



Green Link

An Employee & Volunteer Newsletter of the Monmouth County Park System



Red-tailed Hawk, immature at Thompson Park

November/December 2011



NEW! Solar Panels at Central Supply.

Let The Sun Shine In

The pace of solar installations picked up in 2011 with the completion of two more projects in Thompson Park at the Creative Arts Center (spring) and Central Supply (early summer). A fifth installation is planned for the new maintenance building at East Freehold Showgrounds.

We are also now letting the public know how important these projects are to the Park System's bottom line. Among other features in this year's park tent at the Fair was a Solar Power Display highlighting recent park projects, with solar-powered frogs and miniature "rides" for fun.

Plus, this exhibit (below), designed by **Chief Landscape Architect Andy North** from A&D who also sits on the Green Committee, highlights solar energy and other conservation efforts employed in the parks. And our website now features an on-going article about all our solar projects in the Natural Resources section.



Solar-powered frogs race at the Fair.



Solar project display at Holmdel Park.

WERE YOU THERE, AT THE FAIR?



The Cultural Services team sacrificed a lot in the way of staff this year by loaning Recreation Supervisor Rachel Cohen to be Chair. Her co-workers, of course, were recruited to be her trusty helpers. Rachel is pictured here (with embellished t-shirt, tiara and wand) evaluating their bowling technique. (l to r) Rachel, Chris Davino of Sports & Fitness (back, who didn't have to bow), Ann Mary Sage (front) and Al Weaver.



Editor's Pick for Best Staff Photo from the Fair! Ranger Eric Doren (left) and Senior Ranger Nick Podsvirow with Mr. Met.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



“WHAT YOU DO”

As this year rapidly comes to an end and we look forward to the next, I would like to take a few minutes to express my sincere appreciation to all of you for your dedication to what you do everyday to improve the lives of our citizens.

Too often we go about our daily routine not realizing how important what you do is to the lives of those we serve. We read the newspaper, watch the news on TV or listen to the radio and we are bombarded with political one-upsmanship and sound bites with little, if any, thoughtful discourse about how we should work together as citizens for the common good of our communities and our nation. Unfortunately, I think the “we” in “we the people” may have been lost to individual and corporate self-interests.

It would be interesting to see what kind of a response we would get if our nation adopted a “citizens’ pledge” that included Rotary Internationals’ motto of “Service Above Self.” Maybe it is time for us as a nation to take a time-out to affirm our nation’s goals and priorities. Maybe it is time to focus on working together so we can make our lives better for our fellow citizens and for future generations.

It has been said that a society can be judged by how well it takes care of its children and its elderly. I would suggest that the “quality of life” in our communities should also be included. I firmly believe that the work we perform everyday, our random acts of kindness, and our acts of giving forward actually contributes not only to our quality of life, but to that of future generations.

...the work we perform everyday...contributes not only to our quality of life, but to that of future generations.

Whether you have been with us full time for a number of years, as a seasonal, a volunteer, or you’re passing through on your way to another career, your interest and dedication to the Park System is commendable. I take my hat off to you, and thank you for making our county a better place to live, work, and play. We are, indeed, fortunate to live in such a beautiful part of our wonderful country that gives each of us so much.

“Economic systems are not value-free columns of numbers based on rules of reason, but ways of expressing what varying societies believe is important.”

---Gloria Steinem
American Journalist & Women’s Rights’ Advocate



Since 1985, Community and Urban Recreation has been arranging recreational opportunities for groups with a financial need. Hosting visitors who might otherwise not see the parks is one of many ways the Park System invests in future generations. This past summer more than 400 children enjoyed the day in Thompson Park, playing field games (left) and watching an illusionist perform.

Invasive Species Project Follow-Up

Of the three sites currently undergoing invasive species removal, the project at **Fisherman's Cove** received some important local press coverage. Maybe you read the articles that appeared in the Asbury Park Press and Coast Star? Kudos to Ecologist **Ken Thoman** for his explanations to the curious press and public.

Program Happenings



Trailposts at Thompson and Hominy Hill.

Can You Decipher This Code?

If this is what one of our regular trail posts looks like (left), then what's up with the colorful heiroglyphics? (right). It's actually a special "Symbol Post" for a naturalist program, called **Rockin' the Trails**. Developed for our 50th Anniversary, it has been continued because of its success at encouraging trail visitation. Using a brochure containing a "key," participants visit certain trails to identify the correct symbols and plug them in to decipher a puzzle, and get more clues.



A Year-round Adventure

Speaking of items found in the woods...check out this group of **geocachers** from last winter. After doing the necessary calculations, will they ever come to a solid consensus on the location of their wooded target (a cache box hidden in the tree)? Truly, they were far more clever than this photo would suggest, and easily found the hunted cache. Growing in popularity with its merger of technology and the outdoors, recent trips include Family Geocaching in six different parks, and Full Moon Geocaching at Thompson Park. *Continues, page 4*



That's Recreation Coordinators Ryan Kimble (far left) and Michele Clampffer (center) leading a group of geocachers.



Fair Staff...continued



Get Your Tickets, Get Your Programs Here from (l to r) Amanda Tanay of Visitor Services, Dorbrook Lifeguard Ally Mnich and Andy Coeyman of A & D.



Keeping things moving in the parking area for vendors and employees were Park Manager Ken Olsen and Senior Park Ranger Scott Augun.



Also on parking duty at the vendor lot were Rangers Dave Whalen (top) and Larry Bork (below).





(l to r) Naturalist Sue Provost, Asst. Superintendent of Recreation Susan Liu, and Asst. Rec Supervisor/Naturalist Ruth Ann Zobel take a moment to confer near the park tent.



Naturalist Erika Bozza and Sports & Fitness Rec Supervisor Bob Ward were on the Vendor Services committee.



Park Manager Alison Astalos (back) and Asst. Superintendent Jeff Szalc survey the Fairgrounds prior to opening.



Matt Chalupski of Urban Rec works the Outdoor Entertainment Area.

Volunteer Corner

In addition to general disruption to the ecosystem, invasive trees and shrubs at **Hartshorne Woods Park** also obscured the river views from the Battery Loop. After removal this past spring, and replanting with native species, volunteers sprung into action to re-carve out the trails.



Program Happenings...continued

Pirate Ship Spotted at Reservoir

Arrrrrgh! A group of determined treasure-seekers (program participants)



slipped right past security in their quest for gold and riches. In fact, they were led by our own staff and volunteers on one of our very own boats at the **Manasquan Reservoir!**

The pirate crew included (l to r): Volunteers Frank Masiny and Eric Cuver, program employees Mike Mannino (as Scurvy Mike), Melissa Daniels (as 2nd Mate), Lindy Farrar (as Anna Mariya), Cynthia Melewski (as Pirate Cook) and Ruth Ann Zobel (as Rowdy Ruthie).



Captains, Naturalist Tanya Dinova (aka Scarlet Rosa) and Seasonal Peter McCarron.

Wild Wildlife



Manasquan Reservoir staffers were recently treated to a rare close-up of the stealthy **Great Blue Heron** (below), which is normally seen only at a distance, or in flight. It may be harder than usual to identify with its neck extended (as we are more likely to see it with its neck looped in).



While not native to this area, the **Armadillo**—seen here at the Fair—is one VERY interesting mammal. The female always give birth to quadruplets, and always of the same sex. She also has the ability to delay implantation of



her fertilized eggs for up to 4 months. Armadillos can hold their breath for 4-6 minutes, so they can cross bodies of water. They were also critical in development of the leprosy vaccine since they could catch this disease

and were used in research. Wildlife biologists at Michigan State have noted a rapid expansion of this species outside its usual warm temperature habitat, and predict that given its reproductive and other capabilities, it could eventually extend its current range into new territories, including New Jersey. (www.msu.edu/~nixonjos/armadillo/index.html)



You might need to watch your back next time you fill up at **Thompson Park**. This **Cooper's Hawk** was perched right on the ladder railing at the gas pump this past July. He doesn't look so happy.

Fair Staff...continued



Day & Night: Park staff on repair duty and/or patrol include (top to bottom) Senior Park Manager Paul McCue, Park Manager Dan Bisti, Principal Park Ranger Chris Davidson, and Park Ranger Jay Januszkiewicz.



She blends in so seamlessly with all the other Rangers! Does that mean Helen Fiore's daughter Avalon is destined to someday walk the Fairgrounds in uniform as an employee?



Senior Ranger Greg Shannon makes some deliveries to staff in the park tent.



Cultural Services brought these energetic program employees (l to r) Jessica Martin, Kristen Gilmore, Claire Gavin, Carly Ferreira, Allison Kowalski, Alex Janiw, and Jill DeMatteo.

Staff Shots



If this photo is any indication, **Golf Superintendent Ron Luepke** (left) tells a VERY funny joke, and **Supervising Planner Joe Sardonia** can't help but laugh as they began work on the renovations to Bel-Aire Golf Course last summer.



Left: Speaking of Bel-Aire, **Golf Rangers Bob Schneider** (left) and **Tom Petraglia** (right), with **Seasonal Ranger Edward Bannon** (center) staff the counter at Bel Aire Golf Course this past summer. With all the recent renovations, plus many regular golf clinics, the staff had a lot on their plate. Right: **Seasonal Ranger Pat Tobia** (right) gives **Golf Ranger/Special Projects Ilona Szabo deBucs** a brief tour of the course renovations.



Did you see our "Go For Golf" ads or TV commercials from last year? The Friends of the Park staff apparently did, featuring gopher golf club covers (Gopher=Go For, get it?) as one of the prizes in this year's Annual Fundraising Tourney at Hominy Hill. That's **Friends member Laurie Bremseth** distributing the prizes.

CONSTRUCTION NEWS & NOTES

The following projects are currently close to completion or underway:

- Phase II of the **UTT**, another 2 miles between J. Holmes Rd. north to Davis Station Rd in Upper Freehold.
- **Thompson Park** Group Use Picnic Shelter & Rt. 520 Marlu Lake Bridge

And, bulkhead repairs are coming soon for **Fishermans Cove**.



Deep Cut staffer Donna Baginski is a frequent contributor of fun pictures to this newsletter, so it may come as no surprise that her photo of a very fat cat sitting in a porch chair won a ribbon at this year's Home & Garden Competition. You may, however, be surprised to learn it wasn't her only one--she received 4 more for her sewing and knitting talents. Congratulations Donna!

Welcome!

Jeff Ward, Park Ranger, Crosswicks Creek 8/15/11

Congratulations Retiree!

Richard Meister, Equipment Services,
Construction & Repair 7/1/11



November

- 1 Ivan Gottstein
- 2 Frank Bradford
- 3 Rich Pillar • Paul Zimmer
- 4 Susan Liu
- 5 Fran Lorelli
- 11 Bill Diehl • Tony Eng
- Mark Miller • Jim Truncer
- 16 Paul Basquill • Faith Hahn
- Sean Pierson
- 17 Ryan Rochelle
- 18 James F. Foligno, Jr. • Jed Jesiolowski
- 19 Daniel Buecher • Mark Foulks
- John Wallace
- 21 Christina Miller • Bob Petrow
- 23 Mike Dollear
- 24 Ann Marie Osnato
- 25 Philip Patterson
- 26 Tom Ketcham • Keith York

December

- 3 Matt Chalupski
- 4 Frank Sardoni
- 6 Alejandro Roman
- 7 Marcia Floden
- 8 Darrin Morrissey • Alan Roberts
- 11 Marcus Novak
- 12 Mary Naughton
- 13 Joe Sardonia • Pete Waters
- 15 Andrew Spears
- 16 Tanya Dinova
- 17 Stephanie Becker • Jeff Semanchick
- 18 Tim Parkans
- 19 Don Sadowski
- 22 Ilona Szabo de Bucs
- 23 Justin Dunn
- 24 Ken Olsen
- 26 Susan Baranowski • Eric Testa
- 27 Joshua Storch
- 29 Sarah Bent • Kevin Dunn
- 31 Scott Augun

January

- 4 Mary Mautner • Jen Nixon
- 5 Diane Elwood • Tom Swords
- 6 Valerie Ferris
- 9 Pat Cernak • Joe Smith
- 12 Keith Heckman • Alvin Lopez
- Beverly Miller • Jerry Ostrander
- 14 Andrew Wehmann
- 15 Bob Melick
- 16 Kathleen Ferraro • Melissa Kelly
- Paul McCue
- 17 Greg Shannon
- 18 Patrick W. Becker
- 20 Russ Anderson • Courtney Bison
- 22 Steve Moraghan • Kevin Wilhalme
- 23 Jan Galanti
- 25 Shelagh McCarthy
- 26 Brad Roe • Gregg Wolff
- 27 John Schanck
- 28 Rachel Cohen
- 29 Lisa Horner • Andrew Stegner
- 30 James Januszkiewicz • Dave Pease
- 31 Bob Schneider

Green Link



An Employee &
Volunteer Newsletter
of the Monmouth County Park System

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

November/December 2011

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
MONMOUTH CO.
PARK SYSTEM

The Seabrook-Wilson House Formally Re-opens as...

The Bayshore Activity Center



After site and building renovations, followed by exhibit installation (generously paid for by the Friends of the Parks), the BAC formally re-opened its doors this past August to over 200 visitors its first weekend. The new building houses beautiful photos and displays, a fish tank of local species, a new program room and office space for staff. The BAC will be open Saturdays and Sundays, April – October, 11am to 5pm.

(l to r) Friends of the Park President Heather Colella, Chairman of the Board of Recreation Commissioners Ed Loud, Park System Director Jim Truncer, and Freeholder Lillian Burry in the exhibit room prior to the opening.