



The Sandy Hook Foghorn

Welcome a new season... and a new newsletter!

The snows of winter are finally starting to melt (though we were starting to think it might never end!), and the spring is nearly upon us. With the new start that spring is hailed for bringing, we here at Sandy Hook thought it would be appropriate to start fresh with a redesign of our VIP newsletter. This has been a long time coming, and we hope that you enjoy the new look and feel as much as we do.

Formerly known as the Sandy Hook SandPiper, this newsletter has been renamed the Foghorn, in honor of the newsletter that was issued to the soldiers who were living and working at Fort Hancock. The newsletter carried garrison news, highlighted important dates, and covered achievements and special events at the Fort as well. Since this newsletter's aims are very much the same as the original Foghorn's mission, we thought it was only appropriate to honor it in this way.

From now on, you can look at the Foghorn as a carrier of special events, news, current VIP project coverage, and upcoming special event opportunities. In this issue, please be sure to look at the dates for the upcoming VIP training being offered in April.

As always, many thanks go out to our hardworking, dedicated volunteers who support the mission of the National Park Service at Sandy Hook. We look forward to keeping in touch with you via the Foghorn in the upcoming months.



Spring is nearly upon us, and with its return comes a plethora of spring visitors, including flora, fauna, and humans! Clockwise from top left: A visiting piping plover, blooming prickly pear cactus, bike riders, and a visiting osprey are all present during spring at Sandy Hook.

Spotlight : April VIP Training

WHO: All Sandy Hook Volunteers are invited!

WHAT: VIP training

WHEN: April 16th & 17th (pick ONE day to attend) 10 a.m. -2 p.m.

WHERE: Building Number 1, History House

This spring the park's interpretive division will be holding two training dates for VIPs. Given by Division Chief Dan Meharg and Park Historian Tom Hoffman, this training will cover the basics of interacting with the public as well as introduce volunteers to the concepts of "conversational interpretation." New versions of the standard operating procedures for each duty station will be discussed, and the trainer will be available for any questions you might have about Sandy Hook history, the specific requirements of each volunteer duty station, or other volunteer opportunities available. Since the training is being offered on two days, VIPs can choose the date that works best for them. Light refreshments will be provided. Hope you all can make it—we look forward to seeing you there!

What can I do as a volunteer at Sandy Hook?

Many people want to get involved with the preservation, conservation and interpretive efforts at the park. However, some are hesitant to offer their services without having a clear outline of what they will be responsible for should they choose to volunteer. The following descriptions aim to outline what the most common volunteer duty stations at Sandy Hook entail. Keep in mind that even volunteering for one or two afternoons per month goes a long way toward having these sites open for the public to enjoy.



From left, counter-clockwise: the Sandy Hook Lighthouse; History House; and Battery Potter.

Battery Potter: Guides conduct tours of Battery Potter, the first and only steam-powered, disappearing gun battery ever built to protect an American Harbor. Visitors are guided on the second and outer levels of battery which tells the story of coastal defense as well as harbor entrance control. Volunteers are responsible for counting total visitors for the day as well. The highest demand for volunteers at this site are weekend afternoons (4 hours per day) in the spring, summer and fall.

History House: Guides use the restored house and furnishings to describe (or optionally, re-enact) the daily life of the officer and his family as it would have been in the 1940's. Volunteers are responsible for greeting guests, counting visitors, and answering questions. Volunteers are needed at this site year-round on weekend afternoons, as well as for special events in the winter.

Lighthouse/Keepers Quarters: Guides take visitors through the lighthouse. They greet visitors and use the information gathered from the visitor during the greeting to lead a conversation-based history tour of the lighthouse. Volunteers should be able to climb 95 stairs and the 9 rung ladder into the lens house. Volunteers are responsible for counting total visitors to the site for the day as well.

Visitor Center: Volunteers are responsible for greeting visitors in the center. Since it is the main center for visitor information, each volunteer needs to be able to assist visitors with planning their day on Sandy Hook. Volunteers at this site are needed weekends in the spring and fall, and every day in the summer months.

Any assistance to the National Park Service to staff these locations and keep them open for the public to enjoy is greatly appreciated. If interested, please contact Steve Schiffer at 732-872-5881.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

We welcome your thoughts and comments as we move forward with the redesign of the Foghorn, formerly the Sandy Hook SandPiper. If you have comments, know someone who wants to volunteer, or have questions regarding beach sweeps or other potential volunteer projects at Sandy Hook, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Steve Schiffer.

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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. However, we must have help from the American people if we are to continue the traditions of "America's best idea."

Wait! Wait! Save the Date!

There are several important dates coming up at Sandy Hook. Take a look at our calendar, and see if you can make it out to any of the great events going on.

VIP TRAINING: See page 1 for details.

SANDY HOOK MIGRATION WATCH

Battery Peck Observation Deck (just west of parking lot M)

March 15 - May 15, 2011, 9 AM - 4 PM

Join an NJ Audubon naturalist atop the "Peck Deck" and catch the spectacular spring return of hawks and other birds. For more info, call 732-872-2500.

HIKE THE WHOLE HOOK

Saturday, April 9, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Rain date: April 16)

Hike from Parking Lot A to the trailhead of Fisherman's Trail and explore the Hook in all its stunning spring glory. Bring a lunch, a snack, lots of water, bug repellent, and wear sturdy shoes. **THIS IS A WEATHER-DEPENDENT PROGRAM.** Call (732)872-5970 in case of inclement weather.

VOLUNTEER CALL: Clean Ocean Action's Spring Beach Sweep

Meet at Lot D (Seagulls' Nest)

Saturday, April 30, 9a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Since 1985, over 70,000 volunteers have participated and removed over 3.5 million pieces of debris from New Jersey's beaches and waterways. Volunteers of all ages are welcome! www.cleanoceanaction.org.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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THE SANDY HOOK FOGHORN

This VIP newsletter is published bi-weekly and published electronically for the VIPs, friends and partners of the Park Service at Sandy Hook.

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Comments? Questions? Have a story you want to contribute? Write to:
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Did you know?

General Winfield Scott Hancock is the person in whose honor the military garrison on Sandy Hook was named.

Hancock proved to be a capable Army leader and a war hero during the Civil War, and in 1877 ascended to be the commander of the whole Department of the East for the Army. He performed this duty from a headquarters in Governors Island, New York (which is now also a National Park in NY Harbor). In 1880 he was a presidential candidate but was defeated by James Garfield. On February 9, 1886, he died at Governors Island while still in command of the Department of the East.

