



## **2019/2020 Special Projects, Distributions & Fundraisers**

### **Brookdale Farm National Register of Historic Places Application – \$10,000 Thompson Park, Lincroft**

Historic research for the application for Brookdale Farm to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places was completed and submitted to the National Park Service. Brookdale Farm was the original name for what is now known as Thompson Park, Lincroft. The Thompson family has a rich history of philanthropy here in Monmouth County. Geraldine Thompson was the founder of the Visiting Nurses Association of Central Jersey, encouraged and assisted Monmouth County in opening a TB Clinic in Wall and was a crusader in women's prison reform. Brookdale Farm was the Thompson's summer home and consisted of what is today's Thompson Park and Brookdale Community College.

### **Historic Services – \$19,397**

#### **Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel and Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold**

December 2020, the *Friends of the Parks* were fortunate to obtain at auction a set of eleven Philadelphia classical painted rush seat chairs, ca. 1830, attributed to John Patterson, stamped *Walnford* on seat rail. Historic Walnford was the home of the Waln family of Philadelphia Quaker merchants. These chairs were most likely made for Nicholas Waln who inherited the property in 1809.

Also purchased for Historic Walnford were replacement canvas belts used for grinding corn at the mill. These belts carry the ground corn from the basement to the upper levels. We also provided \$10,000 for archaeological research. This 50 page report with illustrations was completed November 2019 and is available on the Park System webpage.

At Historic Longstreet Farm *the Friends* funded repairing the plaster ceiling at the farmhouse. Additionally, we supported 19<sup>th</sup> century replicas of work dresses and hats for staff and docents. Old stock fruit trees were purchased for Historic Longstreet Farm. Plus, *the Friends* replaced the thresher's engine at Historic Longstreet Farm.

### **Mobile Nature Center – \$16,160**

In 2019 we agreed to fund the fabrication and detailing of a Mobile Nature Center. This van was purchased by the Park System and was delivered December, 2020. The fabrication, outfitting and detailing are expected to be complete in May, 2021. The Mobile Nature Center will be an environmental center designed to visit fairs, festivals, schools and other related events. We are looking forward to showcasing it at our next *Friends* Annual Meeting.

### **Camp Scholarships & Programs for Urban Youth – \$20,306**

The *Friends of the Parks* continue to support the Recreation Assistance Program (RAP) by providing 20 scholarships for children from Monmouth County's underserved communities such as Asbury Park, Neptune Township, Neptune City, and Long Branch. These campers are able to participate in week-long summer camps (including door-to-door transportation), summer concerts, boat tours, and farm tours. In addition, the *Friends of the Parks* funded an afternoon of bowling, holiday parties and programs at the Park System's Coastal Activity Center in Asbury Park. Proceeds from our Annual RAP Appeal support this effort.

### **Employee Education & Training – \$2,076**

Continuing education is an important component to keeping an organization vital. Monmouth County Park System employees were able to attend national training seminars and in-house training conferences for continuing education thanks to *Friends of the Parks* funding.



### **Volunteers and Trail Teams – \$2,375**

The *Friends of the Parks* are proud to show our appreciation for the volunteers of the Monmouth County Park System. While we were not able to hold the Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon in March, 2020, or the National Trails Day Luncheon in June, 2020, we were able to purchase tools and provide virtual training. We are excited to continue the traditional Thanksgiving cards and pay for the postage. Thank you to all our volunteers who help support our Monmouth County parks.

### **Semi-Formal and a Day with John Marshall for Individuals with Disabilities – \$1,376**

Each year the *Friends of the Parks* sponsor the Therapeutic Recreation Semi-Formal at Tatum Park, Middletown. This support includes refreshments, entertainment and gift bags for all attendees. In addition, the *Friends of the Parks* funded for a visit from John Marshall; participants learned the ins and outs of weather reporting.

### **Partnership with the Colts Neck Lions Club at Challenger Place Dorbrook Recreation Area, Colts Neck – \$122,000**

The *Friends of the Parks* are pleased to partner with the Colts Neck Lions Club for a sensory addition to the Challenger Place Playground at Dorbrook Recreation Area, Colts Neck. The Lions Sensory Den components feature play equipment with sound aspects. Children of all abilities can play seamlessly on this equipment. We were thrilled to coordinate the \$122,000 donation from the Colts Neck Lions Club with the Park System to complete this project.

### **Memorial Donations – Benches, Trees, Brass Leaves - \$49,220**

Memorial benches are purchased and placed by the *Friends* on behalf of a donor. Benches provide a physical & emotional connection for the donor to a loved one's special place. They permanently attach the park to the donors. While they are time consuming and labor intensive to place, they truly are a labor of love. This is why their stories are being featured in our newsletters.

The placement stories are heartbreaking and heartwarming at the same time.

I think that as I grasp for something positive out of 2020, it would be this. People are out in droves in our parks. They are taking the time to truly appreciate the beauty of them & are using them as a way to honor a loved one's memory.

### **We didn't have the Monmouth County Fair, BUT we did have the Super 50/50 Raffle**

We have the winners!

The *Friends of the Parks* shared \$6,500 with our three lucky winners!

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Trudy Van Hemmen

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Louise Abbruzzese

3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Peter Locke