



## A Walnford update: Two who are making it happen

**I** was reminded how large Monmouth County is when, on a recent trip to Walnford Park, I tried to call my office at the Thompson Park Visitor Center. "You have to dial 908," Jeff Szalc reminded me. "It's 609 out here." Jeff is Park Manager at Walnford, and he's definitely heard his share of "distance" jokes. "It takes a whole day to drive to most other parks in the system and back here again," he explains. "Every time someone comes down here, that's pretty much their plan for the whole day."

Located in Upper Freehold, in the southwestern

part of the county, Walnford's rural location is one of its strongest appeals. "I like it out here," admits Jeff.

"It's a gorgeous, pristine area. Most of the park visitors who come here do so to get away to where it's quiet." Not

that it has been too quiet recently. Work is underway for the development of Walnford as a historic site, with building renovation going on throughout the park.

Jeff came to Walnford in July, when the renovation project was starting to come on-line. "I had done work down here earlier, helping with the clean up of Crosswicks Creek and trail maintenance at Clayton. And I came back from

vacation one day and found out I was assigned here as Manager."

Jeff had been what many referred to as "the manager without a park." He worked under Dave Compton ordering and delivering supplies for various parks. "I pretty much knew where everything was in the system. If areas needed to trade supplies or track down a particular item, they came to me." It was a job Jeff liked. "It was kind of nice not being

future projects designed to draw more people to this far-off corner of the county, the traveling will just increase. "We're looking to continue clean-up at Crosswicks Creek and open it for canoers, and, of course, we've got Walnford opening next year." There is also one more project Jeff would like to see. "We're also hoping to get our speed-dial hooked up, so the area code difference is no longer a problem."

While Jeff awaits increased traffic to his corner of the county, Historic Sites Interpreter Sarah Bent is devising ways to entice people to visit.

"Since it's a new site, I'm starting fresh. I'm working with the naturalists and others to create programs specific to Walnford." Among the obvious possibilities are tours of the mill, house, and grounds. "One advantage is that I have a broad period to work with. It's a composite of 200 years, from the 1770s to 1915. But we also want to showcase the ecological importance of Walnford."

Developing historical programs is nothing new to Sarah who started as a volunteer at Longstreet. "At Longstreet I did a little of everything. As a volunteer,

*cont'd on p.2.*



*Jeff Szalc and Sarah Bent on the steps of the Walnford House.*

Jeff is tied to one area and getting to do my own thing."

Now, he still spends much of his time traveling between parks, but for different reasons than before.

"We patrol a large area. Between Crosswicks Creek, Walnford, Clayton, and Charleston Springs, we rack up a lot of mileage." And with

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I worked with the animals and did house tours; I then became a contractor and worked at the farm as a seamstress. Then I became a part-time employee working as a plow driver and hosting visiting school groups." She took her Longstreet experience and love of history to Walnford, which she soon realized was a whole new education. "Longstreet and Walnford are both historic sites and that's about where the similarities end. At Walnford, I had to learn a whole different period of history and a new agriculture, one of water instead of land."

Of course, she also had to learn about Walnford's mainstay, the mill. "Harold Rapp, who works in mill restoration, taught me a lot about mills. I've gotten information from an organization called 'The Society for Preservation of Old Mills.' It's amazing the interest there is in this sort of thing." Sarah lists many people for whom she is appreciative in helping her learn about Walnford. "Eric Zaloga has been a big help, as have Phyllis Mount and Ranger Kelly Cole. Everyone I've worked with has been helpful."

Sarah still has several months until programs are scheduled at Walnford, and she admits she both longs for and fears the day of the big opening. "We're shooting to have some programs available for the summer, and an opening ceremony in the fall. I'm just hoping it all goes smoothly." With so many historic locations already in New Jersey, she says it's a challenge to make Walnford's programs different. "We're going to use the mill and creek for more science and math-based school programs."

As for the location of Walnford, Sarah likes it just fine. Since she likes being outside, somewhere with lots of wildlife, she finds it an ideal spot. "There's a sense of removal when one comes to Walnford, like you have found your own undiscovered corner. I hope that, through my programs, I can maintain that feel." □

### In Memoriam

The following Obituary was in the Nov. 15 Asbury Park Press

"Aaron Smith, 60, an environmentalist, fire fighter, and former Howell Township Council member died yesterday at Centrastate Medical Center, Freehold Township.

Mr. Smith was a caretaker for historic sites for the Monmouth County Park System, a position he had held for 10 years, and was secretary of the Howell Historical Society."

The Park System also mourned the passing of Richard Day on November 15. Mr. Day had been Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds and worked in the Public Works Department in Freehold.



"St. Nick hears the wishes of Betsy Stoy of Middletown at Thompson Park's Holiday Happening."

## This Holiday was Happening

**T**he sun came out on December 8, one of the few days in December to see such a phenomenon. And, although the ground remained wet, that didn't stop hundreds of parents and children from turning out for the Holiday Happening at Thompson Park.

With crafts, races, and visits with Santa, this has become a popular annual event. "It's one of the few outdoor events this time of year, and I think people like that," says Patti Conroy who, for the past several years, has been coordinating the event. Few would expect December to be a good time for an outdoor event, but, according to Patti, with holiday pressures building and the

cold weather forcing people indoors, people like to have one more release before the snow comes. "It's strictly a people-centered event. The crafts and activities are here for people to bring the whole family to and enjoy. The popular attraction this year, much to many people's surprise, was the ornament making. "We pre-made ornaments with salt, flour, and water, and people could take glitter and markers and decorate them. Over 400 people took part in this- in fact we had to take a break and quickly make up more ornaments." □

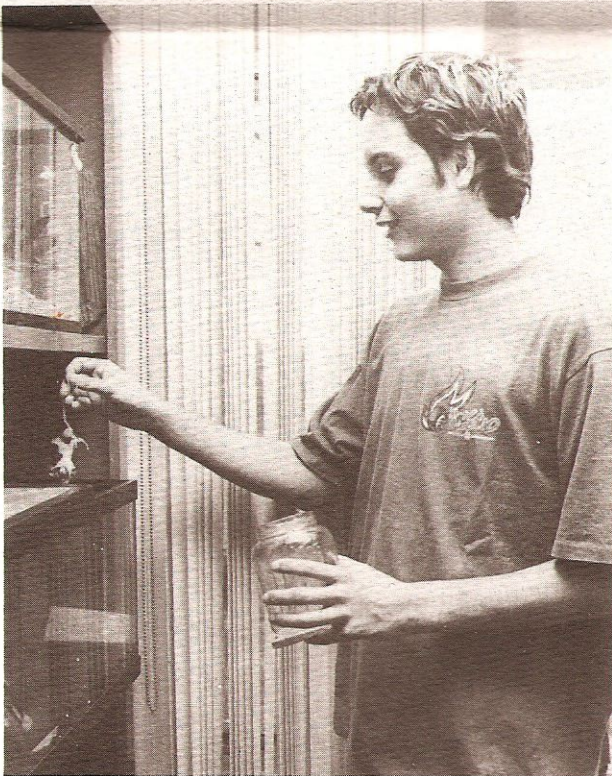
## An Education in the Parks

All seniors attending St. John Vianney high school in Holmdel are required to take part in a program that impacts both their education and their community. Along with tests and textbooks, the students spend part of their school time each week volunteering for a local organization.

"In the beginning of the year we get a list of places we can go, like Bayshore Hospital, First Friends, or here," says Marco de Asa-Littig who, along with Chris Therkorn and Antonio Fontanes, opted to volunteer with the Monmouth County Park System. The three students are working at the Holmdel Park Activity Center where they feed and care for the animals on hand.

"It's a good program because most students probably wouldn't take the time to volunteer," says Antonio, "but in doing so, you really learn a lot." All three admit that the opportunity to work with animals is what brought them to the Park System, and each is glad he came. "The people here are really nice, and there's not a whole lot of pressure," admits Chris. "If there's a particular job we don't feel comfortable doing, we mention it, and someone else will take care of it."

According to Marco, most of their time is spent feeding and watching the animals. "We keep a journal of all the things we do and learn. And we learn a lot.



"Antonio Fontanes is one of three students from St. John Vianney volunteering at Holmdel Park."

I learned, for instance, that bullfrogs eat mice whole." At the end of the year, their journals become part of a larger presentation they give about their volunteering

experience. "Our supervisor evaluates us all year long," explains Antonio. "We then do a final paper or a video or something for our overall grade."

Their supervisor is Naturalist Patty O'Rourke, and for her the evaluations are easy. "They're just great. This is really a good crew." She has worked with volunteers from St. John Vianney in the past and really supports the volunteer program. "Each student comes on a different day and takes care of the animals for that day. Since the animals require constant attention, it frees [the naturalists] up to do other things."

While none of the students is exactly certain how their experiences here will impact the rest of their lives (they're not screaming to become naturalists just yet), they're glad that St. John's is giving them such an opportunity. "It gives you a different outlook on life," Chris says of volunteering. Marco agrees. "Choose something you're interested in and you'll really get something out of it." "But be open-minded," adds Chris. "Look to try a new thing."

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## The following items were found on the internet

Questions actually asked at the National Parks:

### Grand Canyon National Park

Was this man-made?  
Do you light it up at night?  
I bought tickets for the elevator to the bottom- where is it?  
Is the mule train air-conditioned?  
So where are the faces of the presidents?  
Why did the Indians only build ruins?

### Everglades National Park

Are the alligators real?  
Are the baby alligators for sale?  
Where are all the rides?  
When does the two o'clock bus leave?

### Mesa Verde National Park

Did people build this, or did Indians?  
Why did they build the ruins so close to the road?  
Do you know of any undiscovered ruins?  
What did they worship in the kivas- their own made-up religion?  
Why did the Indians decide to live in Colorado?

### Carlsbad Caverns National Park

How much of the cave is underground?  
What's in the unexplored part of the cave?  
How many ping-pong balls would it take to fill up this thing?  
So what is this- just a hole in the ground?

### Yosemite National Park

Where are the cages for the animals?  
What time of the year do you turn on Yosemite Falls?  
What happened to the other half of Half Dome?

### Denali National Park

What time do they let the animals out in the park?  
Can you show me where yeti live?  
How often do you mow the tundra?  
How much does Mt. McKinley weigh?

### Yellowstone National Park

Does Old Faithful erupt at night?  
How do you turn it on?  
We had no trouble finding the park entrances, but where are the exits?

## Appreciation

I am writing to tell you how pleased I am with the horseback riding lessons being offered at Huber Woods through the Monmouth County Park System. The quality is unparalleled in this area. **Cindy Weber** does an excellent job with the students and allows them to grow in skills and self-confidence."

*Don Shugard, Middletown*

"The Cranes-Ford Chapter of the National Campers and Hikers Club have had a weekend campout at Turkey Swamp for several years. We want to thank **all the personnel** at the park for their cooperation. We all love Turkey Swamp Park and think it's one of, if not the best, campgrounds in the State of New Jersey."

*Laurie Higbie, Secretary for Cranes-Ford Club*

"Dear Beverly Miller, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for planning the Department of Health & Senior Services low ropes exercises. The problems you and your staff used to help us broaden our skills in communication, team building and ability to develop alternative choices in changing situations were truly a worthwhile experience."

*Elsa J. Sieracki, State Dept. of Health and Senior Services*

"Dear Jeanne DeYoung, The program at Deep Cut Park was a wonderful experience for our 7th and 8th grades, yet you continued to strive for even a more comprehensive program [at Huber Woods Park]. Students and teachers alike have told me how educational and enjoyable this new activity is. Our Service Learning students are very excited and anxious to return."

*Margaret Thomas-Minehardt, Health Educator/Guidance Counselor Shrewsbury Borough*

"Dear John Hoffman, I am a pre-school teacher at the Jewish Community Center in Deal and I have had quite a few opportunities to enjoy some of the wonderful programs that you offer for this age group. **Irma Philmus** was the Naturalist leader for both 'Nature for Little People,' and 'Seashells and Starfish.' She was an excellent leader in that she was very patient and had wonderful age-appropriate activities."

*Linda Weiner, Deal*



Can you name these MCPS employees who successfully passed the ropes course challenge? ( See bottom of page for answer )

## A Look Back

Green Link, Jan/Feb 1982

"The park system initiated a new computerized registration system on June 14 which, if it failed, would have been painfully obvious to the public and extremely confusing to everyone involved with park system programs. It was with great relief (and a certain amount of pride) that June 15 brought excellent results. The computerized registration system has many benefits. For example, rosters of program registrants may be updated daily, and individual permits can be mechanically processed. A system of double checking recorded in the computer memory effectively eliminates many possible sources of error on rosters and permits. Probably the most important benefit is the automatic entry of all program information into the revenue reports and the resulting cost analysis of each program."

Green Heritage Jan/Feb 1977

"One of the newest facilities added to your park system is the Holmdel Park Activity Center,

located on Longstreet Road in Holmdel, just a short distance from the high school. From this center, all information and arrangements for nature interpretation programs may be obtained, as well as reservations for tours of the Longstreet Farm in Holmdel Park."

*Jim Register,  
McCarthy, Patti Conroy,  
Terry Normand, Shelagh  
Jim Folligno, Nancy Borchert,  
Glenn Reilly, Jane Clark,  
Andrew Spears, Linda Sharkey,  
from left to right, Robina Schepp,*

### GREEN LINK

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Send questions and story ideas to

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# DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Jim Truncer



## 1996 - Changes & Progress

I thought we might just take a moment to reflect on this past year. We often don't take time to

notice what has been happening throughout the Park System. 1996 was a year of changes and progress. The following is a summary of some noteworthy visitor service improvements completed in 1996:

- Handicap accessibility at Turkey Swamp Park from parking lot to lakefront
- Accessibility improvements to historic Battery Lewis at Hartshorne Woods Park
- Roller hockey rink at Dorbrook Recreation Area
- Two (2) basketball courts at Dorbrook Recreation Area
- Instructional swimming pool at Dorbrook Recreation Area
- Group-use picnic tents at Holmdel and Turkey Swamp Parks
- Continuous paved cart path at Howell Park Golf Course
- Renovation of Deep Cut Horticultural display pool (by Friends of the Parks)
- Paving of 9 miles of Henry Hudson Trail
- Visitor parking lot in Union Beach for Henry Hudson Trail
- One (1) additional youth soccer field at Thompson Park
- Temporary visitor parking lot at Historic Walnford
- Two (2) additional fishing piers at Manasquan Reservoir
- New artificial driving range tee at Hominy Hill Golf Course
- Restoration of large barn at Thompson Park for indoor recreation use
- One (1) basketball court at Turkey Swamp Nomoco Activity Area

The following visitor service projects were started in 1996 and are scheduled for completion in 1997:

- Restroom facilities for Monmouth County Park System Training Center at Thompson Park
- Renovation of future Dorbrook Recreation Area Activity Center at the former Festoon Farm main house
- Renovations to Nomoco Activity Area Lodge
- Historic Walnford Mill interior and machinery restoration

- Historic Walnford Cow Barn and Carriage House restoration

These projects were completed along with our usual on-going building repairs and renovations, painting, roofing, septic system, construction, paving, site improvements and plantings.

During 1996, we also acquired an additional 579 acres including additions to Turkey Swamp, Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park, Henry Hudson Trail, Holmdel Park, Mt. Mitchill, Clayton Park, Crosswicks Creek, Bayshore Trail, Manasquan Stream Valley, and the Manasquan Reservoir.

While this was happening, we were also

- expanding our program offerings and serving more people;
- operating our park and recreation areas and golf courses;
- working on long range plans for land acquisition and facility development;
- conducting a marketing study to help the Board in setting future directions; and
- providing background information for the 1996 County Open Space Referendum.

### Know Your Park System:

Question #1: The Friends of the Parks was created to assist the Park System in what year?

- 1989
- 1991
- 1993

Question #2: The Monmouth Conservation Foundation's primary purpose is to

- help organize recreation programs
- promote conservation in the county
- operate as a "Land Trust" to acquire and hold lands for the County Park System and the municipalities of Monmouth County.

Answer #1: "b" 1991  
Answer #2: "c"

1997 looks like it will also be a busy year as the following projects have been included in our 1997 Trust Budget:

- Walnford Mill exhibits
- Howell Park Golf Course teaching facility
- Howell Park Golf Course cart path paving
- Indoor climbing wall at Thompson Park
- Two (2) permanent picnic shelters at Holmdel Park
- Renovation of Thompson Park tennis courts
- Expansion of Shark River Golf Course parking lot
- Construction of access drive and parking lot at Dorbrook
- Renovation of bunkers at Howell Park Golf Course
- Phase I cart path paving at Shark River Golf Course
- Dredging at Monmouth Cove Marina
- Patio/walk improvements at Howell Park Golf Course
- Replacement of irrigation pump system at Howell Park and Pine Brook Golf Courses

We also expect, in 1997, to start the following Capital Projects:

- Restoration of Dutch Barn and Carriage House at Longstreet Farm
- Restoration of Walnford House interior
- Construction of North Course, 18-Holes, at Charleston Springs
- Construction of Environmental Center at Manasquan Reservoir

Looking back, 1996 was truly a year of change and progress for your Park System. You can be proud of what you have accomplished. Your creativity, dedication and hard work will not go unnoticed. You are truly building a legacy for your fellow county citizens.

Quote: "Change is the law of life and those who look only to the past or present are sure to miss it."

John F. Kennedy

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

# ODDS'N ENDS

## BIRTHDAYS

### January

1 Doug Krampert  
4 Mary Mautner  
5 Sean Craig  
5 Diane Elwood  
5 Matthew Gombosi  
5 Thomas Swords  
6 Valerie Ferris  
7 Rich Boesch  
9 Pat Cernak  
9 Robina Schepp  
9 Joe Smith  
10 Jim Newman  
12 Michael Crisanti  
12 Beverly Miller  
12 Joseph Swansinger  
14 Sam Foster  
15 Jagdish Patel  
16 Paul McCue  
18 Jeanne DeYoung  
19 John Caddock  
19 Gerald Furiato

19 Dennis Siemon  
20 Russ Anderson  
20 Kathy Ragauckas  
23 Randy McHaney  
24 John Megill  
25 Shelagh McCarthy  
25 Janet Zink  
26 Angela Knox  
26 Gerry Nelson  
26 Patty O'Rourke  
26 Brad Roe  
27 John Schanck  
27 Bill Madge  
30 Gerry Kwiatkowski  
30 Dave Pease  
30 Carol Stasik

### February

6 Karen Eastin  
6 Lynn Duncan  
6 Jean Zirpola  
8 Gail Hunton  
9 Joanne Ciancio  
10 Joe Arcoleo  
11 Ralph Johnson  
14 Carol Bonura  
14 Bob Cain  
14 Pat Mahon  
15 Susan Montemorano  
15 Ralph Stout  
18 Karen Halvorsen  
18 Debra Rothenberg  
19 Jane Clark  
20 Robert Giolitto  
21 Charles Woodward  
24 Alison Petruzzo  
26 Ed Jones  
28 Phil Byard  
28 Phil Fiordelisi



R7012

## MILESTONES

Mary Naughton, Administration, and husband Bucky were blessed with a baby boy, Colin Peter Francis, 12/4. Colin weighed 6 lbs. 15 oz. and was 19 3/4" long.

## SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

1972...January...Patrick Cernak  
1977...January...Paul McCue  
1977...February...Gerald Nelson  
1982...January...Joanne Ciancio  
1987...January...Courtrena Barszczewski  
1987...January...Laura Kirkpatrick  
1987...January...Ken Skinner  
1987...January...Jeff Willever  
1992...January...Robert Flick  
1982...January...Jeff Szalc

## NEW EMPLOYEES

Lorraine Schannen, Administrative Services / Thompson Park