

Green Link

An Employee & Volunteer Newsletter
of the Monmouth County Park System



Thompson Park

March/April 2013

Relief Operation Continues, After Sandy

In the weeks after the storm, with help from the Friends of the Parks, volunteers and staff, the Park System continued operating the County's Relief Supply Center at **Thompson Park** while storm damage repair got underway in the parks.

The relief effort continued throughout December, as the donations kept arriving. Experienced park staffers provided the 'backbone' for this relief operation, and for a few dedicated employees it became a full-time effort to keep the supplies moving. It wasn't until January 3 that the last pallet of supplies was delivered to the Salvation Army, who formally took over the county relief operation in December, and employees were able to resume their normal duties.



Relief Center Operation Staff



Andy Coeyman of A&D (center, in reflective vest) is seen tracking supplies during the relief operation flanked by members of the Air Force.



Chris Davino of Sports & Fitness carts and sorts supplies.



Asst. Director **Bruce Gollnick** was on-site most days, doing anything and everything he could to help coordinate the relief operation—from supporting staff to sorting supplies to taking interviews from the media.



Friends Director **Maria Wojciechowski** with Hominy Hill Greenskeeper **Jeff Faistl** sorting supplies outside of Central Supply.



We couldn't have done it without our equipment or the experienced staffers who know how to use it. Here, **Steve Clayton** of Operations loads one of countless pallets of supplies.



Anna Luiten of A&D (left) assists with a drop-off at one of the bays. In the background, staffers assemble a tent to hold the incredible influx of goods.



Charleston Springs Golf Course Superintendent **Keith Bennett** and Mechanic **Tim LaVance** sort through the incoming supplies.

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER



“EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS”

When you stop and think about it, our success, like that of any business, is to please our customers by providing a product and service that

a customer wants or needs. As is true with other businesses, I can't help but believe that our customers also form an opinion of us based upon our being:

- Friendly;
- Courteous;
- Helpful;
- Attentive;
- Understanding; and
- Caring

We also know our success relates to what our customers are looking for such as:

- Convenience;
- Value for dollar spent;
- Value added;
- Condition and appearance of our facilities;
- Feeling they are being treated special; and
- Having a positive and memorable experience.

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Our image depends on how well we present ourselves and in particular, the condition of our women's restrooms; women make judgments and decisions not only for themselves, but also for their

entire family and friends. An old rule of thumb says that a dissatisfied customer tells nine (9) others, while a satisfied customer may only tell three (3) others.

Today, more than ever, it appears that people are comparison shopping and considering alternatives before they make a decision as to where they spend their hard earned dollars. As a result of our competitive world, our customers also have increased expectations as to the quality of the products and services they desire. An important part of our job is not only to meet, but to exceed the ever increasing expectations of our customers.

Not an easy task to say the least, but one that I believe will, to a large extent, determine our success and our future as a relevant and viable organization.

“The purpose of our lives is to add value to the people of this generation and those that follow.”

–Buckminster Fuller; American Theorist, Author, Designer, Inventor and Futurist



*The public may never know the full extent of damage to restrooms in the parks following Superstorm Sandy. Repairs to this building at **Seven Presidents** at Joline Avenue included replacing eroded sand along the walkway by hand and with loaders.*



*The beautiful new bathrooms at **Monmouth Cove Marina** were only 1 year old before sustaining damage from the 6 feet of water brought in by Sandy.*

Staffers Manage a Smile During Some of the Hardest Days...



Kathy Ferraro from the Friends of the Parks (left) pauses for a photo with Principal Ranger **Travis Bryan** and his daughter **Tori** (center).



Barbara Berry of Administration coordinates relief supplies while Central Supply Storekeeper **Mark Miller** takes a seat to take a call.

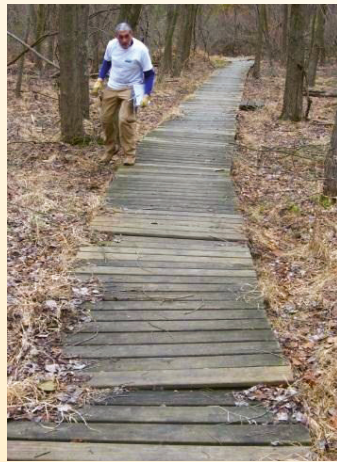


When a helicopter brought some military brass to the shore area for meetings, both Supervising Carpenter **Joe Smith** (left) and Seasonal Ranger **Fred Jones** (right) got a chance to check out the equipment.



Safety Officer **Brian Corrigan** and **Jim Register** of Operations in the loading bay.

Volunteers Do Their Part... & More



Volunteers were also a huge part of the clean-up effort in the parks. The Trails Team proved once again how important they are by conducting the Park System's formal assessment of trail damage. They provided Park Managers at 10 sites with detailed reports of obstructions and damage, including location maps and photos. The assessment took weeks to complete, and we are very grateful to them for their expertise and hard work. Beach Clean-up Teams also worked long and hard at Bayshore Waterfront Park and Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park to clear debris.

Clipboard in hand, **volunteer Barry Miller** checks out damage to the boardwalk on the Marsh Trail at Holmdel Park.

Meanwhile, Repairs Get Underway...

Marina Bears the Brunt of Storm Damage

By January, the Park System had plans to re-open the Marina for the 2013 season in May, with certain access and service limitations. But it was going to take some serious heavy lifting to put this site back together again. In addition to extensive clean-up of vessels and debris, the marina had considerable piling and dock damage. Like all of our Park System 'specialists,' the marina staff are experts in their line of work. They sure had their work cut out for them this past winter.



In the days after the storm, staff quickly surveyed the damage and began the clean-up. Marina Senior Park Ranger **Chet Scalzo**.



(l to r) Marina Ranger **John Carey**, Seasonal **Zach Friedman** and Bayshore Ranger **Bill Stevenson**.



Here, Marina Supervisor **Andy Nunes-Vais** works to secure one of the larger boats so it can be transported.



Marina Park Ranger **Sean Ramsey** (above top) and Bayshore Ranger **Steve Moraghan** (above) help out with all the boats that need to be relocated.

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Sections of Seven Presidents Require Repair

The damage at **Seven Presidents** could have been catastrophic, but instead the site required repair of isolated elements such as the seawall, Skateplex site, pavilion decking, boardwalks and buildings. Staff from throughout the parks have been working the beach to cart away sand and prepare the site to reopen in time for the summer season. The beach at Seven Presidents is expected to open on schedule with no long-term impacts from the storm; the Skateplex will re-open without the Hockey Rink.



Under a still-angry sky the day after the storm, Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park Manager **Ryan Rochelle** starts to assess damage to the 'sea wall' on the north end of the park.



(l to r) Park Managers **Matt Coleman** and **Ryan Rochelle** assess boardwalk damage with Senior Engineer **Jim Mowczan** of A&D.

Repairs will also be needed to fix the Henry Hudson Trail between Popamora Point and the Atlantic Highlands Marina.

Tree Clean-Up Will Continue

By January, most but not all of the park trails had reopened. Staff had to wait for larger chain saws to handle some of the large trunk trees that still needed to be removed.



Park Rangers **Dave Whalen** and **John Skimelas** (above) and **Mike Towle** (right) clear trees at Turkey Swamp Park.



Thompson Park Ranger **Bill Vaughn** takes a chain saw to some downed trees along the park's Service Road.



Thompson Ranger **Dennis Bergstrand** (right) works with Bill to clear the site.



Bill Diehl and **Ed Zarella** of Thompson Park operations load brush onto a truck for removal.

Staff In Character & Costume

The Park System hosted a few special parties this past holiday season, and two staffers stepped in to play the pivotal role of Santa Claus—can you guess who they are?



In another part of the county, **Justin Dunn** of Therapeutic Rec stepped up to play Santa for the Urban Recreation annual party in Asbury Park, where many young attendees were happy to pose for photos.



Therapeutic Recreation day program participant **Syndi** loves Santa and starts inquiring every year in September if he is going to make it to their annual holiday party. This year, **Dorbrook Ranger Shawn Allen** made sure she was not disappointed.



Don't look now, but this scary creature has taken up residence at **Deep Cut Gardens**.

This ogre continues to guard the vegetable garden through an unexpected early snowstorm, November 7. He looks a little cold but he kept everything in there safe.

On February 1, staff were encouraged to wear red to honor National Heart Month. The staff at HQ were happy to oblige.



(Back, 1 to r) **Peggy Esbach, Marijane Bruncato, Pat Douglass, Sue Madden, Laura Garavuso, Stephanie Weise and Jeanne Bezio.** (Front, 1 to r) **Cheryl Stoeber-Goff of Historical Services, Ann Reinhardt, Diane Brickle, Debbie Tamburello and Jean Mount.**

Like clockwork, the staff at **Urban Recreation** can be relied upon to find creative costumes for their annual Halloween Party, and 2012 was no different.



(back row, 1 to r) Recreation Supervisor **Courtney Bison** (gumball machine); Seasonal Recreation Leaders **Derek Janssen** (ninja turtle) and **Liz Hennessy** (Lion), and Recreation Coordinator **Ann Marie Osnato** (formal skeleton). (front row, 1 to r) Recreation Leader **Pat O'Connell** (dressed as a recreation leader); Recreation Leader **Matt Chalupski** (Fred Flinstone); Arts & Crafts Leader **Jane Fawcett** (the Mad Hatter; she's British by the way); and Pet Program Leader **Greg Eisemann** (Cowboy).

Technically, there is no one in costume or character in this photo, but don't the sheds in the background look like they belong in a Dr. Seuss book?



Park staff and Friends of the Parks members on a tour of the **Timolat Farm section of Huber Woods Park**. This site is earmarked to receive funding for renovations to its 5 interconnected ponds. But, as the photo shows—there are other unique features such as these corn cribs (left and right) and storage building (center). The narrow base of the cribs, that gives them their cartoonish shape, was needed for ventilation.

Post-Sandy “Rescue” Stories: A Turtle And A Tree

Many of us wondered what--if anything--we could do to help following the storm, and these two staffers found their own unique way of making a difference.



Tanya is pictured returning this injured snapping turtle to a lake in Belmar, escorted by the local police. This freshwater turtle was found 6 blocks away, wandering along the beach by the ocean.

When **Naturalist Tanya Dinova** saw a wounded snapping turtle with only one eye wandering along the beach in Belmar, she knew she had to step in. Since it is not a saltwater species, this reptile must have been thrown into the ocean during the storm, and was probably trying to get back to freshwater (in part to wash off some of the accumulated salt on its body). But, because the police were still patrolling the nearby lake, she needed



their permission to return it. Fortunately, they not only agreed to let her put the turtle in, they provided a formal escort as she carried the wounded specimen (correctly by the tail) the 6 blocks to the lake.



In the storm’s aftermath, **Jim Butler of Sports & Fitness** pulled this old Christmas tree from the debris in Union Beach and let people know via



Facebook that he was thinking of setting it up. With some encouragement from his online friends, Jim did just that and his effort blossomed into a holiday beacon of hope for one devastated neighborhood.

Both residents and strangers came by to decorate the tree and leave messages and Jim became semi-famous (reluctantly!) when national media picked up the story.

Wild Wildlife

Park System Has a Black Bear Sighting



Last spring, the Park System received report of a sighting near **Turkey Swamp Park** in Freehold. Local media also reported sightings in nearby Howell, Jackson and Lakewood. Then, last fall there were a few more reports near Wall Twp. So it looks as if

this might be the beginning of entry of this species into Monmouth County in a more noticeable way.

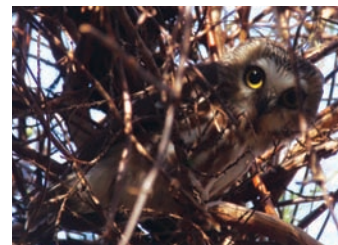
In general, greenways, stream valleys, parkland, open spaces and farmland offer the bear easy conduits of travel as it extends its range. The NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife emphasizes that the mere presence of a black bear is not considered a problem. However, if visitors spot a black bear in or around the Park System, they should notify a ranger or call (732) 842-4000.

Owl Sightings Always a Treat

This rarely-seen winter visitor was recently spotted in **Monmouth County**, not too far from the parks. With



a length of just 8 inches, the Saw-whet Owl is only slightly smaller than the Eastern Screech Owl but, at 2.8 oz., weighs less than half as much. These nocturnal birds feed almost entirely on small mammals but will also eat small birds, frogs and insects. The Northern Saw-whet is a cavity nester and its name comes from the “skiew” call that is made when alarmed. This noise has a resemblance to the whetting of a saw.



Saw-whet owl

Next Issue... Important news concerning our acquisition of the former Fort Monmouth Recreation Center!



Paul Gleitz of A&D looks over some of the new Recreation Center office space (left) and other facilities (above) on a recent site visit. Visitor Services and Operations staff are now discussing which people will be making the move, and what to call the new facility.

Congratulations & Farewell, Retiree!

Michael Bennett -
Assistant Superintendent of Parks,
 January 1, 2013 with
 over 34 years of service.

Rockery Renovation

The cascading ponds behind the Seargent Weeping Hemlocks at **Deep Cut Gardens** underwent a major renovation,



designed and overseen by Asst. Superintendent of Parks Mike Bennett (bottom left, with Deep Cut Ranger Brian Whalen) just prior to his retirement. To repair some leaks in the system, staff took all the rocks out, realigned the waterfalls, replaced the lowest pond, and added a large overflow tank and larger pump to return the water back up to the top. Want to see how it turned out? You now have the perfect reason to visit Deep Cut this spring!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March

1 Edward Dobrosky Jr. 2 Ryan Bennett 2 Erika Bozza
 2 Andy Nunes-Vais 3 Ralph Apicelli 3 Chris Brawley
 3 Ruth Ann Zobel 4 Philip Andras 5 Bob Lauser
 6 Christina Carlson 7 Ann Reinhardt 8 Jeff Faistl
 8 Bruce Gollnick 8 Theresa Secks 9 Maryann Goodwin
 10 Matt Bezahler 11 Dennis Bergstrand 12 Steve Matthews
 13 Karen Jarmusz 13 Brad Rogers 13 Scott Simpson
 15 Ivan Sanchez 21 Ben Friedman 21 Diane Hughes
 21 Ryan Kimble 21 Debbie Tamburello 24 Sandy Byard
 25 Barbara DeLorenzo 25 Maryann Elwood 27 Debra Senese
 28 Chet Scalzo 30 Robert Smith 31 Tim Mariner

April

1 Greg Hyland 2 Courtney Kling 2 Chris Lanza
 4 Barbara Urbinato 7 Wayne Ossner 8 Jacques DiPane
 8 Cindy Ross 9 Lisa Bonelli 10 Al Weaver
 11 Susan Provost 12 Gloria Cohen 13 Tom Fobes
 13 Allison Gibney 14 Gregory Alexander 16 Bill Stevenson
 17 Dan Bisti 17 Jim Chase 18 Sam Skinner 19 Sean Ramsey
 20 Sue Madden 23 Scott Schaaf 24 Sean O'Herron
 26 Jean Kline 28 Jeff Willever 29 Patty Burke 30 Ryan Abbott

May

1 John F. Carey 1 Drew D'Apolito 2 Steve Clayton
 2 Vincent Maresca 3 Laura Lieneck 6 Tim LaVance
 7 Heng Chin 7 Craig Fraser 7 Brian Sullivan
 8 Patti Conroy 8 John Eisemann 9 Ken Thoman
 9 Bob Ward 10 Ann Sage 11 Cathy Barfield
 11 Marijane Bruncati 11 Rob Kolczynski 11 Janet Ryan
 12 Dave Compton 12 Peter D'Angelo 12 Diane Stasik
 14 Laurie Marswillo 15 Chris Davidson 18 Helen Fiore
 18 Karen Livingstone 20 Tom Noordzy 21 Shawn Allen
 21 Susan Harasty 22 Matthew Robinson 25 Hank Schreiber
 26 Michelle Scolletta-Gosha 27 Dan DeSoucey 27 Jeff Szalc
 30 Gary Stedman

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Monmouth County Park System
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PRSR STD
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PARK SYSTEM



MRES Osprey to Public: "I'm here but you can't see me!"

A Follow-Up Note to "No Osprey at Manasquan Reservoir" Story

Last issue, we carried a report about the absence of active osprey nests at the Manasquan Reservoir for the past two years. However, there actually is still one active nest on site—it is just located in a spot that is not viewable to the public. The net result is that for the first time in over 20 years, we don't have any viewable osprey nests for visitors to see.