Park News

Highlands Record

June 2016

Highlands Center: Renewed, Renovated, and Restored

Renewables

As of January 2016 the Highlands Center is now equipped with 941high-efficiency solar photovoltaic (PV) panels – 51 on the seashore's North Atlantic Coastal Laboratory, and 40 on the Atlantic Research and Learning Center (ARLC) Classroom, which is equivalent to annual electric usage of six homes. As a participant in the Climate Friendly Parks program, Cape Cod National Seashore belongs to a growing network of parks nationwide that are putting greenhouse gas reduction and climate friendly behavior at the forefront of sustainability planning. The seashore has committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strive to achieve net zero energy use through renewable energy sources. The solar PV panels fitted to the two buildings will allow educators, students, researchers, and artists to pursue their diligent work in a clean, ecofriendly environment.

Solar panels atop the Atlantic Research and Learning Center Classroom

Pollinator gardens and shade structure constructed during National Volunteer Week

Renovations & Restorations

During National Volunteer Week, AmeriCorps Cape Cod members and NPS maintenance staff worked side by side to install a new shade structure in the courtyard behind the classroom for outdoor education opportunities in the sunny summer months. That same day, members and volunteers also built raised garden beds and filled the three boxes with pollinator plants to help contribute to a healthy and sustainable future for generations of birds, bees, and people. The Bio Lab underground power will be replaced this spring in order to provide more consistent electricity to this vital facility that possesses many long-term scientific data records. A building demolition project will be scheduled with a long term goal to transform several sites back to their original heath grassland state.

Progression of Highlands Center Public Art

The Highlands Center fosters the unique cultural and natural heritage of Cape Cod by facilitating scientific research, the arts tradition, and educational programs atop the dramatic sea cliffs of Cape Cod National Seashore. See below for the history and works displayed throught the site expressing natural science themes through art, embodying the mission of the Highlands Center.

2005 Del Filardi's "Breaking Wave" sculpture

2008 "Aerometer" - Donald Gerola's kinetic wind sculpture

2009 Outdoor photo banners by Helen Strong Photography

2010 "Reflections of the Cape"murals

2011 "Making Waves" Mural

2012 Aerosol and Climate Change Globes

2013 Energy Cycle mural

2014 "Taking Root" mural

2015 "Sprouting Forth" mural

Come join us for our 2016 "Spreading Wings" public mural piece!

Partner Happenings

Payomet Performing Arts Center

Payomet Performing Arts Center celebrates its 18th year as one of Cape Cod's leading presenters of performing arts including professionally staged theater productions. Payomet's summer season also features music concerts, Circus Camp for children and Circus-Cape performances for the entire family.

Renowned music artists this summer at the Truro Big Top include: Arlo Guthrie, Harpeth Rising, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Los Lobos, 10,000 Maniacs, Blue Oyster Cult, Taj Mahal, and many more! The Children's Circus Art Classes will also be returning after a successful first season. For more information and additional artists and dates, visit www.payomet.org, or call 508-487-5400.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo July 6&7

NPS Atlantic Research and Learning Center

Join NPS for the 6th annual 2016 Science Symposium, on Thursday, August 25, from 1 to 5 PM, including the Science Street Fair from 10AM to 4PM. Hear NPS and affiliated research scientists present the findings of their research projects within the park to the public at the Salt Pond Visitor Center auditorium in Eastham. For more information about the Atlantic Research & Learning Center, visit http://www.nps.gov/caco/naturescience/ atlantic-research-center.htm.

Walk: Truro's Cold War Past: Mondays, at 10am, July 5 through August 30. 1½ hours, ¾ mile. Free.
Join a Cape Cod National Seashore Ranger and tour the former North Truro Air Force Station. Learn about the role the area played in our Cold War past, as well as the exciting plans for its future as the Highlands Center.

Truro Center for the Arts at Castle Hill

True to form, Castle Hill is offering a busy summer of wide-ranging art workshops, lectures, exhibitions, classes and special events. Castle Hill will hold firings of its wood-fired kiln at the Highlands Center this summer and fall. The upcoming dates are June 19 – 21, with unloading on June 24, August 21 - 23 unloading August 26, and October 8 - 10, unloading October 14. For more information, visit www.castlehill.org

Castle Hill kiln firing with Brian Taylor Photo: Cherie Mittenthal

Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies

The Coastal Observation Station continues to monitor the long- term interactions between wind and wave action at the Highlands Center. The Center for Coastal Studies celebrates 40 years of conducting marine and coastal research, accompanied by unique educational programs. Join the fun at the sixth Annual Provincetown Whale Week, July 24 – August 30st or the 2016 Whale Camp for Kids, July 11-12, August 1-3, and August 8-10. For more information, visit www.coastalstudies.org.

Sustainable CAPE

The Highlands Historic Medicinal Garden is well established and flourishing! AmeriCorps members have continued to tend to the garden bed in front of the ARLC Classroom for both the pollinators and visitors passing through. For more information on Sustainable CAPE's agriculture and education programs, including the Truro Farmers' Market and the Truro Agricultural Fair, visit www.sustainablecape.org.

The medicinal garden takes shape

Barnstable County AmeriCorps Cape Cod

Barnstable County AmeriCorps Cape Cod (ACC) is now completing its 17th year of service on Cape Cod. The program continues to provide service to all 15 towns, but recently spent many days serving on projects in collaboration with Cape Cod National Seashore, completing a wide variety of service projects at the Highlands Center to enhance visitor enjoyment at the site and to prepare for the upcoming Highlands Fest. The Year 17 ACC members will complete their 11 months of service on Cape Cod on July 29, 2016. To learn more about ACC visit www.americorpscapecod.org.

Directions to the Highlands Center: Take Route 6 to the Highland Light Exit in North Truro. Go East on Highland Road. At the end, take a right onto South Highland Road. After 0.6 miles, take a left onto Old Dewline Road. The Highlands Center is at the end of the road.

Highlands Fest 2016: *Spreading Wings*

Saturday, June 25 10 AM to 1 PM. Free.

Join us for this year's Highlands Fest on Saturday, June 25th. The theme, "Spreading Wings," is inspired by Highlands Center's location on the sea cliffs of the North Atlantic Flyway. Millions of birds rely on this majestic slice of the Outer Cape to breed, feed, and thrive, migrating over the salt marshes and windblown dunes and plains. "Spreading Wings" also captures the symbolism of the Highlands Center partner's opportunity to take flight and flourish, and mutual interest to inspire and educate people of all ages, abilities, and ethnicities about the important role of birds in our ecosystem. These themes will be expressed through ceramic sculpture, circus and magic performances, mural painting, music, and education.

Come soar with us and our action packed event. This year's line-up includes:

- Payomet – music, magic, and circus
- AmeriCorps Cape Cod & Cape Cod National Seashore – mural painting
- Sustainable Cape – Seedling plantings
- Castle Hill – Clay bird making
- Mass Audubon - Bird walk and talk

AmeriCorps member painting mural

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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This issue of the Highlands Record was created by AmeriCorps - Cape Cod member Sydney Fitch.

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