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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, September 14, 2016



Thompson Park Day

MIDDLETOWN – From *Open Ceramics* to *Thompson Park Day*, the Monmouth County Park System packs October with family fun. Here’s what is planned:

Drop-In Surprise Story Time

Saturday, October 1 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!**

Wood Turtles

Saturday & Sunday, October 1 & 2 at 1 p.m.

Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Howell

Learn about wood turtles that live in our area. **FREE!**

Roving Naturalist

Saturday, October 1 at 9 a.m.

Hartshorne Woods Park, Middletown - Meet in the Claypit Creek section.

Sunday, October 16 at 9 a.m.

Hominy Hill Golf Course, Colts Neck - Meet in the Matthews Road parking lot.

Sunday, October 30 at 9 a.m.

Dorbrook Recreation Area, Colts Neck - Meet in the soccer fields parking lot.

Look for seasonal points of interest, search for signs of wildlife, and identify a bird or two during this leisurely walk with the Park System's Roving Naturalist. This is 1 ½-2 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!**

Mill Demonstrations

Saturdays & Sundays, October 1 & 2, 8 & 9, 15 & 16, 22 & 23 and 29 & 30 from 1-4 p.m.

Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold

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

Open Ceramics

Sunday, October 2 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.

Music Man Rich Marzec

Sunday, October 2 from 1-3 p.m.

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

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

Photography Reception at Historic Walnford

Sunday, October 2 from 3-4 p.m.

Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold

Meet the photographers of the Crestwood Village Photography Club during this opening reception. The theme of the exhibit is "Don't Fence Me In." Their images will be on display through the month of October. ***FREE!***

Men's Open Gym Basketball

Sundays, October 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 from 8-10 a.m.

Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls

Shoot some hoops on our full court gym. The cost is \$5 per person per session; cash or check only.

Seabrook-Wilson House Tours

Sundays, October 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 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!***

Teen Open Basketball

Tuesdays, October 4, 11, 18 & 25 from 3-4:30 p.m.

Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls

Teens are invited to play or practice on our courts. Cost is \$5 per person per session; cash or check only. Under 17 with parent present.

Ask a Naturalist

Tuesday, October 4 at 9 a.m.

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

Friday, October 21 at 10 a.m.

Perrineville Lake Park, Millstone - Meet in the Agress Road parking lot.

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

The Casual Birder

Thursday, October 6 at 9 a.m.

Perrineville Lake Park, Millstone - Meet in the Agress Road parking area.

Thursday, October 20 at 9 a.m.

Wolf Hill Recreation Area, Oceanport - Meet in the Eatontown Blvd. 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!**

Co-Ed Open Basketball - 20 & Up

Thursdays, October 6, 13, 20 & 27 from 8-10 p.m.

Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls

This basketball program is open to men and women age 20 and over. Emphasis of this program is exercise and fun. The cost is \$5 per person per session; cash or check only.

Climb Time

Sunday, October 9 from 12-4 p.m.

Thompson Park, Lincroft – Filly Run parking lot

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!**

Quilting Demonstration

Sunday, October 9 from 1-3 p.m.

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

See the art of quilting in action. *FREE!*

Concert in the Barn: Ravine Crossing Chorale

Sunday, October 9 from 3-4:30 p.m.

Thompson Park Theatre Barn, Lincroft

Ravine Crossing Chorale presents *Sunday in the Park*, a musical revue. Ravine Crossing Chorale is a group of 16 talented voices singing a variety of music from classical to popular. *FREE!*

Barn Raising

Saturday, October 15 at 2:30 p.m.

Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold

Help assemble a small structure and experience the engineering and artistry of timber frame construction. *FREE!*

Snake Meet & Greet

Saturday & Sunday, October 15 & 16 at 12 p.m.

Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Howell

Meet one of the Environmental Center's resident snakes. *FREE!*

Thompson Park Day

Sunday, October 16 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Thompson Park, Lincroft

From the scarecrow contest to doggie costume contest, Thompson Park Day offers everything a fall festival should - pumpkin painting, wagon rides, kids' races, entertainment and so much more! Admission and parking are free; some activities have a fee.

Nature Lecture Series: The Real Story of the Jersey Devil

Thursday, October 27 from 7-8 p.m.

Bayshore Waterfront Park Activity Center, Port Monmouth

Discover the many possible origins and stories of the Jersey Devil legend during this talk led by a Park System Naturalist. ***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.

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