



Thompson Park

January/February 2012

## The Show Must Go On: Hurricane Irene

When a hurricane hits at the end of a busy summer season (in this case Saturday, August 27, 2011) there's certainly a lot to do. From program cancellations and building closures through clean-up and repair, Irene had staff working around the clock.



*There are a seemingly infinite number of ways that wind can damage a tree. Here are just a few examples from Huber and Hartshorne Woods.*

This was especially true at the Monmouth Cove Marina, where the crew worked feverishly to haul out

80 boats and place them on stands or in the racks, something that normally takes many weeks. (And, after Irene passed, many returned to put their boats right back in the water!) Marina staff received multiple letters of commendation and thanks from happy customers for their super-human effort.

*Ranger Sean Ramsey (left) and Seasonal Zack Friedman (right) put one of the boats hauled out for the hurricane back in the water. This heavier boat was moved with overhead slings, and a forklift.*



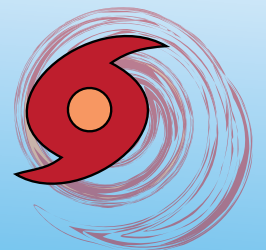
## It Was a Dark & Stormy Night

Irene was a large, intense storm that hit after dark on Saturday and continued through Sunday morning, with significant wind gusts continuing until Sunday night. And while many of us were at home watching forecasts and hoping for the best, the staff at Sunnyside Equestrian Center stayed the whole night tending to the horses. By Monday, the worst was over and staff began the clean up and repair.



*Shark River Seasonal Ranger Derek Masiola sweeps up tree limbs and debris on Monday, which was surprisingly clear & sunny.*

Many areas experienced some type of flooding in and around the major roads leading to the parks, while others had more substantial on-site flooding and minor building damage. There were also major fallen trees and limbs, and downed power lines at many sites. Many employee homes were also without power.



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# DIRECTOR'S CORNER



## “Citizen Involvement”

I recently overheard a discussion about the Wall Street protests going on around the country. Someone said that one of the reasons for the protests—

besides healthcare, jobs and the economy—was that people have been treated as customers, and not as citizens by our society. Their point was that customers are only consumers with no other obligation, while citizenship brings with it the responsibility to be involved, to contribute and be an active part of society.

Later, during an interview with a reporter at a protest in Denver, a young professional woman said that our government should be made up of citizens who take turns representing their community as part of their civic duty. After listening to these comments, it seemed to me that the individuals who spoke felt that citizens need to be more directly involved in deciding their country's future.

Historically, the public parks and recreation, open space and historic preservation movements have been the result of citizen activism, with the accompanying donation of time and money to accomplish a public good.

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Geraldine Thompson's desire to see Brookdale Farm become a county park is certainly a good local example. Fortunately, other county citizens also donated property, money and their time in support of this park system.

The county parks are, indeed, fortunate to have a policy-making Board made up of citizens who volunteer their time. Non-profit citizen organizations such as Special People United to Ride, the Monmouth Conservation Foundation, and the Friends of the Parks actively support and contribute to our facilities and services. Park System volunteers help make many of our park improvements and programs possible.

Without citizen participation and support, we would not have the quality of life—or the beautiful parks—we enjoy today. Citizen involvement is, without question, an important part of our society now, and to a great extent, will help shape what we leave for future generations.

**“A man does not plant a tree for himself; he plants it for posterity.”** —Alexander Smith  
Scottish Poet

*The Show Must Go On...continued*



*As a heavily wooded site near the Navesink River, staff at Harts-horne Woods had a particularly difficult time getting around in Irene's aftermath. The road leading to their maintenance area was flooded, and many large trees came down across park trails and nearby roadways.*

## Most Sites Re-open Right Away, Except...

All the parks re-opened by Monday, except the following facilities, which had more serious damage/safety issues:

- Bayshore Waterfront Park—damage to the fishing pier
- Dorbrook Sprayground—umbrellas damaged
- Turkey Swamp Park—our largest park, staff had plenty of area to cover before clearing the park to re-open
- Seven Presidents Park—our busiest park during summer, staff had to check operations and secure all hazards before reopening
- Henry Hudson Trail—at 24 miles long, this trail took time to assess for erosion and tree damage

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- Huber Woods Park—damage to the Environmental Center, from top to bottom, held up this site’s re-opening
- Holmdel Park—another busy site with many facilities, staff assessed each area before cleaning for safety
- Historic Walnford—inaccessible due to extreme flooding

The golf courses had a few special issues of their own. All experienced some flooding, and there was plenty of tree damage. However, by Tuesday, all the courses were open except Pine Brook (erosion on the cart path and downed trees), albeit with a few restrictions:



*This crane removes a large tree from the roof of the Huber Woods Environmental Center.*

- A soggy Hominy Hill re-opened at 10am the for cart paths only—this site recorded 8.6 inches of rainfall!



*This is what the fairway looked like on the 14th hole at Hominy Hill.*

- Charleston Springs South course had over 23 downed trees, 17 of which were on areas of play.
- Shark River was open, but no carts were allowed.
- Bel-Aire was open, however, the annual Monmouth County Youth Golf Tournament was cancelled.

- The Manasquan River flooded and damaged the road near the entrance to Howell Park Golf Course, making the course inaccessible. Staff had to create a semi-complicated detour via the Maintenance Area.



*The flooded bridge on Preventorium Rd, entrance to Howell Park Golf Course*



*This is what Preventorium Rd looked like after flood-waters receded.*

### **On-Going Repairs**

The worst of the Park System’s building damage was limited to the mill equipment at Historic Walnford (which as of this writing is open but not yet operational/awaiting repairs), and building and basement clean up due to flooding throughout the parks. Erosion on the brand new Union Transportation Trail pushed back the opening date for the newly completed miles 3 and 4 to November.



*Historic Walnford staff prepared this poster to explain hurricane damage and the non-operational mill at Walnford Day, October 2.*



*Erosion on the new section of the Union Transportation Trail.*

# Seasonal Employees Recognized For First Time at 2011 Employee Reception

Since many of our dedicated seasonal employees are now reaching major service milestones, we put them on deck for pin awards in 2011 (in blue, below). Of course, dozens of full-time employees were “pinned” as well, and staffers who put in the extra effort were honored for their achievements.

## The Service Awards: Pin Recipients



**5 Years:** (front, l to r) Dawn Clayton, Michelle Clampffer, Sarah Duterte, Timothy Parkans, Jean Kline, Andrew Wehmann, Marcus Novak. (back, l to r) David Hollabaugh, Keith Bennett, Albert Picerno, Ivan Gottstein, Steven Moraghan, Robert Kolczynski. **Not pictured:** Gary Johnson, William Oakes, Ryan Ponnwitz, Anthony Ribera, and Eric Testa.



**15 Years:** (front, l to r) Valerie Ferris, Russell Anderson, Norman Nelson (15 years), and Sarah Bent. (back, l to r) Timothy Mariner, Edward Olsen (16 Years), Benjamin Tomaino (16 years), John Sheridan. **Not pictured:** Tony Eng, Robert Petrow, Chester Scalzo, Ralph Tesoriero (15 years).



**10 Years:** (front, l to r) Maribeth Gardener, Adam Lewandowski (12 Years), Michelle Tomaino (13 Years), Barry Barone, Karen Livingstone, Cheryl Stoeber-Goff, Heng Chin. (back, l to r) William Leshick (14 Years), Ralph Herrmann (12 years), William Stevenson, Clifford Henry (13 years), Thomas Mullens, Edward Zarella. **Not pictured:** Peter D'Angelo, Aileen Desiata, Regina DeVeau, Carol Hobbs, Eric Kaplan, Robert Lauser, Michelle Maggio, Mark Miller, Philip Patterson, Susan Provost, Charles Raftery, Karen Rutt, Chin-Ling Chang (11 years), Donato, Trezza (11 years), Jennie Andras (11 years), Patrick Tobia (11 years), Edward Keiser (12 years), James Quigley (13 years), James Vacchiano (13 years), Robert LaFalce (13 Years), Charles Griffin (14 Years).



**20 Years:** (front, l to r) Maryann Elwood, Janet Ryan, Donna Baginsky (20 years), Helene Megna (21 years), Chris Plantamura. (back, l to r) Ralph Johnson, Stephen Matthews, Andrew Nunes-Vais, Michael Fowler (23 years). **Not Pictured:** John Venino (23 years)



**25 Years:** Gail Hunton, Scott Schaaf, Stephanie Becker. **Not Pictured:** Scott Augun, Susan Liu



**30 Years:** *Shelagh McCarthy*



**35 Years:** *James Foligno, Mary Naughton, Frank Biddle. Not Pictured: Bradford Rogers*



**40 Years:** *Spencer Wickham and Bruce Gollnick*

## The Superstars: Employees Honored for Achievement in 2011



**Outstanding Customer Service Urban Recreation** (l to r): *Courtney Bison, Matt Chalupski, Ann Marie Osnato*



**Innovation Award** *James Butler of Sports & Fitness & Janette Galanti of Outdoor Adventures (not pictured)*



**Above and Beyond** *Jeffrey Semanchick of Charleston Springs Golf Course (left, with award presenter Keith Bennett) and Construction Inspector Stephen Matthews (right)*



**Leadership** *Faith Hahn of A&D & Barbara Reeves (not pictured)*



**Community Service Senior** *Naturalist Joseph Reynolds (left, pictured with award presenter Karen Jarmucz)*



**Heroism Award** *Hartshorne Woods Senior Ranger Alison Petruzzo & Senior Naturalist Samuel Skinner*



**Rookie of the Year** *Coordinator of Volunteers Melissa Kelly*



**Ranger Image** *Dorbrook Senior Ranger Nicholas Podsvirow (right, pictured with award presenter Paul McCue)*



**County Fair Spirit Award** *Recreation Supervisor and this year's fair chair Rachel Cohen*

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## The following employees were also recognized with certificates for their hard work in 2011:



**Outstanding Supervisor:** Shark River Golf Center Manager Tom Ketcham, whose staff also recently received a customer letter commending their friendly service and Asst. Superintendent of Recreation Susan Liu (not pictured).



**Outstanding Employee:** Patty Burke of Accounts Payable



**Outstanding Team Effort:** Monmouth Cove Marina & Bayshore Waterfront Park (l to r) Seasonal Ralph Herrmann, Steve Moraghan, Bill Stevenson, Andy Nunes-Vais and Chris Davidson.



**Outstanding Team Effort:** Hominy Hill Golf Course Maintenance (l to r) Tim Mariner, Jeff Faistl and Seasonal Eric Darby. Purchasing Department (not pictured)

## Ranger Staff Undergo “Ethical Warrior” Training

This past fall, more than 20 park rangers and managers underwent a highly specialized 3-day training course in conflict resolution. Offered by a company called RGI, the program was taught by instructors with experience in corrections, law enforcement, martial arts, medicine, and the military. Using a dual approach of “powerful” stories from the field combined with hands-on training, our park rangers were taught the way of the “ethical protector.” That



*Ranger Darrin Morrissey tests his fitness level by doing squats with Ranger Steve Moraghan on his back. Among other things, this exercise illustrates that you may be capable of more than you thought, when working as a team.*

is, they received instruction on how to engage with the public in such a way that they can handle any situation—from friendly to hostile—in the most humane and respectful way possible.

Since our rangers do not carry a firearm, the training was tailored for unarmed defense. To calm down a potentially hostile situation using just words, they practiced “verbal judo” and “how to listen well and listen more,” according to Principal Park Ranger Travis Bryan, an attendee. “This allows you to read people better,” he continued, “and avoid having to go to the next level of enforcement.”

However, if a situation does escalate and you “can’t talk your way out,” the rangers were also taught some very effective and “amazingly simple” self defense moves, according to Park Ranger Bill Vaughn. “We learned how our gestures can inadvertently escalate someone,” he said, “and how to quickly stabilize an aggressor.” The rangers were also given tips on how to be respectful even with very difficult people and maintain a “professional attitude no matter who we are dealing with.”



*Park Rangers Mike Towle (left) and Pat Becker (right) learn a self-defense move to prevent an aggressor from getting in your space.*



*Senior Rangers Paul Basquil (left) and Don Davison (right), practice technique to use when an aggressor has broken into your space, and is coming at you.*

In addition to self defense, the rangers also got to test their fitness level, but “at their own pace” according to Senior Park Ranger Paul Basquil. On day 3, they were paired up with a partner of similar height and build for strength training exercises to see what kind of shape they were in. While not really a competition, having a partner helped them try a little harder than they might have otherwise, and Paul reported he (and others) were sore for days afterward from the effort.

In total, Travis, Bill and Paul all said it was an excellent course and not only would they take it again, they would recommend it for all the other rangers—especially new ones.

## Kudos & Letters of Praise

### Staff who worked the 10th Anniversary - September 11th Ceremony

received many special thanks for making this year's event such a memorable occasion.



*Mt. Mitchell stayed open for evening hours so those wishing to honor loved ones could do so under the stars with candles and a night time view of the NYC skyline.*



**Deep Cut Gardens** was named the Asbury Park Press 2011 Readers' Choice Winner for One of the Best Koi Ponds and Water Gardens in Monmouth County. The county received a certificate of acknowledgement.

*Water pools beneath the weeping hemlocks at Deep Cut Gardens reflect beautiful colors of fall foliage.*

The parent of a lifeguard at **Seven Presidents** wrote a beautiful letter praising Spike Fowler's training program at the site saying it was "one of the best summer jobs a parent could ever imagine for their son." She noted both the extensive rescue and safety training the lifeguards received as well as the daily physical conditioning.



*With 1/4 million visits to this beach site each summer, it's a good thing our lifeguards at Seven Presidents receive such professional and rigorous training.*

Finally, the golf staff at both Pine Brook and Bel-Aire were acknowledged for quickly and professionally handling medical emergencies when golfers, unfortunately, had heart attacks on their respective courses.

## Welcome!

**Dennis Janwich**, Mechanic/Welder –  
Equipment Services, Thompson Park 10/24/11

## Congratulations & Farewell, Retirees!

**Denise Dockweiler**, Reservations –  
Thompson Park Admin. Sep. 1, 2011

**Jim Foligno**, Asst. Superintendent of  
Recreation – Thompson VC Nov. 1, 2011

**Stephanie Becker**, Visitor Services –  
Thompson VC Dec. 1, 2011

**Faith Hahn**, Supervising Planner –  
Thompson A&D Jan. 1, 2012

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### January

4 Mary Mautner 4 Jen Nixon 5 Diane Elwood 5 Tom Swords  
6 Valerie Ferris 9 Pat Cernak 9 Joe Smith 12 Keith Heckman  
12 Alvin Lopez 12 Beverly Miller 12 Jerry Ostrander  
14 Andrew Wehmann 15 Bob Melick 16 Kathleen Ferraro  
16 Melissa Kelly 16 Paul McCue 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 30 Dave Pease  
31 Bob Schneider

### February

1 Michele Maggio 1 Andy Spears 2 Chris Davino  
2 Cheryl Stoeber-Goff 6 George Dallavalle 6 Lynn Duncan  
8 Gail Hunton 8 Maria Wojciechowski 10 Mike Towle  
11 Ralph Johnson 14 Sarah Duterte 14 Jean Mount 14 Bill Oakes  
14 Barbara Zarella 16 Ronald Chevestick 17 Denise Dudas  
20 Jeremy Schaefer 24 Alison Petruzzo 25 Jennifer Kaczala  
26 Jim Butler

### March

1 Edward Dobrosky Jr. 2 Ryan Bennett 2 Erika Bozza  
2 Andy Nunes-Vais 3 Ralph Apicelli 3 Chris Brawley  
3 Ruth Ann Zobel 4 Philip Andras 5 Bob Lauser  
6 Christina Carlson 7 Ann Reinhardt 8 Jeff Faistl 8 Bruce Gollnick  
8 Theresa Secks 9 Maryann Goodwin 10 Matt Bezahler  
11 Dennis Bergstrand 12 Steve Matthews 13 Karen Jarmusz  
13 Brad Rogers 13 Scott Simpson 15 Ivan Sanchez  
21 Ben Friedman 21 Diane Hughes 21 Ryan Kimble  
21 Debbie Tamburello 24 Sandy Byard 25 Barbara DeLorenzo  
25 Maryann Elwood 27 Debra Senese 28 Chet Scalzo  
30 Robert Smith 31 Tim Mariner

Green Link, A bimonthly newsletter for employees and volunteers of the Monmouth County Park System.

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# Green Link



An Employee &  
Volunteer Newsletter  
of the Monmouth County Park System

Monmouth County Park System  
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January/February 2012

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
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PARK SYSTEM

## VOLUNTEERS

### Pitch in with repairs, post-Irene...



*Hartshorne Woods*

This past fall, volunteers were out in force helping to repair damage from Hurricane Irene. Among other repairs, they filled ruts in the Cuesta Ridge Trail at Hartshorne Woods (left) caused by water erosion, helped clean the dunes at Seven Presidents (center) where plenty of debris washed ashore, and performed ongoing pruning to keep gutters and down-spouts clear at the Dorbrook Activity Center. See inside for other clean-up efforts from the storm.



*Seven Presidents*



*Dorbrook*