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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WELCOME SPRING IN A PARK



Bring your nature-related questions to Ask a Naturalist.

LINCROFT — March marks the official arrival of spring and brings with it plenty of opportunities to enjoy the Monmouth County Park System. Here's what's planned for the month:

Coffee Club Mahjong

Tuesdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls

Shuffle your tiles and build your walls as you play this ancient, fast-paced Asian

game. Both American and Chinese rules will be followed. All levels welcome. The cost is \$4 per person per day; cash or check only.

Camp Options for Children with Special Needs

Tuesday, March 1 from 7-8:30 p.m.

Thompson Park Visitor Center, Lincroft

Find out which Park System camps best fit your child's needs and interests. Learn what supports are available and how our inclusion process works. Program is free and pre-registration is not required, but recommended.

Teen Open Basketball

Wednesdays, March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 from 3-4:30 p.m.

Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls

Teens are invited to play or practice on our courts. Cost is \$5 per person per day; cash or check only. Under 17 with parent present.

The Casual Birder

Thursday, March 3 at 9 a.m.

Thompson Park, Lincroft - Meet in the Marlu Lake parking lot.

Thursday, March 17 at 9 a.m.

Bayshore Waterfront Park, Port Monmouth - Meet at the Activity Center.

Join a Park System Naturalist for a laid-back morning bird walk. We'll meander for an hour and see what birds we can find. No need to be an expert at identifying birds to enjoy this walk. A limited number of binoculars will be available to borrow if needed. Open to ages 8 and up. FREE!

Co-Ed Open Basketball - 20 & Up

Thursdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 from 8-10 p.m.

Mondays, March 7, 14, 21 & 28 from 7-9 p.m.

Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls

This basketball program is open to men and women age 20 and over. Emphasis of this program is exercise and fun. The cost is \$5 per person per session; cash or check only.

Ask a Naturalist

Friday, March 4 from 10-11:30 a.m.

Henry Hudson Trail - Meet in the parking lot on Dutch Lane in Freehold.

Sunday, March 13 from 10-11:30 a.m.

Manasquan Reservoir, Howell - Meet in the Chestnut Point parking lot on Georgia Tavern Road in Howell.

Bring your questions for our Park System Naturalist to this hike. FREE!

Roving Park System Naturalist

Saturday, March 5 at 9 a.m.

Fisherman's Cove Conservation Area, Manasquan – Meet in the main parking lot.

Saturday, March 19 at 9 a.m.

Hominy Path, Hominy Hill Golf Course, Colts Neck- Meet in the Matthews Road parking lot.

Join our Roving Park System Naturalist for a walk and learn about seasonal points of interest. FREE!

Drop-In Surprise Story Time

Saturday, March 5 from 11-11:45 a.m.

Deep Cut Gardens, Middletown

Join us for story time. If the weather is nice, look for the clue at the Horticultural Center's entrance that leads to the secret spot. If it's rainy or cold, we'll meet inside.

Recommended for ages 3-7. FREE!

19th Century Woodworking Demonstration

Saturday, March 5 from 12-3 p.m.

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

See how 19th century woodworking tools were used during this demonstration.

FREE!

Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss

Saturday & Sunday, March 5 & 6 at 1 p.m.

Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Howell

Celebrate the author's birthday with a story and craft. FREE!

E. Murray Todd Half-Marathon

Sunday, March 6 at 9 a.m.

Brookdale Community College

This 13.1-mile race offers race-day registration starting at 7:15 a.m. Race day registration fee is \$50 per runner; cash or check only.

Open Ceramics

Sunday, March 6 from 12:30-4:30 p.m.

Thompson Park Creative Arts Center, Lincroft

Choose from a large selection of bisque fired pottery pieces to glaze and make your own. Children 12 and under are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. The cost is \$6 per hour plus price of bisque ware; cash or check only. Pieces will be fired in about a week.

Music Man Rich Marzec

Sunday, March 6 from 1-3 p.m.

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

Enjoy music from the 1890s. FREE!

Men's Open Gym Basketball

Sundays, March 6, 13 & 20 from 8-10 a.m.

Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls

Shoot some hoops on the Rec Center's full court gym. The cost is \$5 per person per session; cash or check only.

Family Gym Time

Fridays, March 11 & 18 from 9:30-11 a.m.

Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls

We'll have tunnels, gym mats, scooters and other play equipment set up for your

entertainment. This is an open play format with no instruction provided. Parent supervision is required and Rec Center staff will be present if you have questions or need assistance. Open to ages 1-4 with adult. The cost is \$10 per pair per day; cash or check only.

Open Shoot Archery

Saturday, March 12 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Thompson Park Activity Barn, Lincroft

All equipment is provided during this open shoot. No outside equipment permitted. This offering is designed for experienced archers. Open to ages 10 and up (under 18 with adult). Cost is \$10 per person; cash or check only.

Blacksmith Demonstration

Sunday, March 13 from 1-3 p.m.

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

Come see what the Blacksmith is making in his workshop. FREE!

Seashore Scientist: All About Ocean Currents

Saturday, March 19 from 12-1 p.m.

Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park Activity Center, Long Branch

Learn about ocean currents and how they affect our lives during this interactive discussion. We'll also do some hands-on experiments. FREE!

Backyard Birding

Saturday, March 19 at 10:30 a.m.

Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Howell

Learn about the birds that visit your backyard. Find out how to make a welcoming environment for them. FREE!

Earth Hour

Saturday, March 19 at 8 p.m.

Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Howell

Leave your flashlight at home and enjoy games, night hikes, crafts and tasty treats. Best of all, we will conclude the hour by gazing up at the sky and wishing upon a star! The event is open to all ages. The cost is \$5 per person; cash or check only.

First Day of Spring Nature Walk

Sunday, March 20 at 10 a.m.

Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Howell

Join us for a nature walk and look for signs of the new season. FREE!

Nature Lecture Series: The Piping Plover Population of Monmouth County

Thursday, March 31 from 7-8 p.m.

Bayshore Waterfront Park Activity Center, Port Monmouth

Designed for adults, this presentation by a Park System Naturalist reviews the recovery process of the piping plover, including its successes and challenges. FREE!

To learn more about these Park System activities, please visit

www.monmouthcountyparks.com or call the Park System at 732-842-4000. For persons with hearing impairment, the Park System TTY/TDD number is 711. The Monmouth County Park System, created in 1960 by the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders, is Monmouth County's Open Space, Parks, and Recreation agency.

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