

Green Link

Monmouth County
Park System



An Employee &
Volunteer Newsletter
of the Monmouth County
Park System



Manasquan River Greenway

July/August 2010

Where's There's a Will...

...there's a way, or so the saying goes. This pair of ospreys had a bird's eye view of traffic on Route 36 near Sandy Hook this spring from their nest perched atop the Highlands bridge construction site—on the cables between the two sides of a double crane! This photo was taken in late April, not long after the beginning of Osprey nesting season. Naturalist Karen Jarmusz correctly guessed it would not be a permanent nest, given its precarious location. A few days later, presumably when the crane



crew restarted their pile driving activities, the ospreys were forced off the nest.

Ospreys like to build their nests in high spots, but this was definitely not a good choice.



Hopefully the construction crew did not have to face off against the ospreys when the time came to start up the cranes—they can be formidable predators.

Formerly on the endangered species list, the Osprey population and habitats were re-established with the help of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection. These birds have learned to co-exist with humans quite beautifully over



Can you find the osprey nest in its safer, more natural setting at the Manasquan Reservoir?

time (perhaps too much so given their choice of nest site?!). But hopefully, if we continue giving them healthy spaces to live and nest, they will respond by continuing to grace our coastal waters. For your own birds-eye view of the Osprey check out known park nesting sites such as Hartshorne Woods Park (you may catch a glimpse of these ospreys from Huber Woods, too), the Manasquan Reservoir, or Bayshore Waterfront Park. Other reported park sitings include the ponds at Charleston Springs Golf Course and the lake at Turkey Swamp Park.

Hominy Hill and Henry Hudson Trail Voted "Best" in NJ

It was gratifying to learn that Hominy Hill Golf Course in Colts Neck was recently named Readers' Favorite Public Golf Course by New Jersey Monthly magazine. Regularly named one of New Jersey's top public courses, Hominy Hill has hosted two USGA national championships and a number of regional tournaments in the past, and remains a favorite site among area golfers. Charleston Springs Golf Course in Millstone was named one of the runner-ups.

Golf General Manager Dave Pease takes a core sample at Hominy Hill this past spring. Dave oversees conditions of all the golf courses. Note the 50th Anniversary flag in the background, placed on each hole at all the golf courses through 2010.



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DIRECTOR'S CORNER



“OUR FOURTH 10 YEARS”

As we look back to the 1990s, we accomplished a number of milestones in the history of the Park System.

In 1990, the Draft County Open Space Plan was completed to reset the direction of future open space and parkland acquisitions. During that year, land acquisition continued with the purchase of the **Monmouth Cove Marina** as part of the Bayshore Waterfront Park, **Sunnyside Recreation Area** in Middletown Township, and other lands that would become part of the **Manasquan River and Crosswicks Creek Greenways**. That same year, lands were acquired in Millstone Township, as the site for



The Equestrian Center at Sunnyside Recreation Area

the **Charleston Springs Golf Course**, and the Manasquan Reservoir's **Joseph C. Irwin Recreation Area** was dedicated and opened to the public.

The following year, several county citizens came together to form the not-for-profit **Friends of the Parks** support organization. The Park System also put into operation the first automated golf tee time reservation system to address the problem of long lines of golfers waiting at the golf courses overnight in order to get a tee time.

Monmouth County

Friends of the Parks

In 1992, the **Henry Hudson Trail** from Aberdeen to Atlantic Highlands, on the former Central Jersey Railroad right-of-way, was completed and opened for use.



We set a new park attendance record in 1993 with nearly 3 million visitors, and by 1994 that number reached almost 3.7 million. After nearly a year

The Henry Hudson Trail now hosts almost 200,000 visitors each year.

of preparation and hard work, the Park System became our nation's 1st accredited Public Park and Recreation Agency.

In June 1995, Hominy Hill Golf Course was the host of the USGA Women's Amateur Public Links Golf Championship. In addition, the Board of Chosen Freeholders, with NJ Green Acres funding assistance, completed the waterfront acquisition of **Fisherman's Cove** in the Borough of Manasquan. In 1996, County voters approved an increase in the County's open space tax. By 1997, County Park System acreage had passed the 10,000 acre mark with the acquisition of the 379-acre **Big Brook Park** site in Marlboro Township, **Bel-Aire Golf Course** in Wall Township, and the **Wolf Hill Recreation Area site** in Ocean Township.

By 1998, restoration of the gristmill at Historic Walnford was complete and the County Open Space Plan was updated and amended. That same year, the Park System also acquired the **DeBois Creek Recreation Area** site in Freehold Township, and an 8-mile easement over the former **Union Transportation Railroad** right-of-way for a public trail through Upper Freehold and Millstone Townships.



The 379-acre Big Brook Park is currently under development for future use.

During 1999, the Park System's 1st off-leash dog area opened at Thompson Park, and the 1st parcels of land were acquired to begin the creation of the **Perrineville Lake Park** in Millstone Township.

The 1990s were, to say the least, a very busy and rewarding time for us all. You can all be proud of what you have accomplished and a job well done.

“The work of today is the history of tomorrow and we are its makers.” *~Juliette Gordon Low, founder Girl Scouts of America*



Readers also voted the Park System's Henry Hudson Trail the Best Biking Trail in NJ. Open from dawn to dusk; walkers, runners, and equestrians also enjoy this former railroad right-of-way. And, while bicyclists love the Henry Hudson Trail, hikers named Hartshorne Woods Park in Middletown runner-up for best hiking trail.

Bicyclists enjoy the newest, 2 mile section of the Henry Hudson Trail that travels from Popamora Point in the Highlands to behind the Atlantic Highlands Marina. From this point, trail users can travel for a short distance through local streets of town to hook up with the trail again at Avenue D near the Henry Hudson Trail Activity Center.

2010: A Year of Changes for the BRC

After almost 20 years as a member of the Board of Recreation Commissioners, and 5 years as Vice-Chair, Allentown resident Fred Kneisler retired this past spring. Park staffers thank Mr. Kneisler for his many years of dedicated service, and wish



him well in his retirement—but will still look forward to seeing him at all his favorite park events.

For his retirement, Fred Kneisler (left) received this MCPS Citation for his years of service. He is pictured with Freeholder Director Lillian Burry.

Mr. Kneisler was replaced by David W. Horsnall of Cream Ridge. Mr. Horsnall, is the former mayor of and township committeeman in Upper Freehold.

On a very sad note, the Park System notes the passing of Commissioner Michael Brim this past April. Commissioner Brim was a great supporter



of the parks and our programs; he believed whole-heartedly in our mission and always found time to offer his insights and suggestions.

In Memoriam: Commissioner Michael Brim.

Mr. Brim's position was filled by Melvin A Hood of Neptune. Mr. Hood has been active in many Neptune civic organizations.

The Park System extends a very warm welcome to both new Commissioners along with best wishes as they begin their new terms.



Mr. Truncer (left) and Chairman Loud (right) shake Commissioner Hood's hand (center) after he is sworn in this past May.



Mr. Horsnall (second from left) was sworn in this past spring. (l to r) Board Chairman Ed Loud, David Horsnall, Freeholder Director Lillian Burry and Park System Secretary/Director Jim Truncer.

What is the BRC?

The Freeholders created the Monmouth County Board of Recreation Commissioners to supervise development and activities of the newly formed Park System in 1961. Each volunteer on the 9-member board is appointed (in staggered 5 years terms). The BRC is responsible for the operation, maintenance, and development of our county's parks and recreation programs plus serves as a coordinating agency between the state and local municipalities.

OUT & ABOUT WITH PARK STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

As Longstreet & Wainford Staff Study Up on NJ History...



(l to r, front) Mary Samaras, Sean O'Herron, Joan Yates, Jo Ann Walker, Patricia Millen (from the Roebing Museum), Caren Flynn, and Mary Rice. (l to r, back) George Lengal (Roebing Museum), Matt Douglas, Bill Nuegebauer, Kyle Waltz, Sarah Duterte, and Phil Andras.

As part of their annual winter seminar series, Historical Services staff visited the Roebing Museum, 10 miles south of Trenton on the Delaware River. Here's some of what they learned...the John A. Roebing & Sons Company formed in the 1800s and was most famous for supplying the cables for the Brooklyn Bridge. In 1904, the company moved to a new site as the Roebing Steel Company and built a company town, Roebing, NJ. The plant operated until 1974, when it shut down and the buildings started to decay. The old buildings are still there, but a museum opened in 2009 in the beautifully restored gatehouse. This was a chance for our staff to see a museum in its early stages, learn about interpretation of industrial sites and working with oral histories.

...Visitor Services Staff Study Up on Longstreet Farm and Deep Cut Gardens

As part of an initiative to foster inter-departmental understanding, Visitor Services staff toured Historic Longstreet to learn the ins and outs of farm programs and facilities.



Jan Galanti milks a cow.



Ann Sage chops some wood.



(l to r) Longstreet staffer Bill Neugenbauer talks to Jan Galanti, Ann Sage, Patti Conroy, Al Weaver, Cindy Ross, Michele Clampffer and Ryan Kimble about early carpentry tools and woodworking.



Patty Conroy and Ryan Kimble practice using a two-man saw.



Diane Allen (front) gives (l to r) Andrew Spears, Patty Conroy, Janet Ryan Barbara Zarella and Christina Carlson a tour of Deep Cut Gardens. On this visit, the group got to see this very new, "open" view of the Rockery because one of the large Sargent Weeping Hemlocks died in March from storm damage, and had to be removed (note the stump over left corner).



The Visitor Services tour of Deep Cut also included a winter seed-starting activity.

More Staff Happenings...



Ann Marie Osnato dresses up a program at the Alphabets Pre-School in Asbury Park; these 3-4 year olds clearly appreciated her Irish side for St. Patrick's Day.



The Park System's 50th Anniversary was acknowledged at the annual NJ Recreation and Parks Association (NJRPA) Conference in Atlantic City this past March. Conference attendees (l to r) Susan Liu, Barbara Zarella, Faith Hahn, BRC Chairman Ed Loud, Park System Secretary/Director Jim Truncer, Rachel Cohen (front), and commissioners Fred Rummel and Thomas Hennessey were on hand to accept the recognition.

Volunteers: Working Hand to Keep Our Parks Beautiful

Trail maintenance at Hartshorne Woods Park is seriously labor intensive work, here Trails Volunteers put their skills to great use last spring by correcting erosion problems. Pictured (l to r) are Mike Flatley, Dave Greenfield and Keith Wiggington.



Seven garden volunteers were on hand in April to tend to the gardens at the newly acquired property donated by Dan Seitz, at Hartshorne Woods Park. Pictured Richard Yackel and Werner Aehlich, amidst some of the pruned branches they cleared that day.



Volunteers and staff teamed up for an Earth Day Environmental Clean-up at the lake area in Thompson Park. Their impressive accomplishments can be seen in the collected debris (over 3 1/2 tons) piled high in the truck behind them.

One Lucky Dog



Lucky had it "ruff" before his run-in with Ranger Ed at Holmdel Park.



Ed with Lucky, has wondered, "How could anyone throw this guy away?"

When Holmdel Ranger Ed Dobrosky spotted a little dog running frantically through Holmdel Park last winter, his last thought was adding another pet to his growing menagerie at home. But that's exactly what ended up happening.

Somehow "Lucky" (as he is now called) got in the middle of a domestic dispute between a brother and sister, and was abandoned in the park. While on patrol, Ed received a radio call that there was a dog running loose by the pond and responded by chasing Lucky down. He was able to capture the frightened dog from the pond's edge, before he fell into the freezing waters.

After learning some background on the dog's family story from police, Ed brought Lucky to his own vet for a check-up. They determined that Lucky was a pomeranian-chihuahua mix, about 9 years old, who appeared to be both sore and frightened, but otherwise okay. Ed decided to foster Lucky, while waiting to hear from the SPCA and courts concerning the dog's ownership. Ultimately, Ed and his fiancé Cathy were given full ownership, and Lucky now enjoys a warm home and his new life with 3 other dogs—two corgis and an Australian cattle dog—and 2 cats. They all get on pretty well, especially since many of the other pets were rescues too.

Nor'easter Caps Off Notable Winter Season

What a winter! After all that snow, our area was hit by a series of rain storms and a Nor'easter in early March. The Storms caused flooding and damage that kept park repair crews busy well into spring. Many park areas lost power and phone service, including the golf courses just as they were preparing to open for the season with a new reservation system.

It will come as no surprise that beach erosion was an issue at Fisherman's Cove and Seven Presidents or that docks and ramps were damaged at Monmouth Cove Marina, but the most serious damage was at the Bayshore Waterfront Park.



The storm took out a section of fishing pier at Bayshore Waterfront Park

Part of the parking lot near the bathroom building was swept into the ocean, exposing buried debris.



Staff quickly brought in equipment to shore up the site, remove the debris and put up a protective fence.

Falling trees caused damage throughout the parks. Among the casualties were a cart bridge at Charleston Springs, plenty of forest trees throughout the parks and on the trails, and some beautiful specimen trees on the front lawn of the Thompson Park Visitor Center.



Thompson Park staff were still hard at work in April removing tree limbs from one European Copper Beech that split in half during the storm.



Water ended up just about everywhere, including places it was never seen before, at higher levels than usual. And, it stuck around for a long time after the rain stopped.



The lake at Turkey Swamp Park came up over the boardwalk.



Crosswicks Creek runneth over into the gristmill at Historic Wainford.

One bit of good news is that the drainage system at Thompson Park worked impressively well. The roadways never flooded because the staff at A&D designed three ephemeral (temporary) ponds behind the Visitor Center to handle the runoff in a tiered effect:

- The pond directly behind the Visitor Center fills first; it has no outlets and no pipes, the water simply sinks into the ground (groundwater recharge). When this tier fills...



The second tier of ponds for stormwater runoff behind the Visitor Center. These are connected by pipes underneath the road, and water travels back and forth between them.

- The water goes into the next two ponds behind the VC gazebo and across the street. These two are interconnected with pipe under the street, and water flows back and forth. And, when these two fill...
- The overflow runs to the storm drain by the VC parking lot, through a pipe under the road, and into the stream by the Headquarters Building.

Welcome, New Hires!

Carl Finkelson: County Park Ranger-
Turkey Swamp Park

Edward Docker: County Park Ranger-
Manasquan Reservoir

OOOPS! The Green Link apologizes for getting
— Rick Royle's title wrong (again!) last issue.
Rick is a Senior County Park Manager.

Farewell, Retirees!

Bill Green, Senior Park Ranger,
Monmouth Cove Marina - May 1st

Randy McHaney, Senior Gardener,
Deep Cut Gardens - May 1st

John Gubernat, Senior Golf Ranger,
Pine Brook Golf Course - June 1st

Charlie Woodward, Principal Park Ranger,
Hartshorne Woods - June 1st

Thomas Toon, Senior Painter, Construction & Repair,
Thompson Park – July 1st

Bobby Cain, Asst. Superintendent of Parks,
Purchasing, Thompson Park – July 1st



July

- 2 Travis Bryan • Jason Miller
- 3 Harold Ayers • Mike DeMauro
- 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

August

- 2 Betty Fish
- 5 Eric Kaplan
- 6 Frank Biddle III • Jim Gregory
- John Sheridan
- 7 Alison Astalos
- 8 Louise McCook
- Robin Ostrowski
- 9 Ronnie Grothusen
- 10 Rick Royle
- 13 Joe Reynolds
- 14 Walter Craig
- 15 Gary Johnson
- 16 Ilona Konstantinidis
- 17 John Skimelis • Thomas Vicari
- 18 Andy Coeyman • Frank Mead
- 19 Greg Sharin
- 21 Bob Brannan
- 22 Bill Leshick
- 24 Anthony Calderon • Don Davison
- 25 Nancy Borchert
- 26 Fran Martone
- 29 Amanda Tanay
- 30 Lawrence Bork

September

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



Monmouth County Park System
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And Now For the Birds...

Park System Volunteer, Friend, Fiddler, and Former (Retired) Engineer Pete Brady has wondered for several years why the “red-bellied woodpecker” was so-called, because the underside has always looked plain to him. When the bird is perched on a tree (as is normal when digging out insects), he presses his belly against the tree for support, and birders therefore never get to actually “see” the red belly, and are left to wonder about its name. This photograph, taken by Pete, is significant because it finally shows the bird’s red belly.

Did You Know?

Outdoor Adventures is beginning a trial Canoe Rental Program at Thompson Park's Marlu Lake on 4 Saturdays this summer: June 12, July 10, August 14 and September 11 from 10am-2pm. Spread the word!

