



Manasquan Reservoir

September/October 2012

Milestones: Sunnyside Celebrates 10 Years

More than 350 people attended the May 26, 2012 Sunnyside Equestrian Center Open House to celebrate a decade of therapeutic horseback riding programs for individuals with disabilities. The occasion was a true celebration, with pony rides, face-painting, horse demos, caricatures, crafts and more.



Visitors had an opportunity to get a close-up look at the horses. Check out those neck muscles on Skip.



Visitors spent some time with Shy, the 4-year old Mustang.



Pony rides were a big hit. Here, staff and a rider with family are pictured at the staging area, a raised platform for children to comfortably mount the horses. Staff estimate about 125 children had their turn riding a pony at the Open House, many for the first time.

Of course, the caricaturist added horses to his drawings. The visiting artists and entertainers were nice enough to donate their time at this event.

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NEW! A Paddock Paradise

On the subject of encouraging a more natural setting for the horses, Sunnyside staffers are now implementing principles of "Paddock Paradise," a natural boarding concept, at this site. These changes help create a more natural living space and encourage more movement. Slow feeders, for example, encourage more frequent, smaller meals of hay, limit the amount of green grass, and provide horses with freedom of choice about when to eat. Ground surfaces of varied texture (such as pea gravel) help naturally strengthen and condition hooves.



Instructor Stephanie Hunt leads a horse in front of paddocks that are being converted to create a more natural environment for the horses.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



“OUR JOURNEY”

*By Secretary-Director
James J. Truncer*

It has been said that one's life reward is the journey. As you know, last year we passed our 50th year milestone as a legacy organization.

Our success has been due to individuals who –

- Possess talent
- Bought in
- Care about their life's work
- Give of themselves
- Want to make a difference
- Put service above self
- Know that quality is the hallmark of their work
- Know that details are important
- Care about their fellow citizens
- Are observant and good listeners
- Get along with others
- Enjoy what they do
- Don't think of what they do as work

We are, indeed, fortunate to be part of an organization where we can pursue our interests, whether it is as an employee or a volunteer. We can all be proud of what we do each and everyday. We are creating something for our fellow citizens that is of lasting value and permanent good.

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Your interest in and dedication to improving the quality of life for our county's residents is commendable. I know that what we do is also making a difference for our future generations.

We are, indeed, fortunate.

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.”

–Anne Frank



Sky view or ground view, wherever you look in the parks you see something of lasting value and permanent good that we are helping to preserve.

Highlights included plenty of opportunities to learn about the horses. One special presentation by Stable Manager Cindy Ross introduced visitors to the mother-daughter pair of mustangs, Sky Lark and Shy Anne, adopted by the site in 2011. The crowd learned how they are being trained to become comfortable around lessons, children and unexpected noises. They are doing incredibly well with their training, but ultimately only time will tell if they can be used as actual therapy horses.



Sky and Shy, together before the start of their program.



In this herd observation demo, Shy, Beauty and Skip show visitors how horses work out their 'pecking order' in the group through running and playing.

Hard Work Preparing for the Open House

Did you know that Sunnyside is the most active park area in terms of volunteers? The Sunnyside volunteers make up about 20% of the entire Park System volunteer staff. In the weeks leading up to the Open House, they worked extra hard with full time and seasonal staff, Park Rangers, members of the SPUR Board and Friends of the Parks to prepare the facility inside and out.



This smiling group of volunteers took care of the refreshments table: (l to r) Kristen Soldo, Arlene Mascenik, Brittany Baechle, Theresa Astmann.

In a typical week at the Sunnyside Equestrian Center, approximately 70 volunteers work an average of 160 hours to groom and tack more than a dozen horses, and assist with lessons, programs and events.



Volunteers could also be found in just about every corner of the facility, lending a hand: (l to r) Cathy Murray, Barbara Carroll and Kathy Gifford.

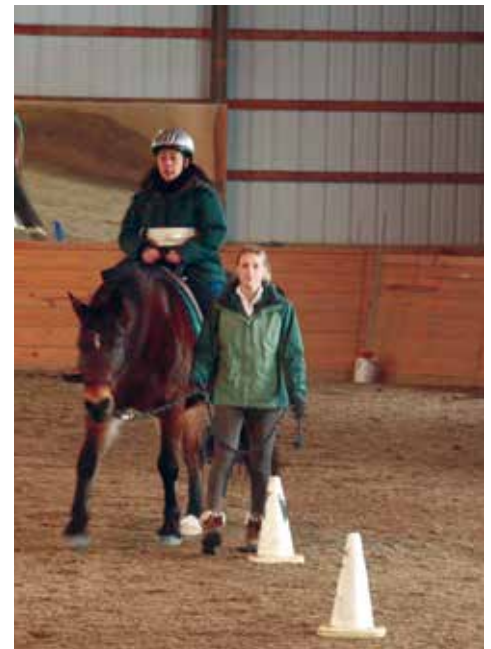
As for the horses, they remained calm and performed the day's activities, according to Cindy, even though the bustling Open House environment was a lot for the horses to handle.

This event was a showcase for Sunnyside's mission and accomplishments, and staff would like to formally acknowledge all the wonderful contributions made by Assistant Superintendent of Recreation, Susan Liu. Susan passed away this past January, "and while she isn't with us anymore in the physical sense, she was here with us in spirit for sure."

Implementing these natural paddock adaptations fits in nicely with Sunnyside's other natural horse care practices such as:

- training with the Parelli method of natural horsemanship;
- converting to shoe-less, natural hoof care;
- maximizing time spent in herd setting;
- minimizing time spent in stalls; and
- creating opportunities for more natural foraging, rest, and herd behavior.

Staff are happy to report that so far, the horses are responding extremely well to these natural approaches; their hooves are getting healthier and stronger, and some horses are no longer overweight. For more information about the basis of creating naturalized paddock environment, visit: www.paddockparadise.com.



Assistant Superintendent of Recreation Susan Liu is pictured riding a horse at Sunnyside in February 2010 for a staff training about the equestrian program.



Volunteers (and sisters) Tiffany and Natalie Tse with Seasonal employee (and former volunteer) Shamma Huq help visitors get festive.

MREC Also Celebrates 10 Years

Last spring, the Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center (MREC) also reached the decade mark, celebrating its 10th Anniversary with a cupcake decorating event at Earth Day.



This was one of Shama's first days of work and she wins the prize for most festive accessory for her heart-shaped sunglasses.

IN THE NEWS...

New Website Design. On June 19th, 2012 our Park System website was updated with a whole new look! The new format increases the amount of information we can share with the public on the homepage, and in general makes information easier to find. The redesign also implements some of the requested changes we have received since our last redesign (in 2008). In general, the website now has a cleaner, more appealing look.



We've Come a Long Way, Baby! Check out our website in 2006 (top left), our redesign in 2008 (bottom left), and our latest revision (right).

Urban Rec Gets Active in Asbury. On a beautiful, sunny Saturday in June, staff from the Urban Recreation Division, with some of their kids from the Coastal Activity Center (CAC) after-school program, participated in BIKE ASBURY PARK, a 4.7 mile, free bike tour of the city. As a provider of recreation in town--with both the CAC and the Mobile Rec. Division--the Park System is a part of this community and showed up in full force and full uniform (check out all those blue shirts!) to support the effort.

Recreation Supervisor Courtney Bison and staffers Courtney Rogers, Nikki Lombardy, Sophia Fils-Aime and Mike Carotenuto with 5 children from the CAC, joined Asbury Park's City Manager and Recreation Department staff, community bike shops in town and nearby, the police and fire department, and others for the ride.



Urban Recreation staff ride.

Mudslide on the HHT. A mud slide occurred on May 21 closing off a portion of the Henry Hudson Trail just east of the Atlantic Highlands Marina (just under the 'big curve' on Ocean Blvd.). It is a site where the trail



HHT Landslide

passes very close to the water, adding an extra element of difficulty to the repair. Nonetheless, the trail re-opened less than a month later, on June 20.

Thompson Park 'En Vogue.' No, really...the park was literally featured in a recent photo shoot for *Vogue* magazine. Amidst the most picturesque surroundings,



Staff from *Vogue* magazine.

professional photo shoots still need to filter the sunshine and tree shadows to create the optimal lighting conditions (note the large screen).

Geraldine Thompson Has Arrived. The Visitor Center is now a stop on the NJ Women's Heritage Trail; there is a new plaque at the beginning of the walkway describing Geraldine Thompson's contributions.



Park Staff Tour Ft. Monmouth Facility. While the final details are being worked out, the Park System remains hopeful to have use of the site's former Youth Center in Tinton Falls for programs in the not too distant future. This building, situated on a 6-acre parcel of land, is complete with recreational amenities, both indoors and out. The Park System also hopes to acquire a total 40 acres of surrounding land.

The 20,500 square ft. center has just about every recreational feature you can imagine, including a full commercial kitchen with indoor and outdoor seating areas, multiple program spaces set



up for different kinds of activities (sports, computers, arts & crafts etc.), offices and storage areas, plus indoor and outdoor basketball courts, to name just a few.

A representative from the Ft. Monmouth Economic Redevelopment Authority (FMERA) with Freeholder Lillian Burry, Secretary-Director Jim Truncer and Rec. Leader Jen Troisi of Sports & Fitness look over the reception area and game tables (foosball, ping pong and bumper pool).



Sports & Fitness Rec. Supervisor Bob Ward, Assistant Director Bruce Gollnick and Jen tour the pool, group picnic shelter and playground.

STAFF PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE PARKS

It would seem that some park employees have an exceptionally attractive work environment, when the work day looks like this...



Deep Cut Rangers Justin Birk and Bryan Whalen walk past a row of brightly colored tulips in April.



Hominy Hill Golf Center Manager Eric Kaplan at the Friends Golf Tournament in May.



Rec Program Coordinator Al Weaver hosts our first campfire program of the season at Turkey Swamp Park in June. The Full Moon Howl regaled campers and visitors (programs are open to everyone) with tales of lycanthropes (werewolves). Visitor Services staff offer a different program every Saturday night at this site, all summer long.



A Leaning Tower No More...

At Hartshorne Woods Park, Claypit Creek's semi-famous leaning silo was recently removed, along with a few other buildings, as part of ongoing demolition at this site completed by our staff from Operations and Maintenance. You may recall this silo was previously featured in the Green Link (May/June '08) when carpenters attached a rope to stabilize the tilted structure.



Claypit Creek's leaning silo and shed before and after (that's the Carriage House in the background, currently used for storage).



A close-up inside the demolished silo, shows how it was built.

Once a gentleman's farm, Claypit Creek is now a beautiful waterfront parcel on a tributary to the Navesink connecting Huber and Hartshorne Woods Parks. It originally contained about a dozen structures, many in a state of disrepair including the Fischer-Stern residence, a pump house, the mill house, various sheds, chicken coops and a dairy barn to which the leaning silo was originally attached. Now, three structures remain: the restored Carriage House which is used for storage, a well, and the ice house.



Millhouse before

Sr. Park Ranger Steve Clayton and Park Ranger Andrew Wehmann expertly handled the demolition so that certain portions of the house could be preserved. Here, Steve stands beside the stone wall.



The Millhouse during demolition, note the ivy covered stone wall.

A Stone Wall Preserved

This project included partial salvage of the oldest portions of the mill house (late 18th C) to be retained for historic purposes. The old stone wall and foundation will be incorporated into a novel kiosk structure, the first of its kind in the Park System.

Some more trivia about the Claypit Creek section of Hartshorne Woods: this land once housed a mill (much smaller than the one at Walnford) and the terminal stop of the Atlantic Highlands Railroad line.



Picnic near the Navesink River. The Claypit Creek Section of Hartshorne Woods has a new picnic tent that can accommodate up to 75 people; however much larger events have been held on other parts of this 44-acre site.

NEW THIS SUMMER! Park System Adds Another Two Group Picnic Rental Sites

Now that the Claypit Creek section of Hartshorne Woods Park has been cleared of all its old buildings, it is a pristine locale to have an outdoor occasion. As such, it is one of two new rental sites (three, if you count the Thompson Park shelter that opened in the Spring) for group picnics in the parks.

The other is...



Picnic on the ocean. Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park can accommodate up to 50 people.

Friends, Volunteers & Board Members In The Parks, Too

Staffers aren't the only people at work in the parks.



Commissioner Fred Rummel and Board Chairman Ed Loud with Assistant Director Bruce Gollnick on a tour introducing new Freeholders and park staff to the parks. The tour stopped at Fisherman's Cove Conservation Area, which is online for some major bulkhead work this fall.



Friend and fiddler Pete Brady serenades visitors (and the horses) with old tunes at the Sunnyside Open House.



When the trails at Turkey Swamp Park needed some TLC, the volunteer trails team came out to get the job done. Here Eric Dalton, Ellen Terry, Werner Aehlich and Alicia Baylock clear a trail that was beginning to grow over with grass and weeds.

Welcome New Hires!

John Carey, County Park Ranger at Monmouth Cove Marina June 4, 2012

Diane Brickle, Clerk, Reservations at Thompson Park July 2, 2012

Congratulations & Farewell, Retiree!

Betty Fish, Payroll, Thompson Park July 1, 2012 (after almost 20 years)

OOPS... The Green Link apologizes to Senior Carpenter Joey DePierro (that's DePierro with an "e" at the beginning, not an "i") for spelling his name incorrectly not once, but twice last issue.

We're also sorry to the following volunteers for spelling their names incorrectly in the Tools of the Trade article: Maury Mangan, Gerry Lingner, Werner Aehlich, Barbara Trouwborst, Chris Creighton, Steve Rosati, Kim Daly, James Moller and Dion Mircoff.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

September

1 Patrick Vivalo 2 Michele Demaree 3 Diane Allen
3 Ronald Bomma 3 Kelly Cole 4 Lauren Gerber 5 Justin Birk
5 Wayne Connolly 5 Angela Kochon 6 Howard Dombroski
7 David Whalen 10 Brad Bradach 10 Jim Mowczan
10 Jeff Wyant 11 Susan Stafford-Smith 11 Mark Szemiot
11 Susan Williams 13 Emerald Platzer 16 Carol Hobbs
16 Tom Petraglia 17 Mark Borchert 19 Edward Docker
19 Katie Stone 23 Robert Morris 25 Joe DePierro 26 Ken Herceg
26 Jim Janeczko 27 Chuck Raftery 28 Dave Mishkin
28 Jim Register 28 George Richdale 30 Eric Cadenelli

October

1 Bob MacDonald 2 Mike Alfano 4 Jeffrey Ward 4 Gary Waters
7 Paul Bagdanov 7 Patrick Killeen 7 Skip Supczynski
8 Barbara Berry 8 Amy Pease 9 Bill Murray 13 Ron Luepke
14 Tom Mullens 15 Shea Gilliland 15 Tom Sheehan
17 Dawn Clayton 17 Matt Douglas 18 Barry Barone
20 David Hollabaugh 20 Bill Shaffer 21 Dave Dellett
21 Laura Garavuso 22 Matt Coleman 22 Claire Morris
23 Terry Grewen 27 Rocco Mayo 27 Jenn Troisi
28 Michele Clampffer 28 Maribeth Gardner 29 Kivin Brown

November

1 Ivan Gottstein 2 Frank Bradford 3 Rich Pillar 3 Paul Zimmer
5 Fran Lorelli 11 Bill Diehl 11 Tony Eng 11 Mark Miller
11 Jim Truncer 16 Paul Basquill 16 Sean Pierson
17 Ryan Rochelle 18 Jed Jesiolowski 19 Daniel Buecher
19 Mark Foulks 19 John Wallace 21 Christina Miller
23 Mike Dollear 24 Ann Marie Osnato 25 Philip Patterson
26 Tom Ketcham

Green Link



An Employee &
Volunteer Newsletter
of the Monmouth County Park System

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

September/October 2012

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
MONMOUTH CO.
PARK SYSTEM

Wild Wildlife In The Parks



Foxes! Kit, cub or pup...whatever you call them, these young red foxes at the Manasquan Reservoir are very cute. Spotted by Assistant Park Superintendent Tom Fobes near the main dam entrance on Southard Rd. one evening in early May, he returned the next day and got this gorgeous photo.



Kissing Koi. In April, these two Koi were caught canoodling in the Deep Cut pond.