

Green Link

Monmouth County
Park System



An Employee &
Volunteer Newsletter
of the Monmouth County
Park System



Historic Walnford

May/June 2010

FRIENDS=FUN AT ANNUAL BREAKFAST

Each January, the Friends of the Parks start the New Year with their Annual Breakfast. Attended by well over 100 of the organization's 550 members, the occasion offered a chance to review achievements of the year past (the "dolphins" at Tony's Place, the Thompson Park Visitor Center exhibits, and funding for children to attend park camps to name a few), plans for the year ahead (exhibits at the Bayshore Activity Center, the Park System history book and 50th Anniversary Celebration, etc.) and hear from a few park speakers.



Board Member Roberta Sheridan uses her cell phone to notify vacationing Friends member Harden Fowler that he was awarded Volunteer of the Year.



Friends Director Maria Wojciechowski accepts a \$1500 donation from Stan Berger and Stuart Katz of the Jersey Coast Sport Fliers (a group that flies model airplanes at Dorbrook Recreation Area).



Bird expert extraordinaire and Park System Naturalist Bob Henschel entertains the crowd with photos and stories about winged wildlife in the parks.

WINTER RECAP: Snowpocalypse 2009-2010

This past winter, between following news of post-Earthquake recovery efforts in Haiti then Chile, and tracking US performance in the Vancouver Winter Olympics, Monmouth County residents had to dig themselves out from some of the most significant snowfalls in decades. An early storm just before Christmas dropped 10-15" of snow. Then in early February the area was hit with back to back storms...called "Snowpocalypse" by President Obama since Washington DC and parts of Maryland saw record-breaking snowfall and the federal government was shut down for days. The month finished off with another big storm February 25th and 26th.

In our area specifically, the first February storms dumped plenty of snow, while the last storm of the month, thankfully, left less snow on the ground (but made for 2 days of miserable driving).



Thompson Rangers dig out the VC lot.



The snowfall made for some picturesque scenery.



Cross-country ski rentals soared at Thompson Park as people took to the fields.

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Jim Truncer in our third decade, 1983

“OUR THIRD 10 YEARS”

During the period of 1980 through 1989, the Park System continued to grow and set new milestones.



Pine Brook was donated to the Park System in 1981.

In 1981, Pine Brook Golf Course in Manalapan Township was donated to the County by K. Hovnanian, Inc., and Special People United to Ride (SPUR) was established as a 501(c)3 charitable organization. The first Thompson Park Day was also held that year.

The next year, 1982, saw the opening of “Summer Theater in the Barn” at Thompson Park and in 1983, Hominy Hill hosted the USGA Mens’ Amateur Public Links Golf Championship, and the restored Longstreet Farm House opened to the public.



Aerial view of Hominy Hill the year it hosted the USGA Championship, 1983.



Believe it or not, the park's first musicals were operas.

In 1985, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Mullen’s donation of Wainford, a National Register Historic District, was transferred from the Monmouth Conservation Foundation to the Park System. During the same year the County acquired farmland that would become the Dorbrook Recreation Area in Colts Neck Township.



Before it was blue...the mill at Historic Wainford, 1981. (Blue was original color)

In 1986 the Park System made its first acquisition of land that would become the Bayshore Waterfront Park, and Visitor Services continued to develop new programs and events, including the 1st Sunrise Run-Bike-Run and the 1st Holiday Happening.

The first African-American History Celebration was held in 1987 and Monmouth County voters, also that same year, overwhelmingly approved the creation of the County Open Space Tax and Trust Fund (the first in our State). In 1988, the Manasquan Reservoir Lease Agreement was entered into between the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the New Jersey Water Supply Authority authorizing the Park System’s development and management of the reservoir for public recreation.

By 1989, the Monmouth County Historic Guide, an inventory of Monmouth County’s historically significant properties, was completed and published, and annual Park System visits for the year exceeded 2.8 million for the first time. The Park System by then comprised 23 areas, including 4 golf courses, 15 park and recreation areas, 2 historic sites, and 2 conservation areas totaling more than 5,400 acres.

Through the continuing hard work of staff, and with the support of the community and the Board of Chosen Freeholders, the Park System continued to grow to meet the County’s recreation and open space needs.

“However beautiful the strategy, you should occasionally look at the results.” --Winston Churchill



First land for Dorbrook acquired in 1985.



Aerial view of coastal areas that would eventually become Bayshore Waterfront Park, and Monmouth Cove Marina.



The Manasquan Reservoir, before it was a reservoir.

Here in the parks, staffers were more than busy afterwards clearing the snow (and fallen branches) from the parking lots and roads and trails so that visitors could access the winter wonderland.



At Holmdel, picnic tables may have been buried in snow...



But the paved trail and roads were clear, and ready for use.



Crowd control is definitely a concern at Holmdel's sledding hill after a big snowfall.

All in all, it was a great winter season for outdoor enthusiasts—skaters, sledders, cross-country skiers, ice fishermen, birders, naturalists and photographers spent plenty of time outside enjoying the parks.



The weather may have been cold but these skaters got into a heated game of ice hockey at Turkey Swamp Park.



Pileated Woodpeckers—the largest woodpecker in North America (about the size of a crow)—were on full display this past winter at Huber Woods Park, allowing bird enthusiasts like Naturalist Sam Skinner to take this photo—and some great video.

This ice fisherman thought Senior Park Ranger Rick Royle had accidentally tripped his line walking across the ice at Marlu Lake, that is...until he pulled it up and found this 6 lb. large mouth bass on the other end. Using live minnows for bait, this was just one of many fish caught that day. Did you know? Marlu is not currently stocked by the state, it has a natural population of fish that come from nearby Borden's Brook.



Numbers Of Note:

Outdoor Adventures staff report that, due to exceptionally good conditions, ski and snowshoe rentals at Thompson Park had **more than quadrupled** (versus last year) in the weeks following the storms. There was a near constant stream of traffic at the Visitor Center for the 24 sets of snow shoes and 100 pairs of skis (available in both adult and child sizes) during February.

CONSTRUCTION NEWS & NOTES

Union Transportation Trail, Phase I: The first mile of the UTT in Upper Freehold is moving along in time for a late spring opening. This trail follows a former railroad right of way, like the Henry Hudson Trail, but will remain unpaved to better match the area's rural scenery.



Clearing trees for trail access.

Henry Hudson Trail, Thorne Creek Bridge: This bridge in the Union Beach section was recently replaced due to wear and tear.



Sections of bridge on the UTT are being replaced.



Thorne Creek Bridge.

TRACKING ALL THE “MOVES” AT THOMPSON PARK

With all the staff moves going on at Thompson Park these past few years you need a diagram just to keep up with the changes. It all started in Fall of 2007 with completion of the new Central Supply Building behind A&D (Map 1) and relocation of staff and materials. This freed up the old building for other use, and in summer 2008 the team from A&D moved in (Map 2) while their own building was renovated (see previous issue of this newsletter for photos). They moved back “home” 16 months later in fall 2009 and the old Central Supply building didn’t stay empty for long. It is now home to the Urban Recreation staff, who relocated from Dorbrook in winter 2009 (Map 3). They will certainly make good use of all the garage space for their multitude of recreation equipment and supplies.

Central Supply



Central Supply staffers Mark Miller (back) and Gerri Lombardi (front) in the new building; Pete Waters missing from photo.

Meanwhile, in the spring of 2009, Visitor Services staff moved out of building #551 back into the completely rebuilt Visitor Center (Map 4), and were joined shortly thereafter by staffers from Dorbrook (Map 5). As many people already know, Building #551 had been earmarked for the Construction and Repair crew until it was needed for VC staff displaced by the fire. By winter 2009, they had completed the necessary renovations and were finally able to move in (Map 6). Last but not least, a special Archival Storage addition to the Central Supply Building completed in winter 2010 allowed Thompson Park staff to finally move hundreds of storage boxes from the basement at Headquarters into this specially designed space (Map 7).

Urban Recreation



Recreation Supervisor Courtney Bison and Program Specialist Kevin Dunn from Urban Rec in their new offices at the old Central Supply; Program Specialist Ann Marie Osnato missing from photo.

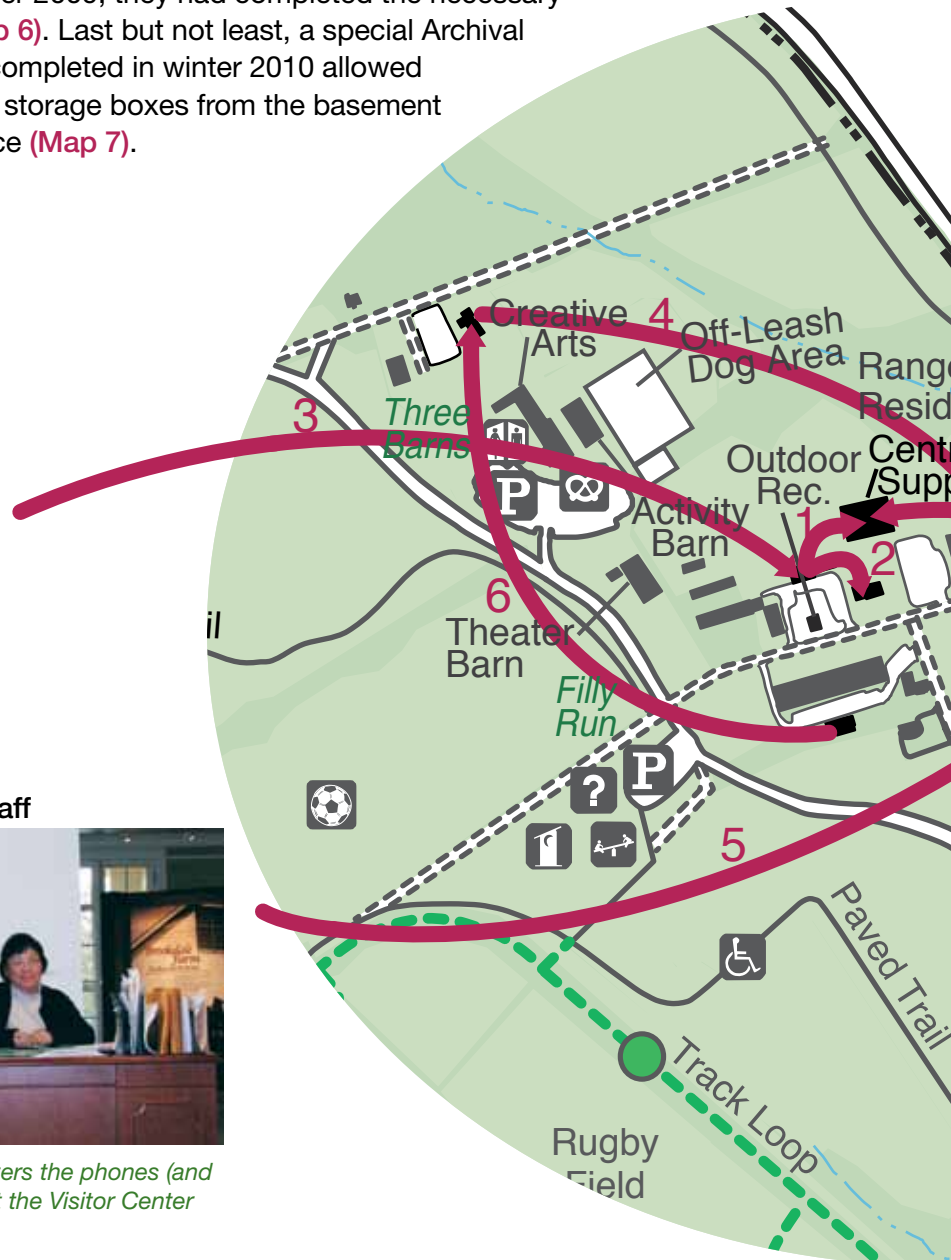


Assistant Superintendent of Recreation Susan Liu has a new office on the third floor of the VC.

Dorbrook VC Staff



Betty Leong answers the phones (and so much more!) at the Visitor Center front desk.



Storage/Archives



Staff at Headquarters helped pack up all the boxes, (front to back): Patti Burke, Fran Lorelli, Christina Miller, Donna Browne, Mary Naughton, Jenn Kaczala, Stephanie Weise and Marijane Bruncati.

Thompson Park Principal Ranger Travis Bryan and Ranger Paul Bagdanov transport boxes from Headquarters.



Thompson Park Ranger Emerald Platzer moves some boxes from the basement at Headquarters.



The new Records Storage addition at Central Supply.



Boxes, Boxes, Everywhere... Assistant Director Bruce Gollnick and Director of Personnel, Training & Safety Nancy Borchert at Central Supply.

Construction & Repair, Building #551: Staff relied on their own talents to customize their new space.



Storage cages and shelves were built in the basement for supplies by Senior Carpenter John Schanck.



Supervising Carpenter Joe Smith and Carpenter Eric Testa in their meticulously organized new supply room.



Senior Ranger Scott Augun and Ranger Ed Dobroski from Holmdel picking up some supplies from Construction and Repair.



The old wooden front deck (a favorite hang-out for local groundhogs) was replaced with concrete.



Construction & Repair crew and guests in their new offices in Building #551 at Thompson Park: (seated) County Park Manager Mike Janoski, (left to right, standing) Principal Accounting Clerk Sue Baranowski, Senior Mechanics Frank Biddle and Ron Bomma, Carpenter Eric Testa, Plumber Brad Rodgers, and Senior Carpenter John Schanck.

Park System Team Green: Year End Notes 2009

In 2009, the Green Committee helped steer the Park System toward new procedures and purchases that will make us a leader in “going green.” Here’s a sample of what we accomplished during our first year, and what we learned.

Green Products Purchased

Applying our new green standards, the following equipment was purchased by the Park System in 2009.

- **Smaller Trucks.** Five smaller trucks were purchased to replace our standard ranger and work trucks. They are more fuel-efficient, can handle a similar work load, yet still have the four-wheel drive capability we need.



Check out one of our smaller, more energy-efficient trucks (front).

- **Electric Utility Vehicle.** One electric utility vehicle was purchased to replace a gas-powered utility vehicle. Powered solely by electricity the new machine conserves gasoline. Also, it is quiet, making it park and visitor friendly and is capable of handling the same workload as the gas-powered version.



Ranger Patrick Becker drives the new electric utility vehicle at the Manasquan Reservoir.

- **More Energy Efficient Bucket Loader.** A new, four-wheel drive front end bucket loader was purchased. It features a three-vortex combustion system diesel engine that allows for efficient operation, with a hydrostatic transmission and fuel-efficient idling.

- **Electric Mower.** One new, electric triplex mower was added to Pine Brook Golf Course’s existing stock of electric mowers. It features an all-electric power train, which is virtually noiseless, has no hydraulics which eliminates turf damage due to leaks, and its regenerative breaking system help to recharge its own batteries.



Pine Brook's new electric mower.

- **Solar Panels.** Sunnyside Recreation Area solar panels are up and running, generating a portion of the electricity needed to power one building. Depending on the weather, the panels can produce excess electric which is returned to the power company for savings on the electric bill and earning energy credits.

Green Products That Didn't Make the Grade

It is important to note that not every piece of equipment we looked at was purchased. Here are two examples of products that the Park System researched and rejected in 2009:

- **Bio-Diesel.** An alternative fuel known as “bio-diesel” was studied by the Park System. Registered and meeting EPA standards, this fuel source consists of soybean oil or yellow grease (recycled restaurant cooking oil). The oil is blended with petroleum diesel at different percentages. B20 is the most commonly evaluated grade. Although it may be a future consideration, it is not appropriate for the Park System at this time. The major draw back was that equipment manufacturers are hesitant to honor or extend warranties to equipment using alternative fuels. As technology advances and manufacturers alter machinery, the Park System may reconsider this fuel.

- **Hybrid Mowers.** A hybrid fairway mower was demonstrated at Hominy Hill Golf Course in the summer of 2009. Although it was a very attractive piece of equipment, the price was high. The mower was advertised as a hybrid and to a degree it was, but not necessarily to the standard that most would use. Its major selling point was the design of the hydraulics, and lack of leaks which cause significant damage to turf. The Park System declined to consider purchase of this machine at this time.

Did You Know?

Contracts have been awarded for solar panels at the Creative Arts Center in Thompson Park and the Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center. Expansion of the system at Sunnyside is also underway.

Why is Andrew Spears throwing that Directory across the room?



He's saving energy...his own in this case! The new lights at the Visitor Center are motion sensitive (they shut off automatically when no one is in the room), but sometimes they shut off while people are sitting at their desks. Andrew's sensor is kind of far from his desk, and rather than getting up every 15 minutes to turn the

light back on, he's devised this clever way to trip the sensor-light back on. Andrew tried many different park publications (and objects) to trip the switch, but it turns out The Directory is the only one with the needed weight, size and movement to do the trick.

Developing New Habits

In addition to purchasing more energy efficient equipment, we are trying to develop more energy-efficient habits. Turning off lights and turning down thermostats are important, but here are some other important energy saving move we made within the parks.

- **Utility Vehicles for In-Park Travel.** We are making an effort to use utility vehicles in place of full-size vehicles for transportation within our parks. This effort saves fuel and reduces carbon emissions.
- **Becoming Smart Consumers.** Just because the label says the product is green does not guarantee it. We must be cautious and do our research. Determining green product performance is another challenge. With some cleaning products, for example, the chemical that provides the disinfectant to kill viruses, bacteria and mold has been replaced with a less effective chemical, limiting usefulness.

Finally, keep in mind that the effort needed to produce a green item that is both effective and efficient can drive the cost up and, exceed the benefit. In these tight budget times, that's a major factor as we try to reduce, minimize, and reverse the negative impact of our actions on the earth and its resources.

This article was adapted from a larger piece written by Asst. Superintendent of Parks and Green Committee member Tom Fobes.



May

- 1 John Carey • Drew D'Apolito
- 2 Steve Clayton • Denise Dockweiler
 - Vincent Maresca
- 3 Laura Lieneck
- 4 Leigh Schneider
- 6 Tim LaVance
- 7 Heng Chin • Craig Fraser
 - Brian Sullivan
- 8 Patti Conroy • John Eisemann
- 9 Ken Thoman • Bob Ward
- 10 Ann Sage
- 11 Cathy Barfield • Marijane Bruncati
 - Rob Kolczynski • Janet Ryan
- 12 Dave Compton • Peter D'Angelo
- 14 Laurie Marswillo
- 15 Chris Davidson
- 18 Helen Fiore • Karen Livingstone
- 20 Tom Noordzy
- 21 Shawn Allen
- 25 Hank Schreiber
- 26 Michelle Scolletta Goshu
- 27 Jeff Szalc
- 30 Gary Stedman

June

- 2 Liz Haenchen
- 3 William Neugebauer
- 5 John Lillis
- 7 Andy North • Bill Vaughn
- 8 Regina DeVeau
- 9 Spence Wickham
- 12 Jeanne Bezio
- 13 Nick Podsvirow
- 15 Aileen Desiata • Nick Samaras
- 16 Stephanie Weise
- 18 George Moran • Matt Ruding
- 19 Tom Dillon • Eric Doren
 - George Siebert • Edward Zarella
- 20 Bill Kampe
- 22 Karen Rutt
- 23 Alan Archer
- 24 Vern Hasselbrock
- 26 Mike Janoski • Betty Leong

July

- 2 Travis Bryan • Jason Miller
- 3 Harold Ayers
- 5 Anthony Ribera
- 6 Richard Brunelli • Thomas Osborne
 - Charlie Todd
- 8 Brian Corrigan
- 9 Chris Plantamura
- 10 Keith Bennett
- 14 Paul DeJesus
- 21 Donna Dugo • Barbara Reeves
- 23 Kerry McKenna
- 24 Anna Luiten • Mike Vaccaro
- 27 Bill O'Shaughnessy
- 30 Pat Douglas • Martin Gonzalez
 - Paul Lippert • Ryan Ponnwitz
- 31 Jose Bruno



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May/June 2010

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50TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITS

March 11-June 7; FREE! Park System History in the Holmdel Park Shelter Building. Design by Helen Fiore, Maryann Goodwin & Graphics Staff. (NOTE: Exhibit moves to Turkey Swamp Park Shelter on June 9.)

May-Dec.; FREE! Celebrating our First 50 Years: Beech Room, Thompson Park Visitor Center. Design by Gail Hunton, Maryann Goodwin & Graphics Staff

50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

May 31st; FREE Park System Rangers/Programmers & Longstreet Farm Staff to march in the **Freehold Memorial Day Parade**. One of the areas oldest! Come out, support the parks, and have some fun.

June 13th 4pm; \$50 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

Sponsored by the Friends of the Parks at the elegant and newly renovated Thompson Park Visitor Center, Lincroft. All Are Welcome! Ticket price includes wine & beer reception with gourmet cheeses, passed hors d'oeuvres, and a commemorative etched wine glass. Featured activities: launch of the Thompson Park "Identi-Tree" Self-Guided Lawn Walk Brochure (identify more than 100 specimen trees on the former estate grounds), music, and more!!!
Call 732-975-9735.

July 21-25: 50th Anniversary Events at the Monmouth County Fair

- Opening Night, Wednesday, July 21-Special 50th anniversary fireworks, cupcake decorating & a commemorative birthday cake sponsored by Whole Foods in the Home and Garden tent.
- Saturday, July 24th-Movie night featuring "shorts" from the 1960s, such as The Three Stooges. We will also collect canned donations at the front gate & the Monmouth Ocean Food Bank will be on hand.

50TH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAMS

50 Miler Challenge; FREE Participants get a free t-shirt for completing 50 miles of specified trails by the end of the year. Call 732-842-4000 x4312 for a brochure.

50 Nifty Things To Do in the Parks; FREE Participants receive a mug for completing 25 of 50 recommended activities and adventures in the parks by the end of the year. Call 732-842-4000 x4312 for an application brochure.

Online Monthly Photo Challenge People send in photos of the parks according to a different theme each month. Entries will be judged and winners featured on our website and possibly in future Park System promotional publications. Visit monmouthcountyparks.com.

**** Check Out the Anniversary Features on Our Website* *
More Programs & Activities In Development!!!!**