



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cape Cod National Seashore
99 Marconi Site Road
Wellfleet, MA 02667

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

Highlands Center Upcoming Events

Highlands Center Clean-Up Day

Friday May 1, 2009 - Join NPS Maintenance Staff and AmeriCorps Cape Cod volunteers for beautification projects at Highlands Center. Tasks will include but are not limited to native plantings, sign installations, and trail maintenance. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Erin Der-McLeod at edermcleod@gmail.com or by phone at 508-957-0703.

Wood Kiln Firings by Truro Center for the Arts at Castle Hill, May 2 to 4, and June 1 to 3, 2009. Call 508-349-7511 or go to www.castlehill.org for more information.

Payomet Opening

Payomet Performing Arts Center is opening its performance tent the weekend of May 29. Visit www.payomet.org, or call their box office at 508-487-5400 for more information and to make reservations for a variety of performances throughout the summer.



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This issue of the Highlands Record was created by AmeriCorps - Cape Cod member Erin Der-McLeod with assistance from Cape Cod National Seashore's Marianne McCaffery.

For additional information concerning the Highlands Center at Cape Cod National Seashore, contact:

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Park News



Highlands Record

March 2009

Studying Wind Feasibility

Having received a grant from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, Cape Cod National Seashore will kick off a yearlong wind feasibility study for the Highlands Center. Data collected by a meteorological (MET) tower from the spring of 2006 to 2007 indicated an average wind speed of 17.07 mph on site. Using this information, the upcoming study will go further by determining the feasibility of installing and operating one or more wind turbines on site. Such technology would conceptually be sized to power all Highlands Center activities, while also supporting the site's mission to be a regional model of environmental sustainability.

Based on projected facility needs, a wind generation facility would be sized between 250kW and 750kW. Several important feasibility pre-development activities will occur during the study, including engineering and financial analysis, elements of an environmental impact assessment, and public outreach.

NPS is selecting a consulting group to lead these activities on the park's behalf.

The park also plans to work with a number of organizations that have expertise in wind energy. Collaboration and consultation with the Cape Light Compact, Cape Cod Commission, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will help ensure a thorough study. Stay tuned for further developments.



Wonders of Wind 2008

July 12, 2008 - Over 200 people attended the third annual Highlands Fest. Themed "Wonders of Wind," guests enjoyed the unveiling of Donald Gerola's kinetic wind sculptures, a viewing of "Portrait of a Coast" with Dr. Graham Giese of the Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies, kite making with Truro Center for the Arts at Castle Hill, poetry readings by the Fine Arts Work Center, storytelling by Payomet, pinwheel making with AmeriCorps Cape Cod, and wind energy lectures from guest speakers.

Be sure to join us this year on July 19, 2009 when the Highlands Center will host end of parade festivities for Truro's tercentennial.

Highlands Fest visitors enjoy views of the Atlantic Ocean and Donald Gerola's wind sculpture "Fire Dragon" (left).

AmeriCorps volunteers and Castle Hill staff coordinated children's activities on the quad during Highlands Fest (below).



Highlands Center Transformed to Search-and-Rescue Test Ground



Task Force members enter Building 29 to respond to a simulated collapse of a concrete structure.

According to Task Force Technical Information Specialist, Chad Council, the Highlands Center was an ideal site for their full mobilization exercise because the range of buildings allowed multiple scenarios to be conducted simultaneously. While the site's former housing area became the testing ground for a hurricane simulation, Building 29, the former Operations Building, held a simulated collapse of a large concrete structure. "It was a great way to test our ability to manage both types of events at the same time," said Council.



In one rescue drill, a mannequin lay trapped at the base between two concrete walls in Building 29. Rescuers rappelled down several feet between the walls, stabilized the victim, and extracted him from the narrow shaft using ropes.

Visitors to Highlands Center between November 6 to 8, 2008 might have wondered why emergency response trucks, trailers, portable satellites, and men in hazmat suits filled the site. Amidst thick fog and light rain, they conducted a full mobilization drill of the Massachusetts Urban Search and Rescue Task Force. A division of FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), this task force is one of 28 nationally, and the only one of its kind in New England. Its six divisions - logistics, planning, medical, search, rescue and hazmat - respond to emergencies in which people are trapped in confined structures.

Over the course of three days, groups worked around the clock at Highlands Center to complete the full mobilization drill. An advanced team set up the scenario, while reconnaissance teams provided disaster assessment, and search-and-rescue teams operated to find and secure victims.

Mannequins and live volunteers, including members of the Truro Fire Department, acted as "victims" to test the capabilities of search-and-rescue teams. Responders utilized a variety of search methods during exercises, including the use of a specially trained dog. Chai, a dog trained to find live bodies, entered buildings in the site's housing area with task force members to help find victims.

Get Your Highlands Record Electronically!

Working towards the goal of incorporating environmentally sustainable practices, future issues of the *Highlands Record* will be published electronically. Please consider switching from hard copy receipt of the newsletter to electronic receipt via email. We hope to achieve over 50 percent e-distribution by 2010. However, hard copies will still be available to those who prefer them.

To sign up for e-distribution, please send your name and email address to: highlands_center@nps.gov

First Firings

After much anticipation, Cape Cod's only wood-burning kiln is now operational at Highlands Center. Students built this train style kiln over two weeks in September 2008 under the instruction of master kilnbuilder Donovan Palmquist. Construction concluded with a firing, and a second firing occurred in November. Holding up to 300 pieces, the kiln burns for 35 to 42 hours with temperatures reaching 2300 degrees F.

For more information about Castle Hill's workshops, visit www.castlehill.org, or call 508-349-7511.



Clockwise from left: Workshop participants lay bricks to construct the kiln. Judah Birkeland tends to the fire. Linden Grey (Kiln Studio Manager), Donovan Palmquist (Master Kiln Builder), and Judah Birkeland (Assistant Kiln Builder) in front of the kiln. Finished pieces after the first firing. Inset: Completed train-style kiln.

