



# Green Link

An Employee & Volunteer Newsletter of the Monmouth County Park System



Deep Cut Gardens

March/April 2011

## A Bird's Eye View Of The Parks

Did you ever think about what our parks look like from above? Consider this series of photos taken by Ken Thoman of the Planning Department last November during a helicopter flyover. Can you identify the parks and landmarks shown here, before peeking at the labels below?



*The shape of the main building and features of the surrounding fields (or should we say pastures and paddocks) are big tips about how this site is used. Of course, the round training ring also suggests that animals might use this site, and the smooth-edged snake shape in the grass to the right suggests a paved and unpaved walking trail. The site is Sunnyside Recreation Area.*



*The newly renovated Activity Center can be seen bottom left, and this waterfront park is flanked by acres of wetland in the background, but perhaps the biggest clue is the unmistakably long fishing pier on the right, which is Bayshore Waterfront Park's most used feature.*



*There sure are a lot of buildings at this site, and a lot of cars...so it follows there must be a lot of people visiting/ working here. Coupled with green grass fields, a fine looking mansion (lower left), and a body of water that should NOT be mistaken for a river (it's a reservoir), you'd have to guess Thompson Park.*



*This bridge and the shape of the beachy land mass that "hooks" off to the left is a dead giveaway that this view shows the eastern tip of Hartshorne Woods Park, the Route 36 bridge, and the lower portion of Sandy Hook.*

*Identifying this site might be made easier by knowing that the building next to the new-looking parking lot is a bathroom, and the paved trail leading away from the lot and up to the left continues for another 12 miles (with a break in Atlantic Highlands). It's the Popamora Point section of the Henry Hudson Trail, North.*



*If you recognized the taller buildings to the right as Red Bank, and the big mass of water in the back as the Atlantic Ocean, you'd have to conclude that this body of water is the Navesink River. That's Heartshorne Woods all the way back, on the left*

# DIRECTOR'S CORNER



## "Our Friends"

It is hard to believe that this year is the 20th Anniversary of the Friends of the Parks. They have become such a valuable support organization to the Park System.

On August 6th, 1991, under the leadership of Frank McDonough and with the assistance of Laura Kirkpatrick, Jane Clark, and Faith Hahn, a group of county citizens that included George Dittmar Sr., John Linney, Francois Rambach, and Dan Seitz, and myself met at Hominy Hill Golf Course. The group discussed the creation of a not-for-profit Friends organization that "might undertake projects including education, fundraising, and possibly providing certain types of services."

The result of this meeting lead to the creation of the Friends of the Parks as a citizen support organization with the adoption of bylaws, creation of a Board of Directors, and filing a request for a 501c(3) tax status with the Internal Revenue Service. Today the Friends has grown to over 530 paid supporting members.

You may find it interesting that the Friends Treasurer's report of January 15, 1992, reported a balance of funds on hand of \$830 with no disbursements, and by the end of that year their total income had reached \$15,107 (with expenditures of \$6,644).

In addition, through the subsequent efforts of Gerry Savitz and other staff members, the Park System's Development Office began to take shape.

***Over the past 20 years, the Friends of the Parks have funded more than \$2 million dollars worth of projects.***

During the next twenty years, the Friends funded more than \$2 million dollars worth of projects that made it possible to send children to camp, provide transportation, create interpretive displays, and accessible playgrounds, and even helped make the County's 9/11 Memorial at Mount Mitchell possible.

This past year the Friends provided over \$226,000 for projects at Deep Cut Gardens, Historic Wainford, Huber Woods, Longstreet Farm, Manasquan Reservoir, Tatum Park, Thompson Park, as well as support for Therapeutic Recreation, and Recreation Assistance Programs through Urban Recreation. A special thanks is also due the Friends for making the publication of the Monmouth County Park System History Book, "The First Fifty Years," an outstanding success.

We are indeed blessed to have such active and dedicated support from our county's citizens.

**"Life is like an ice cream cone, you have to lick it one day at a time."**  
**--Charles M. Schulz**



*Friends of the Parks Board 1993: (bottom, l to r) John Linney, Frank McDonough, Jim Truncer, Joanne Mullen. (top, l to r) Edward Pitts, Carol Thomson, Daniel Ward Seitz, Joan Rechnitz and Dominic Cerrato*



*Friends Board Members Barbara McMorrow and Shirley Neff and Friends Director Maria Wojciekowski at the Park System's 50th Anniversary Celebration.*



*Event Sponsor James Cullen and Friends Board Members Tracy Boyle, Gail Cullen and Sandy Mulhearn.*

# Kudos & Congratulations

Here are some of the wonderful things people are saying about our park employees! (NOTE: excerpts collected from letters received.)

## Charleston Springs Golf Course

“A severe thunderstorm that cut through our region also descended on the Charleston Springs Golf Course... there were many golfers stranded on the course seeking shelter in the midst of fierce wind, torrential rain, and thunder and lightning. Wayne Connelly and his staff courageously rescued these golfers while putting themselves in harm’s way.”

-DC, Red Bank



*These Charleston Springs staffers (l to r) Seasonal Golf Rangers Rich Mc Carthy and Kevin Wilhalme, Golf Ranger Wayne Connelly and Seasonal Golf Ranger Tom Moore--along with Seasonal Golf Ranger Helen Megna (missing from photo but not from the action!)--all jumped into vehicles to rescue golfers from a sudden storm with 60 mph winds, thunder, lightning and hail last summer.*



*Holmdel's Senior Park Ranger Scott Augun was identified in this and another complimentary letter for being especially helpful.*

## Holmdel Park

“I was running with my dog Rosy through the park trails when she lunged after a herd of deer, snapping her leash. She chased the deer until she was out of sight. It wasn’t until the rangers got involved that Rosy was found. The park rangers were smart, deliberate, and calm in the ‘hunt’ for my dog, and they were very caring as well.”

-MF, Aberdeen

## Creative Arts Center

“I finished my second ‘sculpture’ class at the Creative Arts Center in Thompson Park... and I wanted to take a moment to tell you how much I appreciate your facility. It is well run; the teachers are knowledgeable, and



*Staffers Katie Stone, Christine Carlson and Barbara Zarella of the Creative Arts Center offer a dynamic line-up of programs, work with great teachers (themselves included), all while keeping the facility in tip-top shape.*

always happy to help. Thank you for providing a fun and valuable resource for our community and for encouraging artists of all ages.”

-PL, Program Attendee

## Bayshore Waterfront Park

“My family and I attended the Lantern Lit Seining Program located at the Bayshore Waterfront Park. I would like to say that the gentleman (Joe Reynolds) overseeing the program did a wonderful job... he



was very informative with both the parents and the children, keeping the interest in all of us. I feel very privileged that this program is available to the residents of Monmouth County!”

-JM, Cliffwood Beach

*Joe Reynolds (shown here tending to a bald eagle), is a Naturalist who knows his subject matter. He is often tapped for media appearances, writing assignments, design projects, talks and programs involving area waterways (sea mammals, birds, fish, plants pollution, etc.) and frequently receives compliments for his efforts.*



Naturalists Sam Skinner and Janet Ryan were also acknowledged for their exceptional programming

skills, for Lawn Chair Birding and a snake show at a community event in Asbury Park, respectively.

## Shark River Golf Course

“I was reading the NJSGA Golf magazine and saw that Bill Murray is the superintendent for Shark River Golf Course. I know it has been a difficult year weather-wise, but he has done an excellent job. The greens recently have been the best I have played on all year, anywhere, and I would like to congratulate him on his good work.”

-BH, Neptune



*Shark River Superintendent Bill Murray is pictured bottom left in this early 2010 photo of Golf Supervisors. They are (bottom, l to r) Bill Murray, Sam Camuso, Ryan Ponnwitz, Jeremy Schaeffer, Ron Leupke; (top, l to r) Gary Stedman, Bob Duncan, Tim Mariner, Dave Mishkin and Dave Pease.*

# Volunteer Corner

Our dedicated park volunteers were very busy this past fall helping us plant trees. Two areas of attention were the newly opened 2 mile portion of the **Union Transportation Trail** in Upper Freehold. A former railroad right-of-way, the trail had never been formally landscaped and parts of it were in need of some trees and shrubs. On

November 6, volunteers worked with park staff to plant about 60 Staghorn Sumac and White Ash Trees to help create a green barrier alongside the trail, particularly useful where the trail meets private property. Trees were donated to the Park System by Timber Creek Nursery.



*Volunteers (l to r) Joe Zientek, David Wong, Daniel Hart, Mike Weinstein, and Jeff Shepard.*



*Trees were planted at two locations along the trail, Jonathan Holmes Road and Arneytown-Hornerstown Road (pictured).*

Volunteers also dedicated their time and expertise to re-green a corridor of land left over after a road realignment on the border of **Tatum Park** in Middletown on December 4. The old road is now part of the park near Van Schoick and Red Hill, and contained no greenery. Almost 50 Staghorn Sumac, White Ash and Tulip Poplar trees, also donated by local nurseries, were planted by a team of volunteers



*Volunteers Eileen Murphy and Eric Dalton.*



*Volunteer Jay Schaeffer.*

to restart this corner of the forest. Eventually, natural processes will take over to fill in the entire area.



**Do you know someone who is interested in volunteering for the parks? Here is a list of the upcoming training dates and times for 2011.**

**Trails Team Training**  
 Saturday, March 12, 2011  
 9am-12noon  
 Thompson Park Longbridge  
 Annex Training Center, Lincroft

**Pruning Workshop**  
 Tuesday, April 5, 2011  
 9am-12noon  
 &  
 Thursday, April 14, 2011  
 9am-12noon  
 Thompson Park Visitor Center, Lincroft

**Beach Nesting Bird Monitor**  
 Sunday, April 17, 2011  
 12noon-2pm or 2pm-4pm  
 Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park  
 Activity Center, Long Branch

**Volunteer Docent/Receptionist Training**  
 Saturday, May 14, 2011  
 2pm-4pm  
 Thompson Park Visitor Center, Lincroft

**Contact Melissa Kelly, Coordinator of Volunteers 732-842-4000 ext. 4283 or [mkelly@monmouthcountyparks.com](mailto:mkelly@monmouthcountyparks.com).**

# Parties And Portraits

The Monmouth County Recreation Activity Center or MCRAC is the Park System's day-program for adults with special needs run through the **Therapeutic Recreation Division**. Participants meet at Dorbrook three days a week from 10am -2 pm and occasionally enjoy special events, such as this year's holiday party (which included photos with Santa). After the event, staffers posed for this festive portrait.



*MCRAC Holiday Party (l to r): staffer Brian Gannon, volunteer Louise DelCollo, staffers Joe Mertens and Allie Cummins, Santa (who is really Recreation Program Coordinator from Cultural Services Al Weaver) and Program Leader Mary Stacey.*

The staff at **Urban Recreation** will use almost any holiday as an occasion to wear costume and, when you work with children, why not? Here is the crew at the Annual Halloween Party at the Coastal Activity

Center or CAC in Asbury Park. (The CAC hosts

a group of children from for after-school recreational activities three days a week. Through this weekly contact, many eventually participate in other events and field trips that bring them outside and into the parks.)



*CAC Halloween Party (back row, l to r) Arts & Crafts Director Jane Faucet, Recreation Supervisor Courtney Bison, Pet Therapist Greg Eisman, Volunteer Alex Osnato, and Seasonal Recreation Leader Mike Livingston. (front row, l to r) Recreation Program Coordinator Ann Mari Osnato, Seasonal Recreation Leader Courtney Rogers, and Recreation Leader Matt Chalupski.*

Here's the urban crew again at the Annual Christmas party. Do you think their costumes (and attitude) have a festive impact on party-goers? We'd say, "YES!" judging by the looks of these visitors and the fact that 367 community residents attended their party this year (200 more than expected!!!).



*(Below) Staffers Matt Chalupski and a volunteer in elf ears Katherine Gooch at the gift table, a popular feature at the party. These presents, all donated, were given out as part of a raffle.*



*Guests enjoy dressing festive too and the DJ played plenty of danceable music*

*(Above) Part of the Urban Recreation crew set up for the CAC Holiday party, note how some have their hats on long before the party starts! (l to r) Courtney Bison, Greg Eisman, Matt Chalupski and Courtney Rogers.*



Everyone thinks of the staff at **A&D** as such an intelligent, well-behaved bunch—types that would be good at following instructions. Well, think again! Just try and take a picture of them all together, and you might as well try herding cats. Some employees just couldn't figure out which way to stand. Others had a sudden impulse to wave, high-five their friends, or pat each other on the back. And a few misunderstood the photographer's simple request to "smile," and "scowled" or "scrunched" instead. Go figure!



*A&D staff having fun with the photographer (l to r) Heng Chin, Jamie Evans, Robin Ostrowski, Joanne Jubert, Anna Luiten, Fran Martone, Joe Sardonía (in back), Sue Williams (front), Maryann Goodwin (back) Michelle Scolletta (front), Faith Hahn, Jim Mowczan (back), Rich Pillar, Laurie Marswillo, Andy Coeyman (back), Lisa Horner (front), Ken Thoman (back), Barb DeLorenzo (front), Spence Wickham, Gail Hunton, Laura Lienick, Susan Stafford-Smith, Gloria Cohen and Andy North.*

## Wild Wildlife

In December, a park naturalist observed a small number of Bonaparte's Gulls flying along the edge of Sandy Hook Bay at **Bayshore Waterfront Park**. This is one of the smallest gulls seen in New Jersey (12-14") and often appears tern-like. Wintering adults lose their black head to retain black ear spots with dark eyes and a black bill. Unlike most familiar gulls, Bonaparte's Gulls rarely visit garbage dumps and fast food parking lots. Instead they forage for food over the open water to eat plankton and fish, which make up a large portion of their diet.



*Bonaparte's Gull*



*Common Tern, for comparison*

This Yellow Blusher mushroom is a member of the deadly Amanitas family of mushrooms. It was seen by naturalists in one of our parks. Wild mushrooms should only be collected with an expert since it is very easy to make a mistake in identification (something you certainly would NOT want to with this one!).



*The poisonous Yellow Blusher mushroom!*

## Park News, Notes & Construction Updates

This year, the Christmas tree that held center stage in Freehold's Holiday Display came from the **Yellowbrook Tract** in Howell. The 20-ft tall Norway Spruce rolled into downtown Freehold in late November aboard a large flatbed truck, and was decorated by the county's Building & Grounds crew for the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony on December 1.



*The county Christmas tree*

Out With the Old & In With the New... Two races have been permanently deleted from the Park System roster to make way for some newly designed events. The Manasquan River Canoe Race was cancelled due to increasingly difficult paddle conditions and the Sprint Triathlon due to low registration and cost. On Saturday May 7, 2011 following a format similar to The Amazing Race and Survivor, a **Family Funtathlon** will be offered through Sports and Fitness and Outdoor Adventures at Thompson Park. Staff from Outdoor Adventures are also working on a **Water Sports Expo**, tentatively scheduled for the fall 2012 at Fisherman's Cove Conservation Area (a new bulkhead project should be underway this year), and a **Three River Paddle Series**, where participants will canoe/kayak the Shrewsbury, Navesink and lower Manasquan Rivers.



*Photos from last year's final canoe race demonstrate some of the tougher conditions on the upper portions of the Manasquan River.*



*People often put canoes and kayaks in at Fishermans Cove in Manasquan, site of upcoming paddle events.*



Installation of solar panels, construction of a new boat dock off the patio, and new patio surfacing was recently completed at the **Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center**. New solar panels were added to the Creative Arts Center and soon will be added Central Supply building at **Thompson Park**.

## Welcome New Hires!

**Jean Mount**, Personnel (from Equipment Services), started on 11/22/10

**Dan DeSoucey and Ryan Bennett**, Carpenters, both started on 11/22/10

## Farewell Retirees!

**Jack Lillis**,  
Golf Ranger 1/1/11

**Edward Luzzi**,  
Senior County Park Ranger 1/1/11



### March

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

### April

- 1 Greg Hyland
- 2 Chris Lanza
- 4 Barbara Urbinato
- 6 Mike Bennett
- 7 Wayne Ossner
- 8 Jacques DiPane • Cindy Ross
- 9 Lisa Bonelli
- 10 Allen Boyce • Al Weaver
- 11 Susan Provost
- 12 Gloria Cohen • Al Picerno
- 13 Tom Fobes
- 14 Greg Alexander
- 16 Bill Stevenson
- 17 Dan Bisti • Jim Chase
- 18 Sam Skinner
- 19 Ed Luzzi • Sean Ramsey
- 20 Sue Madden
- 23 Scott Schaaf
- 24 Sean O'Herron
- 26 Jean Kline
- 28 Jeff Willever
- 29 Patty Burke
- 30 Ryan Abbott

### 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 Gosha
- 27 Dan DeSoucey • Jeff Szalc
- 30 Gary Stedman

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

Lisa Bonelli, Writer/Editor • Michelle Scolletta, Graphic Artist • Maribeth Gardner, Photographer

Questions, Comments, Story Ideas? • Mail: Lisa Bonelli, Thompson Park, Visitor Services • Email: lbonelli@monmouthcountyparks.com • Phone: 732-842-4000, ext. 4336



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

March/April 2011

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PARK SYSTEM

## Park System Crossword 2!

By Ben Friedman, Operations

### ACROSS

- 1 The western-most park property
- 2 Hunters might leave these behind when the Deer Management program is over
- 6 The Park System is accredited by this federal commission
- 7 The Freeholder's liaison to the Park System
- 10 This former railroad is the newest trail in the family
- 11 Better fill this out if you want to get your paycheck
- 13 Double your golf course, double your fun!
- 14 The eastern-most "point" of the Henry Hudson Trail
- 15 A popular park to get married in (just don't trample the rose garden)
- 16 Horses, horses and more horses

### DOWN

- 1 If you're in the mood to make some pottery, take a class here
- 3 Another good park to look for artifacts/fossils, besides Shark River (HINT: Ask Thompson Ranger Ralph Johnson)
- 4 The backbone of every park, from spring to autumn. Make sure to thank them!
- 5 Go here for all of your latest park fashion needs
- 8 Once you're done shearing the sheep, make some ice cream
- 9 This part housed numerous batteries during World War II
- 12 It's where you can find the "spy house"

