to r)



Dorbrook Seasonal Ranger **Mark Staniforth** and Park Rangers **David Whalen** and **John Skimelis**.

Golf Must Be Good for Your Health.

Here's some proof from **Bel Aire Golf Center** Manager **Tom Ketcham**, who took this photo of avid golfers and 'nonagenarians' Tom Connell (98) and Steven Blauvelt (96), who play the 9-hole course at Bel Aire once a week, and certainly look content doing it.



Wild Wildlife

An Unusual Fox Habit. One sign of the many fox dens at Thompson Park is the presence of scat along our walkways and parking lots. Clearly, they've got plenty of more private land for this sort of thing so why such a public place? It may be a territory marker, according to some staffers. And, recently one fox was caught in the act. In July, A&D Engineer **Heng Chin** drove up on a fox doing his business right in the middle of the Maintenance Road on the white painted trail crosswalk! She took out her camera and followed the fox (who had by then finished) to Rt 520, where he paused before crossing the highway to CBA (where he will likely make another deposit).



In a Foxhole. At Dorbrook, this drain doubles as a foxhole (though we aren't sure what happens when it rains)



New "Mouser" at Longstreet Farm.

Knowledgeable staff, animal friends, beautifully restored buildings and a relaxing atmosphere--

this has got to be a good life for a cat! --Photo courtesy of Landscape Architect **Laura Lienick**.



STAFF AT THE FAIR



Crosswicks Creek
Senior Park Ranger
Brian Sullivan



Bayshore Park Ranger
Jim Januskiewicz and
Turkey Swamp Park Manager
Chris Plantamura



Sunnyside Equestrian Center Recreation
Leader (Seasonal) **Pat Bernstein** (left)
and Seasonal staffer **Julia Guercio**
(right) with rider Meredith Dyer



Ivan Sanchez
of Operations &
Maintenance



Holmdel Park Ranger
Jeff Ward



Senior Park Naturalist
Joe Reynolds

New Programs, Events & Ideas



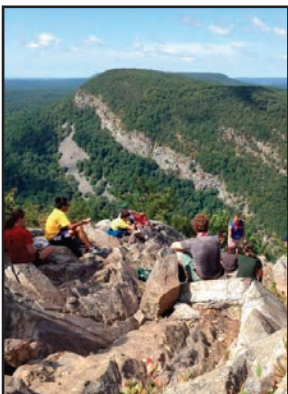
A New Classic – Tea Party Bridal Shower.

Personnel Administrative Assistant **Jeanne Bezio** hosted this creative Tea-Party Bridal Shower for her daughter Meghan in the **Huber Woods Environmental Center** Lodge last summer. This photo (left) offers just one view of the gorgeous affair; there were many more lovely dishes and decorating details all done by family and friends.



Teens 'Climb High'. Outdoor Adventure staff designed a great new 5-day odyssey camp for 13-17 year olds this summer, to help

kids develop their climbing skills. The camp featured 2 overnights at Worthington State Park where they hiked the Appalachian Trail to Mt. Tammany (pictured) and Sunfish Pond. Another highlight was practice on a slack line between two trees (like walking a tightrope!).



Foot Golf. Think of soccer on a golf course, it's just that everything is bigger--the cup, the pin (or flag), and the golf "ball." Golf Ranger **Keith Heckman** first helped introduce the concept at Family Game Day at the Fair. On August 9, Howell Park Golf Ranger **Gary Homefield** (in classic golf knickers to help illustrate that course rules still apply, including proper attire) helped launch our opening of Foot Golf for the public at **Bel Aire Golf Course**, where Foot Golf is now available alongside regular golf on the 9-hole course.



Aqua Zumba. Yes, you can now Zumba in the water! The Park System offered this exercise class in the pool last summer at **Dorbrook Recreation Area**.





Historic Preservation Specialist **Gail Hunton** with Pat Butch of the Monmouth County Board of Agriculture

Sean O'Herron of Operations & Maintenance



Hartshorne Park Ranger **Ron Chevestick** and Turkey Swamp Park Ranger **Chris DeMaio**



Seasonal Ranger **Matt Lawless** and Thompson Park Ranger **Justin Birk**



Barbara Berry of Administration

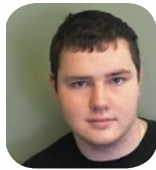
Thompson Park Ranger **Jenna Pesano**



Welcome New Employees!



Gary Homefield, Sr., Carpenter, C&R Thompson Park



Richard Leonard, Recreation Leader, Longstreet Farm



Jeffrey Waybright, County Park Ranger, Thompson Park



Joan Capriotti, Park Naturalist, Holmdel Park Activity Center



Jeffrey Mitchell, County Park Ranger, Seven President's Oceanfront Park



John Carroll, Graphic Artist, Thompson Park



Mark Davidson, County Park Ranger, East Freehold Park Showgrounds

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

November

1 Ivan Gottstein 2 Frank Bradford 3 Rich Pillar
3 Paul Zimmer 8 Mark Davidson 11 Bill Diehl
11 Mark Miller 11 Jim Truncer 16 Paul Basquill
16 Sean Pierson 17 Ryan Rochelle 18 Jed Jesiolowski
18 Matthew Jetzt 19 Daniel Buecher 19 Mark Foulks
20 Michael C. Sullivan 23 Mike Dollear 24 Ann Marie Osnato
25 Philip Patterson 26 Tom Ketcham

December

4 Frank Sardoni 6 Alejandro Roman 7 Marcia Floden
8 Darrin Morrissey 8 Alan Roberts 11 Marcus Novak
12 Mary Naughton 13 Joe Sardonia 14 Jacqueline West
15 Andrew Spears 16 Tanya Dinova 17 Jeff Semanchick
18 Tim Parkans 19 Don Sadowski 21 Francisco Masini
22 Ilona Szabo de Bucs 22 Jeffrey Waybright 23 Justin Dunn
24 Ken Olsen 26 Susan Baranowski 27 Joshua Storch
29 Sarah Bent 29 Kevin Dunn 31 Scott Augun

January

4 Mary Mautner 4 Jen Nixon 5 Diane Elwood 5 Tom Swords
6 Valerie Ferris 9 Pat Cernak 9 Phyllis Malek 9 Joe Smith
12 Keith Heckman 12 Alvin Lopez 12 Beverly Miller
12 Jerry Ostrander 15 Richard Carpenter 16 Kathleen Ferraro
16 Melissa Kelly 16 Paul McCue 17 Jenna Pesano
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
31 Bob Schneider

Oops! The Green Link would like to apologize to Turkey Swamp Park Ranger Russell Finkelson for spelling his name wrong last issue.

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Monmouth County Park System
805 Newman Springs Road
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PRSR STD
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Staff Scenes At The Fair...

Fair Chair Helen Fiore with Maxx, the giant robot; Pat Douglas, Valerie Ferris and the pirate ship parrot take tickets; and an impromptu staff meeting goes on in the background as the Hula Hoop act gets underway. More inside...

