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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SPEND SEPTEMBER IN THE PARKS



Wind & Sea Festival at Bayshore Waterfront Park, Port Monmouth

LINCROFT — From birding walks to the *Harvest Home Festival*, September is filled with family-friendly activities thanks to the Monmouth County Park System. Here's what is planned:

The Casual Birder

Thursday, September 1 at 9 a.m.

Crosswicks Creek Park, Upper Freehold - Meet at the Province Line Road trail access.

Thursday, September 15 at 9 a.m.

Sunnyside Equestrian Center, Lincroft - Meet in the trail parking area.

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!**

Boat Tours of the Manasquan Reservoir

Friday, September 2 at 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.

Saturday-Monday, September 3-5 at 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m. & 5 p.m.

Saturdays & Sundays, September 10 & 11, 17 & 18 and 24 & 25 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 age 12 and under. Please call to confirm schedule as tours are both weather and water level dependent. All tours leave from the Visitor Center.

Butterfly and Pollinator Garden Tour

Saturday & Sunday, September 3 & 4 at 3 p.m.

Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Howell

Tour the Butterfly and Pollinator Garden and learn about native plants. **FREE!**

Games Galore

Saturday-Monday, September 3-5 from 1-4 p.m.

Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold

End the summer with a long weekend of family fun by playing some historical games. **FREE!**

Mill Demonstration

Saturdays & Sundays, September 3 & 4, 10 & 11, 17 & 18 and 24 & 25 from 1-4 p.m.

Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold

See the 19th century gristmill in action. **FREE!**

Climb Time

Sunday, September 4 from 12-4 p.m.

Dorbrook Recreation Area, Colts Neck

Try our 25' portable climbing wall. This is a great opportunity to 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!***

Open Ceramics

Sunday, September 4 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 age 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.

Seabrook-Wilson House Tours

Sundays, September 4, 11, 18 & 25 from 1-4 p.m.

Bayshore Waterfront Park, 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!***

Roving Naturalist

Saturday, September 10 at 9 a.m.

Huber Woods Park, Middletown

Join our Roving Naturalist for a walk and discuss seasonal points of interest, search for signs of wildlife, and identify a bird or two. This is a 1 ½ to 2-hour program, but feel free to join in or drop out at any point. Dress for the weather as light rain is not a deterrent. ***FREE!***

Drop-In Surprise Story Time

Saturday, September 10 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 4-7. **FREE!**

Thompson Park Weekend Canoe Rentals

Saturday & Sunday, September 10 & 11 and 24 & 25 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. Fee is \$15 per boat for 1-3 people for two hours. Cash or check only.

9/11 Memorial Ceremony

Sunday, September 11 at 8 a.m.

Mount Mitchell Scenic Overlook, Atlantic Highlands

Join us for this remembrance ceremony at the site of Monmouth County's 9/11 Memorial.

Bonsai Day

Sunday, September 11 from 12-4 p.m.

Deep Cut Gardens, Middletown

The Monmouth County Park System and the Deep Cut Bonsai Society present Bonsai Day. Experience this intricate and ancient art through demonstrations and displays, with experts on hand to answer your questions. Admission and parking are free.

Blacksmith Demonstration

Sunday, September 11 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, September 11 from 1-3 p.m.

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

Enjoy music from the 1890s. **FREE!**

Ask a Naturalist

Friday, September 16 at 10 a.m.

Hartshorne Woods Park - Meet in the Rocky Point parking lot in Highlands.

Friday, September 30 at 10 a.m.

Charleston Springs Golf Course, Millstone - Meet in the trail parking lot on Stagecoach Road.

Hit the trails with a Park System Naturalist as your guide and bring along your questions. **FREE!**

Wind & Sea Festival

Saturday, September 17 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Bayshore Waterfront Park, Port Monmouth

Enjoy coastal activities including stand-up paddling, kayaking, seining, fishing, kite flying, sand casting, shelling and more. The event will also have music, food and representatives from local organizations. Most activities are free but some may have a fee. Admission and parking are free. Parking is available at the Belford Ferry Terminal located at 10 Harbor Way, Belford. A shuttle bus will transport visitors to and from the ferry terminal to Bayshore Waterfront Park.

Jersey Shore Rose Society Rose Show

Saturday, September 17 from 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Deep Cut Gardens, Middletown

Deep Cut Gardens is hosting the Jersey Shore Rose Society's 45th Annual Rose Show. Garden tours will be offered and consulting rosarians will be available to answer your questions. **FREE!**

Butterfly Walk

Saturday, September 17 at 10:30 a.m.

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

Thursday, September 29 at 10:30 a.m.

Manasquan Reservoir, Howell- Meet in the Environmental Center parking lot.

Look for and identify butterflies with a Park System Naturalist during this walk through the park. Walk may be a mile or longer. Open to ages 8 and up, under 18 with adult. **FREE!**

Leaves! Nature Program

Saturday & Sunday, September 17 & 18 at 10:30 a.m.

Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Howell

Collect leaves during a nature walk and then make rubbings and create a journal of your findings. **FREE!**

Open Shoot Archery

Sunday, September 18 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Thompson Park Activity Barn, Lincroft

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

Annual Cornbread Contest

Sunday, September 18 at 12:30 p.m.

Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold

Bring a 9" x 13" pan of cornbread (or the equivalent) and a typed copy of your recipe at 12:30 p.m. Visitors will be able to taste and vote on their favorites between 1-2:30 p.m. Ribbons will be awarded at 3 p.m. A joke contest will be held at 2:30 p.m.

FREE!

Open House Barn Dance

Friday, September 23 from 7-9:30 p.m.

Thompson Park Activity Barn, Lincroft

Give square dancing a try during this fun, family-friendly barn dance. **FREE!**

Great Fall Perennial Plant Swap

Saturday, September 24

Plant drop off from 8:30-10 a.m.

Plant selection from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Deep Cut Gardens, Middletown

Bring perennials in one-quart, one-gallon or two-gallon containers and take home the same size and number of plants. Please label all plants. Houseplants may also be exchanged, but no annuals please. **FREE!**

Harvest Home Festival

Sunday, September 25 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

This old-fashioned fair is reminiscent of the 1890s. Visitors can enjoy wagon rides, games and live entertainment. There are also ongoing craft demonstrations and a Home & Garden competition. Admission and parking are free

Eek-O-Fabulous Costume Swap Drop Off

Monday-Friday, September 26-30 from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Saturday, October 1 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Upcycle gently used kids', adults', and even pet costumes for a spooktacular new-to-you ensemble. Costumes must be dropped off in advance at one of the locations below. For each costume you bring, receive a token entitling you to a "new" costume the day of the swap. Costume drop-off is at the Huber Woods Environmental Center, Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Thompson Park Visitor Center, Dorbrook Recreation Area Visitor Center, and Fort Monmouth Recreation Center. The Swap is Sunday, October 2 from 12-2 p.m. at the Thompson Park Visitor Center, Lincroft. **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.