



Tatum Park

September/October 2013

## Park System Adds 4<sup>th</sup> Site To National Register Of Historic Places

In 2012, the Park System applied for and was granted its fourth listing on the National Register of Historic Places for Portland Place, a historic site on the Navesink River. Now part of Hartshorne Woods Park, the 4.7 acre property was bequeathed to the Park System in 2008 by its former owner and Hartshorne family descendant Daniel Ward Seitz.

Portland Place joins three other Park System historic sites—can you name them? The first two are obvious, Historic Walnford and Historic Longstreet Farm. The third, if you think about it, might become obvious as well. Consider these hints: it's the oldest building in the Park System (first section was built in the 1720s); it is located near the water; and it is often called by another name that's discouraged by park historians. It is the Seabrook-Wilson House, newly renamed the Bayshore Activity Center.



The front of the house at **Portland Place** faces the water (top). The back faces the street (left); that's the driveway in the foreground.



Portland Place also has this **Carriage House** near the road. Built in the early 1900s in the Craftsman/Colonial Revival Style, it was originally used to house the horses and carriages for residents and visitors, and was later converted into an apartment and storage.

### What is the "National Register," Anyway?

Administered by the National Park Service, The National Register is the nation's official list of places that are significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering or culture. Congress established the National Register in 1966 to promote historic preservation and protect historically significant properties threatened by publicly funded projects such as highways. Prior to the National Register for example, Philadelphia, New Haven and other coastal cities lost many irreplaceable historical properties during construction of I-95. To be included on this list, a historic site or building must go through a process of nomination and approval to meet one or more of the following criteria:

Continued, page 3

# DIRECTOR'S CORNER



## “Being Friendly”

This past May, Ramona and I were fortunate to be able to travel for two weeks in Spain and southern France. Ramona particularly likes to visit France as she is proud of her family's French heritage and our visit provided her with an opportunity to practice her French.

When talking about our trip, several people made the comment that they understand the French were not particularly friendly. What I observed, however, was quite the contrary, especially when you attempt to speak their language with a smile and a “good day” greeting (*bonjour*). Taking the time to exchange pleasantries makes a world of difference with the French. Interestingly, many of the French—and for that matter other Europeans that cater to travelers—are English speaking. The fact that you take the time to engage in conversation before asking a question or buy an item brings forth a very positive response.

*Our ability to develop friendly, on-going relationships with our customers will go a long way in providing positive, memorable experiences.*

Unfortunately, in our culture we often seem to be in a hurry and forget the niceties of conversation and the enjoyment of the moment. There certainly is something to be said for taking the time to smell the roses. Our ability to engage our customers and develop friendly on-going relationships with them will, in my opinion, go a long way in providing positive, memorable experiences. I also observed in our travels that a well placed “if you please” (*sil vous plait*) and “thank you” (*merci*) is welcomed and appreciated no matter where you may be.

Being helpful, friendly and polite with a smile can go a long way in how others react and see us.

**“I have learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”**

*—Maya Angelou, American Author and Poet*



*All Smiles. Courtesy can help our visitors have a truly enjoyable experience in the parks, especially if it is their first time. (left) Liz Huntington leads a rider at the Sunnyside Open House; Marcia Floden (top right) answers questions at the Deep Cut Open House and Sue Provost (bottom right) guides visitors off a boat ride at the Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center.*

### National Register Criteria

These are buildings or sites that have integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, association, and:

- A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. That are associated with the lives of significant persons in our past; or
- C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

Source: Edited from [www.nps.gov/history/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb15/nrb15\\_2.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb15/nrb15_2.htm)

### The Historic Value of Portland Place

While the name 'Portland Point' originated in this area around the mid 1600s and the Hartshornes were among the earliest English settlers, this particular property did not come into Hartshorne-family ownership until 1720-1738. The Hartshorne family owned Portland Place for most, but not all, of the intervening years until its donation in 2008.

Portland Place is significant primarily for its well-preserved architecture, embodying several early building traditions in Monmouth County. Like many older buildings in the Park System, the main house was built in multiple sections over time with each representing a different period and method of construction. First was an early 1700s Dutch-frame cottage that is now the dining room in the middle of the house, followed by a large, two-story Georgian-style addition built in 1788.



This porch (right) was part of an early 1900s expansion. The oldest sections are in the center of the house.

The third was a late 19th and early 20th century expansion on either end as the structure transitioned from farmhouse into a country estate.

In addition to the honor and protections of the National Register, listing also helps ensure eligibility for historic preservation grants. Several million dollars of grant funding have helped to restore Historic Walnford, Longstreet Farm and the Bayshore Activity Center. In fact, Historic Walnford received the largest amount of grant money ever awarded by the NJ Historic Trust.



One photo just isn't enough to do justice the views of the Navesink from Portland Place. The lawn leads to the river (top), while sunlight and a passing fishing boat add to the mesmerizing view (right).



### Last But Not Least: A View Like No Other

No discussion of Portland Place would be complete without mention of its spectacular views. The lawn of this house rolls onto a bluff overlooking the Navesink River. Many of the properties in and around Hartshorne Woods Park are known for their beautiful landscapes and these scenic qualities have been celebrated by writers and painters for centuries.

Even a few park staffers who are accustomed to beautiful vistas have gasped upon first seeing the view from Portland Place. Perhaps Park Historian Gail Hunton, who worked on our National Register nomination and is familiar with the artwork inspired by these views, described it best when she posited, "And, how lucky are we to have a piece of that?"

The residents of Monmouth County can look forward to site access in the not too distant future as the first phase of restoration is scheduled to begin this fall. Until the work is complete, however, the site remains closed to the public.



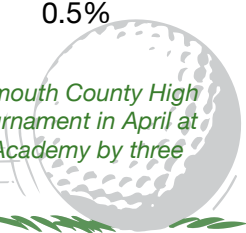
## Who Is Using Our Golf Courses?

Most of our golfers purchase an ID card to receive discounted greens fees and access the online tee-time reservation system which lets us track who is using our courses. (Note: We aren't able to track who uses the parks in the same way). Here are the golf course usage numbers for 2012:



- County Residents 77.3%
- Non-residents 19.1%
- No-Fee Golfers 3%  
(Golf Matches/Activity Card)
- Program Golfers 0.5%  
(Tournaments)

*They make up less than 1% of our golfers, but the teams competing in the Monmouth County High School Championship provided some great photos while warming up for the tournament in April at Hominy Hill. Both undefeated, Rumson beat out the favored Christian Brothers Academy by three strokes (317 vs. 320).*



## Flotsam And Jetsam: Volunteers Continue Clean Up After That Messy Gal Sandy

Many park properties along the water took a beating during Superstorm Sandy, experiencing both erosion and an onslaught of wayward debris. From broken boardwalks and docks, to all manner of nautical (and non-nautical) debris, a crew of park staff with 31 volunteers had their hands full at an Earth Day clean-up this past April along the Navesink River at Blackfish Cove and adjacent properties near Hartshorne Woods Park. The newly clean shoreline is a testament to their hard work.



*Volunteer Mandy Hintelmann and a crew of 30 other dedicated volunteers haul Sandy debris from this property along the Navesink shoreline.*



*Volunteer Katha Larity takes out a tire.*



*Volunteer Bill Gerwer carts away this channel marker.*



*Volunteers Lucas Henar, Jill Marie Chambers, Joan Meyer and others dig in and begin removing debris from last October's storm.*



*Volunteer Gerry Lingner holds a...well, we aren't sure what this is, but there sure was a lot of it.*



*Hartshorne Ranger Greg Alexander and Principal Park Ranger Tom Dillon were on site to help remove debris and ultimately, haul it off site.*

# STAFF PHOTOS

We have a lot to catch up on in this feature as some of our spring photos did not fit into the last issue. And of course, now there are even more...



**We're Climbing the Walls!** Staff from **Outdoor Adventures** does a team-bonding exercise in March as part of their pre-season training that involves, quite literally, having one staffer scale the wall while others support the effort.



**Soggy But Smiling.** A very rainy **Outdoor Expo** in May did not damper the spirits of staff at the Fishing Derby. They are (l to r) Naturalist Sam Skinner, retired Principal Naturalist Doug Krampert and Program Staff Naturalist Art Firman at Turkey Swamp Park.



**Keepin' It Scenic.** Park Ranger Frank Sardon and Senior Park Ranger Phil Patterson maintain the grounds at **Holmdel Park** in April.



**Easier for Us, Than Most?** In April, 32 employees participated in a 1.5 or 2 mile walk for **National Walk at Lunch Day in Thompson Park**. Here's some food for thought: our staff simply had to walk out the front door to exercise. Doesn't that makes you wonder what other workers have to go through just to squeeze in a dose of daily exercise? (l to r) Ken Thoman and Gail Hunton of A&D, Andrew Spears of Visitor Services and Anna Luiten of A&D.



**Everything's Coming Up Roses...** June is THE month to view the rose parterre at **Deep Cut Gardens**, carefully tended by Ranger Greg Shannon. We know a few staffers came out to see them at the Open House on June 9, and hopefully more visitors got there early, before the back to back rain storms pummeled the newly opened blooms.



**A Fish Cove Finish.** Once the final step in the bulkhead restoration along the Manasquan River at **Fisherman's Cove Conservation Area** was completed in May, staff from the town, county and state came out to celebrate the finished project. (l to r) Tom Nicastro, Superintendent of Department of Public Works in Manasquan; Spence Wickham, Monmouth County Park System's Chief of Acquisition and Design; Jim Hannon of Bird Construction; Jenna Scott, NJDEP Environmental Engineer; Debbie Voelbel, NJDEP Coastal Engineering; Serena DiMaso, Monmouth County Freeholders Deputy Director; Edward J. Loud, Board of Recreation Chairman; Lillian G. Burry, Monmouth County Freeholder; John P. Curley, Monmouth County Freeholder; George Dempsey, mayor of Manasquan; and John Winterstella, former mayor of Manasquan.



**Post-Repair, A New Season.** Also at **Fisherman's Cove Conservation Area** (but a few weeks earlier) Senior Park Manager Drew D'Appolito removes the old kiosk poster about the bulkhead repair project (because it was completed) to install a new poster detailing wildlife habitat conservation efforts at the site. It is hoped a strong wildlife preservation message will encourage visitors to keep their dogs leashed.

## Heavy Equipment Skills, Outstanding; Fashion Sense, Not So Much

After a long, cold, windy winter spent outside all day hauling sand and fixing Superstorm Sandy damage, members of the special crew selected for repair work at **Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park** were really looking forward to the warm weather. As soon as the temperature hit the 60s (°F) in early May they broke out their summer gear. Unfortunately these staffers came from more remote or inland park areas, and (apparently) there was no one around to explain the finer points of beach attire...



**Fashion Sense (of Humor, that is)!** The special crew working at Seven Presidents may not know how to dress, but they sure knew how to get our damaged beach back together in time for Memorial Day...and have a laugh while they were at it. (l to r) Rangers Mike Towle of Turkey Swamp Park; Pat Becker formerly of Manasquan Reservoir now stationed at the beach, Scott Simpson of Holmdel Park and Jason Miller of Hartshorne Woods.

**This Old House: Holland Activity Center.** This 7,000 sq. ft. building at Tatum Park is used for programs, meetings, offices, and rentals. Original portions date back to around 1800, making it well over 200 years old. Donated to the county in 1973 along with 73 acres, the former Tatum home retains plenty of original features which now require attention. It underwent Phase I of renovations this past spring/summer to make structural repairs and improvements for code and continued use. Here are some highlights...



*Exterior renovations kept the original architectural base structure while removing later additions such as an enclosed porch (right) and wings (left) features that weren't really serving any purpose.*



*Some portions of the original stone foundation underneath the house needed re-pointing [that's when the crumbling old mortar is removed (left) and re-filled with new mortar (right)].*



*Other portions of foundation had to be removed altogether, and rebuilt from scratch. This kind of major structural work required temporary steel beams to support the south corner of the house while work got underway (A). The old foundation was replaced with this rebar-enforced, concrete footing (B) followed by a new concrete block wall (C). Note how the stone masons expertly 'joined' new wall to old. They also topped the new wall with salvaged old stones so no one would notice repairs from the outside.*



## Wild Wildlife



### Practice Makes Perfect.

This **barred owl** has appeared on these pages before, but each time it does, the photo quality goes up. It is rare in the first place to get an owl photo during daylight, but this excellent shot

taken in May at Hartshorne Woods Park and provided by Steve Matthews reflects talent with a camera as well as some genuine 'owl-whisperer' skills. The photo has captured the owl's most noteworthy features according to the very well-respected Cornell Lab of Ornithology (website): its very dark, "soulful brown eyes" and striped chest plumage.

### Just Hanging Out.



This **northern grey tree frog** was perched on the hand railing just as you cross over the ponds in front of MREC, around noon one day in May. After the photo was taken by Naturalist Susan Harasty, the frog was relocated to a more private tree.

### From This Angle.



Longstreet Farm seasonal staffer Rich Leonard holds this new **spring lamb** so that visitors may get a chance to see it up close. From this perspective, you can see the unique shape of a lamb's hoof. Did you know? The two digits of cloven hoofed animals like cattle, deer and sheep are comparable to the 3rd and 4th fingers on the hand. Also, the bottom is like a callous and the sides are like fingernails which need to be trimmed a few times a year.

# NEW Programs In The Parks



On April 27, Cultural Services sponsored the Park System's first **Craft Show at Tatum Park**. Held in conjunction with the Deep Cut Plant Swap across the street, it was hoped visitors could enjoy a double dose of park activities, with refreshments



**Concerts in the Parks.** Visitors were invited to join us (bring a lawnchair or take advantage of inside seating) for a concert in the parks June 6 at 7:30pm in Thompson Park. The Colts Neck Community Band must have been a good idea, because about 160 people showed up to hear them!



## Farewell, Retirees!

July 1, 2013

**Craig Fraser**, Senior County Park Ranger, Nearly 40 years of service in many parks over the years, most recently at Shark River but his longest tenure served (over 10 years) was at Turkey Swamp Park

**Nick Samaras**, Golf Ranger, 10 years of service, Howell Park Golf Course

**Gary Johnson**, Greenskeeper, 7 years of service, Charleston Springs Golf Course

## Welcome New Hires!

**Jennafir Antonaccio** - Recreation Leader, Longstreet Farm, July 1, 2013

## 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 Connelly 5 Angela Kochon  
6 Howard Dombroski 7 David Whalen 10 Jim Mowczan  
10 Jeff Wyant 11 Susan Stafford-Smith 11 Mark Szemiot  
11 Susan Williams 13 Emerald Platzer 16 Tom Petraglia  
17 Mark Borchert 19 Edward Docker 19 Katie Stone  
22 Elizabeth Hennessy 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 Michael 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 16 James Curry 17 Dawn Clayton  
18 Barry Barone 20 David Hollabaugh 20 Bill Shaffer  
21 Dave Dellest 21 Laura Garavuso 22 Matt Coleman  
22 Claire Morris 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  
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  
20 Michael C. Sullivan 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 2013

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
MONMOUTH CO.  
PARK SYSTEM



## Picture-Perfect

If you don't play golf, this is the kind of photo that makes you wish you did. Staff photographer Maribeth Gardner periodically visits our parks and golf courses to capture features during optimal conditions and/or weather. And, what could be more perfect than a visit to Hominy Hill on a cool, sunny afternoon in May?