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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Friday, April 15, 2016**

### **WELCOME MAY IN A COUNTY PARK**



*Walnford Day*

LINCROFT — Now that April showers have brought May flowers, it's the perfect time to enjoy a county park. From the *Creative Arts & Music Festival* to a *Drop-in Kayak Tour of the Swimming River*, the Monmouth County Park System is bursting with activity. Here's what is planned:

#### **Creative Arts & Music Festival**

**Saturday & Sunday, April 30 & May 1 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.**

**Thompson Park, Lincroft**

This art and music festival features the works of fine artists from all mediums

including pottery, jewelry, photography and painting. Admission and parking are free.

### **Mill Demonstrations at Historic Walnford**

**Saturdays & Sundays, April 30 & May 1, 7 & 8, 14 & 15, 21 & 22 and 28 & 29  
from 1-4 p.m.**

**Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold**

See the 19th century gristmill in action. FREE!

### **Mid-Day Music at Walnford**

**Sunday, May 1 from 12-12:30 p.m.**

**Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold**

Hear members of Hopewell Hall sing an a cappella performance of historical songs.

FREE!

### **Open Ceramics**

**Sunday, May 1 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.

### **Men's Open Gym Basketball**

**Sundays, May 1, 8, 15 & 22 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.

### **Seabrook-Wilson House Tours**

**Sundays, May 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 from 1-4 p.m.**

**Bayshore Waterfront Park Activity Center, Port Monmouth**

Visit this house, which dates back to the early 1700s, and see displays on the ecology of the bay and local history. FREE!

### **Co-Ed Open Basketball - 20 & Up**

**Mondays, May 2, 9, 16 & 23 from 7-9 p.m.**

**Thursdays, May 5, 12, 19 & 26 from 8-10 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.

### **Teen Open Gym Basketball**

**Wednesdays, May 4, 11, 18 & 25 from 3-4:30 p.m.**

**Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls**

Teens age 13-18 are invited to play or practice on the Rec Center's courts. The cost is \$5 per person per session; cash or check only. Under 17 with parent present.

### **The Casual Birder**

**Thursday, May 5 at 9 a.m.**

**Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold – Meet in the parking lot.**

**Thursday, May 19 at 9 a.m.**

**Holmdel Park, Holmdel - Meet in the parking lot in the Ramanessin section.**

Join a Park System Naturalist for this laid-back morning bird walk. We'll meander for about 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!

### **Family Gym Time**

**Friday, May 6 from 9:30-11 a.m.**

**Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls**

Enjoy tunnels, gym mats, scooters and other play equipment during this open play format. Parent supervision is required and Rec Center staff will be present for

questions or assistance. Open to ages 1-4 with adult. The cost is \$10 per pair; cash or check only.

### **National Public Gardens Day**

**Friday, May 6 from 2-8 p.m.**

#### **Deep Cut Gardens, Middletown**

Stop by the gardens for a guided tour or explore the grounds on your own; get answers to your garden/landscape questions and earth-friendly garden tips; sit in on a container gardening demo; try your hand at a scavenger hunt; and pick up some seeds to plant at home. FREE!

### **Open Shoot Archery**

**Friday, May 6 from 4-8 p.m.**

#### **Thompson Park Activity Barn, Lincroft**

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

### **Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower**

**Friday, May 6 from 11:30 p.m.-1 a.m.**

#### **Bayshore Waterfront Park, Port Monmouth**

Join a Park System Naturalist for this spectacular natural event. The Eta Aquarids is capable of producing up to 60 meteors per hour at its peak. Most of the activity is seen in the Southern Hemisphere. In the Northern Hemisphere, the rate can reach about 30 meteors per hour. The new moon will ensure dark skies for what could be an excellent show. FREE!

### **Boat Tours of the Manasquan Reservoir**

**Friday, May 6 at 5 & 6 p.m.**

**Saturdays & Sundays, May 7 & 8, May 14 & 15 and May 21 & 22 at 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m. & 5 p.m.**

**Saturday-Monday, May 28-30 at 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m. & 5 p.m.**

### **Manasquan Reservoir, Howell**

These 45-minute tours are narrated by Park System Naturalists and include opportunities to view local wildlife. The cost is \$6 per adult and \$4 per child, 12 and under. Please call 732-751-9453 to confirm schedule as tours are both weather and water level dependent. All tours leave from the Visitor Center.

### **Climb Time**

**Saturday, May 7 from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.**

**Thompson Park, Lincroft – Marlu Lake area**

Try the Park System's 25' portable climbing wall and experience the sport of rock climbing close to home. Climbers must be 42" or taller and age 8 or older (under 18 with adult). FREE!

### **Drop-In Surprise Story Time**

**Saturday, May 7 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 be inside. Recommended for ages 3-7. FREE!

### **Seashore Scientist: Microscopic Munchies**

**Saturday, May 7 from 12-1 p.m.**

**Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park Activity Center, Long Branch**

Learn about the microscopic organisms that are the base of all life in the ocean during this interactive discussion. We'll also do some hands-on experiments. FREE!

### **Embroidery Demonstration**

**Saturday, May 7 from 1-3 p.m.**

**Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel**

See this delicate craft in action during this demonstration. FREE!

### **Thompson Park Weekend Canoe Rentals**

**Saturdays & Sundays, May 7 & 8 and 21 & 22 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.**

### **Thompson Park, Lincroft**

Canoes will be available for rent on Marlu Lake. All equipment provided; limited number of canoes available. Open to ages 3 and up, under 18 with adult. The cost is \$15 per boat for 1-3 people for two hours; cash or check only.

### **Frog Songs**

**Saturday & Sunday, May 7 & 8 at 1 p.m.**

**Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Howell**

Discover which frogs are calling in May during this nature program. FREE!

### **Roving Park System Naturalist**

**Saturday, May 7 at 8 a.m.**

**Dorbrook Recreation Area, Colts Neck - Meet in the soccer fields parking lot.**

**Saturday, May 21 at 8 a.m.**

**Stone Bridge Trail, Charleston Springs Golf Course, Millstone- Meet in the Stagecoach Road parking lot.**

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

### **Blacksmith Demonstration**

**Sunday, May 8 from 1-3 p.m.**

**Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel**

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

### **Music Man Rich Marzec**

**Sunday, May 8 from 1-3 p.m.**

**Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel**

Enjoy music from the 1890s. FREE!

### **Ask a Naturalist**

**Monday, May 9 from 10-11:30 a.m.**

**Union Transportation Trail - Meet in the parking lot on Jonathon Holmes Road, Upper Freehold.**

**Wednesday, May 25 from 10-11:30 a.m.**

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

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

### **Walnford Day**

**Sunday, May 15 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.**

**Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold**

Enjoy milling demonstrations, hands-on activities, games, exhibits and displays.

FREE!

### **Special People United to Ride Horse Show**

**Saturday, May 21 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.**

**Sunnyside Equestrian Center, Middletown**

Come for a fun day as the riders of Special People United to Ride (SPUR) showcase their talents. FREE!

### **7 Prez SK8 Jam**

**Saturday, May 21 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**

**Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park, Long Branch**

Join us for this amateur skateboarding contest at the recently refurbished Skateplex. Local skateboard and food vendors will be on hand. The cost to compete is \$15 per person; cash or check only for onsite registration. Admission and parking are free.

### **Bayshore Fishing Derby**

**Saturday, May 21 from 4-7 p.m.**

**Bayshore Waterfront Park, Port Monmouth**

Participants must supply their own fishing poles, tackle and bait. Prizes are awarded for the longest fish caught in three age categories. Only fishing from the beach is allowed. The cost is \$8 per person; \$4 each additional person; cash or check only for onsite registration.

### **Nature Lecture Series - Striped Bass: Scales and Tales of a Favorite Fish**

**Thursday, May 26 from 7-8 p.m.**

**Bayshore Waterfront Park Activity Center, Port Monmouth**

This presentation by a Park System Naturalist focuses on the history and ecology of striped bass, the myths surrounding them, and their importance to our local aquatic environment. FREE!

**Drop-in Kayak Tour of the Swimming River**

**Saturday, May 28 from 12:30-3 p.m.**

**Swimming River Park, Middletown**

Join a Park System Naturalist for this guided drop-in kayak tour. Open to ages 12 and up, under 18 with adult. Novice paddlers are welcome; all equipment is provided. Both single and tandem kayaks are available on a first-come first-serve basis. The cost is \$25 per person; cash or check only.

To learn more about these Park System activities, please visit [www.monmouthcountyparks.com](http://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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