



# Green Link

An Employee & Volunteer Newsletter of the Monmouth County Park System



Thompson Park

July/August 2011

## Spotlight on...

### Procurement Department

This department underwent some big changes last summer with the retirement of Bob Cain after 40 years. One year later his replacement, NJ Qualified Purchasing Agent Fran Lorelli, has said of the smooth transition, "I have my extremely well-organized and hard-working staff to thank. They really stepped up to the plate."

The staffers she is referring to are Stephanie Weise since 2005 and Christina Miller, who began her career in the parks in 2002 and moved here in 2007. They have the huge responsibility of making sure ALL park areas have the equipment, supplies and services they need to operate.

*From gravel to grass seed to gasoline, Procurement makes sure that ALL the park areas have the supplies they need to operate.*



Procurement Team: Fran Lorelli (seated), Stephanie Weise (back left) and Christina Miller (back right).

What does this mean, exactly? For starters, each year they create and manage more than 100 different supply contracts (with anywhere from 1-30 vendors each!) and over 30 construction contracts. These contracts cover the purchase of thousands of items—gravel, grass seed, tools, tractors, heating oil and gasoline, roof repairs—the list goes on and on.

### Did You Know? Park Supplies Used In 2010...



Rolls of Toilet Paper	9,408
Rolls of Paper Towels	5,256
Black 60 gallon Trash Bags	72,900
Bottles of Glass Cleaner	398
Band-Aids Dispensed	8,174
Mutt Mitt Bags	412,000

*Ed Zarella of Building Maintenance keeps the parks beautiful every day, but especially during special events like Thompson Park Day, the busiest day of the year at this site.*



Binders and Binders and Binders: This "library" is needed to track the heavy volume of POs and contracts that Christina (left) and Stephanie (right) manage each year.

# DIRECTOR'S CORNER



## “OUR STORY”

We do a lot more than people may realize. We provide a variety of recreation services and facilities that are known to and enjoyed by our citizens, but there are a number of things we do that may not be as evident. In making our citizens aware of all the opportunities we provide, and the benefits of what we do, I truly believe it is important that we collectively tell our story. This includes letting people know that we offer:

- creative arts opportunities
- outdoor adventures
- nature and historic interpretation
- management of our natural and manmade resources
- protection of species and habitat
- protection of our drinking water supply
- management of invasive species
- facilities and services for individuals with limited abilities
- services to our county's municipalities and not-for-profit organizations
- programs for residents of low-income communities
- opportunities for improved personal health and well being
- protection and enhancement of property values

Overall, preserving acres of critical open space allows us to protect many natural and historic resources of county-wide significance, and helps shape our county's future growth. It is an investment in our communities so that they remain attractive places where people want to live and work.



*The Park System does so much more than people realize; whether its providing opportunities for runners to test their fitness (that's Thompson Park Ranger Bill Vaughn directing E. Murray Todd Half Marathon race traffic) or managing busy parks like the Manasquan Reservoir to let wildlife flourish.*

One future benefit that may prove to be the most valuable to the health and survival of mankind is that our protected species may hold the cures for some illnesses.

The more our citizens know about us, the better we can serve them and meet their needs.

***The more our citizens know about us  
the better we can meet their needs.***

It is also up to each of us to continue to be sure that quality is central to the services and products we provide. I believe it is more important than ever in economic times like these to continue to tell the story of what we do. When you think about it, we are all about children, trees, and the quality of life.

**“We don't know who we are until we see  
what we can do.”      --Chinese proverb**

### Recent Improvements Make Life Easier

Local, county and state laws spell out how each contract is sent out to bid and awarded. To make sure we adhere to these laws, Stephanie and Christina received extensive training and are certified as Registered Public Purchasing Specialists. They used this expertise to improve the purchasing process and make it easier for park staff to order materials.

Christina designed a program to access supply contracts on the network (in addition to the paper supply manual), and they both helped update the Purchasing Manual into a fresh, user-friendly format. Staff can now get information, or step-by-step directions on any aspect of the purchasing process.

### Website Info Benefits Vendors

Vendors also benefit from staff expertise. All aspects of the process for bids and professional services are now posted on our website, along with our Fair and Open policy. Using web pages designed by Fran, businesses and individuals can find detailed instructions on vendor, requirements, bid openings and results.

“When I stop to think about how much effort goes into managing all the procurement processes for the entire Park System,” says Fran, “I’m grateful for how well Stephanie and Christina handle the volume of work they take care of during any given week or month.”

## Volunteer

### Corner

#### Reception “Snapshot”



(back, l to r) Recreation Commissioner Tom Hennessy, Coordinator of Volunteers Melissa Kelly, Public Information Officer Karen Livingstone, Recreation Commission Chairman Ed Loud and Park System Secretary-Director Jim Truncer with the very special individuals who reached a lifetime volunteer milestone this year. They are (front, l to r) Werner Aehlich, Barbara Vananzini, Harden Fowler and Jim Henry.

## What’s “News” In The Outdoors

Do you remember the appearance of the word “staycation” into the outdoor lexicon a few years back? It was coined to express a new type of local, inexpensive vacation people were taking due to the economic downturn. We are not sure if this next new word signals an economic upturn, but “glamping” (glamour+camping) recently popped up on the recreation radar. According to www.traveldailynews.com (April 18, 2011), people, in Europe especially, are taking advantage of up-market camping options such as “Iron Age Roundhouses...yurts, safari-style tents complete with oven and fridge, Ekopods, wigwams, tipis; authentic gypsy caravans...and touses (hybrid tent-houses).” Add high-profile celebrity sitings; “retro-chic” glamping accessories; and camp butlers to the mix, and you may be seeing the beginning of another new trend.



Speaking of new trends...off-duty seasonal Naturalist K. Sheehan-Dasenbrock recently stopped by Thompson Park wearing the latest in outdoor footwear: barefoot sneakers. These are designed to give all the benefits of being barefoot (especially



for running), but with a covering and sole that protects your feet from the elements.

K models the very latest in outdoor footwear.



A closer look at the features of barefoot sneakers.

# Out & About: Staff Happenings

## Naturalist Wins Federal Grant

In 2010, **Senior Park Naturalist Joe Reynolds** applied for and received a \$16,650 grant on behalf of the Park System from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). The grant was to develop a program for 5th grade students from small-scale school districts in the Bayshore Region (Highlands, Atlantic Highlands, Keansburg, Union Beach, and Keyport) to go on a free field trip to learn about the NY/NJ Harbor Estuary.



By the time you read this, staff Naturalists Joe Reynolds and Erica Bozza will be all moved in at the newly renovated Bayshore Activity Center, and installation of new exhibit panels like this one should be well underway.

The program will provide free field trips in the fall at Bayshore Waterfront Park for students to connect with their local urban/suburban estuarine environment and include seining, beachcombing, plankton collection, and a boat ride on a 41-foot sailing catamaran. This spring, 5th grade teachers from the school districts attended a free teacher workshop to improve their curriculum and promote appreciation, stewardship, and knowledge of the local estuary throughout the school year.



Indoor and outdoor components of a grant-funded teacher workshop: Naturalist Joe Reynolds gives a demo on common Bayshore species using shell evidence found along the beach. Teachers also measured water turbidity and temperature (shown). A temperature over 50° F, for instance, is a trigger for appearance of fish species such as striped bass and herring.



“While today’s children are more environmentally conscience, many people still lack knowledge about their local environment,” according to Joe. This grant helps foster a greater sense of community and increase familiarity about the plants and animals that also call the Bayshore region home.

## Host & Hostess With the Most-est

In March, **Park Manager and Ecologist Ken Thoman** hosted attendees of the annual Land Conservation rally for a presentation and tour at Thompson Park, the day before they held a rally at Brookdale.



Ken, with help from Senior Park Manager Rick Royle, gave a presentation on the strategies we employ to manage our natural resources.



Participants also enjoyed a wagon ride/field trip through Thompson Park to illustrate our strategies. And it just so happened that one of them—*invasive species removal*—was underway the day of the tour.



Then in April, **Walnford Site Supervisor Sarah Bent** hosted her second annual meeting of the NJ Living History Association Advisory Council at Historic Walnford. Participants were treated to talks and demonstrations by experienced professionals who shared some “tricks of the trade.” The day started with a breakfast donated by Delaware Historic Foodways, and the event featured topics such as volunteerism and making historic furniture and accessories.

After decades as an interpreter at Historic Sturbridge Village, Tom Kelleher had plenty of stories to share, in his very own animated style. He spoke about how to cultivate courtesy and interest with all your visitors (even the difficult ones).



18th Century musician and Director of the Wallace House/Old Dutch Parsonage in Somerville Jim Kurzenberger with Georgette Le-North on Harpsichord, talked about the pitfalls some living history sites make with historic music presentations. Did you know? Even minor

performance details were quite different in the past, when people dressed, spoke, and even stood more formally than they do today.

## Seasonal Naturalist Answers Call to Serve

Staff at the Manasquan Reservoir reluctantly bid “adieu” to beloved program employee since 2006, **Erin Lubeck** who left us this past January to join the Peace Corps in Thailand. Prior to that, she was one of our premiere boat tour leaders, but also did a variety of other programs at the site. According to Naturalist Supervisor Ruth Ann Zobel, “Her happy attitude and infectious laugh made her a joy to be around. We all miss her and wish her well.”



*Shown here with this baby corn snake, Erin Lubeck made sure to socialize this young specimen so it would get used to people before it became part of the show.*

## Preserving Precious Artifacts, Large & Small

Before it could be placed at Historic Walnford for display, this massive cast iron turbine from the original gristmill required a little historic TLC. Museum Curator **Cheryl Stoeber-Goff** carefully stripped off much of the rust and sealed the exterior with preserving layers of varnish.



*Many Park System antiquities, such as the gristmill's original turbine, require some type of preservation by Cheryl and Historic Services staff before they can be placed on display or archived for posterity.*

## Newest Ranger Class, In Training

At this, our first Ranger class since 2008, there were 15 of our own trainees, as well as 2 rangers from Burlington County and 2 from Middlesex County. While they have since graduated (on April 27, 2011) and been assigned to parks around the county, here's a peek at how hard they worked to complete their course.



*Outdoors, Rangers practice their formation with Principal Park Ranger Travis Bryan. Indoors, they are given defensive training and instructed on handcuffs and restraints.*



## Staff With Special Talents Entertain at Friends Breakfast

Readers of this newsletter may already be aware of the special talents of **Thompson Park Ranger Ralph Johnson** (Paleontologist/Archaeologist) and **Friends Member and Volunteer Pete Brady** (Fiddler Extraordinaire). But did you know? They are both self-taught in their respective fields as well as



accomplished...talk about dedication!

*Avocation Calls. Friends of the Parks Director Maria Wojciechowski is flanked by some exceptional park talent. (left) Ralph Johnson holds this 32 lb. bone,*

*which is the upper quarter of the right leg of a Hadrosaurus, a 35 foot long, 10 ton duck-billed dinosaur, which he found here in Monmouth County. (right) Pete Brady-vol. with his fiddle (By the way, Pete taught himself the fiddle after he retired from his career as an engineer.)*

## Work of One Park Artisan Always on Display

Since we see them every day, it's easy to ignore the park signs that welcome visitors to our various sites. But here's an opportunity to stop and take note of one of **sign-maker Dave Dellet's** latest jobs. These park-specific entry signs, no longer made of wood, are carved by machine from a type of super-compressed foam, then hand-painted at Dave's shop in Thompson Park. Did you know? From brown road signs to internal directional signs (including trail marker posts) to main entrance signs like the ones pictured, the Sign Shop completes and installs hundreds of signs each year (and inscribes every employee nametag).



*These before and after photos show how much brighter and more welcoming a new park sign can be.*



# New Land Deal In Western MOCO Makes History

Following an unprecedented multi-agency collaboration, Monmouth County will be celebrating the addition of approximately 406 acres of Open Space (as well hundreds of acres in farmland easements) next to its property in and around **Crosswicks Creek Greenway**. Currently known as the Flemer Entities Property, the land was formerly known as Princeton Nurseries and still contains many acres of trees yet to be harvested. The Flemer family wished to see their property preserved and were on hand for a public announcement held at their former headquarters last April.

Through a multi-year negotiation process resulting in the largest joint Open Space and Farmland Preservation project in NJ history, over 1,900 acres will be preserved around Crosswicks Creek in Burlington, Mercer and Monmouth Counties. The park system's portion of land will eventually contain trails and adjoin a Wildlife Management Area, while the farmland portions will secure agricultural use in perpetuity.



The former Princeton Nurseries office sits on the center parcel of the nearly 2 dozen properties that make up this large, multi-agency acquisition. It was the site of an announcement, where former land owner Bill Flemer, and a host of other county and agency representatives, spoke about the preservation of the property.



About half of the 1,900 acre Flemer Entities Property acquisition is located in Monmouth County, and is expected to close sometime next year (after survey work is completed).

## Wild Wildlife...

### Ghost Vulture

Talk about an interesting image...this albinoid turkey vulture has been seen around **Huber and Hartshorne Woods Parks** for a few weeks last spring, and was photographed by Naturalist Sam Skinner. Albinism is a gene mutation that is characterized by the complete or partial absence of pigment in the skin, hair and eyes that is due to the absence of an enzyme involved in the production of melanin. In animals it is often referred to as "albinic" or "albinoid."



Albinoid Turkey Vulture

We have seen many different species throughout the Park System that have exhibited albinic tendencies: White-tailed Deer, American Crow, Mourning Dove and a Northern Cardinal. But these animals were not true albinoids; they were leucistic. Leucism is the lack of all pigment not just melanin. The result is an animal with large areas of the body without pigment and appearing to have a patchy look.

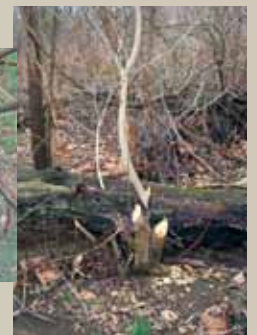
### Stop That Beaver!

The neighbors have complained to park staff, "Can you please get your beaver off my property!?" and Site Supervisor Sarah Bent is not too happy either. It seems this frequent **Walnford** visitor has grown a much larger set of chompers in the past few years; setting his (or her?) sites on larger, more noticeable trees this season.



The suspect.

The evidence. Walnford's historic quince bush (there are photos of quince in this location dating back to the early 1900s) and a sapling growing behind the mill.



The "punishment" (for now). Wrap the site's quince bushes in wire to prevent further damage.

### A Tough Subject

Have you ever noticed how fast a chipmunk can move? If so, then you will appreciate this photo. Notoriously difficult to capture well on film, this subject



Chipmunk

posed on a log just long enough for skilled nature photographer and **Naturalist Sam Skinner** to catch this lovely shot at Huber Woods Park.

## Welcome New Hires!

**Christopher DeMaio**, Park Ranger, Hartshorne Woods

**David Loichle**, Park Ranger, Turkey Swamp Park

**Courtney Kling**, Recreation Leader, Golf

**Stacey Maloney**, Clerk, Administration

**Ivan Sanchez**, Park Ranger, East Freehold Showgrounds

**Ryan Rochelle**, Park Ranger, Manasquan Reservoir

**Robert Smith**, Park Ranger, Dorbrook

**Thomas Sheehan**, Park Ranger, Manasquan Reservoir

**Justin Birk**, Park Ranger, Deep Cut

**Mark Griff**, Asst. Golf Superintendent, Charleston Springs North

## Farewell Retirees!

**Peter Kucker**, Golf Ranger  
Shark River Golf Course, 5/1/11



### July

- 2 Travis Bryan • Jason Miller
- 3 Mike DeMauro • William Vega
- 5 Anthony Ribera
- 6 Richard Brunelli • Thomas Osborne
- Charlie Todd
- 8 Brian Corrigan • Bryan Whalen
- 9 Chris Plantamura
- 10 Keith Bennett
- 13 David Loichle
- 14 William Bellingham • Paul DeJesus
- 21 Lawrence Cunningham • Donna Dugo
- Barbara Reeves
- 23 Kerry McKenna
- 24 Anna Luiten • Mike Vaccaro
- 27 Bill O'Shaughnessy
- 30 Harold Ayers • Pat Douglas
- Martin Gonzalez • Paul Lippert
- Ryan Ponnwitz
- 31 Jose Bruno

### August

- 2 Betty Fish
- 5 Eric Kaplan
- 6 Frank Biddle • Jim Gregory
- John Sheridan
- 7 Alison Astalos
- 8 Louise McCook • Robin Ostrowski
- 9 Ronnie Grothusen
- 10 Rick Royle
- 13 Joe Reynolds
- 14 Walter Craig
- 15 Gary Johnson
- 16 Ilona Varga
- 17 Joanne Lewandowski • John Skimelis
- Tom Vicari
- 18 Andy Coeyman • Frank Mead
- 19 Greg Sharin
- 21 Bob Brannan
- 22 Bill Leshick
- 24 Anthony Calderon • Don Davison
- 26 Fran Martone
- 27 Russell Finkelson
- 29 Amanda Tanay
- 30 Lawrence Bork

### September

- 1 Patrick Vivalo
- 2 Michele Demaree
- 3 Diane Allen • Ronald Bomma
- Kelly Cole
- 4 Lauren Gerber
- 5 Wayne Connelly • Angela Kochon
- 6 Howard Dombroski
- 7 David Whalen
- 10 Brad Bradach • Jim Mowczan
- Jeff Wyant
- 11 Susan Stafford-Smith • Mark Szemiot
- Susan Williams
- 13 Emerald Platzer
- 16 Carol Hobbs • Tom Petraglia
- 17 Mark Borchert
- 19 Edward Docker • Katie A. Stone
- 23 Robert Morris
- 25 Joe DePierro
- 26 Ken Herceg • Jim Janeczko
- 27 Chuck Raftery
- 28 Dave Mishkin • Jim Register
- George Richdale
- 30 Eric Cadenelli



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Monmouth County Park System  
805 Newman Springs Road  
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July/August 2011

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PARK SYSTEM

## Where A Rose, Is A Rose, Is A Rose

Have you noticed how rare the once-common rose has become? One of the few remaining parks where you can stop and smell the roses is at Historic Walnford, and—if you are willing to include the wild, non-native beach rose (*Rosa rugosa*)—Seven Presidents and Fisherman's Cove. Ultimately, a rose-lovers best bet is to visit the dedicated Rose Parterre at Deep Cut Gardens, May-September, where there are 52 varieties on display (more than 180 bushes).



*Pink Rose Trellis at Historic Walnford*



*Beach Rose at Fisherman's Cove*



*Rose Parterre at Deep Cut Gardens*