



Green Heritage

The Bimonthly Newsletter of the Monmouth County Park System

Vol. 30 No.5 Oct./Nov. 1996

Environmental Center prepares for fall

Huber Woods Park is a great place to witness all the colors of autumn, and the Environmental Center is a great place to learn about the plants that provide those brilliant colors. The Environmental Center features a wide variety of hands-on exhibits to educate children and adults about nature. From weather activities to plant displays to bird watching, the exhibits help provide a better understanding of what goes on in the world outside.

Since its opening four years ago, the Environmental Center has become a popular destination for school groups and for parents who want their children to learn more about nature. "Many families come almost every week," says Sue Draxler, Park System Naturalist. "They know it's a place where their children can learn

and have fun." The exhibits were specifically designed for people to discover something new each time they visit. "Several of the exhibits are changed periodically because the outside is always changing."

The wildflower wall, for example, changes seasonally to reflect the plants and insects found in the park's meadows at different times throughout the year. Recently, the late summer/early fall display was installed. The exhibit shows that there is more to wildflowers than just a pretty appearance. "Huber Woods has a beautiful meadow," explains Sue, "and the staff thought we should do something to draw people's attention to it. We decided to show how these flowers serve as a home for all sorts of animals and insects."

The wildflower wall is a hands-on exhibit, requiring children to attach a wooden disc representing an insect or animal to each of the plants painted on the wall. "We're hoping to create an association between the plant and something that benefits from it."

"We try to make as many hands-on exhibits as possible because it's a much easier way to learn than just seeing," Sue Draxler

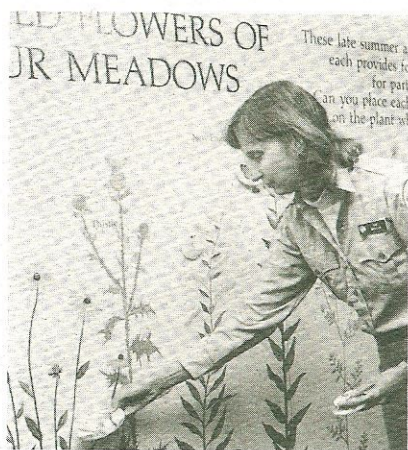
While some of the exhibits in the Center are geared towards children, there are many things that adults will find interesting as well. The weather room, for example, contains all sorts of equipment that explains and tests atmospheric conditions.

Referendum looks to increase preservation funding

The Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders voted to place a non-binding referendum on the November 5th ballot in order to gauge public opinion on expanded open space preservation. The referendum calls for increasing the open space tax bill, which will raise the annual funding from \$4 million (approved in 1987) to \$10 million.

The additional funding will allow the Freeholders to continue their efforts to preserve county open space and farmland, ensure that quality public recreation facilities and opportunities expand with population growth, and provide financial means to manage county park and recreation lands and their improvements in the future. Of the additional \$6 million, \$4 million would be used for acquiring land and \$2 million would be used on park area improvements. While no decisions have been made on specific projects or priorities, possibilities include public accommodations at several parks.

Funding from the 1987 referendum helped preserve 1465 acres at 11 park areas. Last year, visitation at the 26 county park areas exceeded 3.8 million people and over 86,000 people participated in more than 3200 programs. □



Park System Naturalist Sue Draxler reads the wildflower wall for the new season.

Environmental continued on next page

"The object," Sue explains, "is that after seeing this exhibit, visitors should be able to determine the next day's weather forecast."

Another room, the bird-viewing area, invites people to relax and listen to the sounds of the outdoors. It also offers a wonderful opportunity to spot some of the local birds making their home in the woods.

After touring the Environmental Center, visitors are encouraged to take their new knowledge out into the park. Just outside the Center is the Discovery Walk, a quick tour of the woods area. A brochure is available that explains what there is to see at the seven stops along the walk. There are also many other longer trails throughout the park.

Heading into fall, the Environmental Center experiences one of its busiest times of the year. It's not uncommon to have five or six school groups at the park on a weekday. After all, what better way to learn about nature than to be in it.

For more information about the Environmental Center, call (908) 872-2670. □



Ed Loud (2nd from right) with Senior Park naturalist Susan Draxler (at right) and two park District Forum visitors (left to right) Dan Griffin of Illinois and Jeanette Weiss of Michigan.

"A miracle at work"

Ed Loud is one of the biggest supporters of the Monmouth County Park System. And it's not because he's the Vice Chairman of the Board of Recreation Commissioners. Actually, his enthusiasm for the Park System is why he got on the Board in the first place.

Before becoming a Recreation Commissioner, Ed served on the Aberdeen Recreation Advisory Board. "When my son got interested in Little League," Ed recalls, "he was given a bat to play ball and I was given a paint brush to fix up the dugout. I realized that if we want these parks for our children to play in, we have to maintain them."

When the Freeholders asked him to join the Monmouth County Board of Recreation Commissioners, Ed was honored. "Monmouth County has one of the best park systems in the country. We were the first park system to gain national accreditation. It's great to be a part of that." But Ed admits that neither he nor the Board can take full credit for the Park System's success. "It's the people who make the parks successful. The rangers who patrol the parks, the volunteers who help maintain

them, and the members of the public who support and enjoy them."

The Board of Recreation Commissioners is a county-established body that oversees policies for the Park System. They are committed, Ed says, to long-range planning. "Every cent we spend on our parks gives several dividends. It adds value to the county; property values are higher when there's a park across the street than when there's a housing development. It gives our children a legacy, the knowledge that we set land aside for them."

Ed has been on the Board for ten years, serving as Vice Chairman since 1992. During that time he has seen much growth in the Park System. "It's a miracle at work. In 35 years we've acquired 9400 acres of land." The goal of the Park System he says, is 19,000 acres. "The object is to have a county park within 20 minutes of each residence." And there is good reason, Ed contends, to see that that goal is met. "Urbanization is crowding us out. But once land is acquired by the Park System, it will not be developed. At the county's current growth rate, we need to continue to maintain a viable Park System." □

How the MCPS stacks up

Travel has always been one of Ed Loud's favorite pastimes and, since becoming a Board of Recreation Commissioner, he's taken the time to check out some parks in other states. How does the Monmouth County Park System compare?

"The Monmouth County Park System rates just about number one in everybody's book," Ed says proudly. "There are bigger systems, and systems with more facilities, but in the grand scheme, we have one of the best combinations of parks and programs. And I've talked with people from other systems who have visited here and told me that."

As for other parks, Ed says, "I visited a park in the Midwest that was a big

open prairie. There's a park in Maryland that has a marina about the size of a stadium. One park had turned a landfill into a golf course. Another turned a huge quarry into a public swimming area."

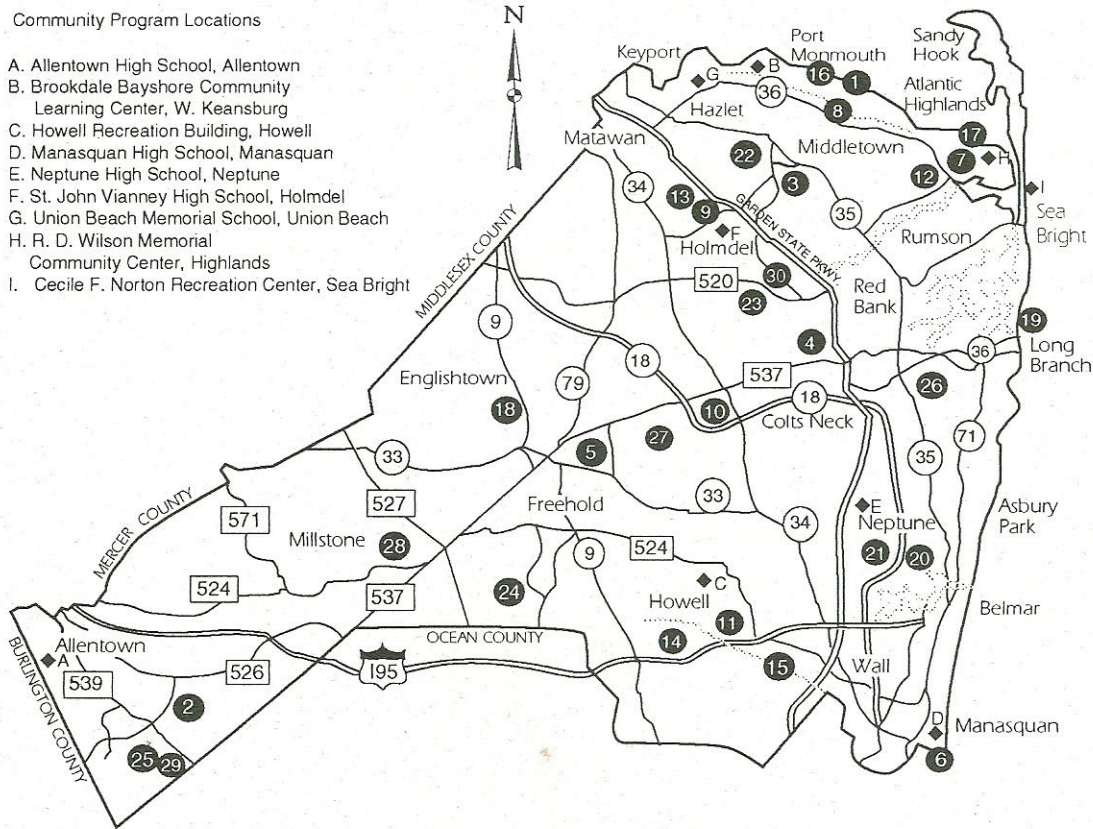
Ed admits that park systems share ideas and that there are some things the Monmouth County Park System has picked up from elsewhere. "The Huber Woods Environmental Center- that idea we borrowed from another system. And restoration projects like Walnford, we thought that turning an old mill into an educational area, as another system had done, would benefit our system too."

Still, Ed points out that it's hard to draw comparisons. "Different areas have different needs. As long as the Park System fulfills those needs, then that's what is important." □

MONMOUTH COUNTY PARK SYSTEM LOCATIONS

Community Program Locations

- A. Allentown High School, Allentown
- B. Brookdale Bayshore Community Learning Center, W. Keansburg
- C. Howell Recreation Building, Howell
- D. Manasquan High School, Manasquan
- E. Neptune High School, Neptune
- F. St. John Vianney High School, Holmdel
- G. Union Beach Memorial School, Union Beach
- H. R. D. Wilson Memorial Community Center, Highlands
- I. Cecile F. Norton Recreation Center, Sea Bright



The Monmouth County Park System invites you to visit the county parks to follow your own path to recreation. For information, call (908) 842-4000. For people with hearing impairment, the TDD machine number is (908) 219-9484.

For more information

Do you want you learn more about the Monmouth County Park System? Here are a few helpful ways:

Pressto: A service of the Asbury Park Press, Pressto provides up-to-date news, weather, and county-wide recreational information. Just dial (908) 918-1000 on a touch-tone phone and enter the four-digit code for the menu item you want information on. To hear about Park sponsored events, press 5500. To learn about programs offered by the Park System, press 5501.

World Wide Web: Nowadays, it seems as if everyone has a web site. To learn about the Monmouth County Park System on-line, look

for us at www.injersey.com:80/NP/MonCtyParks. The site is updated frequently with information about the Park System.

Publications: The Park System publishes a number of newsletters to help you learn more about parks, programs, and the outdoors.

- "Green Heritage" is the general newsletter of the Monmouth County Park System. It is a bi-monthly publication offering stories about the lands, programs, and people who make up the Park System.

- "Home Gardener" is the quarterly newsletter of Deep Cut Gardens. It offers gardening tips, horticultural information, and updates on the events at Deep Cut Gardens.

- "Activity Directory," published six times a year, lists all the programs, trips, and classes offered by the Park System. Every issue is packed with bus trips, outdoor excursions, craft classes, and other popular activities. A subscription is available for \$5.

- "Golf Times," published annually, contains information on the Park System's golf courses.

- "Nature Notes," published quarterly, contains articles by park naturalists on various nature topics.

All subscriptions are free, unless otherwise noted. For a subscription to any of the newsletters mentioned, call (908) 842-4000. □

MONMOUTH COUNTY PARK SYSTEM FACILITIES

(908) 842-4000

ALL NUMBERS ARE 908 AREA CODE

		ACREAGE	ACTIVITY CENTER	BOATING Ramp / Launch	BOATING Rentals	CAMPING Group	X-COUNTRY Ski	ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER	FISHING	FOOD CONCESSION	FOOD VENDING MACHINE	GARDENS	GOLF DRIVING RANGE	PAY PHONE	PICNIC FACILITIES	PLAYGROUND	REST ROOMS Modern	REST ROOMS Primitive	SCENIC VIEW	SHELTER BUILDING	TENNIS	TRAILS Equestrian / Bicycling	TRAILS Walking / Hiking	VISITOR CENTER	WHEEL CHAIR ACCESSIBLE	FEATURES
F FEE CHARGED	R RESERVABLE (FEE CHARGED)																									
S SEASONAL	G GROUP USE PERMIT REQUIRED																									
1.	Bayshore Waterfront Park • 842-4000 Port Monmouth Rd. • Port Monmouth	138	●				●										●									
2.	Clayton Park • 842-4000 Emley's Hill Rd. • Upper Freehold	394				●															●	●				
3.	Deep Cut Gardens • 671-6050 252 Red Hill Rd. • Middletown	52	●							●						●	●							●		Horticultural Library
4.	Dorbrook Recreation Area • 542-1642 207 Rt. 537 • Colts Neck	510	●			●				●			●	R	●	●	●			●				●		Horseshoe Court (R) Model Airplane Field (R)
5.	East Freehold Park • 842-4000 Kozloski Rd. • Freehold	81										●				●										Special Events Area (R) County Fair July 23-28
6.	Fisherman's Cove Conservation Area Third Ave. • Manasquan • 842-4000	35					●																			Bait & Tackle Shop
7.	Hartshorne Woods Park • 842-4000 Navesink Ave. • Locust	736			R	●	●										●	●			●	●				
8.	Henry Hudson Trail • 842-4000 • Aberdeen to Atlantic Highlands border	85				●											●				●	●				9-Mile Trail
9.	Holmdel Park • 946-2669 Longstreet Rd. • Holmdel	334	●			●	●	S	●	●	●		R	G	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Sledding Hill Fitness Trail
10.	Hominy Hill Golf Course • 462-9222 Mercer Rd. • Colts Neck	183						S	●	●	●	●				●										Par 72, Yardage 7,059
11.	Howell Park Golf Course • 938-4771 Preventorium Rd. • Howell	306						S	●	●	●	●				●										Par 72, Yardage 6,869
12.	Huber Woods Park • 872-2670 Brown's Dock Rd. • Locust	258				●	●			●		●			●	●	●				●	●	●	●	●	Program Room (R)
13.	Longstreet Farm • 946-3758 Longstreet Rd. • Holmdel	9																								1890s Living History Farm
14.	Manasquan Reservoir • 919-0996 Windeler Road • Howell	1203	●	S		●	●	S	●	●		●			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Bait & Tackle Shop (S) Boat Tours (S)
15.	Manasquan Stream Valley • 842-4000 Howell & Wall Township						●																			Canoe Launch
16.	Monmouth Cove Marina • 495-9440 200 Port Monmouth Road • Port Monmouth	12										●														Wet Slips & Rack Storage
17.	Mt. Mitchell Scenic Overlook • 842-4000 Ocean Blvd. • Atlantic Highlands	11													●		●	●						●		Elevation 266 Feet
18.	Pine Brook Golf Course • 536-7272 Covered Bridge Blvd. • Manalapan	61								●		●			●											Par 61, Yardage 4,168
19.	Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park Ocean Ave. • Long Branch • 229-0924	33	●	F			●	S	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●						●		Swimming (S) Fitness Court
20.	Shark River Golf Course • 922-4141 Old Corlies Ave. • Neptune	176						S	●	●		●			●											Par 72, Yardage 6,180
21.	Shark River Park 922-4080 Schoolhouse Rd. • Neptune	587				●	●	●	●	●		●	G	●	●		R	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Fitness Trail
22.	Tatum Park • 842-4000 Holland Rd. & Red Hill Rd. • Middletown	368	●			●									●		●				●	●	●	●	●	
23.	Thompson Park • 842-4000 805 Newman Springs Rd. • Lincroft	665	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	G	●	●	●				●	●	●	●	●	●	Fitness Trail
24.	Turkey Swamp Park • 462-7286 Georgia Rd. • Freehold	849			S	R	S	F	●	●		●	R	G	●	●		R	G	●	●	●	●	●	●	Archery Range Fitness Trail
25.	Wainford • 842-4000 Wainford Rd. • Upper Freehold	36														●										Historic Site
26.	Weltz Park • 842-4000 West Park Avenue • Oakhurst	165				●															●	●				

Other areas include: (27) Baysholm, Freehold Township; (28) Charleston Springs, (a planned Golf Course Site) Upper Freehold; (29) Crosswicks Creek, Upper Freehold; (30) Sunnyside, Middletown.

NATURE CORNER

If you could talk to the animals

If you could talk to an animal, what would you want to talk about? In actuality, many people sense what animals are communicating by observing their voice tone, volume, and pattern.

Changes in pitch and volume are used by humans as well as other animals to vary their messages. For example, low pitch and loud volume connote a more serious and perhaps angry meaning. If a person wants someone to leave the area, he would use his lowest tone in a loud voice to sound angry and firm. This is the case for both opossums and crows.

In contrast, when one wants to communicate a happy or friendly message, a high-pitched and often melodic tone is used. Just listen to an adult speaking to an infant, for example. In a similar way, the Chickadee's high "see" and soft "dee" are friendly calls.

Sometimes pitch can be varied by males to attract females of their species. Male

frogs, for instance, grow larger each year, causing bigger voice boxes. Bigger voice boxes mean a lower pitch voice. To ensure offspring with good survival skills, females are then attracted to the oldest male who sings with the deepest voice.

Another area where sound is an important communication tool is the ocean. Although often thought of as a quiet and peaceful place, the ocean depths are filled with sounds. Hundreds of fish emit various sounds by using the swim bladder as a sound chamber. For example, grunts of the male haddock can denote aggressive behavior. Other grunt variations can be used to communicate with the female haddock.

Whales have highly developed sound systems. Humpback whales have songs with definite patterns. A male has been known to sing to a female for hours at a time. Dolphins, which are a type of whale, use clicks, groans, chirps, and whistles to communicate. Although they have good eyesight, the ocean is often dark and unclear. Clicks

help them maneuver in the ocean. One can send out a series of clicks and then interpret the returning echo. Thus, the dolphin can avoid obstacles and locate food. Single clicks seem to be used to help keep the dolphin group (or pod) together. Whistles help members of a large dolphin group reach each other or issue warning calls.

On land, another mammal which employs sound as a kind of radar is the bat. Using ultrasound, a pitch too high for human ears, bats can locate insects for food. Another rodent using high-pitched sound is the mouse. Baby mice make a high-pitched sound to stimulate maternal behavior in their mothers.

Sounds produced by animals are an important means of communication. If we listen carefully to the pitch, volume, and pattern of the sound, we can better understand all the animals (even the human ones) around us.

Irma Philmus □

Classes help bring out creative side

With the holiday season fast approaching, why not do something different, enjoyable, and practical this year? The Monmouth County Park System offers a variety of classes in crafts, cooking, and decorating to help you add a homemade feel to your holidays.

The current edition of the Activity Directory offers classes in pottery, holiday cookies, and wreath making, as well as other seasonal offerings. According to Joanne Ciancio, Senior Data Control Clerk, "Now is definitely one of the more popular times for classes." Joanne handles hundreds of calls each week to register people for the courses.

The success of the classes is due to a number of factors including experi-

enced instructors, affordable costs, and the overall variety of offerings. "The create-your-own classes are very popular," says Joanne. "Anything to do with holidays and gift giving." She says that people have come to expect certain courses each year, and it's not uncommon to see someone take a course two or three times. "In classes where you make something, like ceramics, each time you take it you can make something different. We have a few courses that are different from last year, but overall we get such great response that a lot of the classes remain the same."

The Activity Directory is available for free at most County Parks, or you can get a one-year subscription for \$5. But Joanne does offer a word of advice. "Register early for a course. As soon as you find out about it, call.

They do fill up fast." To subscribe to the Directory, call (908) 842-4000.



Create your own baskets, wreaths, or other holiday decorations. Monmouth County Park System offers a wide variety of Crafts Courses this fall.