



# Friends of the Parks

President: Heather Kimball Colella

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Winter 2012



From left Friends Board President Heather Colella, and Friends members Elwood Baxter, Tom Sannelli & Judy Baxter

## Monmouth County Fair 50/50's Total \$19,000!

Even a Friday night rain-out did not hamper 50/50 raffle sales at the Monmouth County Fair. Sixty-three volunteers helped the *Friends* sell more than \$19,000 in 50/50's and Super 50/50 raffles. Seventeen lucky winners shared prize winnings with the *Friends*. "I would like to thank everyone who participated in this event. Proceeds from the raffles fund many of our programs, like the Recreation Assistance Program which provides scholarships for twenty children to attend Monmouth County Park System summer camps," said *Friends* President Heather Colella.

## Meet the New Board Members

Christopher Brett is Director and Lead, Cardiovascular Diseases Global Trial Management at Merck. He joined Merck in 1996. Chris has been a co-author on numerous scientific abstracts and articles.

Born in Wilmington, DE, Chris is the oldest of four boys, all soccer players. He attended the Salesianum School in Wilmington and then University of Delaware, earning degrees in English Literature and Biological Sciences.

He lives in Red Bank with his wife Pamela, their precocious six year old daughter and an energetic three year old son.

Chris had this to say about the Monmouth County Park System: "We are huge fans, and users, of MCPS. Almost weekly we attend a program, participate in an activity or take a class organized and run by MCPS. We feel extremely fortunate to live in such a park-rich county with first-rate programs and facilities. Our favorite parks are Huber Woods, Dorbrook Recreation, Thompson Park and Hartshorne Woods."

In his spare time he enjoys playing tennis, mountain biking and life at the Jersey shore.



Friends Board Member Christopher Brett



Friends Board Member Hon. John D'Amico

John D'Amico, Jr. rejoins the *Friends*' Board of Directors. John is excited to take up where he left off in 2007. John D'Amico is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School. John is a highly qualified individual with a long history of public service. He is a retired Superior Court Judge for the State of New Jersey. John has also served as an Oceanport Councilman, a Monmouth County Freeholder, and New Jersey State Senator. John was also a member on the Monmouth County Planning Board, the Board of Social Services, and the New Jersey State Parole Board.

## Newly Renovated Activity Center Displays History and Nature Exhibits

On Saturday, August 6th, the Bayshore Waterfront Park Activity Center opened to the public with brand new historical and nature exhibits, funded by the *Friends of the Parks*.

Historic Preservation Specialist Gail Hunton stated, “The restoration of the Seabrook-Wilson House, completed in 2009, returned the exterior of the historic landmark to its documented 1896 appearance and renovated the building for its new use as Bayshore Waterfront Park’s Activity Center. Two rooms of new exhibits share stories of Sandy Hook Bay’s ecology, growth and change of the Seabrook-Wilson House through the generations, and the vital connection between this site and the greater Bayshore community.”

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From left: Freeholder Lillian Burry, Recreation Commissioner Edward Loud, Friends President Heather Colella, and Monmouth County Park System Secretary-Director Jim Truncer  
New exhibits in the Seabrook-Wilson House located within Bayshore Waterfront Park, Port Monmouth



Eagle Sculpture at Mount Mitchill Scenic Overlook, Atlantic Highlands

## September 11th Memorial Observance

On Sunday, September 11, the Monmouth County Park System hosted a Memorial Ceremony at Mount Mitchill Scenic Overlook, Atlantic Highlands, the site of Monmouth County’s 9/11 Memorial. The guest speaker was Captain David J. Harrison, Commanding Officer at Naval Weapons Station Earle. Refreshments were generously donated by Delicious Orchards, Sickles Market, and Wegmans, Manalapan.

Monmouth County’s 9/11 Memorial has three symbolic components: a timeline walkway to recollect the events of the day; a stone base carved with the names, ages and hometowns of the 147 county residents who lost their lives that day; and an eagle sculpture with a beam from one of the fallen World Trade Center towers. Set against views of New York City, the memorial honors both the lives lost and the fearless display of heroism by rescue teams and citizens who responded to the tragedy. Monmouth County’s 9/11 Memorial was dedicated in 2005 and was made possible through donations to Monmouth County’s 9/11 Memorial Committee.



The Friends wish to thank our generous donors: Delicious Orchards, Sickles Market & Wegmans, Manalapan

## Strut Your Mutt Halloween Doggie Parade

A brisk fall day brought costume clad dogs (and their human companions) as well as hundreds of spectators to the *Friends of the Parks* Annual Strut Your Mutt Halloween Parade and Doggie Costume Contest, sponsored by Garden State Veterinary Specialists of Tinton Falls. The Off-Leash Dog Area at Thompson Park, Lincroft was the ideal setting for the Strut Your Mutt Contest. The K-9 Unit of the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office provided a demonstration to on-lookers. Officers Fay, Arentino and Kroeper showed just what their canine partners could do with their highly developed olfactory abilities. Falco, Evan, and Ari sniffed out concealed explosives and were then available for petting and ear scratching. The judges' jobs were extremely difficult selecting the best masked marauders. "We would like to thank Garden State Veterinary Specialists for their support of this event," said Roberta Sheridan, event chairperson and *Friends* Board Member.



Patricia Smillie-Scavelli of Garden State Veterinary Specialists, Friends Board President Heather Colella & Nikki



Strut Your Mutt Doggie Costume Contest entrants

### Will You Be My Friend?

The *Friends* 2012 Membership Drive is in full swing. In 1991, the *Friends of the Monmouth County Park System, Inc.* was formed. In twenty years we have grown and diversified. A group of dedicated citizens realized that building public support for a fledgling county park system was crucial for its future. Resourcefulness and philanthropy helped our parks to grow.

One constant is that we still need to build strong public support, awareness of parks, and conservation values; a strong sense of stewardship is more important than ever with our changing demographics and landscape. Partnerships lead to involvement. Involvement leads to awareness.

The *Friends* contribute to the protection of our treasures. It has been our mission to assist the Monmouth County Park System in supporting park programs and projects that have been beyond the reach of limited appropriated dollars.

In these difficult economic times your support for the *Friends of the Monmouth County Park System, Inc.* ensures that the evolving history and rich heritage of our county park system remains vital and relevant.

Please, if you have not renewed your 2012 *Friends'* Membership yet, I am asking you to do so now.

If you are not a *Friends* member, I am inviting you to join us today. Please be my *Friend!*

## Friends' Decals

Show your support of your favorite park by displaying a *Friends'* decal. Decals are \$2.00 and can be purchased through the *Friends* or at the park. Decals are available for Turkey Swamp Park, the Manasquan Reservoir, Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park, Dorbrook Recreation Area, Holmdel Park, Huber Woods Park and Deep Cut Gardens. Be the envy of all your *Friends* by prominently displaying your favorite park!



## Save The Date:

### Ballads in the Woods Concert – February 25th

Brrrrr, the arctic air is upon us. So why not join us for an evening of warm comforting food and traditional tavern music? On Saturday, February 25th, we will host our 11th Annual Ballads in the Woods Dinner Concert. The concert will begin at 5pm at Tatum Park's Holland Road Activity Center, Middletown. Ballads will once again feature entertainment by the D-Major Singers followed by a delightful buffet dinner. Tickets are \$30 for *Friends* Members and \$35 for non-members. Contact the *Friends* Office to reserve your place.



The D-Major singers performing at the Holland Activity Center, Middletown, from left: Irene Hauge, Jim Cusick, Pete Brady & Lois Lyons

# Honorary and Memorial Donations

## Restricted Honorary Donations

*In Honor of Ashley & Brianna Kailas* from  
Barbara & Robert Cassin

## Unrestricted Honorary Donations

*In Honor of All the 9-11 Families* from the Amerigo Vespucci  
Charitable Fund, Inc., Long Branch

*In Honor of Elwood Baxter* from Allison & John Meisenbacher

*In Honor of Mary Dougherty* from Barb Cook

## Restricted Memorial Donations

*In Memory of Edward Camuzo* from Anne Fatone, Lesleigh &  
William Forsyth, Jenny & Enrique Homar, Tara & John  
Iona, Marcella & Louis Montalbano, Karyn & David Nelson,  
Christina & John Pormigiano, Beverly & Milton Rosenblum,  
Barbara & John Sirignano, Florence Stone, Marian &  
Donald Sullivan, Katherine & John Tassiello, and Maryanne  
& Joseph Tassiello for Holmdel Park

*In Memory of William Grenger* from Mary Jane & Harry Smith  
for the Recreation Assistance Program

*In Memory of Betty Harwood* from Garden State Daylily  
Growers for a leaf on the Deep Cut Gardens  
Commemorative Tree

*In Memory of Betty Harwood* from Garden State Daylily  
Growers for Deep Cut Gardens

*In Memory of Aldrich K. Sawyer-Dolby* from MCPS Employees  
for the Employee Education Fund

*In Memory of Elizabeth Walters Stultz* from Mary Jane & Harry  
Smith for the Recreation Assistance Program

*In Memory of Albert F. Walker* from The Ferraro Family for the  
Recreation Assistance Program

*In Memory of Joyce & Tom Waterson* from Marc Heyhoe for a  
bench at Deep Cut Gardens

## Board of Directors

Heather Kimball Colella, President  
Roberta Sheridan, Vice-President  
Sandy Mulheren, Treasurer  
Laura Brinkerhoff, Secretary  
Marcia Blackwell  
Tracy Boyle

Christopher Brett  
Gail Cullen  
Hon. John D'Amico, Jr.  
Audrey Falzo  
Greg Hunt  
Barbara J. McMorrow

## Unrestricted Memorial Donations

*In Memory of Edward Camuzo* from Lauren Connelly

*In Memory of Diane Lynn Dittmar* from Mr. & Mrs. James J. Truncer

*In Memory of Catherine Elwood* from Mr. & Mrs. James J. Truncer

*In Memory of Helen Mayor* from Maria & Michael Wojciechowski

*In Memory of Joan K. Meisenbacher* from Mr. & Mrs. Elwood Baxter

*In Memory of Kenneth O'Shaughnessy* from Cheryl Stoeber-Goff

*In Memory of Robert Allen Sage* from Mr. & Mrs. James J. Truncer

*In Memory of Marie Schneider* from Maria & Michael Wojciechowski

*In Memory of Paul J. Walling* from Mary Jane & Harry Smith

*In Memory of Albert F. Walker* from Barbara & Richard Abbott,

Susan Annitto, Irene & Collin Baldassare, Cathy & Pete Brady,  
Mary & Fred Braun, Mary Jane Cavallo, Maureen & John  
Drexel, April & Ian Durand, John Gibson, Diane Glass,  
Patricia & Larry Lagan, Trudy & C.J. Lagan, Jane & Chauncey  
Lehmann, Donna & Lance Mallinson, Merrill Rich, Leslie  
Schmid, Jim Shaw, The Sorensen Family, Tom Spader, Hilarie  
Stella & Christian Aussicker, and Agnes & Peter Twachtman

## Welcome New Friends Members as of January 6, 2012:

Christopher Brett • Dean Brown • Sandy & David Epstein  
Helen Fiore • Shaun Golden • Janice & Howard Mason  
Linda & Bill McDonald • Frida & John McLaughlin • Laline & Carl Neff  
Michael Neubelt • NJ County Planners Association • Lynn Spector  
Joel Whitman



Monmouth County

# Friends of the Parks



P.O. Box 686  
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U.S. Postage  
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## Mark your 2012 Calendars for these Friends' Events!



### **Saturday, February 25th –**

Ballads in the Woods, Holland Activity Center,  
Tatum Park, Middletown

### **Wednesday, May 16th –**

Friends Annual Golf Outing,  
Hominy Hill Golf Course, Colts Neck

### **July 25th thru 29th –**

Monmouth County Fair,  
East Freehold Showgrounds, Freehold