



Friends of the Monmouth County Park System

President: Roberta Sheridan

Volume 21, No. 2

Fall 2012

Coca-Cola and Saker ShopRites Pledge \$12,500 to the Friends of the Parks

When Coca-Cola and Saker ShopRites learned that the playground at the Manasquan Reservoir had been damaged by Hurricane Irene, company representatives offered their help.

In September, Michael Sullivan, Vice President of Sales for Coca-Cola, pledged \$10,000 to the Friends of Monmouth County Park System, Inc. to restore the damaged playground. Thomas Saker, Vice President of Operations for Saker ShopRites, Inc. pledged an additional \$2,500. Accepting the donation were Friends of the Parks President Heather Colella and Executive Director Maria Wojciechowski.

“We are extremely grateful to Coca-Cola and Saker ShopRites for their generous gift,” said Freeholder Lillian G. Burry, liaison to the Monmouth County Park System. “That playground was damaged by several 40-80 foot trees downed by heavy winds and rainfall. This money will go a long way toward restoring it to its former condition.”

“Monmouth County was hard hit by Hurricane Irene,” Freeholder Director Robert D. Clifton said. “It’s great to know we have business leaders who are community-minded and have the wherewithal to help make public parks the best they can be.”



Pictured from left: Edward Loud, Chairman Board of Recreation Commissioners; Maria Wojciechowski, Executive Director Friends of the Parks; Heather Colella, President Friends of the Parks; Assemblyman David Rible; Freeholder Lillian Burry; Thomas Saker, V.P. of Operations, Saker ShopRites, Inc.; Michael Sullivan, V.P. of Market Unit Sales & Operations; and Freeholder Director Robert Clifton

Friends of the Parks Annual Meeting

The Friends of the Parks Annual Meeting in 2012 was disrupted by snow and ice causing it to be adjourned until January 28th. Held at the Thompson Park Visitor Center, 65 members enjoyed presentations given by Park System Naturalist Tanya Dinova and Volunteer Coordinator Melissa Kelly. Tanya gave a bird’s eye view of the Manasquan Reservoir eagles. Melissa enlightened the audience on ways to be involved with the Monmouth County Park System as a volunteer. After business concluded, the membership enjoyed a light lunch.

Ballads in the Woods

A cold February night blanketed in snow set the stage for the annual Ballads in the Woods Concert. The setting couldn’t have been more appropriate for the Colonial-era concert and dinner. Guests were taken back in time with ballads performed by the D-Major Singers: Lois Lyons, Irene Hauge, Pete Brady and Jim Cusick. Dinner and dessert was provided by Wegmans of Manalapan.



**Friends of The Parks
Board of Directors**

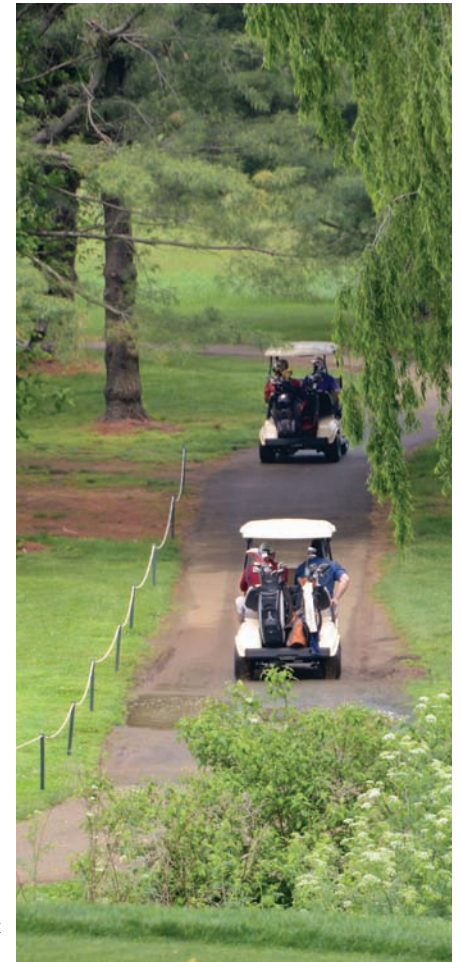
- Roberta Sheridan, President*
- Marilyn Staron, Vice-President*
- Sandy Mulheren, Treasurer*
- Laura Brinkerhoff, Secretary*
- Marcia Blackwell*
- Tracy Boyle*
- Christopher Brett*
- Heather Kimball Colella*
- Gail Cullen*
- Hon. John D'Amico, Jr.*
- Audrey Falzo*
- Greg Hunt*
- Barbara J. McMorrow*
- Chris Mosley*
- Julie Mullen*
- Shirley Neff*
- Catherine H. Niederer*
- Steve Rybka*
- James J. Truncer, Ex-Officio*
- Maria Wojciechowski, Executive Director*
- Anthony Locascio, Legal Counsel*
- Emeritus Directors Elwood Baxter,*
- Joanne Mullen, Daniel Ward Seitz*

Friends of the Parks Annual Golf Outing



Cat Neiderer, Bob Gaffey, Caroline Shine and Suzanne Tiemey

May 16th marked the Friends of the Parks 19th Annual Golf Outing at Hominy Hill Golf Course, Colts Neck. “The day was picture-perfect, the course was fantastic, and the company and the food were superb,” said Tracy Boyle, Friends of the Parks Board Member and Golf Committee Member. The response to the reformatted outing was stupendous. Tee time was 9am concluding with an awards luncheon at 1pm. Turnout was a record high. Hominy Hill Golf Course was designed by Robert Trent Jones. This par 72 championship course is rated as one of the Top 25 Public Courses by Golf Digest and number 1 in the state by New Jersey Monthly Magazine. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped the Friends of the Parks at this event. We couldn’t do it without your help and support!



**Come Rain or Come Shine...
The Monmouth County Fair**

Billie Holiday described it best with lyrics “come rain or come shine”, the 38th Monmouth County Fair set records for temperatures and rainfall. While Mother Nature shut-down the Fair for 2 1/12 days, the Friends of the Parks were able to still run 8 out of 16 raffles bringing in \$10,088. It wasn’t all bad news, just look at the happy winners!



Friends of the Parks Support National Trails Day and Park System Events

The Friends of the Parks are proud to show our appreciation for the 1,000 **volunteers** of the Monmouth County Park System. Volunteers are an invaluable asset for the Monmouth County Park System. They participate as docents in various park locations as well as assist with programs such as therapeutic riding lessons, historical interpretation, and outdoor adventures. They also provide thousands of hours of labor in building and maintaining over 120 miles of park trails, beach cleanups, and gardening.

On June 2nd the Friends of the Parks were proud to once again sponsor the **National Trails Day Luncheon**. National Trails Day is held annually on the first Saturday in June. The rolling trails of Huber Woods Park, Middletown were tidied up and the 49 industrious trails volunteers were well fed as a small thank you from the Friends of the Parks.



Trails team hard at work.



Thompson Park Bridge Dedication

Thompson Park proudly unveiled **two new trail bridges** on April 21st. These bridges provided the missing pieces to the Thompson Park trail. They are a pleasure for all to enjoy! These projects were a joint collaboration between the Monmouth County Park System and Monmouth County's Division of Engineering. The Friends of the Parks were proud to provide refreshments for this special event.

June 9th was the **Open House at Deep Cut Gardens**, Middletown. The Friends of the Parks provided treats for visitors.



Station Road Bench on Henry Hudson Trail



Therapeutic Recreation Beach Outing at Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park

Welcome New Board Member – Chris Mosley!

The Friends of the Parks are proud to announce that Chris Mosley has joined the Board of Directors. Chris is a lifelong Monmouth County resident who lives in Morganville with his wife. Chris is the owner/president of Complete Security Systems. He is no stranger to public service. Chris is currently on the Board at the community YMCA Camp Arrowhead/Camp Zehnder, Monmouth County Ducks Unlimited, and the Past President of the New Jersey Burglary & Fire Alarm Association, and is a former Robertsville Fire Commissioner. In his spare time, Chris collects and restores antique tractors. Welcome Chris!



RAP Appeal

The 2012 **Annual Recreation Assistance Program** netted \$3,985.00. This enabled the Friends of the Parks to send 15 children from under served Monmouth County communities to a Harlem Globetrotters game at Brookdale Community College, provided Spring Break scholarships for 2 children, a summer performance in Thompson Park, week-long Monmouth County Park System summer programs for approximately 22 children, and bus transportation for many of these programs and camps. Thank you to all who supported this drive!



Shop For You and Help Us

The Friends of the Parks of the Monmouth County Park System has joined Give Back America. Participating retailers (Amazon, Best Buy, Target, Walmart, etc.) donate a percentage of each sale made from online purchases through Give Back America. Before shopping simply go on to Give Back America, click on #2 shopping links, click on search by name, type in “Friends of the Monmouth County Parks”, click on the red box reading “click here to shop and support this cause”. Then select your retailer and shop away. It will show you how much of your purchase will be donated to us. Thank you for thinking of us while you make your purchases.



GIVE BACK AMERICA

Honorary and Memorial Donations

Restricted Honorary Donations

In Honor of Evan Seth Giventer from Mary Jane & Harry Smith for the Recreation Assistance Program

Unrestricted Honorary Donations

In Honor of Elwood Baxter from Allison & John Meisenbacher

Restricted Memorial Donations

In Memory of Jackie Aronson from Monmouth Conservation Foundation for a bench in Huber Woods Park

In Memory of Ann Marie Bonpua from Marianne Scala for a bench in Deep Cut Gardens

In Memory of Rose Desiere from Carol O'Keefe, the Robinson Family, and Marilyn Staron for Tony's Place, Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park

In Memory of Drucilla from Mary Jane Smith for a leaf on the Deep Cut Gardens Commemorative Tree

In Memory of Eleanor Dutkiewicz from Mary Jane & Harry Smith for the Recreation Assistance Program

In Memory of Wayne Fisler from Donna Tagliarini for a bench in Thompson Park

In Memory of Rick Geiger from Judy & Elwood Baxter for a leaf on the Deep Cut Gardens Commemorative Tree

In Memory of William L. Gerry from Mary Jane & Harry Smith for the Recreation Assistance Program

In Memory of Susan Liu from staff of the Monmouth County Park System for a bench in the Thompson Park Tree Grove

In Memory of Susan Liu from Board of Directors at SPUR for a bench at Sunnyside Recreation Area

In Memory of Galina Lubniewski from Mike Lubniewski for a bench at the Manasquan Reservoir

In Memory of Sally Meinzer from Mary Jane & Harry Smith for the Recreation Assistance Program

In Memory of Caryl Royle from Mr. & Mrs. James J. Truncer for the Education and Training Fund

In Memory of Michael Yurkow from Lisa Mulligan for a leaf on the Deep Cut Gardens Commemorative Tree

Unrestricted Memorial Donations

In Memory of Ronald Andras from Mr. & Mrs. James J. Truncer

In Memory of Cathy Brady from Roberta Sheridan and Mr. & Mrs. James J. Truncer

In Memory of Frances Conroy from Mr. & Mrs. James J. Truncer

In Memory of James Dallas from Mr. & Mrs. James J. Truncer

In Memory of Alicemay Dellett from Mr. & Mrs. James J. Truncer

In Memory of Rose Desiere Mr. & Mrs. James J. Truncer

In Memory of Walter E. Edgar Mr. & Mrs. James J. Truncer

In Memory of Frederick Geiger from Barbara Silkworth

In Memory of Claire Wood Johnson from Mr. & Mrs. James J. Truncer

In Memory of Alvin Krass from Mr. & Mrs. James J. Truncer

In Memory of Susan Liu from Tracy & Bob Boyle, Heather Kimball Colella, Cheryl Stoeber-Goff, Debra L. Rothenberg, Joyce Wingerter, and Maria Wojciechowski

In Memory of Martin C. McCue from Mr. & Mrs. James J. Truncer

In Memory of Donald E. McKelvey from Mr. & Mrs. James J. Truncer

In Memory of John Paraskevas from Mr. & Mrs. James J. Truncer

In Memory of Al Picerno from Mr. & Mrs. James J. Truncer

In Memory of Richard L. Scott from Mr. & Mrs. James J. Truncer

In Memory of Dan Seitz from Arthur Sorensen

In Memory of Rev. Harry R. Sorensen from Judy & Elwood Baxter

In Memory of Czeslaw "Chester" Sowa from Mr. & Mrs. James J. Truncer

In Memory of Teton from Elizabeth Anita Quinlan

In Memory of Marcel E. Wagner from Mr. & Mrs. James J. Truncer

In Memory of Michael Yurkow from Mr. & Mrs. James J. Truncer

Welcome New Friends of the Parks Members as of August 17, 2012

Nahid Aslanbeigui
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Brilliant
Mrs. Maureen Bromwich
Jo-Ann Bucher
Mr. Robert Burner
Mary E. Cender
Susan A. Collins
Mr. James Cunningham
Marie A. Curtis
Charlyene Douma
Sandra Epstein

Rich Friesenhahn
Ms. Jane B. Gorman
Marianne Herring
Ann & Lee Heumiller
Mr. Edward Janoski
Eileen P. Keating
Mr. Peter Kemmerer
Carol Lawrence
Mr. Fred Lockenmeyer
Kathleen & Robert Lynch
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Mason

Mrs. Bette Matava
Mr. Raymond P. McKernan
Mr. Chris Mosley
Mary L. Munn
Ms. Dawn Nahory
Antoinette Rinella & Brian Compton
Mr. Edwin Roswell
Lois Salerno
Kaitlyn Simmonds
Linda Snyder
Mr. Arthur Sorensen

Mr. William M. Specht
Mary Stella
Nadine L. Stensland
Ruth Ann Szostek
Frank Trafford
Lea Trester
Ms. Mary A. Tutunjian
Kathy & Tim Zebo



Friends of the Monmouth County Park System, Inc.

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Upcoming Friends of the Parks events

Friends of the Parks
Annual Meeting
January 26, 2013



(Left) Friends of the Parks member Eric and Allison enjoying the Monmouth County Fair.

(Above) Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park in the fall.