

Green Link



An Employee & Volunteer Newsletter of the Monmouth County Park System

September / October 2008

Happenings... Whew! There have been so many events, improvements and milestones reached in the parks these days, it is almost impossible to keep up with them all. While large events like the Fair and big construction projects like the new roads at Thompson Park attract lots of attention, other projects may slip under the radar. Here are some of the less attention-grabbing happenings that you may not have heard about.

Craft Center Exhibits New Growth

This past June, the Creative Arts Center offered its fourth annual Spring Art Exhibit, featuring work by both students and instructors. Initiated a few years ago by student painters (and instructors) who desired a venue to show their work, it has been growing ever since. It is now a multi-medium show, encompassing works in sculpture, pottery, ceramics, knitting, jewelry, as well as all types of painting.



Check out the crowd for this pottery demo.



Designed for artists to present their work to friends, family and peers, the event now attracts all kinds of other visitors as well. People

came to learn about the Creative Arts Center facility and its programs, see demonstrations, and check out the artwork. Next year, the event will be held again in June.

Pictured are two works from this year's show: the fish necklace (bottom left) was designed by squeezing precious metal clay (yes, clay!) through a syringe-during firing, the clay "melts away" leaving just the fine silver behind. The mask (right) was hand-built by a child-pretty impressive!



Mask

Happy 5th to the CAC

The Urban Recreation Division's Coastal Activity Center in Asbury Park celebrated its five year anniversary at this year's annual end-of-the-year picnic. The CAC hosts an after school recreation program 3 days a week to children grades K-5, and also serves as a gateway to many other park system camps and events.



(l to r) CAC girls: Erika, Mya and Juelle await their turn on the rockwall at the picnic.

In addition to the children and their parents, park staff from other departments and Friends Executive Director Maria Wojciechowski and her daughter came to help out and show their support. Freeholder Barbara McMorrow was also on-hand to help celebrate by hula hooping and



Freeholder McMorrow on the hula hoop

The Statistics Corner

Check out how our attendance numbers stack up against the state's parks and forests.

Use Density (Park Visits Per Acre)

	# of Visits	Area (acres)	Visits Per Acre
MCPS (2007)	5,059,911	14,288	354
NJ State Parks & Forests (2004)	15,600,000	400,000	39

Per Capita (Park Visits Per Person)

	# of Visits	Population	Visits Per Person
MCPS (2007)	5,059,911	655,674	7.7
NJ State Parks & Forests (2004)	15,600,000	8,700,000	1.8

Director's Corner



BEING KIND

Recently, I watched an interview where a successful businessman was asked what contributed most to the success of his business. He replied, "The importance to think of others-we are [all] human beings." To him, success is all about treating others as we ourselves would like to be treated.

Over the past several years, we have made many changes to improve how the public access information about our services and facilities. We made it easier to register for programs online. We updated and improved the quality of our publications and their distribution. As we continue to add more convenient recreational opportunities, and technology continues to change and improve, we should be in an even better position to reach and serve our customers.

Customer service continues to be an important part of providing a valuable experience to park visitors.

Although improvements in technology should create more leisure time, studies show that individuals and working families today actually have less free time, with greater demands on the time that is available. Plus, the number of choices about where to spend that free time has increased. The result is that people have to carefully consider and evaluate how and where they wish to spend their limited free time, and their money.

As we compete for people's free time, customer service will continue to be an important part of providing a valuable and meaningful experience to park visitors. There is also no doubt in my mind that as with other businesses, what our customers think and say about us will, to a large extent, determine how successful we will be.

The most important thing to remember, "Being kind to your customer."

--Founder of Auntie Anne's Pretzels



Jan Galanti and Michele Clampffer of Outdoor Recreation each helped this woman at a recent archery program. As anyone who has ever seen them work can attest--all the staffers in this department are deeply invested in the success and enjoyment of program participants, whether it's shooting an arrow, paddling a kayak or riding a bicycle.

Happenings... continued

climbing the rockwall (with a broken foot, no less!!)-just two of the many activities available that day. After games and a BBQ, all the kids (and many parents) joined Urban Rec staffers for a line dance (above).



Exhibit a "Key Ingredient" at Walnford This Summer

Walnford teamed up with the Smithsonian on a food history exhibit that run successfully from May 31-July 13. It began with a series of launch activities and great press. As the first location on the exhibit tour, Walnford hosted docent training for all the staff throughout the state, as



Crosswicks Creek Park Manager Bill O'Shaughnessy and Historian Matthew Douglas bring the exhibit components into the Waln house.



Walnford Park Manager Sarah Bent installs the exhibit.

well as park staffers. Members of the press attended the exhibit installation, and Friends of the Parks held an ice cream reception to kick off the first weekend.



Park staffers have a laugh with Smithsonian staff and docents during training.

Visitation was up over 40% at Walnford during the exhibit.

Blazing New Trails at Perrineville

Two new trails opened this past summer at Perrineville Lake Park in Millstone Township. With the addition of these trails, people can now visit and access more of the parks 800-plus acres. There are also two new parking lots-one on Baird Rd and another on Agress Rd (pictured, with view of the Lakeside Loop trail), and plenty of adjacent fields and farmlands as scenic buffer. The two new lots join another that provides access



Happenings... continued

to the lake on Perrineville Rd/Sweetman's Lane/Route 1. And, speaking of new trails...the 1.1 mile Country Gait Trail at Huber Woods was officially placed onto the park maps this summer. Did you know? The Park System now has a total of 116 miles of trails.

Here's Looking at You, Kid: Sunnyside Gets Observation Room

In May, park staff celebrated the addition of new space to the Therapeutic Riding Facility at Sunnyside with an Open House. New classrooms, office space and an observation area for parents to watch their children ride mark phase II of this project. Phase I created an indoor riding area so that lessons could be offered year-round. At the Open House, staffers gathered outside to mark the happy occasion.



New facility



(top row, l to r) Equestrian Program Coordinator Pat Bernstein; Instructors Nancy Forsyth and Sue Radcliffe; Head Instructor Liz Haenchen, Instructor Tara Dunford. (bottom, l to r) Equestrian Program Administrator Claire Morris, Stable manager/ Instructor Cindy Ross.

Golf Open House Adds a New Twist

To introduce new golfers to the latest teaching facilities and programs at Charleston Springs Golf Course, staff offered their second annual Open House on June 1st.

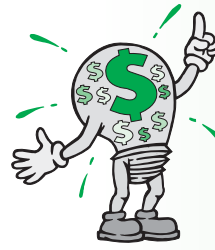


putting lesson



mowing demo

This year, the event included a new feature-demonstrations about course maintenance. Putting lessons given by Manager of Golf Facilities Alan Roberts (photo left), were accompanied by a demo on how the greens are cut by Golf Superintendent Jeremy Schaefer (below left, on the mower) and how the cups are cut by Asst. Superintendent Ryan Ponnwitz (kneeling). Why? Because knowing a thing or two about the types and cuts of grass will ultimately help golfers learn how to putt better.



Win a CASH PRIZE for your cost-saving ideas!

This past May, Monmouth County reinstated an "Employee Suggestion Program" to reward staffers who discover new ways to save the county money. The program will offer the following cash prizes for winning ideas, as a percentage of money saved the first year. For example, if the county saves more than \$1,000 from your idea, it could mean a 10% or \$100 award; savings of \$500 - \$999 could mean a reward of 5% of the first year savings; and savings of \$499 or less results in a certificate.

For a copy of program Rules and Eligibility, along with an Entry Form, please call the Park System Personnel Office at (732) 842-4000, ext. 4219.

WHEN BUTTERFLIES FLUTTER BY, THIS NATURALIST TAKES NOTICE

There was a lovely package awaiting seasonal Naturalist Shannon Evans when she returned for her fifth season with the Park System this past spring. It was an envelope stuffed with paper butterflies (photo) made by children living near a wildlife sanctuary in Mexico. The "traveling" butterflies symbolize the real butterfly migration that occurs between here and there each year, and were part of a *Flight of the Monarchs* program created and run by Shannon last year.



In addition to the joy of seeing parents and children develop an appreciation for these insects as they

develop, Shannon received another special reward for her hard work. One very affectionate subject (pictured) emerged from its cocoon and flew directly up



Shannon and "friend"

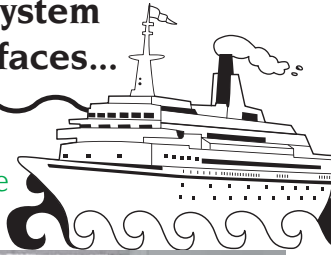


to her face and landed on her check. From there, it traveled to her wrist and then wafted into a nearby tree where it waited and watched for the duration of the program. Shannon was thrilled by the loving display and grateful that her subject hung around, but in the end did what was best for the butterfly...shooed it off the branch and encouraged it to fly away.



STAFF PHOTOS

Continuing our photo directory of the folks at Park System HQ in Thompson Park, here are some more friendly faces...



The Top Brass If the Park System were a ship, here are the officers in charge of charting our course, steering the ship and making sure we stay afloat.



Park System Secretary-Director Jim Truncer (right) with Administrative staffers Sue Madden (left) and Debbie Tamburello (center)



Asst. Director Bruce Gollnick (right) with Administrative Assistant (and this year's Fair Chair) Carol Stasiak.



Superintendent of Parks Dave Compton (seated) and the staff who hold his busy office together: (l to r back) Linda Pugliesi, Jeannie Bezio and Helen Fiore.



Purchasing These staffers navigate the sometimes stormy seas of the bid process to get us our stuff -no easy task!



Assistant Superintendent Bob Cain



Purchasing Assistant Stephanie Weise



Supervising Clerk Typist for Purchasing, Fran Lorelli

Personnel Hiring, managing our benefit and pension files, planning management meetings, and handling work related matters in general, this department ensures that it's smooth sailing for all the park staff...



Director of Personnel, Assistant Superintendent Andrew Spears



Personnel Assistant Nancy Borchert (left) and Clerk Laura Schoeffling (right)





Thank You, Thank You Thank You Thank You
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Thank You!!!

THE VOLUNTEER CORNER—Trails Day June 2008

Volunteers Craig Pierson and John Barrett (pictured, l to r) move this kiosk into a better spot at Turkey Swamp Park. They were part of a crew of 20 dedicated volunteers who braved the extreme heat and humidity to install new trail markers, clean-up brush, close off renegade trails and blaze a new trail at the park's Sandy Run Area. Their efforts are a tremendous help to staff at Turkey Swamp Park, which at 2,111 acres, is by far the Park System's largest property. Afterwards, they were treated to a lunch courtesy of Friends of the Parks.



Volunteers installing kiosk

CONSTRUCTION NEWS & NOTES



- Progress Report: Visitor Center reconstruction continues, on schedule. As of July, the building resembles its predecessor.

VC walls go up



- The new parterre rose garden at Deep Cut is taking shape beautifully. Progress as of June is pictured.

Deep Cut rose garden



- Exhibit renovations were recently completed at Huber Woods Environmental Center and are now open to the public. Our first visitors? Two junior naturalists who made sure to set up the microscope so that the stuffed owl could use it, too!

New Huber exhibits



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 Szemiot
- 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 DePiero
- 26 Ken Herceg • Jim Janeczko
- 27 Chuck Raftery
- 28 Dave Mishkin • Rich Olsen
- 28 Jim Register • George Richdale
- 30 Eric Cadenelli

October

- 1 Bob MacDonald
- 2 Donna Browne
- 7 Joanne Jubert • Skip Supczynski
- 8 Barbara Berry • Amy Pease
- 9 Bill Murray
- 12 Bill Greene
- 13 Bob Duncan • Ron Luepke
- 14 Tom Mullens
- 17 Dawn Clayton • Matt Douglas
- 18 Barry Barone
- 20 David Hollabaugh • Bill Shaffer
- 21 Dave Dellett • Laura Garavuso
- 22 Matt Coleman • Claire Morris
- 23 Terry Grewen
- 26 Kris Bonello
- 27 Jenn Troisi
- 28 Michele Clampffer • Maribeth Gardner
- 29 Kivin Brown

November

- 1 Ivan Gottstein
- 2 Frank Bradford
- 3 Rich Pillar • Paul C. Zimmer
- 4 Susan Liu
- 5 Fran Lorelli • Larry McKenna
- 6 Domenick DeSimone
- 8 Terry Normand
- 11 Tony Eng • Mark Miller
- 11 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 • Christina Miller
- 21 Bob Petrow
- 23 Mike Dollear
- 24 Ann Marie Osnato
- 25 Philip Patterson
- 26 Tom Ketcham • Keith York

Welcome, New Hires:

Diane Hughes, Golf Ranger-Howell Park G.C.	6/14/08
Vincent Maresca, Golf Ranger-Charleston Springs G.C.	6/14/08
Michael Williams Plumber's Helper-Thompson Park C&R	6/23/08
William Diehl Building Maintenance-Thompson Park	6/28/08
Diane Allen Recreation Leader-Deep Cut	6/28/08
Ronald Chevestick Park Ranger-Manasquan Reservoir	7/7/08
Shawn Allen Park Ranger-Dorbrook Rec Area	7/7/08
Edward Dobrosky Park Ranger-Holmdel Park	7/7/08



Ever wonder why so many people enjoy golf?

Here's one reason-the idyllic scenery. These two Mute Swans (a misleading name since they are NOT mute, the cygnets or chicks peep like many small birds and the swans hiss or grunt) enjoy a relaxing swim in a pond at Bel Aire Golf Course, in Wall.

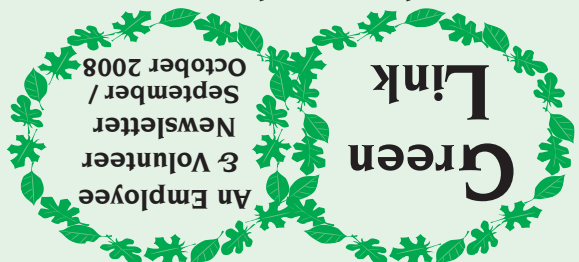


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