



# Friends of the Parks

President: Gregory Hunt

Volume 19, No. 2

Summer 2010



**Happy Birthday to You, Happy Birthday to You,  
Happy 50th Birthday Monmouth County Park System,  
Happy Birthday to You and Many More!**



*Friends of the Park Board Member, Marilyn Staron enjoys delectable hors d' oeuvres.*



*Friends of the Park Board of Directors*

Wow, 50 years of providing open spaces and beautiful places for the citizens of Monmouth County to enjoy! The *Friends* were thrilled to host a birthday bash at the Thompson Park Visitor Center on June 13th. Over 150 party-goers joined us for the celebration which featured: tours of the historic buildings and ornamental gardens, craft projects, wildlife demonstrations, musical entertainment, refreshments and a commemorative keepsake.

The *Friends* would like to thank our party sponsors, Mr. and Mrs. James P. Cullen, for their generosity which made this event possible. We would also like to thank the Holmdel High School jazz band for providing the entertainment. Sorry you couldn't join us? Don't worry there are more 50th events throughout the Park System for the rest of the year. Visit [www.monmouthcountyparks.com](http://www.monmouthcountyparks.com) for more information.



*Shirley Neff, Roberta Sheridan, and Marcia Blackwell*



*Gracious guests who braved the bad weather*



*Barbara McMorrow, Shirley Neff, and Maria Wojciechowski*



*James Cullen, Tracy Boyle, Gail Cullen, and Sandy Mulheren*



## Sweltering Heat and a Lot of Fun at the Monmouth County Fair

Record breaking heat didn't keep the *Friends* volunteers inside during the Monmouth County Fair. Sixty-five loyal *Friends* volunteers rolled up their sleeves and helped sell 50/50 chances at the East Freehold Showgrounds. Genevieve Clifton, Lita Richard, and Roberta Blaszczyk shared the Super 50/50 drawing of \$2,410. Sixteen lucky winners shared \$4,938 in nightly drawings. Thank you to everyone who supported the fair raffles.



## Wegmans of Manalapan Helps Keep Everyone Hydrated

The *Friends* would like to send a big thank you to Wegmans of Manalapan for supplying all the water for the *Friends* volunteers and the Monmouth County Park System staff during the Fair. This generous donation was invaluable during the record breaking heat. Wegmans not only provided water for the Fair, but donates the water for all of the *Friends* events as well as all of the Monmouth County Park System's races and special events. This donation saves the *Friends* over \$2,500!

## Get Your Piece of Monmouth County History Now! The Monmouth County Park System History Books Are Here!

Have you ever wondered how the Monmouth County Park System acquired a park, or what a park was before the Park System took it over? Well, all the answers can be found in The Monmouth County Park System – The First Fifty Years. This handsome keepsake tells the story of how, from a small beginning in 1960, Monmouth County has preserved over 14,000 acres of open space, including some of the county's most significant natural areas and historic sites, and built one of America's finest county park systems.

Funded by the *Friends*, this hardcover publication commemorates the Park System's 50th Anniversary. Copies can be purchased for \$40.00 by calling the *Friends* Office at (732) 975-9735 or by visiting the *Friends* website: [www.friendsofmonmouthcountyparks.com](http://www.friendsofmonmouthcountyparks.com).

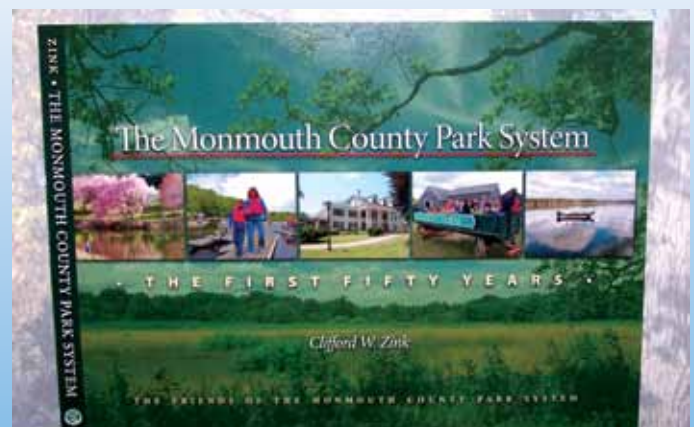
The books are also on sale at the Monmouth County Library Eastern and Western Branches, as well as at the Monmouth County Park

## League of Women Voters Cablevision Interview

Keep an eye on Cablevision's local channel 77 for the League of Women Voters interview with *Friends* Board Member Tracy Boyle and Executive Director/Fundraiser Maria Wojciechowski. Marie Curtis of the League of Women Voters asked many important and insightful questions about the *Friends* mission and our membership. The program is expected to air this fall. Please check the *Friends* website for times and dates.

## Huber Woods Pellet Stove

The Huber Woods Activity Center has a new Castile pellet burning wood stove thanks to The Wood Stove & Fireplace Center in Oakhurst. While making room for new inventory, the owner of the Wood Stove inquired to see if the *Friends* could accept this in-kind donation valued at \$3,000. The cast-iron wood stove at Huber Woods was in need of repairs, so this was an ideal match. This donation will help keep our visitors nice and toasty all winter. Thank you to our friends at The Wood Stove & Fireplace Center for thinking of us!



## Giving to the *Friends* Helps the Parks

Did you know that there are numerous ways to give to the *Friends*? The *Friends* are registered with a number of companies which donate to charitable organizations.

If your employer offers to match donations to charitable giving, please consider registering with the *Friends*. We are part of the United Way and we participate in the Monmouth County Public Employee Charitable Campaign, as well as the NJ State Employee Charitable Campaign.

Do you have an American Express Card or are you a Verizon customer? The *Friends* are part of American Express's Express Giving and Takepart.com and Verizon Velocity. Simply log onto their websites and register with the *Friends of the Monmouth County Parks*. These companies donate back a portion of the proceeds to the *Friends*.

Possibly consider having donations made to the *Friends* in lieu of gifts for a special occasion or in lieu of flowers at the passing of a loved one.

The *Friends* also accept in-kind donations such as sporting and recreation equipment. While we can't use Granny's old tennis racquet, we might be interested in your slightly used kayak. Just give us a call to find out.

## *Friends* Support the Annual Deep Cut Gardens Open House and the Monmouth County Park System Employee Recognition Dinner

The *Friends* are asked to support various Park System events throughout the year with donations of food. We were happy to provide tasty treats and beverages at these special events to thank the volunteers and staff who work so hard to keep Monmouth County's open spaces special for all to enjoy.



## Memorial Donations

### Restricted Memorial Donations

In Memory of Pat Ford from Catherine O'Keefe and Mary Jane Smith for a leaf on the Deep Cut Gardens Commemorative Tree  
In Memory of Esther J. (Van Schoik) Tooke from Susan Tooke for a bench at Tatum Park

### Unrestricted Memorial Donations

In Memory of C. Reed Blackwell from Ruth Ann Zobel • In Memory of Michael Brim from Heather Kimball Colella  
In Memory of Edward Pitts from Heather Kimball Colella • Shirley & Robert Neff & Mr. & Mrs. James J. Truncer  
In Memory of Beth Stauch from Mr. & Mrs. James J. Truncer • In Memory of Henk Van Hemmen from Barbara Judge

## National Trails Day Luncheon Is On Us!

The *Friends* are proud to show our appreciation for the 1,000 volunteers of the Monmouth County Park System.

Volunteers are an invaluable asset for the Monmouth County Park System. They assist in programs such as theater productions, therapeutic riding lessons, historical interpretation, and outdoor recreation. They also provide thousands of hours of labor in building and maintaining over 120 miles of park trails, beach cleanups, and gardening.

On June 6th the *Friends* were proud to once again sponsor the National Trails Day Luncheon. National Trails Day is held annually on the first Saturday in June. The rolling trails of Holmdel Park were tidied up and the industrious trails volunteers were well fed as a small thank you from the *Friends*. The Monmouth County Park System volunteers are precious to the *Friends* – thank you!



## Therapeutic Recreation Visits Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park

Therapeutic Recreation took a trip to the beach in August thanks to the *Friends*. Seventy participants enjoyed the surf and sand at Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park, Long Branch and had a wonderful day. The *Friends* paid for the two buses to transport the trip's participants and chaperones for a day of fun in the sun.



## Welcome New Friends Members as of August 20, 2010

Mitchell Bass, Dr. Amnon Faktor, Golf Car Specialties, LLC, Lisa Halpern, Mary & Alan Ingwer, Audrey & William Johnson, Ernestine & Arnold McCormick, Robert Michaels, William (Art) Poyner, Barbara Silkworth, Kathleen Smith, Edward Westhaven

## Board of Directors

Marcia Blackwell	Gregory Hunt	Stephen J. Rybka	James J. Truncer, Ex-Officio
Tracy Boyle	Barbara McMorrow	Thomas Sannelli	Maria Wojciechowski,
Laura Brinkerhoff	Michael S. Miller	Roberta Sheridan	Executive Director
Heather Kimball Colella	Sandy Mulheren	Marilyn Staron	Anthony Locascio, Legal Counsel
Gail H. Cullen	Julie Mullen	Mark E. Zelina	
Audrey Falzo	Shirley Neff		

**Emeritus Directors** Elwood Baxter, Joanne Mullen, Daniel Ward Seitz

## Mark your Calendars for these Upcoming' Events!

**October 3rd** – Walnford Day, Historical Walnford, Upper Freehold Township

**October 17th**, Strut Your Mutt – Thompson Park Day, Lincroft

**January 15th** – Friends Annual Breakfast Meeting, Hominy Hill Golf Course Club House, Colts Neck

**2011** – Friends 20th Birthday



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**Friends of the Parks**  
Monmouth County  
P.O. Box 686  
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