

The Green Oasis

Spring 2008

The Official Newsletter of Liberty State Park



LIBERTY STATE PARK CELEBRATES EARTH DAY

More than fifty volunteers showed up at Liberty State Park on a sunny spring morning in April to celebrate Earth Day in a hands-on kind of way. Members of Phi Sigma Pi, representing five chapters from universities in the New York/ Philadelphia Metro areas (Montclair State, Rutgers, Temple, Drexel, and Lehigh Universities), employees from NYK Line (North America) Inc. in partnership with Go International For Tomorrow (GIFT), a youth chapter of People to People International (PTPI) along with Jersey City residents pitched in to remove garbage from the shoreline of the Richard J. Sullivan Natural Area.



Employees from Camp Dresser & McKee Inc. (CDM) also pitched in along with Jersey City residents to help plant new butterfly gardens and trees. Special thanks to Jodi Nooyen and family for their generous donation of trees and to all our volunteers for their tremendous efforts.



URBAN BIRD CELEBRATION PLANNED FOR JUNE

It's time to push back from the computer, detach the iPod, go outside, and reconnect with nature. That's one of the goals behind the unique "Celebrate Urban Birds!" event sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The celebration will raise awareness about birds in the city through activities such as gardening, bird watching, art, and science.

Liberty State Park's Interpretive Center is excited to be a participant in this nationwide event. On June 28, 2008 from 10am – 1pm, we will be hosting an Urban Bird Day. Children and families are invited to join our free event to learn about the urban birds that call Jersey City home.

The event will feature free arts and crafts projects, guided bird walks, and an opportunity for you to participate in scientific data collection and submission. This hands-on citizen scientist work will help the scientists in their study to determine how birds use urban habitats. Conserve Wildlife of New Jersey will also be here to exhibit and provide information about the Peregrine Falcons that nest right here in Jersey City.

While supplies last, every family that pre-registers will receive an official "Celebrate Urban Birds!" Celebration Kit. Each kit comes in both English and Spanish and contains a colorful urban birds poster, educational materials about birds and



Baby mocking birds are common to urban areas

urban greening, a data form, and a packet of sunflower seeds to plant in pots and gardens to help make your home more urban bird friendly.

"It is vital we understand how birds are affected by available green spaces, including parks, rooftop gardens, and even potted plants on balconies," says Cornell Lab of Ornithology project leader Karen Purcell. "Bringing people's attention to urban nature is essential for global conservation awareness and efforts to help birds."

For more information, please call the Interpretive Center at (201) 915-3409 or see our enclosed Public Programs Flyer for registration information. Hope to see you there!

WOULD YOU RATHER RECEIVE THE GREEN OASIS BY E-MAIL?

Just send us your e-mail address to lsPIC@verizon.net and put "Green Oasis" in the subject line. You will receive the next edition electronically. As always, if you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please send us an email to the above address with "Remove From Mailing List" in the subject line or call us at (201) 915-3409. Please include your name and address.

GET A BEE IN YOUR BONNET AT LIBERTY STATE PARK

By Patricia Hilliard

Everyone is familiar with the honeybee—that busy bee that builds the hive and takes care of the queen bee. It was brought to the U.S. from Europe for honey production and is currently responsible for pollination of 35% of the country's fruits and vegetables.

Most people don't know that New Jersey has an estimated 477 species of native, American bees. Most of these bees do not build complicated hives. Native bumblebees live in the ground in tunnels that they make to protect their young and store food for the winter. Carpenter bees make holes and tunnels in dead or aging wood. Mason bees make their nests from mud and small stones. Bee populations are largest in spring and early summer. Bees like to land on daisy-shaped flowers to collect pollen. They also like cupped flowers that they can crawl into and extract nectar.

Recently there were stories in the news about a sudden disappearance of honeybees. In a matter of months between 2006-2007, millions of the nation's honeybees seemed

to simply vanish. Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), as it became known, was decimating hives in 35 states resulting in a loss of 30 % of the nation's honeybees, their honey and their services as pollinators. A combination of factors has been implicated as the probable culprits of CCD, including a newly discovered viral infection and mite infestation.

While the loss of honeybees has had dramatic effects, it seems as though the many types of native, American bees may be lessening the blow. Organic Gardening Magazine (Nov.-Jan. 2007/08) reported that Rachael Winfree, Ph.D., University of California-Berkeley did studies on small farms in New Jersey. She found that "At 91 percent of the farms I studied, native bees were fully pollinating the watermelons," She also pointed out how important gardens are. "Gardens are more likely to have flowers throughout the season, which bees need for nectar and pollen."

Through its volunteer gardening program, Liberty State Park has been able to provide increased habitat for a variety of bees and other nectar feeders. The many flowers and gardens along Freedom Way and in other areas of the park are ideal for viewing a variety of large and small wildlife including many native bee species.



Photo: Pat Hilliard

COME CELEBRATE NATIONAL ESTUARIES DAY AT LIBERTY STATE PARK'S RICHARD J. SULLIVAN NATURAL AREA CLEAN-UP Saturday, September 27, 2008 10am-Noon



Estuaries are dynamic ecosystems where the river meets the sea. Come explore this unique resource and do something positive for the environment. Volunteers will meet at Liberty State Park Interpretive Center at 10am. Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear and bring water, hat and sunscreen. Gloves will be provided. You may want to bring snacks. Your efforts will help us to revitalize and increase local wildlife habitat. To register or for more information, please contact the Interpretive Center at (201) 915-3409.



HISTORIC INTERPRETIVE BIKE TOURS

Come explore the history of Liberty State Park by bike. Learn about the early Native American populations who called Communipaw their home or the story of the Morris Canal. Tour these former railroad yards and learn how the story of coal during the industrial revolution transformed this land and how nature has subsequently reclaimed it. These 2-hour tours begin at the historic Central Railroad of New Jersey Terminal building and head north on Liberty Walk. The moderate pace will allow for frequent stops to hear about the many features of the park. Please see the enclosed Public Programs Flyer for dates and registration information.

FRIENDS OF LIBERTY STATE PARK CELEBRATES ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY!

By Sam Pesin, FOLSP President, Michel Cuillerier and Eliza Wright, FOLSPVPs

The Friends of Liberty State Park (FOLSP) is 20 years old this spring. We are an all-volunteer, not-for-profit organization dedicated to this great urban state park. Our mission is “to preserve, protect, conserve, and promote Liberty State Park (LSP)”.

Please go to www.folsp.org to learn more about the Friends and LSP and ways to get involved. We encourage park supporters or their friends and relatives to join, volunteer, to request that their employers make donations, provide volunteers and/or to get involved with Earth Share of NJ (FOLSP is a proud member of www.esnj.org), for employee-directed workplace contribution programs. Our Volunteer Garden Program welcomes all, almost every Saturday all year from 8 to 11 am, to help beautify LSP.

John Tichenor, FOLSP's first president, and Aristides Pappidas, co-founded FOLSP, believing in public involvement in park decision-making. Citizen participation helped stop major commercialization plans, and FOLSP was instrumental in creating one of New Jersey's largest playgrounds and LSP's shuttle bus system. The Friends works closely with park Superintendents Josh Osowski and Jenny Felton and serve on LSP's Public Advisory Committee.

We urge all who care about the park to stay involved in shaping The People's Park. For more info, please contact us at pesinliberty@earthlink.net or at 201-792-1993.

MARKING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MORRIS PESIN'S LEGENDARY CANOE TRIP

By Sam Pesin, FOLSP President

My father, Morris Pesin, the “father” of LSP, conceived the idea of transforming Jersey City's junk strewn shoreline into a green family park with open space and open vistas.

In May, 1957, he, my mother Ethel, my 5 year old sister Judy and I, a 7 year old, took a frustrating trip in traffic from Jersey City to Lady Liberty. Upon arriving at Liberty Island, my father looked westward and saw the shameful Jersey City waterfront wasteland, and he thought that Lady Liberty should have a beautiful background and that people should be able to get there from New Jersey.

On June 13, 1958, a foggy, drizzly morning, he took his legendary canoe ride to Lady Liberty with “The Jersey Journal” reporter to dramatize the closeness of Jersey City to the Statue and kick off the 18 year crusade that he spearheaded to establish Liberty State Park (LSP). Other visionary founders, Ted Conrad and Audrey Zapp, LSP's “godmother”, and many others worked hard to create LSP and then to protect it from commercialization plans. (For more on FOLSP movement, please visit www.folsp.org)

Morris Pesin's imagination, dedication, and perseverance were prime factors in making the dream of Liberty State Park a reality. Thank you Morris Pesin (1911-1992) for your great legacy.

SAVE THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW !!
LIBERTY STATE PARK'S INTERPRETIVE CENTER PUBLIC PROGRAMS



Urban Bird Day

June 28, 2008
 10:00am - 1:00pm

FREE, Pre-Registration Required

Wildlife in the city? You bet! Join us to learn about and look for all the urban birds that call Jersey City home. We will also have free arts & crafts projects that you can complete and take home. Bring binoculars if you have them (we have a limited number that can be borrowed).



Summer Shorebird Walk

July 12 & August 23, 2008
 10:00am - Noon

FREE, Pre-Registration Required

Come on out to the Interpretive Center for a leisurely stroll along Liberty Walk to look for and identify our summer shorebirds. Dress to be outside and bring binoculars if you have them (we have a limited number that can be borrowed).



Nature Cinema & Craft

July 13, 2008: SEASHORE
 August 17, 2008: POND & RIVER
 1:00pm - 2:00pm

FREE, Pre-Registration Required

Beat the heat of summer in our cool auditorium. Each half hour video will be followed by a craft project. Guaranteed to be fun, entertaining and educational!



Explore the Estuary

July 19, August 2, & September 6, 2008
 10:00am - Noon

FREE, Pre-Registration Required

We will don chest waders for a hands-on exploration of our estuary. You never know what you may find in and around the waters of the Hudson. Wear old shoes that can get wet and muddy. You will need your own transportation to get from the Interpretive Center to our study site.



Caven Point Bird Walk

July 26 & September 28, 2008
 9:00am - 11:00am

Caven Point beach and the surrounding uplands provides vital habitat for a diversity of birds and other wildlife species. Come explore this area on a guided tour while we look for and identify local wildlife. Dress to be outside and bring binoculars if you have them (we have a limited number that can be borrowed). You will need your own transportation to get from the Interpretive Center to our study site.



Butterfly Day

August 16, 2008
 10:00am - Noon

FREE, Pre-Registration Required

Join us for an exploration of our new butterfly gardens. Learn about butterfly lifecycles, the plants they need to survive and get some tips on how you can invite butterflies into your yard. We will also have free arts & crafts projects that you can complete and take home.



Registration Note: Due to the popularity of our Explore the Estuary program, please list program dates in order of preference when registering for more than one program. We will try our best to accommodate everyone's requests.

If you would like to register for any of the above programs, complete the form below, be sure to include the program title and date. Mail your completed registration form to: Liberty State Park, Interpretive Center, 200 Morris Pesin Dr., Jersey City, NJ 07305. We will send you a confirmation of your registration and directions to our location. For further information, call (201) 915-3409. You can also fax your registration to (201) 915-3442 or email us at lspic@verizon.net. **Spaces are limited! Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Groups of 8 or more call for special arrangements.**

PLEASE PRINT & INCLUDE COMPLETE ADDRESS

NAME: _____

Email: _____

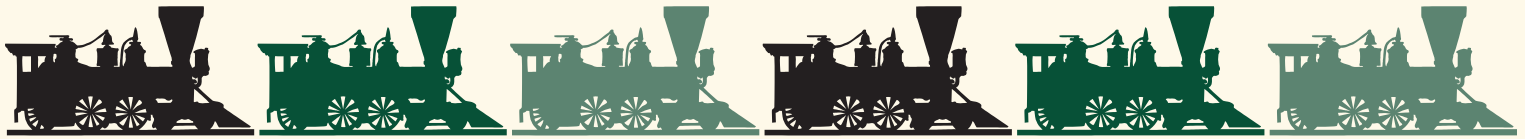
ADDRESS: _____

Date & Title of Program: _____

PHONE: _____

NUMBER OF ATTENDEES: _____

The Green Oasis



HISTORIC INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS AT THE CRRNJ TERMINAL ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE ~ NO RESERVATION REQUIRED

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (201) 915-3412

HISTORIC INTERPRETIVE BIKE TOUR

April 27, May 11, June 15 and July 13, 2008

10am – noon

All biking levels (average speed will be less than 10mph)

Helmets Recommended

During this leisurely 2- 4-mile bike ride through the park you will see the sights and hear the stories of the amazing WWI sabotage explosion; about the coal that was shipped from Pennsylvania via the Morris Canal and later by the CRRNJ and Lehigh Valley railroads; and visit the Grove of Remembrance, dedicated to the memory of those New Jersey residents who perished in the September 11, 2001 disasters.

“ALL ABOARD”

Architectural History of the CRRNJ Terminal

April 27 and June 15, 2008

1pm – 3pm

This program illustrates the physical changes made to the CRRNJ Terminal complex between 1889 and 2008 and compares the original architectural drawings with side-by-side current photographs. Can you determine those that are the same and those that have been changed?

“TRAILS TO RAILS”

Transportation History Program

May 11 and July 13, 2008

1pm – 3pm

Discover how the geography of New Jersey has shaped the settlements, the roads and the railroads. Travel the trails of the Native Americans, and the stagecoach and ferry routes from Jersey City to Trenton. Learn how to make use of old maps and current aerial views to trace ancient roadways. Discover historic taverns and inns along the way that have survived urban development.

“THE BIG LITTLE RR” AND OTHER RAILROAD FILMS

June 1, 2008

1pm – 3pm

Guest presenter Mitch Dakelman will presents the original 1948 16mm film **The Big Little Railroad**, the definitive film showing the terminal, freight facilities, coal dumper, and engine facilities of the Central Railroad of New Jersey. Also showing will be a film entitled **GG1: AN AMERICAN CLASSIC**, about a New Jersey Transit engine and a cartoon about Casey Jones. Co-sponsored by the Friends of Liberty State Park.

“TUGBOATS ON THE HUDSON”

July 6, 2008

1pm – 3pm

Guest presenter Mitch Dakelman will talk about tugboats of the New York Harbor. This program will include an original 1954 film of tugs working the harbor and the vintage cartoon film **LITTLE TOOT**. Co-sponsored by the Friends of Liberty State Park.

3D RAILROAD SLIDE SHOW

August 3, 2008

1pm – 3pm

Grab your 3-D glasses and join us as guest presenter Mitch Dakelman shows a vintage 3-D slide program of trains. Co-sponsored by the Friends of Liberty State Park.

“10,000 YEARS IN 30 MINUTES”

August 17 and September 14, 2008

1pm – 3pm

Join us as we travel through time to see the events that shaped the New York Harbor and this area. We will journey from the end of the last ice age right up to what is going on in the park today. This program will illustrate how nature and man together have worked to create this ‘green oasis’ we call Liberty State Park.



Liberty State Park
200 Morris Pesin Drive
Jersey City, NJ 07305

The Green Oasis



Photo: Jim Gilbert

Snowy owls are occasional winter visitors to New Jersey. This individual, was photographed in early March in Liberty State Park.



New Jersey Department of
Environmental Protection
Division of Parks & Forestry
State Park Service
Jon S. Corzine, Governor
Lisa P. Jackson, Commissioner



The **Green Oasis** is published by Liberty State Park. We encourage and welcome your comments and suggestions. If you have any ideas for articles for upcoming issues, please contact us at (201) 915-3409.

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Cover Photo: Gina Provenzano-Killdeer Nest in Liberty State Park