



## AMERICANA ON DISPLAY: The Art of Harness Racing at Historic Walnford

**H**istoric Walnford, the county's beautifully preserved mill and elegant estate in Upper Freehold, will be telling a uniquely American tale this fall. Through the exhibit "The Story of Harness Racing by Currier & Ives," area residents will observe classic Americana-style lithographs to learn more of 19<sup>th</sup> century horse racing—a sport that has been, and remains, integral to the culture, economy and landscape of Monmouth County.

***These Currier & Ives lithographs tell a story of the horse in daily life and racing that is integral to the history Monmouth County.***

Monmouth is among the top three NJ counties in terms of land devoted to equine facilities or for pasture, hay and grain—there are 960 operations on 27,300 acres.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, many acres of preserved open space in Monmouth County are standardbred horse pastures.

Statewide, racetracks and race-related operations make up nearly 70% of NJ's \$1.1 billion equine industry budget (the remainder is non-racing operations and horse owners).<sup>1</sup> One of horse racing's premiere tracks, the Meadowlands, is located right here in NJ while two more, Monmouth Park and Freehold Raceway, are in Monmouth County.

### ***The Standardbred Horse, A Local Favorite***

At Walnford, the neighboring farms raise mostly standardbred horses for harness racing (the type of racing presented at Freehold Raceway). With their solid muscles, long bodies, and manageable temperament these horses are bred for a specific gait, as trotters whose legs move in diagonal pairs, or pacers, whose legs move in lateral pairs. (A different type of horse, the thoroughbred, is raised for racing on a "flat track" such as that seen locally at Monmouth Park, or more famously, the Kentucky Derby.)

Outside of racing, many local equestrians raise horses to show and/or compete in professional or club events (dressage, hunting and jumping) while others just ride their horses for pleasure or keep them as "pasture pets".



Central Park, The Drive & "A Spill Out" In The Snow. These lithographs illustrate the range of Currier & Ives works, contrasting the elegant style of some artists against the whimsy of others. Note the out-of-control horse expressions and postures, and the chaos of people tipping over in this comic sleigh scene—an otherwise fashionable past-time of the Victorian era.

*"The Story of Harness Racing by Currier & Ives" travelling exhibit from the Horse Racing Museum & Hall of Fame is sponsored by the CTW Foundation.*

*Continues, next page*

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Rhysdyk's Hambletonian. A beautiful image of the leading descendant of the standardbred (a relatively new breed, just 200 years old).

## **Harness Racing, From Road to Racetrack**

While the precursors to modern harness racing date as far back as the Assyrian empire of 1500BC, people are more likely to recognize the chariots of ancient Rome made famous in movies like *Ben Hur* or *Gladiator*. Racing matches were known of in Europe and Russia during the 1500-1700s, but it took until the 1800s for harness racing to arrive in the US.<sup>2,3</sup> The earliest races were likely held using carts or buggies on local

roads, then to agricultural fairs, as farmers challenged their friends and neighbors to see who had the fastest horse.<sup>4</sup>

Harness racing later moved from fairs to formal racetracks (though some fairs still host harness races to this day) and the cart was streamlined into the two-wheeled 'sulky' used today. The same Monmouth County Agricultural Society that brought us the fair (see last issue), also brought harness racing to Freehold Raceway in the 1850s.<sup>3</sup>

Harness racing remained popular until WWI<sup>4</sup> with some of the winning horses gaining such a reputation they were memorialized in folk song. Examples include Flora Temple, the 'bobtailed nag' of "Camptown Races" (Doo da, Doo dah) who was reformed from willful mare into a record-breaking champion<sup>2,4</sup>, or Lady Suffolk, the "Old Grey Mare" (she ain't what she used to be) who trotted the 1-mile track in less than 2½ minutes when she was more than 10 years old.<sup>2,5,6</sup>

After a few "lean" decades in the 1920s-30s, harness racing spread from its rural environment to Roosevelt Raceway on Long Island in the 1940s where matches were run at night under the lights and betting (pari-mutuel) was allowed.<sup>4</sup>

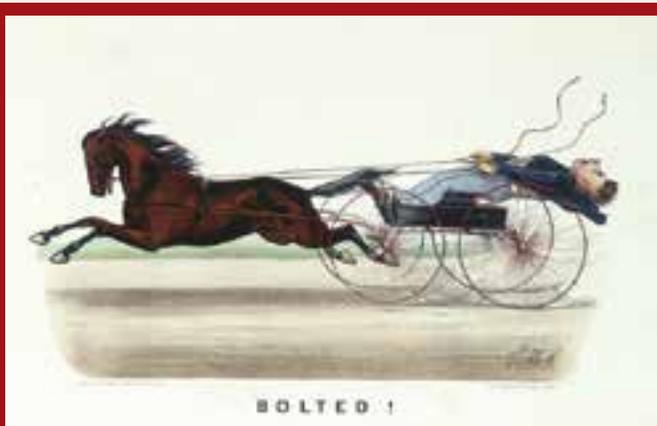
## **The Story of Harness Racing by Currier & Ives**

### **Exhibit Dates**

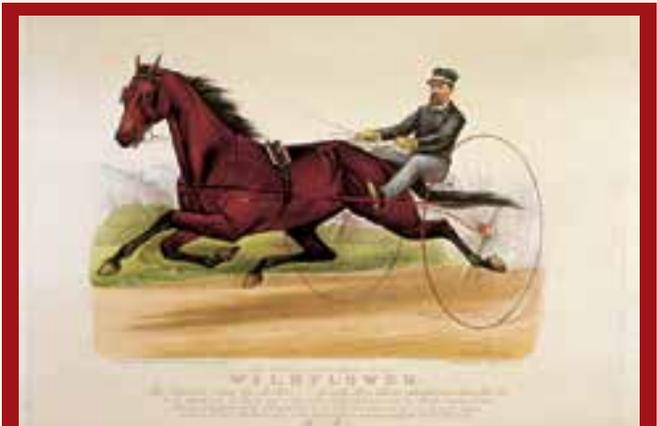
**October 4-November 30, 2014**

### **SPECIAL ACTIVITIES**

- **Harness Racing History – Sunday, October 5, 1-4 p.m.:** Meet the trainers, owners and drivers and hear stories of races won or lost by a nose at the exhibit's Opening Reception.
- **Meet a Standardbred Horse – Sunday, October 19, 1-4 p.m.:** Independent Act "Indy", a retired trotter, will be on hand for visitors to learn about this breed's beauty, conformation and intelligence.
- **Take a Currier & Ives Selfie – Sat & Sun, November 8 & 9 and 15 & 16, 1-4 p.m.:** Drop in and shoot your own nostalgic photo with our sleigh, backdrop and 19<sup>th</sup> century accessories.



Bolted! A light-hearted look at the resulting ride behind a startled horse.



The Grand California Filly, Wildflower. Another elegant portrait, this time of the whole harness racing set-up. This one illustrates the sport's reach, all the way out west.

## The Currier & Ives Style – Capitalizing on Popular Culture

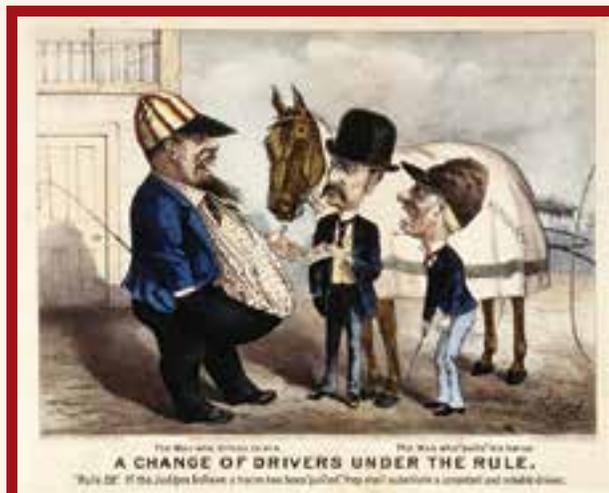
Currier and Ives were two savvy businessmen who set out to make and sell colorized lithographs of paintings by celebrated artists of the day. They approached their business from every angle to sell the most prints possible. And they succeeded, producing more than 1 million lithographs from 1834-1907!<sup>7</sup>

Currier & Ives made owning artwork more accessible by producing quality prints in quantity. There was something for everyone, with images representing all aspects of American life: popular sports; hunting, fishing and horse-racing; landscapes of water and seaside scenes with boats and bridges; rural life, historical events, politics and social commentary.

With the popularity of harness racing, there were many artistic dimensions to pursue: the politics of horse ownership, trainers and drivers, scenery of racetracks and stables, and the headline-making races and upsets. Visit Walford this fall and view the complete exhibit to see how Currier & Ives artists infused these sensational headlines, as well as humor and satire, and other themes into their beautiful images.

### References:

1. The NJ Equine Industry 2007. Economic Impact. Rutgers NJ Agricultural Experiment Station. Available at: [www.esr.rutgers.edu/news\\_more/PDF\\_Files/2007\\_Equine\\_Economic\\_Impact\\_Study\\_Report.pdf](http://www.esr.rutgers.edu/news_more/PDF_Files/2007_Equine_Economic_Impact_Study_Report.pdf). Accessed July 14, 2014.
2. Harness Racing. Encyclopaedia Britannica 2013. Available at: <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/255632/harness-racing>. Accessed July 11, 2014.
3. Sports in Monmouth County: An Exhibition at the Monmouth County Library headquarters, Manalapan, NJ. Gary D. Szaretsky (Curator) Eugene Osovitz (Preparer) Available at: [http://co.monmouth.nj.us/documents/9/SportsInMonmouth\\_Exhibit.pdf](http://co.monmouth.nj.us/documents/9/SportsInMonmouth_Exhibit.pdf). Accessed July 14, 2014.
4. Standardbred of North America. International Museum of the Horse. Available at: [www.imh.org/exhibits/online/standardbred](http://www.imh.org/exhibits/online/standardbred). Accessed July 14, 2014.
5. The Golden Age of the Trotting Horse. International Museum of the Horse. Available at <http://www.imh.org/exhibits/online/golden-age-trotting-horse>. Accessed July 16, 2014.
6. Flora Temple (1845-1877). Available at: [www.worldclasstrotting.com/TRAVHASTAR/ston/Stolinjer/FloraTemple.htm](http://www.worldclasstrotting.com/TRAVHASTAR/ston/Stolinjer/FloraTemple.htm). Accessed July 15, 2014.
7. Currier & Ives. The History of the Firm. Available at: [www.currierandives.com](http://www.currierandives.com). Accessed July 16, 2014.



Change of Drivers Under the Rule. Every person is a character in this parody of the "rules", including the horse.

The lovely Walford house will host the Currier & Ives Exhibit.



## MORE WEEKEND FUN THIS FALL

**Harvest Home Festival** - Sunday September 28, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Longstreet Farm

**Deep Cut Gardens Plant Swap** - Saturday October 4, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Creatures of the Night** - Friday & Saturday October 10 & 11, 17 & 18, 24 & 25; at Huber Woods Environmental Center

**Timberbrook Triathlon** - Saturday October 11 8:30 a.m. at Manasquan Reservoir

**Thompson Park Day** - Sunday October 19, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Fall Craft Show** - Saturday November 8, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Fort Monmouth Rec Center

**Student/Instructor Craft Show** - Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. & Sunday, 12-4 p.m. Thompson Park Creative Arts Center



Dress up (yourself, or your scarecrow, pictured) play games, run around outside at Thompson Park Day, the "fair of the fall."

## HOW WE PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

Recognizing that Monmouth County has most likely seen the end of its largest building boom and that future development will focus on redevelopment and revitalization of its towns and communities, the Monmouth County Planning Board is updating its Master Plan (now 30 years old). The Park System and Board of Recreation Commissioners are also drafting a new Open Space Plan for the county. The last one was adopted in 2006 (see chart below). Over the next few issues, we will use this space to review the old plan, discuss proposed revisions, and provide opportunities for you to get involved.

### PARK SYSTEM CHANGES 2006-2013

	2006	2013
Total Park Acres	12,613	15,940
Largest Park Turkey Swamp	1,568 acres	2,217 acres
Miles of Trails	113	133
County Park Visitation	4,821,630	6,105,983
Total Full Time Staff	361	328
Part Time Staff	366	306

### The Open Space Plan: Direction, Communication & Accountability

In 1987, the voters of Monmouth County first approved a dedicated Open Space Tax for a trust fund to acquire land and develop recreation facilities. By 1991, the county had its first formal Open Space Plan, establishing direction and priorities for the land preservation program, and communicating them to the public and park partners. The Open Space Plan also fulfills an obligation to the public for the responsible use of the money allocated to the open space trust fund.

Additionally, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Green Acres program requires that the County have an Open Space Plan in order to qualify for certain types of Green Acres grant money to acquire open space. So the Open Space Plan becomes necessary not only to collect and spend county open space dollars, but also to provide access to state Green Acres monies as well.

The Open Space Plan also provides the public, partners and other government agencies with information about the county's vision and intent with regard to preserving open space and developing recreational facilities. Since purchasing land is often a team effort that may include funding from a variety of sources, it's important for all of the cooperating agencies to understand the intent of the county Open Space Program so we can work cooperatively and not at cross purposes.

### Reviewing the 2006 Open Space Plan: Policy Statements

For the past eight years, the plan has served as a "blueprint" for the Park System's land acquisition program to protect the landscapes that define Monmouth County and provide a wide range of resource-based recreational opportunities. The 2006 Open Space Plan includes two Policy Statements that help focus the county's land acquisition efforts.



The original 1991 Open Space Plan (top), the 1998 Amendment to the Open Space Plan (bottom, left) and the 2006 Open Space Plan (right, with accompanying map)



In a joint venture with more than half a dozen agencies, the county added 400 acres of former nursery and farmland to the **Crosswicks Creek Greenway** in Upper Freehold during 2012-2014. In addition to protecting the land from development, the acquisition will accommodate miles of new trails.



The 5-acre waterfront **Portland Place** was added to **Hartshorne Woods Park** in Middletown in 2008. With this spectacular view and access to the **Navesink River**, this property—and its lovely historic estate donated by **Dan Seitz**—will make a beautiful addition to the park.



One of the county's most celebrated Green Acres-funded acquisitions was the 227-acre **Ramanessin Tract** addition to **Holmdel Park**. It nearly doubled the size of the park, which was—at the time—the county park with the highest visitation, and added 4 new miles of trails.

The first policy statement helps *define the scope of the county as a regional provider of open space*, versus that of the federal and state governments and municipalities. Specifically, the county is responsible for preserving and managing large tracts of land which:

- have countywide significance;
- support resource-based recreation;
- include large park spaces suitable for both organized events and the pursuit of independent outdoor recreation activities and nature appreciation often not possible or a priority at the municipal level; and
- are accessible to and able to serve a great number of people from throughout the county.



Children can experience fossil hunting in our oldest site at **Shark River Park** or seining at **Bayshore Waterfront Park**.

Typically, county facilities function as regional destinations within 20 minutes travel time, while municipal facilities meet the day-to-day neighborhood recreational needs. They also preserve resources of regional and local significance, respectively.

The second policy statement *directs the county to acquire enough parkland to meet the following long-term and short-term goals*:

- **Balanced Land Use guidelines (long-term goals)** recommend that 7% of the developable area\* of the county and 3% of the developable area of the municipality be acquired for public recreation.
- **Acreage per Population guidelines (short-term goals)** recommend 12 acres per 1,000 persons for the County and 8 acres per 1,000 persons for municipalities.

The chart below summarizes where Monmouth County and its municipalities stood in 2006 in terms of long and short term land preservation goals.

LAND PRESERVATION GOALS		
	Monmouth County	Municipalities (in the aggregate)
Existing Open Space	12,503	13,032
Long-term Goal (Balanced Land Use)	19,099	8,964
Long-term Surplus/Deficit (+/-)	-6,596	+4067
Short-term Goal (Acres per population)	7,744	5,163
Short-term Surplus/Deficit (+/-)	+4,759	+7,869

## 2006 Action Items: Getting It Done

The 2006 Open Space Plan also included an Action Plan with areas of concentration. These include **Advocacy**, which encouraged other levels of government to have their own open space plans (and provide pedestrian/bicycle linkages); **Stewardship**, which promoted seeking increased funding for park improvements and supporting municipal efforts; and **Acquisition**, which provided specific direction for acquiring property—for example, that sites should have both conservation and recreation value. Also, the following needs should be prioritized when choosing between sites due to limited financial resources:

- add to existing parks to buffer from potentially incompatible development
- new parks and/or additions in more densely developed areas
- recreation area sites in underserved areas
- natural areas of high resource value
- opportunities for public access to bodies of water
- greenways, which preserve possible future transportation corridors, and/or protect high value streams
- acquisitions in combination with other agencies
- preservation of existing non-profit and privately owned recreation facilities

## 2006 Targeted Acquisitions

The final element of the 2006 Open Space Plan was a target list of acquisition priorities. This formed the “marching orders” and represents most of the 3,400 acres of property added to the Park System:

- additions to 30 park sites;
- 5 proposed new park sites (Fort Monmouth, Jumping Brook and Shafto Road in Tinton Falls; Marlboro Airport; and Woodland Farm in Middletown);
- 12 greenway projects that protect local waterways such as the Swimming, Manasquan and Millstone Rivers, and make vital connections between recreation sites such as a proposed spur between the Edgar Felix Bikeway in Manasquan and Manasquan Reservoir in Howell.



**Fisherman's Cove Conservation Area**, located in a densely developed area, grew by 3 acres since 2006. It is also a site with both conservation value (riverfront beach access, coastal bird habitat, development buffer) and recreation value (kayak launch site, fishing, and especially dog-walking for local residents).



Read the 2006 County Open Space plan online by visiting [www.monmouthcountyparks.com](http://www.monmouthcountyparks.com), click “About Us,” then “County Open Space Program.”

\*“Developable area” is intended to include areas that are already developed and to exclude acreage of slopes over 12 percent, wetlands, and federal and state-owned open space. The Balanced Land Use guidelines for state and federal levels are 10% and 4% of the total area of the State respectively.

## THE STRANGE WORLD OF MUSHROOMS

Diane Allen, Park Horticulturalist

Often seen by the gardener or homeowner as a problem, perhaps mushrooms deserve a better reputation. To be sure, some fungi that commonly pop up in our mulch or soil, like dog vomit fungus or stink horn mushrooms, are a nuisance or worse. Artillery fungus can stain your car and siding, and other fungi may wreak havoc on your plants and trees. But, we and our plants would be hard pressed to get by without this large and diverse branch of the family tree.



*Strange yet beautiful in their own way, mushrooms are nature's recyclers. But, please be careful—many mushrooms are poisonous.*



*These stinkhorn mushrooms were discovered by volunteers while removing the invasive grass species caryx at Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park. Named for their unpleasant smell (which attracts flies) it is one of just a few common mushrooms found in the sand. This is the mushroom as it was found and dug out of the sand.*



*The same mushroom a few weeks later, after its fruiting body emerged, shown in cross-section and whole.*

## AN INTRIGUING ORGANISM

Mushrooms are probably the most familiar fungi—a large group of organisms which also include yeasts and molds. While similar to plants in that they can be found growing in comparable habitats, fungi are actually more closely related to animals than to plants. Here are some interesting fungi facts...

- The cell walls of mushrooms are stiffened by chitin, which is also the main component in the exoskeleton (shell) of arthropods such as crustaceans (e.g., crabs, lobsters, shrimp) and insects. The beautiful wings of a butterfly are also comprised of chitin.

- Mushrooms respire by taking in oxygen and giving off carbon dioxide.
- Mushrooms are susceptible to some of the same germs (pathogens that we are, and many have exquisitely developed immune responses.

*While this white mushroom has the classic stalk and cap shape and a common color, it should be treated with extreme caution. Many mushrooms are toxic and this one looks a lot like a young version of the famously poisonous Amanita phalloides (or deathcap). Without examining the underside and base more closely it is very difficult to identify with certainty. This photo also contains a batch of the unusual Bird's Nest Mushrooms, lower right. When mature, the cups open and raindrops splash the tiny "eggs" inside the "nest," dispersing the spores.*



*Although we often think of mushrooms as being white or a dingy brown, a walk in the woods may reveal a surprising array of colors on the rich forest floor.*



## A DARK BUT CONNECTED LIFE UNDERGROUND

The mushroom itself is only the fruiting body of a much larger organism which lives underground, called the mycelium. The mycelium is a network of delicate filaments hidden below the soil (or inside a host such as a living or dead tree). Mycelium represent some of the largest and oldest living organisms. As reported by Scientific American, in 1998 a giant *Armillaria ostoyae* was discovered occupying 2,384 acres in Oregon's Blue Mountains. Based on its growth rate, the fungus was estimated to be 2,400 years old, possibly as much as 8,650 years old.<sup>1</sup>

The mycelium is believed by some to be a communications network capable of linking plants within its range. In sensing and responding to subtle changes in the chemistry of a plant's root system, those filaments inform other plants of local stressors, giving them an opportunity to ramp up their defenses.



*This cluster of brown mushrooms above ground helps envision the connected filaments underground (mycelium) from which they have sprung.*

## THE BENEFITS OF FUNGI

Mycorrhizal fungi are those which form symbiotic relationships with plants. For obvious reasons, mycorrhizae have been marketed to the home gardener for use in vegetable and ornamental gardens as well as landscape plantings. In general, these will be helpful, especially if your soil has been subjected to practices that would adversely affect naturally-occurring mycorrhizae (e.g., tilling, erosion, compaction, use of fungicides, or a heavy infestation of certain weeds). About 10% of plant species do not have mycorrhizal associations, so choose a product with its intended use in mind.

Some types of fungi benefit our plants through these mycorrhizal associations. This contact provides the plants with increased access to water and nutrients, and increased protection against certain pathogens, all in return for some carbohydrates from the host plant. Benefits include:

- Mushrooms secrete enzymes that enable them to break down organic matter and rocks, making nutrients more readily available.
- Fungi can clean up many toxic wastes, even oil spills, reducing them to non-toxic compounds because of their ability to break hydrogen-carbon bonds. They can also accumulate absorb heavy metals such as lead, mercury and arsenic from contaminated soil. Use of fungi for these purposes is called mycoremediation.

Of course, mushrooms may also benefit people. Many have culinary uses, supplying vitamins, minerals, anti-oxidants, fiber, and that "fifth taste", umami. Some also have medicinal uses, long recognized in Asian cultures.



*Found in most regions of the US, morels appear in spring in moist areas around dying or dead trees, mostly elm, sycamore or ash. They have a distinct honeycomb like appearance.*

*Turkeytail is a common bracket fungus found on dead or dying trees, especially oaks. Although it can harm a sick tree, it most*

*often is found on logs and dead tree trunks, breaking them down so their nutrients can be returned to the soil. Long recognized in Japan for strong antiviral, antimicrobial and antitumor properties, these fungi are now being studied in the US.*



*Lichens are comprised of algae and fungus.*

## A CLOSER LOOK AT LICHENS, ODD FUNGI, AND FUNGI-LIKE PLANTS

Lichens are a common and visually interesting sight in gardens and forests. They are actually two organisms – an algae and a fungus – living together in a symbiotic relationship. Often seen growing on rocks and fences as well as tree trunks and branches, they are completely self-sufficient and not harmful to a tree on which they might be growing. An increase in their number or size, however, may indicate the tree canopy is thinning due to other causes.

Reference:

1. Anne Casseiman. "Strange but True: The Largest Organism on Earth Is a Fungus" Oct 4, 2007. Available at: <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/strange-but-true-largest-organism-is-fungus/>. Accessed August 18, 2014.

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While lichens generally appear benign, the appearance of the following fungi can be somewhat startling.

► **CEDAR-APPLE RUST** – This strange-looking fungus requires two hosts to complete its life cycle. Appearing as alien-looking galls on this juniper (Eastern redcedar [*Juniperus virginiana*]) these tentacle-like structures release spores which cannot infect other cedars, but only certain susceptible members of the rose family. Landing on apple and crabapple trees (members of the rose family), the spores infect leaves, twigs and fruit. Then, in late summer, the resulting fruit tree lesions produce different, rust-colored spores that infect a cedar host, completing the cycle.

► **INDIAN PIPES** – Often thought to be a fungus because of their lack of chlorophyll, the ghost-like Indian pipes are actually a true plant and produce a flower that provides nectar for small bumble bees. Unable to make its own food, this parasitic plant takes nutrients from a fungus, which in turn takes nutrients from its host plant.



*Cedar-apple rust requires two hosts to complete its life cycle. Less spectacular, but closely related fungi are Cedar-quince rust and Cedar-hawthorn rust.*



*Also known as corpse plant and ghost plant, Indian pipes are not a fungus but a parasitic plant found in shady woods near dead tree stumps, growing in soil enriched with decaying plant matter.*

## MUSHROOMS: CULTIVATED & WILD

Edible varieties of mushrooms can be cultivated by the homeowner fairly easily and can be a good crop for areas too shady for other plants. Care must be taken to obtain supplies from a reliable source to ensure the species are, in fact, appropriate for human consumption and not poisonous.

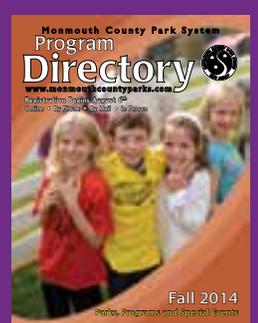


*Two varieties of ganoderma fungus on tree trunks.*

The observant hiker may find a delightful array of mushroom colors and forms out in the wild.

However, **collecting wild mushrooms is best left to the experts**, and even some of the experts have suffered distress, even death, due to mis-identification of a wild species.

*The Park System offers mushroom identification, cultivation and appreciation programs throughout the year at Deep Cut Gardens and other sites. Check out the Program Directory (available in parks) or visit us online at [www.monmouthcountyparks.com](http://www.monmouthcountyparks.com).*



## CALLING ALL NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS!

**2015 Photography Contest – The Residents of Deep Cut Gardens: Animal, Vegetable or Mineral**

*This year's exhibit features the interplay of the various elements that create the allure of Deep Cut Gardens.*

Open to all photographers ages 18 and up. Entries accepted from October 22 – November 21 for the exhibition in January, 2015. Rules and entry form available on Deep Cut Gardens' page at [www.monmouthcountyparks.com](http://www.monmouthcountyparks.com).

Opening reception 1-3 p.m., Saturday, January 3 will offer light warming refreshments and an opportunity to meet and speak with the photographers.

Exhibition dates: Open daily from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.,



*These beautiful former entries, leaf against rock with lichen (by Josiana Bianchi) and cactus (by Phil Smith) would qualify as vegetable/mineral and vegetable respectively in this year's contest.*

January 4-31, 2015. Enjoy the beauty of Deep Cut Gardens as captured by some of our many visiting photographers. Weather permitting, take a stroll through the gardens and discover textures and colors revealed by the starkness of winter.

No registration or fee required for the Opening Reception or Exhibition, but please call the park at 732-671-6050 to RSVP for the reception, or for any further information.

## It's Time To ...

### October ✓

- Plant grass seed until mid-month. Apply low-nitrogen lawn fertilizer if not done this fall.
- Prepare new beds for spring planting; have soil tested for fertility and pH, then work in amendments according to recommendations.
- If houseplants are still outdoors, place them in partial shade to begin to acclimate them to indoor conditions and clean thoroughly before bringing indoors.
- Plant new trees and shrubs now so they can develop some new roots before the soil cools; mulch and water well.
- Lift corms and bulbs of begonia, caladium, calla and gladiola; lift dahlia and canna after blackened by frost.
- Clean up gardens and discard foliage of any disease-prone perennials, leaving some disease-free specimens to provide winter interest and seeds for the birds.
- This is a good time to label your plants.
- Plant pansies, ornamental cabbages for fall color, and bulbs for next spring.
- Protect you last fruits of the garden from frost with poly-spun frost cloth or a sheet.
- Plant garlic cloves about 4-6" apart in a rich sandy loam.
- Water lawns, beds, shrubs and trees only if needed to ensure they go into winter well hydrated.
- Apply compost or composted manure over beds to improve soil and plant vigor next growing season.



*Volunteer Michele Mancino takes fall season care of a rosebush at the Thompson Park Visitor Center.*

### November ✓

- Apply mulch or leaf mold to gardens after the first hard frost.
- Turn your compost pile after frost hits to deter over-wintering rodents.
- Do a final clean-up of beds and lawns. Set aside interesting pods to incorporate in seasonal décor.
- Plant any remaining bulbs.
- Clean and store tools until spring. Store fertilizers and other materials where granulars will stay dry and liquids frost-free.
- Pot amaryllis bulbs every few weeks beginning mid-month for blooms through the winter.



*When your "garden" is hundreds of acres, the concept of a fall clean-up requires large teams of people. Thankfully, our volunteers are always ready to serve.*

### December ✓

- Apply a winter mulch of shredded oak leaves around azaleas, rhododendrons, pieris and other acid-loving plants.
- Ventilate cold frames when the weather is mild.
- Keep houseplants dust-free and fertilize at half-strength until active growth resumes.
- Feed the birds, especially when the ground is snow-covered, and provide fresh water.



*Everyone, and we mean EVERYONE, pitches in for the fall clean-up and winter mulching at Deep Cut Gardens.*

## Deep Cut Fall Events

### Plant Swap

Saturday, September 27,  
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Bring perennials in one-quart, one-gallon, or two-gallon containers and take home the same size and number of plants. Please label all plants. Houseplants may also be exchanged, but no annuals or invasives, please. Call 732-671-6050 for more information.



*People exchange plants of all sizes at the swap.*

### Drop-in Surprise Story Time

First Saturday of Each Month  
(Oct. 4, Nov 1, Dec. 6)  
11 - 11:45 a.m.

Join us for a reading from a nature or garden related book. If it's cold or rainy, we'll be inside the Horticultural Center, but if it's fair we will be out in the garden. A clue at the entrance will



*Storytime is a special treat when you have to find the secret spot!*

lead you to the secret spot! Recommended for children ages 3 and up.

### Home Composting Workshops

Saturdays, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.,  
October 25 and November 8

This original form of recycling conserves resources, reduces waste, and contributes to beautiful, healthy plants.

Workshops by the Monmouth County Office of Recycling will be held at Deep Cut Gardens. Attendance is free; composting bins are available at a discounted fee of \$35. **Pre-registration is required through the Monmouth County Office of Recycling at 732-683-8686, ext. 6721.**



*Composting is featured at many Deep Cut events.*

# CORNER

# NATURE

## Prepare For Takeoff

Alison Astalos, Park Naturalist

The dwindling hours of daylight and the cooler fall temperatures signal many animals to begin their preparations for winter. Some continue their day to day activities right here toughing out the winter months (or finding a cozy place to hibernate). However, for many bird species autumn is the time for migration, and they set out on journeys to their wintering grounds.



The bright Yellow warbler (male pictured) is a mid-distance migrant. It sets off on its journey from here to Central America (and the northern tip of South America) early each fall. Photo by Neil Nappe.

### Bird Migration: A Hunt for Resources

The need to migrate is primarily influenced by the availability of resources. In the fall, food is the most important. During spring, an abundance of budding plants, insects and nesting may attract bird species from South America to nest in the Northern Hemisphere. When nesting season



Common loons spend summers breeding in eastern Canada. When they fly south for the winter, some end up in the waters along the New Jersey coast. Note the transitional plumage: Non-breeding winter feathers in January are dull grey with a white chin and chest. By April, the spring breeding foliage emerges— a crisp black and white patterned back and a full black head and throat.

comes to an end, and seasonal insect and food resources are on the decline, migrating species must return to their wintering grounds where food resources are available to sustain them through the winter.

Compared to spring bird migration, fall migration across North America is an extensive event. It may begin as early as June for some species of hummingbirds and continue through December for certain waterfowl. Fall migration involves massive numbers, as young from the recent nesting season join the adults. Juvenile birds setting out on their first long distance trip often migrate unassisted by parents or other adult birds—they are lead only by genetically ingrained instinct.

### Migration Distance May Vary, But Pathways Consistent

The distance and difficulty of seasonal migrations vary. Short distance migrants may move only from higher to lower elevations on the same mountain, while medium-distance migrants travel across one to several states. Then there are marathon flyers, or long-distance migrants, who travel thousands of miles covering ranges anywhere from Canada to South America.

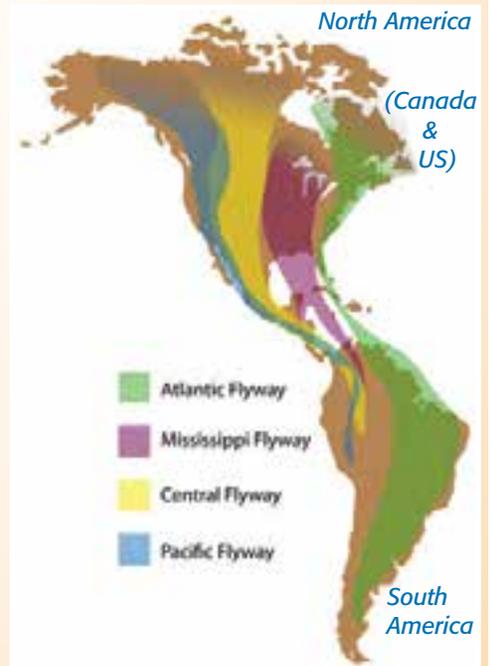


A long-distance migrant, the Purple martin flies really far south for the winter, from Dorbrook Recreation Area in Colts Neck all the way down to South America.

Year after year as birds travel from their nesting grounds to their winter homes in the fall and back to their nesting sites in the spring they follow specific mi-routes. No two species follow the same exact path from beginning to end. However, individual birds have been found to follow the same migration path year to year.

Migration routes merge, like river tributaries, into four major through North American flyways; the Atlantic, Mississippi, Central, and Pacific.

Source: [www.lakeregionaudubon.org/articles/images/American-Flyways.jpg](http://www.lakeregionaudubon.org/articles/images/American-Flyways.jpg)



References:  
[www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/studying/migration/](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/studying/migration/)  
[www.njaudubon.org/SectionOases/WhyisNJimportantformigratingbirds.aspx](http://www.njaudubon.org/SectionOases/WhyisNJimportantformigratingbirds.aspx)  
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[www.njaudubon.org/SectionIBBA/IBBASiteGuide.aspx](http://www.njaudubon.org/SectionIBBA/IBBASiteGuide.aspx)  
[www.birdnature.com/flyways.html](http://www.birdnature.com/flyways.html)

## Bird Migration Assisted by Air Currents & Landmarks

Flight paths are generally defined by coastlines, mountain ranges, and principal river valleys and grouped together to form flyways. Coastlines provide an abundance of food sources important to migrating birds during their trip, while the constant breeze created by temperature differences between the land and water help give migrants lift during their journey. Birds traveling along mountain ranges are able to take advantage of updrafts of wind off of the mountains. In addition to air currents off land formations, the coastlines, mountains and rivers also act as visual landmarks for birds to follow.



*A flock of Tree swallows in flight in October. Mid-distance migrants, they winter in Florida and Central America.*

## NJ is a Midpoint on the Atlantic Flyway

New Jersey is part of the Atlantic flyway, which stretches from the Arctic up north all the way down through the Caribbean into South America and runs east to west between the Atlantic Coast and Appalachian Mountains. The latitude of our state puts us at about the midway point for many travelers along this flyway. Also, flight lanes following the coast, river valleys, and mountains converge, putting our state right at the crossroads of many migration paths.

Weather patterns can push migrants toward the east coast from their normal western flyways. This provides an opportunity to see unexpected visitors (see flycatcher, right).

## Migration “Hotspots”: Where Birds Converge to Rest & Refuel

During a long migration, sites with resources for birds to refuel and rest along the route are critical. Many of these stopover sites are not noticeable to the casual observer because they supply refuge to only a few species. However,



*An aerial view of Sandy Hook. This site is a birding hotspot because of its diverse habitats (ocean and bay shores, maritime forest, freshwater ponds, marshes and wetlands) and its location as a waystation along popular fall migratory routes.*

local weather conditions, food resources and topography may concentrate autumn migrants to a specific location in considerable numbers. These sites are often referred to as migrant traps or “hot spots” and range from local parks and refuges to cemeteries.

“Hot spots” may attract a variety of species: birds of prey soaring over

head, coastal seabirds, or weary songbirds and shorebirds whose migration is normally not seen due to high flight altitudes and night-time travels. As certain species have shown loyalty to following certain migration paths, they may also exhibit devotion to certain stopover points.

Monmouth County is located between two important bird migration “hot spots.” **Sandy Hook**, at the northern tip of our county coastline, is an exceptional year round birding location. Birds begin their southbound migration here in mid July, and it extends through mid November. Toward the end of fall migration, during unseasonably warm weather with winds from the southwest, the following rare sightings have been reported:

- Groove-billed ani
- Gray kingbird
- Cave swallow
- Scissor-tailed flycatcher



*Scissor tailed flycatcher. Source: US FWS*

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher Range  
*Tyrannus forficatus*



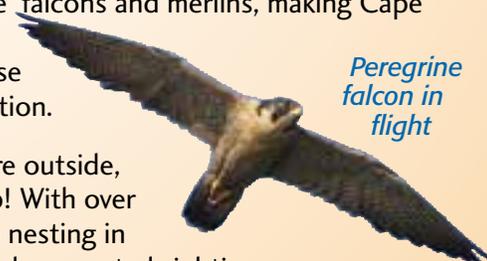
At the southernmost tip of the state, is another important migration stopover site, **Cape May**. It is known to be one of the best birding spots in the world to witness migration. As southbound migrants travel down the Atlantic coast, they are funneled to this narrow peninsula. With habitats suitable for almost all migrant groups, it provides a perfect resting spot

*A flycatcher sighting in Sandy Hook, NJ is rare indeed. Its normal range is not near NJ.*

*Source: [www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/PHOTO/LARGE/tyra\\_forf\\_AllAm\\_map.gif](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/PHOTO/LARGE/tyra_forf_AllAm_map.gif)*

before birds journey over Delaware Bay. From mid-July through November, a wide variety of migrating species can be seen here, often in extraordinary numbers. Northwest winds in October have been known to bring remarkable numbers of Peregrine falcons and merlins, making Cape May a top place in the world to see these species during migration.

The next time you are outside, make sure to look up! With over 200 species of birds nesting in New Jersey and 465 documented sightings, you are bound to see something exciting and maybe even new as birds prepare to take off for the season.



*Peregrine falcon in flight*



# GREEN HERITAGE

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*This Issue: An exhibit of American art for everyman (or woman), a new Open Space Plan in the works, the really weird world of mushrooms, and birds take flight for the winter ...*



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