



Out of the Gateway

The official internal newsletter of Gateway NRA

Volume 2, Number 1

June 2012

Special events kick off park's 40th anniversary



Students from P.S. 36 dance and sing at *Treasure Your Island*. Seven Staten Island schools performed, along with other local talent. NPS PHOTO by John Harlan Warren.

All three units of GATE held major events in May to kick off the park's 40th anniversary. The newly restored William Fitts Ryan Center reopened Saturday, May 5 at Floyd Bennett Field. On Sunday, May 20, Fort Wadsworth hosted the fourth annual Treasure Your Island Community Awareness Day, while Sandy Hook treated visitors to Ocean Fun Day and Coastal Defenses Day. Approximately 12,000 visitors total attended the three events.

Treasuring Staten Island by PA Assistant Rance Robeson

On Sunday, May 20, Gateway held its fourth annual Treasure Your Island (TYI) event at Fort Wadsworth. The goal of the TYI event is to showcase the diverse attractions by the NPS, community groups and museums that are readily available on Staten Island. Park Ranger Steve Salgo organized the event along with many other committee members. For adults and children, it was a day of fun in the sun and a chance to meet over 35 S.I. cultural organizations.

"It's good that we're getting people to the park so they can develop an appreciation for the Park Service, and know that we're here," said Deputy Chief of I&E Joe Green.

The event drew approximately 4,400 visitors to Fort Wadsworth, a place that many feel is Staten Island's best kept secret.

(continued on page 6)

Ocean Fun/Coastal Defenses Day brings record crowds to SHU by Park Ranger Maren Morsch

This year's Ocean Fun/Coastal Defense Day brought out well over 7,000 visitors to Sandy Hook Unit. Many park cooperators participated in the annual free event, bringing education, exhibits, nature walks, mini-lectures, demonstrations, crafts and more.

(continued on page 3)

Aviation's golden age returns by PA Specialist John Harlan Warren

After years of planning and renovation, the William Fitts Ryan Visitor Center reopened to the public on Saturday, May 5. The visitor center is housed in the former air terminal for New York City's first municipal airport. Approximately 750 visitors enjoyed live music, swing dancing and tours of historic aircraft.

(continued on page 5)



The Ryan Visitor Center has been restored to its 1930s glory. NPS PHOTO by Suzanne McCarthy.

The Superintendent Speaks GATE's most valuable resource: our staff

by Superintendent Linda Canzanelli

Recently our NPS family suffered another fatality when Dana Bruce, a longtime seasonal maintenance worker at the Blue Ridge Parkway, was killed while mowing vegetation.

After Mr. Bruce's death, the NPS enacted a system-wide stand down for mowing operations. As part of that stand down, we tasked all of our Grounds Crews to use the GAR Risk Assessment Tool before we resumed our normal operations. Through Operational Leadership principles we can mitigate those risks to be **"as low as reasonably practical."**

The principles of Operational Leadership will guide you as you ask these questions.

- Is there a designated and functional leader?
- Have you considered the human error factor?
- Have we used risk management tools like the SPE or GAR Tools to evaluate and mitigate?
- Is the team fit for the task at hand?
- What is the stress factor?
- Is everyone aware of the conditions at the job site?
- Who is making the decisions and what are they based on?
- Are you prepared to disagree with a decision and provide a solution?

Whether you are opening an envelope or a valve, these questions will make Gateway a safer place to work. We must never forget that Gateway's most valuable resource is our employees. Each of us need to leave work in the same condition we arrived.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer season! 🍓

WELCOME

Colleen Sorbera, park ranger, JBU
Robert Vohden, detail w/Business, HQ

FAREWELL

Kevin Clarke, IM chief
Diana Dir, laborer, SIU
Kathy Foppes, cultural resources chief
Karen McGuinness, proptry clerk, HQ
Alberto Rivera, LE PR, SHU

MarshMaster mows down wildfires before they start



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Senior Firefighter Brett Gore and GATE Forestry Technician Nathan Stoppes create firebreaks along Grayson Avenue. NPS PHOTO by John Harlan Warren.

by Public Affairs Specialist John Harlan Warren

Will mowing the grass help reduce the risk of wildfires on Staten Island? Yes, if the grass is phragmites and the mower is a MarshMaster.

"Mowing the phragmites provides an immediate and short-term wildland fire risk reduction for our neighboring communities and residents," said Tomas Liogys, assistant fire management Officer for the Mid-Atlantic Fire Management Area. "This provides firefighters a safety buffer from which to fight these fires and protect homes and businesses. With the current mowing and another round scheduled near the end of the phragmites growing season in the fall, the residents will be provided relief through the fall and spring fire seasons."

Phragmites, a tall grass that spreads through underground rhizomes in marsh areas, is the primary hazardous fuel for wildfires on the island. The MarshMaster is on loan from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Despite its size, the lightweight aluminum vehicle does not sink into marsh mud.

Mowing will take place in historically high risk areas for fire along Staten

Island's southeastern shore. Three rounds of mowing will take place until the end of the summer, creating firebreaks. The federal Hazards Fuel Mechanical Treatment Program funded the project.

Last fall, GATE joined in the development of a long-term Community Wildfire Protection Plan for Staten Island with several partners: the Staten Island Borough President's Office; the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation; the New York City Department of Environmental Protection; and, the Fire Department of the City of New York (FDNY).

GATE currently ranks fourth among national parks in the number of fires taking place annually. 🍓



Ocean Fun/Coastal Day (continued from page 1)

Sandy Hook Unit Coordinator Pete McCarthy stated, "It's a great opportunity for this unit and its cooperators to showcase what Sandy Hook has to offer."

Most of the park's partners have been involved with the program since its inception. American Littoral Society's Deputy Director Eileen Kennedy said, "[ALS] has been doing this for many years, and we usually participate in one, if not both, locations." Kennedy, who attended the event with her niece, described how ALS participated in the day's events. "Since the James J. Howard Marine Labs were open, we had staff there explaining their work with the recreational fish tag mortality research program, and we also had a table outdoors that featured fish printing, with realistic rubber fish molds that kids use to make prints to take home."

New Jersey Natural Gas provided two natural gas-powered jitneys, while the Sandy Hook Foundation again provided the iconic red trolley, which has attained status as an attraction in its own right. Foundation President Betsy Barrett said, "I asked an attendee where they had visited during the course of the event, and they said, 'Anywhere the trolley would take me...when else can I ride a trolley?' Its presence adds a real element of fun to the transportation options."

Consensus from partners and visitors alike indicated the premier attractions were found at the laboratory, and at the Coast Guard demonstrations. "Since both the lab and the



A Hessian soldier awaits visitors to the Sandy Hook Lighthouse during Coastal Defenses Day. NPS PHOTO by Jennifer Cox.

Coast Guard base are typically closed to the public, it is a special treat when the visitors are given a birds-eye view of the lab and access to the U.S. Coast Guard compound," said McCarthy. The laboratory had a special simulation of a research submersible geared for children that, according to Barrett, generated "long lines and lots of excitement."

"You love to see the enthusiasm on these kids' faces," said Barrett, "knowing that their parents are also delighted to have a place to take the kids that is different, educational and free. It really is a special day." 🍀

26,000 Acres: GATE news in brief

Sandy Hook LE, fire staff respond to serious watercraft injury

On May 16, a large wave knocked the victim from his personal watercraft, which then landed on top of him, causing severe internal injuries. Sandy Hook firefighters and EMTs responded, stabilizing the victim until he was flown via New Jersey State Police Medevac to Jersey Shore Medical Center in Neptune. Other responding agencies included Sea Bright Fire Department and First Aid squad along with the New Jersey State Police Flight Nurses and Marine Unit.



A New Jersey State Police Medevac carries a critically injured jet skier from Sandy Hook. NPS PHOTO by Rob Loudon.

War of 1812 Bicentennial honored at Fort Wadsworth

On My 27, Staten Island Borough Historian Thomas Matteo delivered a lecture detailing the city's defense during the War of 1812. Women and men, rich and poor, enslaved and free dug trenches to defend the city from invasion by sea. GATE interpreters Charles Holmes, Jason Wickersty and Jean Holloway supported the event with lectures, programs and staffing.

Road repaving underway at SIU
Buffalo Road, the entrance to Great Kills Park, is being repaved from Hylan Boulevard to the entrance of Crooke's Point. The road, now 20 years old, is being repaved to correct deficiencies and to avoid serious deterioration. At Fort Wadsworth, repairs to New York Avenue and Battery Road, as well as residential roads near the front entrance, are expected to take place beginning in July and will last at least four weeks.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Gateway National Recreation Area was created by Congress in 1972 for urban residents to enjoy a national park experience in the New York metropolitan area. Gateway spans 26,000 acres, across two states and three boroughs of New York City. Visitors can hike, bicycle, kayak and enjoy organized sports, marvel at historic forts and aircraft and reflect on the tranquility of nature.

Gateway National Recreation Area

210 New York Avenue
Staten Island, New York 10305

Follow "Gateway National Recreation Area" on Facebook and check out our daily updates on Twitter (GatewayNPS).

Web: <http://www.nps.gov/gate/index.htm>

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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.

Fort Wadsworth ramps up for overnight camping



Boy Scout Troop 37 builds tent pads at Camp Hudson, formerly known as Seabee Park. PHOTO by Troop 37; used by permission.

On April 29 Troop 37 built tent pads, assembled fencing and reconditioned charcoal grills, all using NPS materials. Jack Rozak and Sean Fisher organized the effort, which included 23 scouts and 11 adults, as part of their Eagle Scout project. Scoutmaster Mike Ditrani oversaw the effort, while SIU Facility Manager Gary Zbel served as Site Project Leader.

Nestled in the shadow of the Verrazano Bridge, the seven 30-by-30-foot campsites will offer views of New York Harbor for \$20 per night. Public reservations will be available in July, about the same time that Sandy Hook Unit will open 20 campsites in the Horseshoe Cove area. ♡

by Volunteer Coordinator Keith White and John Warren with Kalie Swails

SIU maintenance staff is helping to bring urban camping to Fort Wadsworth this summer, with some help from Staten Island's Boy Scout Troop 37, in what will no longer be called Seabee Park.

The newly-renamed Camp Hudson will have seven tent sites. Maintenance is building showers, reconditioning restrooms and adding picnic tables and campfire rings. Lockboxes, a volleyball court and horseshoe pits are under consideration. Showers, restrooms and one campsite will be wheelchair-accessible.



Roland Acevedo builds a wheelchair-accessible ramp to the new showers. NPS PHOTO by Kalie Swails.

Sustainable steps to make Gateway a greener park

by Environmental Protection Specialist Kathleen Cuzzolino

Three days before Earth Day 2012, the NPS adopted a [Green Parks Plan](#) setting goals for a greener, more sustainable workplace.

As Superintendent Canzanelli explained at the all employee meeting, we must break this huge program down in to small pieces. Over the next few months we will be focusing on three key areas: energy efficiency, recycling and green cleaning. In each of these areas we will be taking sustainable steps forward. Here is what the park is planning:

Energy Efficiency: Gateway's electricity bill is \$2 million a year. One place we can start to reduce that cost is lighting

at park offices such as Headquarters in Building 210. Installing light sensors turns off lights when they are not needed.

Recycling: Main office buildings like Headquarters or the Ryan Center at Floyd Bennett Field can improve recycling, especially of paper and cardboard.

Green Cleaning: We are all exposed to the chemicals used to clean our buildings. Converting to less toxic cleaning solutions will improve the air quality in our offices while reducing the amount of toxic chemicals polluting our land and water.

Those are the steps the park is taking. What small sustainable steps can you take? All of us can change the way we

do our jobs. We can even influence those around us. By taking small steps, employees can have a big impact on making Gateway a greener park.

Visit <http://greenparksplaninside.nps.gov/> to read the NPS Green Parks Plan. Reading documents online--like this newsletter--helps us all keep it green! ♡

YOU ARE



HERE.

Tree-of-heaven meets its maker



Employees clear “tree-of-heaven” from Miller Field. NPS PHOTO by Doug Adamo.

by Intern Kalie Swails

Natural Resources staff worked with the Northeast Region’s Exotic Plant Management Team (EPMT), Staten Island Unit maintenance staff and GATE’s Fire Management Staff to remove an estimated 1,500 woody invasive trees and shrubs throughout the upper portion of the Miller Field shoreline during the week of May 21.

The collective teams worked for three and a half days to cut and remove exotic tree and shrub species, primarily targeting *Ailanthus altissima*, also called tree-of-heaven. Stumps were treated with NPS-approved herbicide by the EPMT in order to inhibit stump or root sprouting. Smaller diameter trees were chipped, while larger diameter trees were cut into firewood-sized pieces for GATE campsites.

“This effort involved a lot of cooperation and hard work—with very little budget—to get things done,” said Doug Adamo, chief of natural resources. “This shoreline has great potential. However, it needs to be revitalized by the removal of invasive woody and herbaceous vegetation.”

The removal of invasives at Miller Field not only improved the site aesthetically, but also allows room to plant vegetation that fits both the historic integrity of the landscape and the type of shrubs commonly found in pristine mid-Atlantic coastal upland environments, such as bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*) and beach plum (*Prunus maritima*). “By reestablishing native vegetation,” Adamo stated, “we can enhance a degraded coastal dune ecosystem into something beautiful.”

Ryan Center (continued from page 1)

“It has taken three years of restoration to get this place to its 1930s glory,” said Superintendent Linda Canzanelli at the opening ceremony.

The visitor center, named after Rep. William Fitts Ryan, will orient newcomers to Floyd Bennett Field. Paintings and panels depicting modes of transportation from the steam engine to the dirigible have been restored to their 1939 appearance. Exhibits show photos and newsreels from the airfield’s heyday. Electrical, fire suppression, heating, ventilation and air conditioning have been upgraded.

The restoration project was funded by a \$4.8 million grant from the Department of Defense. Recreation fee funds provided \$1.2 million to finish the job.

Several former GATE employees returned to witness the reopening. Jim Grant, former chief of project management who now works at GRCA, said, “The Ryan Center was my first visitor center project after I joined the NPS in 2008. The reopening was my chance to see the building restored and to reconnect with former coworkers.”

The following day, a full-scale replica of the “Winnie Mae,” the Lockheed 5C Vega used by Wily Post to fly around the world, was christened. For seven years, HARP volunteers Dante DeMille and Hank Iken led efforts to build the replica from scratch based on a scale model. The N2S2 Steadman, a biplane used to train pilots, was christened as well.

Artifact of the season: *View of Fort Hancock, ca. 1920*

by Chief Curator Felice Ciccione

The GATE Museum Collection contains thousands of historic photographs from all corners of the park. This one, of Fort Hancock, was taken from the Sandy Hook Lighthouse, c 1920. This photograph gives you a bird’s eye view of Fort Hancock, looking south. Officers Row is at the top of the image on the right hand side. Closer to the viewer near the bottom of the image you can also see barracks buildings, mess halls, the parade ground and roads.



A stitch in time saves history as volunteers create quilt



The center of the quilt shows an early depiction of Fort Richmond, later replaced by Battery Weed. NPS PHOTO by Kalie Swails.

by Park Guide Jarda Crane

The idea was born while I was surfing the web in search of a new quilting project. Right as ABC News aired a segment of *Made in America*, I stumbled across a website for the Great Lakes Seaway Trail, which follows the frontlines of the War of 1812 in

the north. Immediately inspired, I began brainstorming a way to combine these two concepts into a quilt that would be ready by late May, in time to commemorate the War of 1812.

I started my pursuit of local quilters by making calls, distributing flyers and posting signs. Promotional bookmarks for the quilt were left at the Visitor Center to attract volunteers. The next thing I knew, women were trickling in for the first session and I breathed a sigh of relief.

We broke the quilt into workable pieces and discussed where the various fabrics would fit into the quilt I had designed. Medallion quilts, with their central motifs surrounded by multiple borders, were the rage in the 1800s. For our focal point, we chose "New York Bay," an 1838 lithograph by William H. Bartlett, which illustrates the view of Fort Richmond, where Battery Weed stands today. We had the image copied onto fabric and designed around it.

We chose colors, quilt blocks and fabric patterns that were reproductions designed to reflect those used at the time, such as those researched in quilt historian Barbara Brachman's book, *Lately Arrived from London* and her blog, 1812 War & Piecing.

Starting in January, the "Quilt Ladies" met every other Sunday and the occasional Thursday to design and sew until we began hand quilting in April. Then the eleven of us came together and sewed at least twice a week; each of us took a section to quilt, just like a real quilting bee. We did the piecing by machine in order to finish the quilt in time for the commemoration, but all quilting was by hand. By the time the quilt was finished, each of us put in about 115 hours of work.

The quilt is on display at the Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center through the month of June. ♥

Treasure (continued from page 1)

Many Staten Islanders do not know that Fort Wadsworth guarded the entrance to New York Harbor for 200 years. And even though the base has been managed by Gateway since 1995, due to limited programming, Fort Wadsworth does not normally draw enormous crowds like its sister park sites, Floyd Bennett Field and Sandy Hook. Even though TYI only happens once a year, it helps raise awareness of the park's location. Staten Island resident Kim Waters said, "It's a beautiful park. I never realized it was here. But I would definitely come back."

Many different organizations participated in TYI by staffing a booth or providing entertainment. The Native American Red Storm Drum & Dance Troupe provided guests with delightful entertainment and translated the meanings of their cultural dances. The mascot of the Staten Island Yankees greeted guests. FDNY demonstrated fire safety tips and showed how the hoses to their truck operated.

The Army Reserve brought two military Humvees and invited children to sit in the driver's seat and imagine that they were on secret missions. Various public schools performed ballroom dancing routines, played jazz tunes, and sang musical selections. Rangers from GOIS, AFBG, FEHA,



The U.S. Coast Guard's MSST 91106 attracted a steady stream of families at *Treasure Your Island*. PHOTO by Volunteer-in-Park Tami Walker; used by permission.

MORR and GATE dressed in period uniforms and clothing, fired rifles and cooked over an open fire.

Park Ranger Earnestine Robinson, who has participated in two TYI events, distributed water donated by Costco to keep people hydrated. She was proud, not only of the staff members who made the event possible, but also the community for giving Gateway the opportunity to show what Fort Wadsworth has to offer.

"This year was outstanding," she said, "but the best is yet to come." ♥

GATE seasonals serve visitors, preserve resources

Sandy Hook

Law Enforcement:

Emil Baumann
Alex Black
William Gorney
Rhonda Malesky
Megan Morton
Jonathan Seutter
Benton Shattenburg
Wesley Steele
Adam Thomas
George Walton

Laborers:

Daniel Calabrese
Linda Caplinger
Daniel Ericksen
Thomas Evan
Andrew Frankowski
John Gilburn
Patrick Guzzi
Daniel Hudson
Thaddeus Kendzia
Michael Koempel
Terry Lowman
Kenneth Patterson
Gerald Richmond
Steven Schwank
Michael Supple
Dorie Thompson
Steven Voss
Kyle Weimer
Patrick Weimer

Bio-Techs:

Thomas Clifford
Faith Flannery
Nicole Kangos
Thomas Lauro

I&E:

Tracy Hall (TRT)
Brian Malley
Michael Mason
Thomas Minton
Maren Morsch
Nelson Turner

SCAs:

Erin Dorset
Katie Grazziano
Xia Meng Howey
Ceilia King
Brianna McClure
Harrison Morin
Daniel O'Connor
Anthony Piecuch
Sara Schrader
Nathaniel Selleck
Katie VanDyne

Surf-Lifeguards:

Brenna Anderson
Kirstin Anderson
Erik Anderson
Ted Anderson
Felix Baguchinsky
Kimberly Baguchinsky
Gary Billyer
Jacqueline Billyer
Nancy Billyer
Nathanael Boyle
Daniel Cahill
Gary Cali, Jr.
Aubrey Cefalo

Tyler Conley
Brian Cugini
Sierra De Joseph
Brian Dorgan
Patrick Drury
Eric Dunn
Eric Eia
Alex Fitton
Thomas Fitzgerald
John Forrester
Shannon Gillespie
Alexandra Gordon
Matthew Green
Jamie Grennan
Chris Grippio

Kelsey Guttormsen
Drake Halpern
Martin Harm
Shane Hausmann
Jessica Havard
Brian Heidt
Andrew Henderson
Lesley Hoffman
Jennifer Inglis
Zachary Inglis
Megan Isaksen
Lucas Kelly
Robert Kelly
Matthew La Mura
Erin Largey
Brian Luba
Caitlin Maloney
Andrew Manning
Christian Manning
James McClellan
Brendan McGann
Thomas McLoughlin

Bryan Mejia
Alisha Mejia
Vitaliy Milke
Conor Monaghan
Brian O'Connor
Joseph Pannullo
Stephen Puth
Allison Russoniello
John Russoniello
Seamus Ryan
Daniel Sapienza
Wade Satanik
John Sheehan
Shannon Slate
Philip Smith IV
Lauren Spetko
Nicholas Spetko
Jeffrey Steidl
Gregory Teeter
Peter Troynousky
Kyle Tuohy
John Vaage
Kevin Walsh
Owen Walsh
Kristyn Wikoff
Rachel Williams
Kyle Williams
Christopher Wisnik
Charles Wittenauer
Heather Wolkom
Roland Woolson

Tractor Operators:

Richard Bodnar
Wayne Kerrigan

VUAs:
Sean Adasczik
Arthur Adelung
Katherine Ambrose
Tiffany Creighton

Jackie Garofalo
Richard Gonzales
Ann Isom
Kristi Kalk
Kristin Meyer
(supervisory)
Cheryl McDonald
(dispatch)
Kristen Rapp
Pat Salerno
Lori-Ann Sciacitano
Susan Sheehan
Frank Walsh
Adam Ziegler

Jamaica Bay

Laborers:

Jovelia Belmo
Greg Beehler
Vincent Boland
Jack Brody
Joe Louis Brunson
Barbara Cook
Luke Dalto
John DeSorbo
Joseph Doyle
Matthew Duffy
Joseph Ecock
Matthew Ecock
Justin Esposito
Rahmel Faison
Jamal Faulkner
Shamaya Gaines
James Goldberg
Frank Gramegna
Marc Greene
Henry Hanna, Jr.
Miranda Harding
Robert Henschel
Ernest Heron
Shovonté Hope
Kathleen Horan
Timothy Klein
Shannon Mackay
David Marino
Fiore Martone
Jesse McDade
Donnell McQuillar
Clarence Miles
James Nobles
Kevin O'Connor
Daniel Paskoff
Robert Peters
Robert Phelan
Alexis Quiroz
Ryan Rayder
Thomas Rayder
Shawn Reid
Carolina Rooney
Thomas Ryan
Andrew Schultz
Nicholas Sears
Bruce Selfridge
Richard Sellers
William Simpson
Michael Strazza
Elias Tsihlis
Gerard Tweedy
Raymond Vann
Kevin Zwolinski

I&E:

Lindsay Davenport
Julia Charles
Jessica Gonzalez
Nanette Melero (TRT)
Mike O'Brien
Taylor Ramos
Alicia Schmidt
John Tebbetts
Mike Terreri

Interns:
Suzanne Jensen (NRM)
Katharine Perry (NRM)
Olivia Richter (NRM)
Laura Seepaul
(cultural diversity)
Kalie Swails
(journalism)

Surf-Lifeguards:

Matthew Accardi
Robert Aguirre
Victor Aguirre
Jason Alicea
Jillian Bardo
Michael Bardo
Benjamin Barnett
Kevin Brady
Rita Brodfuehrer
Vladislav Brysin
Kevin Campbell
Jordana Cottilletta
John Cullen
Sean Cummins
Dennis Doda
Jake Erhard
Grendan Faughnan
Christian Foti
John Durante
Robert Gaudenzi
William Gagliardi
Patrick Given
Marc Gross

Bio-Techs:

Gutherie Bridge
Brook Costanza



Your Park, Your Health seasonals visit the Ryan Center. NPS PHOTO by Sheridan Roberts.

Andrew Ferreria
Jacklyn Kircher
Tony Luscombe
Moshe Muller
Jacob Piotnick
Susan Robinson
Josh Rudder
Irene Weber
Jolene Willis

I&E:

Lindsay Davenport
Julia Charles
Jessica Gonzalez
Nanette Melero (TRT)
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Rita Brodfuehrer
Vladislav Brysin
Kevin Campbell
Jordana Cottilletta
John Cullen
Sean Cummins
Dennis Doda
Jake Erhard
Grendan Faughnan
Christian Foti
John Durante
Robert Gaudenzi
William Gagliardi
Patrick Given
Marc Gross

Lucas Hanson
Matthew Hart
Briana Hart
Patrick Kilgallen
Ryan Kilgallen
William Main
Michael Maloney
Seamus Marley
Ciaran McGee
Sean McLean
Charles McLean III
Sean McVeigh
Cristin Mullen
Patrick Mullen
Terence Munns
Nora Neustadt
Mary Nolan
Devin Nuszer
Denis O'Connor
James O'Connor, Jr.
James O'Maera
Brian O'Neill
Thomas O'Neill
Thomas O'Neill, Jr.
Matthew Quigley
Daniel Quinn
Kevin Quinn
Thomas Ray
Louis Reid
Martin Reilly
Kevin Sadowski
Michael Scire
Steven Snapper
Kris Spector
Sean Towey
James Traver
Kailin Twomey
Ryan Ward
Stephen Werner
Kelly Werner
Luke Werner

Staten Island

EMTs:

Daniel Evankow
Thomas Hayden
Daniel Polvino
Michael Toomey

Surf-Lifeguards:

Shane Blundell
Daniel Captao
James Cutrone

Danya Eikeseth
Faith Kloekstra
Brendan Murphy
Mark Salzillo
Anna Tsenter
Erin Maloney
Dariusz
Mikolajczak

VUAs:

Colin Driscoll
Greg Egan
Katherine Grazziano
Christopher Papis
Carmela Russo-Pitstick
Katherine Van Dyne

Your Park, Your Health:

Caitlin Corona
Jack DeLorenzo
Sara Hadim
Enam Hasan
Naomi Isaac
Marilysande Montes
de Oca
Betsy Sirin
Jia Wang

Headquarters

Julia Binger-Charles
(outreach coord.)
Deirdre Cerminaro
(intern, business)
Federica Corinto
(Fondazione CRT)
Ralph Guccione
(forestry aide, fire)
Joan Ilacqua (cultural
resources)
Shelley Khadem
(cultural resources)
Romale Lovelace
(forestry tech, fire)
Jeff Stein (safety)
Nathan Stopps
(forestry tech, fire)
Roma Yavich
(intern, business)

...with more to come!

Pete McCarthy earns award for water safety

by Intern Kalie Swails

Sandy Hook Unit Coordinator Pete McCarthy has been given the regional Andrew Clark Hecht Public Safety Achievement Award in recognition of his work to increase water safety and reduce incidences of drownings.

McCarthy joined Gateway's Sandy Hook Unit in 2010 after spending 12 years in the Jamaica Bay Unit. After noticing a pattern in drowning incidents, McCarthy developed a plan to improve water safety for visitors.

"[Drownings] happen on unguarded beaches, which are on the bayside. We've found that most people who don't have the ability to swim use the bayside because the lack of waves provides them with a false sense of security, but the water can be deceptive," said McCarthy. "People walk out too far, step off the shallows and into the channel."

Following the drowning of two cousins in Sandy Hook Bay in 2010, McCarthy began adding more information on rip currents to the park website, making direct contact with the public and improving water safety signage around Sandy Hook.

"The point of this has not been to play lifeguard, but to educate. The idea was to get out there and talk to people," McCarthy said. "We started showing people how currents work and the signs of dangerous waters. We taught kids about safety through games. We did outreach at the YMCA."



Rather than use uniformed employees to spread the message, SCAs went out onto beaches every weekend to talk with visitors. McCarthy said this approach helped visitors feel more comfortable with park representatives, which made them more receptive to safety messages.

With the help of two bilingual SCAs, McCarthy also distributed water safety information in English, Spanish and Mandarin Chinese. "Many of the people who have perished here—I'd say probably 80 percent—were of Latino descent, so giving out information in Spanish was one of the key things we did."

Bilingual signs were posted around the park, warning visitors of dangerous waters. Each sign features the chilling image of a drowning victim's hand outstretched from dark water.

"Some people look at it and it scares the pants off them," McCarthy said. "And that was the idea."

In 2011, Sandy Hook saw zero drowning fatalities. This success earned McCarthy the regional Public Safety Achievement Award.

McCarthy's next aim is to expand his drowning prevention program to other areas of the park. "The notion that 'accidents happen' is not true," he said. "Accidents can be prevented and if we do our part in order to educate people, we can be part of that prevention. It's an honor to be recognized for that." 🍀

The GATE Way is the SAFE Way

by Safety Officer Eugene Kuziw

Keeping employees safe during the hot summer months

High temperature or humidity, direct sun or heat, limited air movement, physical exertion and poor physical condition can all lead to heat stress. Working outdoors, especially in the summer, increases your susceptibility to heat-related illness. As the Superintendent mentioned at last month's all-staff meeting, office workers' bodies are not acclimatized to the ambient conditions experienced outdoors. New employees, seasonals, volunteers and interns need time for their bodies to acclimate to their new environment. **Remember these tips to take care of yourself and your coworkers:**

- Block out direct sun or other heat sources.
- Hydrate frequently and avoid caffeinated drinks.
- Use cooling fans/air conditioning.
- Take adequate breaks.
- Wear a hat outdoors.

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Heat-related illness: Know the signs!

HEAT EXHAUSTION:

- Headaches, dizziness or light-headedness
- Fatigue
- Moist skin
- Mood changes such as irritability or confusion
- Upset stomach and vomiting

HEAT STROKE*

- Dry, hot skin with no sweating
- Mental confusion or loss of consciousness
- Seizures or fits

**Heat stroke is a life-threatening condition that requires immediate medical intervention.*

Arrest made in major horseshoe crab poaching case at JBU

by Intern Kalie Swails

The U.S. Park Police's Marine Unit seized a watercraft in Dead Horse Bay on May 5 after an anonymous tip that horseshoe crabs were being poached in the area. Those on board fled the scene, leaving behind hundreds of horseshoe crabs which park employees released back into Jamaica Bay. After a three-week investigation, an arrest was made for a total of six violations of the CFR.

Along with Plumb Beach, the shoreline of Dead Horse Bay is a spawning hotspot for horseshoe crabs, which are declining in numbers along the East Coast due to heavy commercial harvests and shoreline development. Horseshoe crabs are also considered the perfect bait for catching squid and eels, while their blue, copper-rich blood is highly sought after for scientific research.

"We are very fortunate to have tens of thousands of horseshoe crabs in Jamaica Bay," said GATE biologist George Frame, who explained that a disturbance in the number of horseshoe crabs could cause an ecological ripple effect.

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Comments? Contributions? Contact us!

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"Migratory birds like the Red Knot rely on nutrient-rich horseshoe crab eggs for food to sustain themselves through migration. It's important to maintain a healthy population because so many species are very closely tied to the cycle of horseshoe crab spawning."

Horseshoe crab harvesting is banned throughout GATE's boundaries, which include the waters of Jamaica Bay. The practice remains legal, with restrictions, in New York State waters. ♥

Natural resource of the season: *Horseshoe crabs*



Touch tanks at Ocean Fun Day teach children about horseshoe crabs. PHOTO by Lynn Bryan, New Jersey Natural Gas, courtesy of NJSGC.

The beaches of Gateway are teeming with summer love—by horseshoe crabs, that is. Every year between late May and mid-June, the shores of Plumb Beach, North Channel Beach and Dead Horse Bay serve as important spawning sites. On Plumb Beach alone, nearly 3,000 horseshoe crabs converge on the surf to lay eggs annually. Despite its name, the horseshoe crab is more closely related to spiders and scorpions than actual crabs. A member of the arthropod family, horseshoe crabs are often referred to as "living fossils" because they predate dinosaurs and have changed very little over the past 350 to 450 million years. ♥

IN MEMORIAM Rose Huff



PHOTO from Thomas Donzelli.

by Park Ranger Tom Hoffman

Rose Huff, retired maintenance employee at GATE's Sandy Hook Unit, passed away May 26, 2012.

I was very fortunate to have known Rose and to be considered by her to be not just a co-worker, but also her friend. I loved her down-to-earth honesty and the way she told it "just like it is"...and then some!

Rose, along with her friend Diane Greggins, had two of the most important jobs in the park. Their teamwork provided a clean environment that reflected upon our park and made visitors visit here more enjoyable. We all see our maintenance staff waging an eternal battle to keep our park operating for people to visit, enjoy, and appreciate.

And that is what Rose did. Her job was, literally, "down and dirty." The team of Rose and Diane always performed their job, their mission, with GUSTO, for there was no stopping them. ♥

The Fall 2012 issue of *Out of the Gateway* will be published in mid-September. Please send submissions and tips to John_Warren@nps.gov at GATE Public Affairs.