



**CONTACT:** Karen Livingstone or  
Communications  
732-842-4000, ext. 4256  
[klivings@monmouthcountyparks.com](mailto:klivings@monmouthcountyparks.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, December 15, 2016

**PARK SYSTEM FILLS JANUARY WITH WINTER FUN IN THE PARKS**



Head over to **WinterFest** on Saturday, January 28 from 12-4 p.m. at Thompson Park, Lincroft.

LINCROFT — Looking to keep your family happy and active this January? Look no further than the Monmouth County Park System and all the activities it has planned for the month. Here's what is scheduled:

**The Casual Birder**

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

**Manasquan Reservoir, Howell - Meet at the Visitor Center.**

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

**Henry Hudson Trail - Meet in the Popamora Point parking lot in Highlands.**

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!**

### **Surprise Story Time**

**Saturday, January 7 from 11-11:45 a.m.**

**Deep Cut Gardens, Middletown**

Join us for a reading from a nature or garden-related book. 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!**

### **Opening Reception for the Deep Cut Gardens Photography Exhibit**

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

**Deep Cut Gardens Horticultural Center, Middletown**

Meet with the photographers of the "A Different Perspective" exhibit. Light refreshments served. **FREE!**

### **Open Ceramics**

**Sunday, January 8 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.

### **Roving Naturalist**

**Saturday, January 14 at 9 a.m.**

**Fisherman's Cove Conservation Area, Manasquan**

**Sunday, January 29 at 9 a.m.**

**Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park, Long Branch - Meet in the pavilion.**

Join our Roving Naturalist for a walk. We'll discuss seasonal points of interest, search for signs of wildlife, and identify a bird or two. This is a 1.5-2 hour program, but feel free to join in or drop out at any point. Dress for the weather as light rain and snow are not deterrents.

**FREE!**

### **Snowflakes: Each a Work of Art**

**Saturday & Sunday, January 14 & 15 from 1-4 p.m.**

**Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold**

Learn about early 20th century photographer “Snowflake” Bentley, known for capturing snowflake designs, as you make your own paper flakes. **FREE!**

### **Nature Lecture Series: Captain Kidd - the Pirate of New York & New Jersey**

**Thursday, January 19 from 7-8 p.m.**

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

Join a Park System Naturalist for this talk about Captain William Kidd and the lore of his buried treasure while learning about the lives of pirates and their dealings in local waters.

**FREE!**

### **Seashore Open House**

**Sunday, January 22 from 1-4 p.m.**

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

Enjoy hands-on activities, chat with a Park System Naturalist, and create a beach keepsake to take with you. Admission and parking are free.

### **WinterFest**

**Saturday, January 28 from 12-4 p.m.**

**Thompson Park, Lincroft**

Celebrate the fun that winter brings with wagon rides, cross-country skiing, and so much more. Most activities are free; some might have a fee. Admission and parking are free.

### **Beach Craft Surprise**

**Sunday, January 29 from 1-2 p.m.**

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

Make a beach-themed craft, ask beach-y questions, and watch as the aquatic critters are fed. The cost is \$5 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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