



Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park

PO Box 132, Nassau, DE 19969 302-858-6127

FOCHSP@gmail.com www.friendsofcapehenlopen.org

Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park 2020 Newsletters



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MEMBERSHIP

REMINDER: Time to renew your memberships! Go to the Friends website & click "2020 membership renewal".

FOCHSP PROJECTS UPDATE

Osprey Cam: New Osprey Cam is being installed to be ready for Spring births & available for viewing on our website, Youtube, & the Nature Center

Borrow-a-Bike: Free bikes available for riding & used bikes for sale at the Bike Barn. Very successful program with major donations & sales supporting a thriving activity in the park!

Thatcher Education Fund: Thirteen Title 1 schools received FOCHSP scholarships in 2019 to fund field trips for students

Vos: the Belgian Malinois dog who patrols the park with his handler Cpl John Lister receives funding supported by FOCHSP

Storage Shed: Installed behind Officer's Club

The Friends dues, contributions, and fundraisers provide for the ongoing projects listed above as well as general support for the park. In 2019 FOCHSP sponsored the following: Nature center parking lot stone, playground maintenance, lifeguard stands, Fantasy Trail pumpkins, Park toilet services, Mobi-Mats, two beach wheelchairs, osprey cam, K9care

UPCOMING EVENTS

Every month - Trails Day, trail & park clean-up & maintenance, 2nd Sat of each month, 9am-noon, meet at the Nature Center

March 3 – Lewes Library Community Outreach 10am-2pm

March 6 – FOCHSP on Radio Rehoboth 99.1 FM, 8:30am

March 7 – Annual Meeting, 9am-11am at the Officer's Club

March 21 – Indoor Flea Market, 9am-3pm at the Officer's Club (drop off items Mar 20, 10am – 1pm)

April 18 – Wine, Beer & Cheese Tasting, 4pm-6pm at the Officer's Club

RECAP OF EVENTS

January 9, Board of Directors meeting approved the 2019 annual report. FOCHSP logged 7,062 volunteer hours in 2019!

January 11, thank you to all those who volunteered at the Trails Day successfully collecting trash along the Point & out to the Pier on a cold windy day.

February 8, thank you to the hardy volunteers who joined the bike loop and salt marsh trail clean up on Trails Day, sweeping the trails, raking, shoveling and bagging trash. It was a sunny day with little wind enabling quite a bit of clean up.

February 13, the FOCHSP Board met at the Biden Center to review plans for 2020. Educational seminars "Friends Talks" and a summer bicycle fundraiser "Tour De Friends" are planned for 2020. Details to come.

Park News

- **Memorial park benches for \$2500.00 and trees for \$250, are available**
- **Water bottle refill stations at Gordon's Pond, FOCHSP funded, are being installed**
- **Public restrooms will be installed by the Park Office & playground**

- **New Washer & Dryers installed in the campgrounds**

Getting to know our FOCHSP Members: John Bracco



John is President of the FOCHSP Board and retired to Lewes with his wife in 2017. After working in New York City they had thought of retiring to New Hampshire until the day they visited Lewes and spent time at Cape Henlopen State Park. The unique nature and breathtaking beauty of the park pulled them to set down retirement roots here. The community of engaged volunteers felt like home and a natural place to begin a new phase of life. If you attend any of the many FOCHSP activities, you will certainly meet John who is deeply involved. He will introduce himself if you don't first, and he will engage you to become active members in the FOCHSP community.

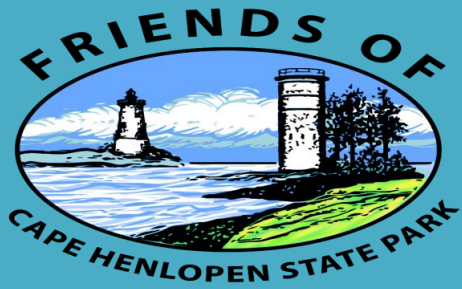
Getting to know our Park employees: Thaddeus Fisher

Thaddeus has been working in the Building Maintenance section of Cape Henlopen State Park for the past five years. He enjoys the quiet beauty of the park and the range of activities that are available. During the winter months he concentrates his work on the bathhouses at the Pier and Main Pavilion, making sure the building and facilities are ready for the beginning of the tourist season. Thaddeus also volunteers on Trails Day as he enjoys engaging with the FOCHSP volunteers to maintain the trails he regularly cares for all year round. Thaddeus has an overview of the Park needs and would appreciate saying hello if you meet him during your visits to the Park or the monthly Trails Day.

February 8, 2020: Trails Day FOCHSP Volunteers



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UPDATES

As part of precautions against the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) Delaware State Parks will be implementing safeguards consistent with guidance from state and federal health agencies. We appreciate your support of our Parks and thank you for your understanding during this unprecedented time. We ask that you please adhere to recommended precautions.

1. The Park will remain open
2. There will be no entrance fees charged through April for admission into the Park
3. The beaches are closed
4. The Division has closed all Park Offices, Nature Centers, Pavilions and gathering facilities to the public
5. All interpretive programming and group volunteer activities through May 15 are canceled
6. No public gathering of more than 10 persons, including Friends

MEMBERSHIP

Become a member now, or renew your 2020 membership by going to the Friends website and click either "membership" or "2020 membership renewal". Five new members joined in February, all are welcome! Member volunteer hours increased in February to 353 hours! Thank you all!!!!

POSTPONED EVENTS

The following activities are closed or postponed in following the advisement from the CDC and Delaware State Parks. New dates and openings will be announced, once scheduled:
Bike Barn closed until further notice starting March 15
March 21 – Indoor Flea Market, postponed
April 11 – Trails Day canceled
April 18 – Wine, Beer & Cheese Tasting, postponed

RECAP OF EVENTS

March 3 – Lewes Library Community Outreach
 March 6 – FOCHSP members John Bracco, Ian Friedland and Rod Parsons were on Radio Rehoboth 99.1 FM
 March 12 – FOCHSP Board meeting

ANNUAL MEETING MARCH 7

Over 70 participants in attendance!



The Friends dues, contributions, and fundraisers provide for ongoing projects as well as Park identified needs.

Park News

- **The Point at Cape Henlopen, including a stretch of ocean beach and dunes, and a half mile along the bay shoreline closed March 1 for the benefit of threatened and endangered nesting migratory shorebirds and will reopen in the Fall.**
- **Two buoyant mine casings and two mine anchors dating from the 1940's were discovered just north of the fishing pier and will be displayed inside Battery 519 starting April 25th.**
- **Park maintenance picked up a 1986 Chevy 4WD utility truck from Ft. Delaware which will allow a fully stocked vehicle to drive down the beach if needed in an emergency.**

Getting to know our FOCHSP Members: Sandee Coyle



Sandee became a member of the Friends group five years ago and the first day she volunteered for an event she joined the Board. Sandee is involved in many of the activities offered through the Friends. She manages all aspects of the annual Bird Seed Sale. Sandee also cooks and organizes food for events. In general she is an enthusiastic volunteer, involved in helping in all ways she can. Sandee worked for 27 years as a preschool teacher so the Friends sponsored Thatcher Fund, which helps kids to see the beach, has a special place in her heart. Sandee loves Cape Henlopen State Park and is eager to ensure others can experience this special place and enjoy all the wonderful activities that are available.

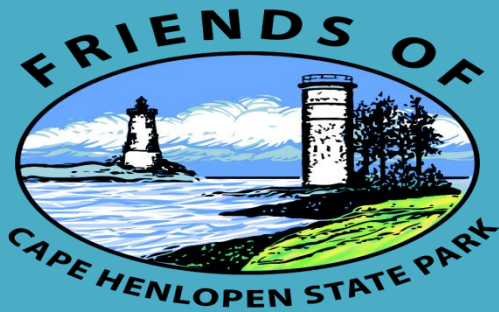
Getting to know our Park employees: Jayce Madden



Jayce Madden became the Park Manager at Cape Henlopen State Park in March 2018, coming from Killens Pond State Park in Felton, DE, and prior to that working at Loudoun County Parks and Recreation in Sterling, VA. As Park Manager she oversees the Park Office, the Family Campground, all Special Events, Youth Camp and Youth Primitive, Cape Dorms, facility rentals and a number of seasonal staff. Jayce loves the opportunity to serve as a steward for the park and truly feels Cape Henlopen is one of the most beautiful places in the world. She feels fortunate to work at such a great place with wonderful staff.

March 14, 2020: Trails Day had 24 volunteers from the FOCHSP led by Fran Giacomia. There was also a Boy Scout group that assisted in the task of clearing out the wineberry invasive species across from the Ferry. All volunteers were guided by Andy Hansen- Environmental Stewardship Program Team Leader.





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1. The Park will remain open however social distancing requirements may limit the number of visitors allowed
2. The beaches are closed except for surf fishing (with restrictions), exercise, dog walking (no surfing allowed)
3. The Division has closed all Park Offices, Nature Centers, Pavilions, campgrounds, bathhouse, basketball courts, playgrounds, bathrooms, Observation Tower and gathering facilities to the public
4. All interpretive programming, events and group volunteer activities are canceled
5. No public gathering of more than 10 persons, including Friends

PARK NEWS

A design for a new 6 mile trail has been finalized for CHSP with a trailhead off Wolfe Neck Road. The new loop will double the length of the existing 6 mile Junction-and-Breakwater Trail linking Lewes and Rehoboth Beach. The design includes converting 400 acres of farmland to reforested woodlands, returning the land to a natural state and providing public access to parts of CHSP that have been closed for two decades.

Due to the current pandemic the May 9 TRAILS DAY is cancelled

WHO WE ARE

The FOCHSP conducts a number of ongoing activities and events, including our very popular Osprey Cam and our borrow-a-bike program, which provides free loaner bikes to Park visitors; the monthly Trails Day maintenance and cleanup of Park trails; and a series of well-attended fundraising events including our annual Flea Market; Wine, Beer and Cheese Tasting; Youth Fishing Tournament; and Chocolate Tasting. Recent Park investments by FOCHSP include the children's playground (along with its annual maintenance), sponsorship of the main beach lifeguard stands, Mobi-Mats at several dune crossings, beach wheelchairs, and purchase of and support for Vos, the K-9 recently added to Park enforcement staff. FOCHSP also provides scholarships to Title I schools to offset the cost of travel and Park entrance fees so children can participate in a number of Nature Center educational programs throughout the year.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership dues, fundraisers, and donations allow FOCHSP to support projects and provide investments to address needs identified by Park management.

We welcome new members and volunteers who can help us support and maintain the Park we all love. For more information and/or to become a member, please contact the Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park via our website (www.friendsofcapehenlopen.org), by email (FOCHSP@gmail.com), or by phone (302-858-6127).

Getting to know our FOCHSP Members: Edna Lemiska



Edna has been a member of Friends for 15 years, serving 13 of them on the Board and 6 as President. She is involved in all fund raisers and has been the chairperson of the Flea Market, Christmas Boutique and Chocolate Tasting. One of the projects that is closest to her heart was spearheading the installation of the Playground. Her husband Stanley also served on the Board until his passing in 2014. He was instrumental in designing the bike barn and was one of the lead builders on the project. Edna loves the family friendly aspects of Cape Henlopen State Park as it has so much to offer from the beach to hiking to camping. Being a member of Friends provides the opportunity to help the Park, her community and meeting new volunteers who share her passion and love for the Park.

Getting to know our Park employees: Ben Thompson



As Manager of Volunteers, Ben oversees all volunteer activity at both Cape Henlopen State Park (CHSP) and Delaware Seashore State Park. He works with our Friends group and also the Friends of Fort Miles Historical Association, Delaware Seashore Preservation Foundation, and Friends of Holt's Landing State Park. Before coming to CHSP Ben was a seasonal naturalist at Killens Pond State Park and a Park Patrol Officer. Ben is passionate about the conservation of our public lands, and having the opportunity to get others involved is very special to him. Ben loves the variety of both recreational opportunities and habitat at CHSP. Ben notes that the combination of beach, salt marsh, and large forests is spectacularly beautiful, and it's a great place to spot all sorts of wildlife. He says having a place with miles of trails for hiking and biking, educational opportunities, an awesome campground, and a great beach to relax on makes CHSP unique! (See photo of Ben on his trip to Iceland).

The Friends sponsored Osprey camera is working with great sound and looks fantastic. Be sure to take a look. A pair of Osprey has a big nest and at least two eggs! You can hear them and watch them as they prepare for the hatchlings in about a month.

<https://www.friendsofcapehenlopen.org/ospreycam.html>



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1. The Park is open however social distancing requirements may limit the number of visitors allowed. All visitors to Delaware State Parks must carry a face mask or other cloth covering and wear it in restrooms, any other enclosed space and when social distancing of at least 6 feet cannot be maintained between members of different households.
2. Rentals of cabins, tents and RV and camp ground bathrooms are open as of June 1.
3. The beaches are open with social distancing required.
4. The following facilities are closed until June 15: Nature Centers-Fort Miles, playgrounds, basketball courts, Observation Tower
5. All interpretive programming, events and group volunteer activities are canceled through June 15.

FOCHSP UPDATES

We welcome new members and volunteers who can help us support and maintain the Park we all love. For more information and/or to become a member, please contact the Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park via our website (www.friendsofcapehenlopen.org), by email (FOCHSP@gmail.com), or by phone (302-858-6127).

We also have a new Facebook page. Please like us at: fb.me/FOCHSP

Check out the stock of used bikes for sale on our website!

Due to the current pandemic the June 6 National Trails Day is cancelled. We encourage those who wish to move forward in cleaning trails on that day remember to follow all Park rules and carry out any trash you collect.

All Friends sponsored events and activities are postponed or canceled until further notice from FOCHSP. We will keep you posted. Stay safe!

If you are at Gordon's Pond check out the new water fountain sponsored by Friends.

Enjoy your time at the Park. We are fortunate to have such an extraordinary place available to soothe our souls.

Still Water Designs, supervised by FOCHSP Pond Keeper Mame Gilligan, revitalized the pond outside the Nature Center.

Next time you are in the park, stop by and take a look.



Getting to know our FOCHSP Members: Rod Parsons



Rod says you can never have too many friends so after he saw an article in the Cape Gazette about the FOCHSP, which included a piece about the bike barn and the need for additional volunteers, he joined in 2015. He became a member of the Board in 2016, and was elected Vice President at his very first meeting! Rod participates in all fundraising events. He is responsible for maintaining the FOCHSP website, and generally keeping it up to date. He was instrumental in introducing the member's only section, plus the ability to join, renew memberships, and make donations online. Rod designs and prints most of the posters and flyers for the Friends events. Rod and his wife Wendy really like the bayside beach by the fishing pier. The calm water is great for launching his kayak and is perfect for his 9 year old grandson when he is visiting. Rod loves the great bike and walking trails and the beaches of course! Rod and his wife Wendy are from the south of England. They spent 19 years in New Jersey in the NY Metro area before coming to Delaware in 2007. Rod loves meeting people so be sure to say hello if you see him out and about the Park or at Friends events.

(Can you guess where the picture of Rod was taken based on the background?)

Getting to know our Park employees: Deb Lent



Deb is the Administrative Specialist II at Cape Henlopen State Park overseeing the office operations and the Fee Booths. You can find her at the main park office, answering phones, processing invoices, accounting for all passes and reports, verifying funds balances, managing employees for the fee booths and front office, doing the scheduling and hiring for the park office, preparing payroll, in other words, doing whatever it takes to keep the office running smoothly! Before coming to Delaware Deb was the controller for a Trucking Company and a Logging Company in NY for 13 years. After her family moved to Delaware, Deb stopped by the Park office to purchase a pass and saw an application for employment which she picked up in passing. After filling it out and submitting it she was hired in May 2017, starting work at the front counter selling permits, then moving up to Revenue Supervisor and then to her current position. Deb loves CHSP because everyone is so friendly and happy (employees and visitors). Deb enjoys the beach, riding bikes and walking in the Park. She particularly enjoys Gordons Pond. Be sure to say hello to Deb the next time you are in the park Office!

Want to see a baby Osprey?

Be sure to check out the Friends sponsored Osprey cam. Now with greatly enhanced high definition video, and sound. A pair of Osprey have a big nest and now the eggs are starting to hatch! Can you see the little chick in the picture at right? There are two hatchlings now. Go to the link below for a better look!!

friendsofcapehenlopen.org/ospreycam.html

Additional Park Bird News: There are five breeding pairs of Piping Plovers with nests now in the Park!!



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2. All campgrounds and bathhouses are open
3. The beaches are open with social distancing required.
4. Fort Miles and the Seaside Nature Center are open with limited capacity and programming.
5. Playgrounds, basketball courts and the Observation Tower remain closed.



FOCHSP UPDATES

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All Friends sponsored events and activities are postponed or canceled until further notice from FOCHSP. Stay safe! AmazonSmile customers can now support Friends in the Amazon shopping app or at: smile.amazon.com

GRAIN, the new restaurant at the Ferry Terminal, is sponsoring four Thursday evening Outdoor Concert Series, tickets benefit Friends! The new water fountain at Gordon's Pond and the lifeguard chair on the main beach are paid for by Friends. FOCHSP volunteers installed pavers on the bridge on the Junction -Breakwater Trail. Though the June Trails Day was cancelled, a small group of FOCHSP volunteers met for a socially distanced beach clean-up at the park. John Bracco & Ian Friedland, Friends President & Vice President represented FOCHSP on Delmarva Life, the 5pm news show on WBOC on Monday, June 22: <http://www.delmarvalife.com/delmarvalife/preserving-cape-henlopen-state-park-and-the-wildlife/>

Enjoy your time at the Park. We are fortunate to have such an extraordinary place available to soothe our souls.

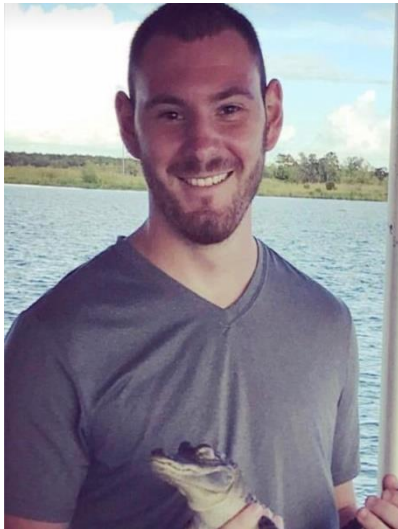
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Getting to know our FOCHSP Members: Polly White



Polly became a Friends member three years ago. She joined as a way to meet new people in the area. Polly began volunteering to help set up for the chocolate tasting and the book fair. She also was able to join in for some Saturday trail clean ups as well as helping with the Halloween event. Polly loves being involved with the running of events and enjoys also encouraging from the sidelines. The beach has always been Polly's happy place. She believes that Cape Henlopen State Park is one of the biggest assets in Sussex County. People come here from far and wide to enjoy its beauty and activities. In fact, Polly started bringing her kids here in the 80s! Though she loves the beach, there is something extra special about the fall at the Cape. Biking, beaching, walking, exploring, all can be enjoyed at that time of year without getting too much sun so Polly loves that time the best. Polly is glad to be on the Friend's board as a way of giving back to this community and meeting like-minded people, those that truly appreciate the great outdoors!

Getting to know our Park employees: Sean Cain



Sean is the Campground Manager for CHSP. He began working at the park in September 2019, applying for the job because it seemed like a really good chance to finally live at the beach, plus it was a great opportunity to start his career in parks. Starting at Cape meant Sean moved away from his family in Middletown DE, however everyone has helped him feel right at home here. Sean's work at the campground keeps him busy. He is in charge of writing revenue reports for the check in booth and camp store, ordering supplies and food for the camp store, processing invoices from deliveries, making schedules, helping campground hosts clean sites, directing traffic when it gets busy, and coordinating with maintenance and domestic staff regarding issues in the campground. Sean also handles complaints and enforces rules throughout the campground along with the help of his camp hosts. His favorite part of the day is after check in when everyone is settled in and he drives around to check in on campers. Sean's favorite place in the park is the observation tower on a clear day as the view at the top can't be beat. When you see Sean around the Park ask him about what he is holding in the picture and where the picture

was taken.

Those babies are getting big!!

Check out the Friends sponsored Osprey cam, greatly enhanced with high definition video and sound. A pair of Osprey built a big nest and have been busy taking care of their two babies born in April. Go to the link below for a better look!!

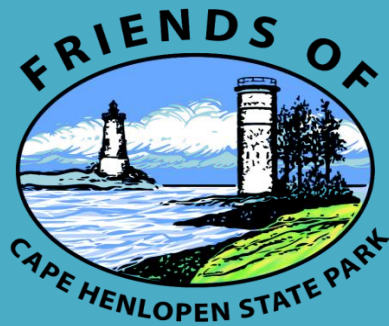
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Additional Park Bird News: There are five breeding pairs of Piping Plovers with nests and chicks now in the Park!! These are endangered birds with a special protected breeding area at the Point area.



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August 2020



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FOCHSP NEWS

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*Check out the stock of used bikes for sale on our website!

*AmazonSmile customers can support Friends in the Amazon shopping app or at: smile.amazon.com

*GRAIN, the new restaurant at the Ferry Terminal, is sponsoring an evening Outdoor Concert Series, and tickets benefit Friends! (Photo below showing the July 23 Funsters concert with socially-distant spacing is by Nick Roth for the Cape Gazette, used with permission) You can read about upcoming concerts and the safety requirements for concerts at RockingTheDocks.com

*FOCHSP is raffling a new 21-speed 24" Mongoose mountain bike as a fundraiser (see photo below). Raffle tickets are \$5.00, or 5 for \$20.00. To purchase tickets, send a check for the number of tickets you would like to purchase to the Friends' PO Box mailing address above, or purchase online at:

<https://www.friendsofcapehenlopen.org/bike-raffle.html> Your raffle ticket stub will be mailed to you as confirmation that your check has been received. Envelopes for raffle ticket purchases must be post-marked by August 31, 2020.

The advertisement features a blue and green background. At the top, it says "GRAIN ON THE ROCKS" in white. Below that, "LEWES" is written in large, colorful, 3D letters. Underneath, "Rocking the Docks" is written in a cursive font. A small logo of a person with arms raised is on the right. The text "Outdoor Concert Series" is in bold, followed by "Grain On The Rocks at The Lewes Ferry Terminal". Below that, it lists dates: "7/9 The Brit Pack - 7/23 The Funsters" and "8/6 Pressing Strings - 8/20 Hot Dogs & Gin". A section titled "The 'All VIP' Experience!" lists "Private 12' Squares for \$40 (up to 8 family members)" and "Mobile Food & Beverage Ordering with Chair-side Delivery". At the bottom, it says "Bike, Boat, Bus or Drive In!" and "Tickets Benefit Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park. Get Tickets and Learn More at RockingTheDocks.com".

PARK UPDATES

For latest updates and Covid-19 restrictions at Cape Henlopen State Park and all Delaware Parks please go to their website at: <https://destateparks.com/covid19>

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Getting to know our FOCHSP Members: Ian Friedland

Ian and his wife Jan moved to Lewes in 2015 from the DC area. They had moved around on the East Coast – 3 times in and out of the DC area, Ithaca NY, South Jersey, and Buffalo, NY, however a major element in their decision to move to Lewes was their love of the Park, its beaches and its trails – and they joined Friends immediately. Though Ian says it was Gordon Reed, Stu Schmidt and Bob Wallace (Friends members) who were sitting on a bench next to the Bike Barn one afternoon and convinced (Ian says harassed) him into becoming a Bike Ambassador. Ian essentially volunteers for everything Friends does: special events, the Bike Barn, monthly Trails Days and a member of the Board (now the FOCHSP VP). He is the point of contact for other volunteer organizations sponsoring runs or biking events throughout the Park, helping with staffing water stops and providing assistance with their events. Ian loves meeting, greeting and helping visitors from all over the world enjoy our wonderful Park. Ian discovered CHSP 40 years ago when he lived in South Jersey and would take his bike across on the Ferry, exploring the area. He and Jan really like Trapp Pond and other area parks but there is a special place for CHSP and the amazing Friends members who support it.

Getting to know our Park employees: Molly Serfass



Molly is the Program Coordinator at the Nature Center for CHSP. She began working at the Park a little over a year ago as the nature center aquarist, coming from a position at the Elmwood Park Zoo in Pennsylvania. Molly lived in Baltimore while she worked at the National Aquarium (see photo from her work there), and would visit her parents who had moved to Fenwick Island. She has loved this area and jumped at the opportunity to be at the beach and work at CHSP when a position opened. Molly is currently working on a Masters in Conservation Biology from the Miami University of Ohio, expecting to graduate in December. The Park gives her a great place to collect research. She has always had a passion for informal environmental education and animal care. One of her favorite memories so far at CHSP was during one of her first Dolphin Watch programs on the Hawk Watch where the group ended up seeing a pod of about 30 dolphins. “It was so cool to see how the visitor’s faces lit up when we saw that first dorsal fin break the surface”. Molly’s favorite season is summer. She loves walking on the bay beach at sunset or brining her dog Charlie (short for Charles BARKley) to Herring Point. She encourages all visitors to stop by the nature

center and sign up for a program!

They are flying!!

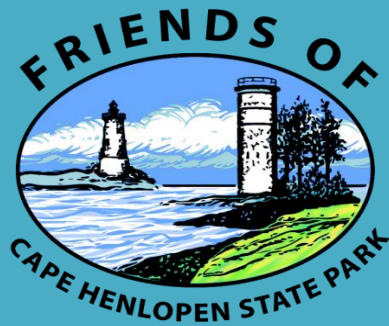
Check out the Friends sponsored Osprey cam, greatly enhanced with high definition video and sound. The two baby Osprey we have been watching since April started flying! They return often to the nest to eat the fish they have learned to catch. Go to the link below for a better look before they start their migration south!!

friendsofcapehenlopen.org/ospreycam.html

Additional Park Bird News: There have been five breeding pair of Piping Plovers, with nests and ten chicks, in the Park this season!! These are endangered birds with a special protected breeding area at the Point.



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***Beach Cleanup**- join us on **Saturday Sept 12** at the POINT from 9am to noon. Although the state has canceled the annual Costal Cleanup, the FOCHSP will have "Beach Cleanup" as part of our monthly Trails day event (see picture below of the July 11 Trails Day volunteers). During this socially distanced event we will be cleaning up from the Point bay beach to the ocean beach at Herring Point. We will provide garbage bags and tools but ask that you wear a mask. We advise you to wear a hat, gloves and closed toed shoes, also sun tan lotion and bug spray are a good idea. Meet at the Point at 9am.

***Annual Youth Fishing Tournament** scheduled for **September 12** (rain date September 13). Cape Henlopen State Park fishing pier. Register 7am-8am. Fish 8am to 11am. Entry \$10.00 per child. Kids aged 15 and under. Masks are required and social distancing will be observed.



Who? kids aged 15 and under
Where? Cape Henlopen State Park fishing pier
When? September 12, 2020
Rain Date: September 13, 2020
Register: 7am-8am Fish: 8am - 11am
Masks required
Entry fee \$10 per child
www.friendsofcapehenlopen.org

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PARK UPDATES

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Getting to know our FOCHSP Members: Lisa Botluk



Lisa has been visiting Cape Henlopen State Park since the 1980's. Her first visit was when she had a climatology class at the nearby University of Delaware campus. She returned a few years later as an environmental scientist working for the Army, before the Fort Miles area was returned to the State. She joined the Friends of CHSP about five years ago. Over the past several years, she has participated in book sales, flea markets, and the wine/beer/cheese event. This year when there was a vacancy for a recorder of volunteer hours, she took on that role. Lisa sees CHSP as such a beautiful park year-round and she enjoys the trails as much as the beach. Being near Cape Henlopen was a big part of her decision to move from Maryland to Lewes when she retired. Her favorite experience at the park happened one winter afternoon when she followed a trail to the end, coming out onto the sand dunes, and saw a sky full of snow geese flying over. It was magical. Lisa is proud to be a part of the Friends and she encourages visitors to become Friends and active volunteers to the group.

Getting to know our Park employees: Will Frank



Will has been at CHSP for 2 and a half years as the Facility and Special Event Manager. He received this position as his first job out of college from Frostburg State University majoring in Recreation and Parks Management. Will is the point of contact for all group camping and primitive camping reservations. He also is the point of contact and permit issuer for all weddings and special events (races, fishing tournaments, fun runs, etc.) that take place in the park. Before moving to the area Will was living in his hometown of Elkton, Maryland. His favorite place in the park is either the disc golf course or any of the drive on beach access points. He prefers the park in the Fall because the weather is changing and the park slows down, making it easier to enjoy the beach on those random 80 degree October days. Will would like visitors to know that this park is more than a beach. The amount of diversity that is offered as a park, from programs, museums, events, vendors, campground, etc., makes this park really stand out amongst other local recreation sources. Will says working for parks is more than just a job, it is a way of life and a passion he shares for nature and the preservation of our natural resources.

Fish and Wildlife set up bat detectors at four sites at CHSP, working on a short-term bat acoustic project.



In August, FOCHSP volunteers cleaned and pruned the bicycle path along Cape Henlopen Drive from Kings Highway to the entrance of SPI Pharma.

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October 2020



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FOCHSP NEWS

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*Check out the stock of used kids bikes for sale on our website!

*AmazonSmile customers can support Friends in the Amazon shopping app or at: smile.amazon.com

***FOCHSP Bird Seed Sale!** Support FOCHSP by ordering your bird seed now, click the link below, and scroll to the bottom of the page to download the order form:

<https://www.friendsofcapehenlopen.org/fundraising.html>

Deadline for orders is October 13 with pick up at the Park Maintenance Barn on October 24. Prices are great this year and you will support the FOCHSP on-going efforts at the Park.

*September 12 was a beautiful day at the Park as FOCHSP sponsored the annual Youth Fishing Tournament. Thirty-six children gathered at the fishing pier to begin the day, cheered on by family and friends. See photos on page three. On the beach thirty-six volunteers participated in Beach Clean-up/Trails Day, collecting trash along the beachfront.

*Congratulations to Linda Bronson, the winner of the Friends 24" Mongoose Mountain Bike raffle. Thank you for all who participated in each of these events!



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Getting to know our FOCHSP Members: Carl Frey

In 2015 Carl and his wife Susan visited Lewes for one day from their home in metro NY, and bought a house – just like that. Carl became a Friends member after discovering the treasure that is Cape Henlopen State Park. When the Bike Barn is open, Carl matches visitors with the perfect bike, providing directions and fixing flats. Trails Day every month finds him clearing paths and collecting trash. This year Carl joined the Board and as Secretary prepares meeting minutes. The best part of CHSP is that it has so many dimensions that Carl likes – biking, nature programs, beaches, Friends events – and special places like the Gordons Pond Trail. Carl is at the Park year round but likes biking season best – when he can meet and

help visitors from across the country and around the world at the Bike Barn. He always recommends the Gordons Pond Trail. Carl says “In the midst of Covid-19 the Park remains a place where you can safely walk, bike, bird watch and enjoy the shore.”

Getting to know our Park employees: Julia Marr



Julia is the Event/Facility Coordinator at the Biden Center for CHSP. She assists with coordinating and maintaining the schedule for primitive camping, youth group camping, weddings, and special events. She also works in the main office and fee booth when needed. In the late 50's and early 60's Julia's family would camp on the beach at Fenwick Island. She has fond memories with her children and parents enjoying the area. When Julia came to Cape Henlopen State Park in 2013 from the Fort Meade, Maryland area, and started walking on the park trails she fell in love with the Park and thought to herself “it would be nice to work here”. Her favorite places in the Park are the Gordons Pond Trail because of the marshes, ocean and birds; the Bike Loop because of the woods, deer and Ft. Miles; and the Pineland Trail because it is less used, and she enjoys the solitude. Her favorite time of year is fall for the nice warm days and brisk nights. She now enjoys showing her grandchildren lower, slower Delaware. Julia loves traveling and has been to many States as well as overseas. Say hello when you see her in

the Park and ask about her many travel adventures, as well as her favorite spots in the Park.

HAWK Watch

Hawk Watch started September 1 and goes to November 30. The birders are there daily 9am to 3pm, weather permitting. See the picture at right showing the view from the platform. No experience necessary to join in counting raptors as they migrate. You will learn a lot and have fun. Bring binoculars. Masks are required and social distancing, following COVID-19 guidelines.



PARK UPDATES

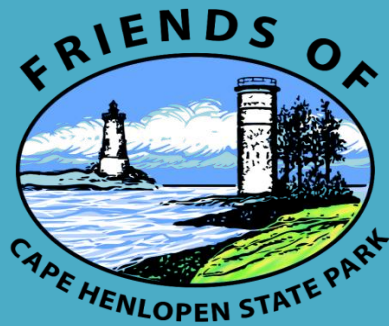
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Photos from September 12th. Fishing Tournament



November 2020



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***Bike Barn Re-opening!** The Bike Barn and the Borrow-a-Bike program have re-opened with many happy park attendees cycling around our park. There are new procedures and safeguards in place and we welcome new members to join the Bike Barn Ambassador cadre. Hours/days of opening are dependent on our volunteers, so if you are interested please contact Ian Friedland at friedlandian@verizon.net

*Bird Seed Sale was a great success! It was a beautiful day October 24 to pick up bird seed that was ready for loading by many Friends volunteers. We thank all those who participated and worked so hard to make this such a successful event!

*On October 4, seventeen FOCHSP volunteers supported the Seashore Striders Half Marathon water stops and provided directional assistance ensuring that runners turned the correct way onto intersecting trails or path. This was a wonderful way to show our support to organizations that support us throughout the year.



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Getting to know our FOCHSP Members: Roxanne Nelson

Roxanne and her family settled in Seaford in 1969, and made frequent treks to the beach area. Roxanne and her husband Lenny would often visit The Point at Cape Henlopen, sit in the car and talk about their future here. Working summers at the beach area, they finally moved permanently to this side of Sussex County in 1980. As an instructor at UD Georgetown, Lenny brought students to the park for hiking experiences on each Friday of the semester. Getting to know park staff, it was not long before he was invited to become a board member with the Friends group. It was at that time they obtained their family membership. In support of Friends, Roxanne became involved in bake sales. It was not long before she became a regular salesperson for other activities. Then it was the chocolate tasting, the wine and cheese tastings, raffles, and hostess bake tables for the holidays. Roxanne has been an integral part of the success of these events over the years. She enjoys all seasons at the park whether it is fall foliage, winter snows, springtime flowers or summer lazy days. Her favorite place continues to be the Point, where Lenny now has a memorial bench facing the bay. Sitting there she can see the windmill, the light houses, ferry shuttle, sailors, kite boarders, and kayakers. She can hear waves splashing the shore, singing of birds and honking geese and even the wind. It inspires Roxanne to write poetry, meditate, and wonder about the charm that is within the Park. Roxanne wants others to know the FOCHSP is many things to many people and she encourages all to join and share and be inspired.



Getting to know our Park employees: Tyler Dreibratt

Tyler is the Interpretive Programs Manager at the Fort Miles Museum. He has held this position since November 2019. Prior to joining CHSP he worked for Vermont State Parks. Tyler is responsible for developing, scheduling, and implementing programs, exhibits, and events at Fort Miles. He loves how dynamic the park is, that there are so many different aspects to CHPS, from a variety of habitats to the long history of defense in this area. Tyler enjoys exploring the different historical locations in the park. His favorite season is late summer/early autumn, when the weather is still nice but the park is less crowded. Tyler has lived in the area for three years now. He moved here for the job, and was living in southern Vermont beforehand. Tyler would like visitors to realize that wherever they go in the park, they are standing in what used to be Fort Miles. This was a major installation worthy of conservation. Some of Tyler's best memories involve meeting people who actually served at Fort Miles. It is always an honor to hear their stories.

HAWK Watch

Hawk Watch started September 1 and goes to November 30. The birders are there daily 9am to 3pm, weather permitting. No experience necessary to join in counting raptors as they migrate. Bring binoculars. Masks are required and social distancing, following COVID-19 guidelines. These are some of the birds you may see: Osprey, Bald Eagle, American Kestrel, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Black Scoter, Common Nighthawk, Golden-crowned Kinglet. Our Park is ideally located to see such a variety of migrators, each day brings a wonderful display of magnificent birds on their amazing journey. It is awe inspiring!



November 2020

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Park staff released the larger smooth dogfish that was in the Nature Center tank. She was getting too big for the tank and it was time to let her go.



FOCHSP volunteers decorated the park entrance kiosks with a scarecrow, pumpkins and plants.



Photo by Roxanne Nelson of Lenny's bench at the Point with view of work to repair & save the lighthouse



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End of Year Summary from Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park President John Bracco

With 2020 hindsight, I looked forward to my first year as president of the Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park. The Board of the FOCHSP was on track with new ideas to add to our traditional activities and events. Instead, like most of the world, 2020 forced us to cancel or make changes to many of our plans. We struggled with the decision to cancel many events, but did so for the safety of our members and the public. However, we were still able to continue with our mission to support the staff of Cape Henlopen State Park in keeping our beautiful park clean and a joy for all that visit.

Through your membership and donations, we were able to fund the building of the new Youth Camp Pavilion and rebuild the pond at the Nature Center. Our Trails Day volunteers continued to trim and clean trails and beaches. The FOCHSP helped support the Lifeguard program and purchased Mobi-Mats for dune crossings and a beach wheel chair for those that need assistance to access the beach. Although we had a shortened season, our Bike Barn ambassadors were able to bring joy to those who came to borrow bikes in the Park. A special thanks to our bike ambassadors who assisted a group of breast cancer survivors and led them on a bike tour of our park. Our volunteers also assisted with a number of running events in the park. Our Borrow-a-book program remains very popular in the Park's campground.

Last month's Bird Seed sale was the best ever and helped to offset our reduced fundraising for the year. The concert series at the Ferry this summer produced by the Grain On The Rocks restaurant was a lot of fun and we thank Grain On The Rocks for the donation of the ticket sales that were made to the FOCHSP.

This year, we initiated our monthly Friends' newsletter and created a Beach committee which focuses on improving the safety and enjoyment of our park's beaches.

I would like to thank everyone for their contributions that were made this year, both financial and as volunteers to our organization. We look forward to 2021 and the new adventures that lie ahead. As we come to the end of the year, membership renewal time is coming up for many of us. Please continue to support the Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park, so we can continue with our programs to improve our park. I wish you all a joyous holiday season and good times ahead.

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***Bike Barn Update. Due to the upsurge in Covid cases the Bike Barn will be closed until further notice. We will keep you updated if there are any changes.**

*The Board of the FOCHSP is excited to report that we have established a new committee - the **Beach Committee**. The mission of this committee is to identify opportunities to improve the aesthetic, safety and comfort of Cape Henlopen State Park. Committee members will monitor and report suggestions for improvements. They will also source funding for approved projects. This committee will be led by members - Emilie Paternoster and Sue Gaggiotti. If you are interested in joining the Beach committee, please email Board member Polly White womo99@gmail.com.

*Thank you to all the Friends volunteers who helped out in the Park during the Seashore Striders Great Pumpkin Run on October 31 and their Pumpkin Pie Run on November 29 by cheering the runners, handing out water and helping with directions.

*Eight FOCHSP volunteers participated in the November FOCHSP Trails day. This effort was led by volunteer- Gavin Braithwaite.

*Check out the new **HawkWatch Page** on the FOCHSP website. By clicking on this link to that page you now get to a site that gives a detailed overview of the migration counts for this season. Click here: <https://www.friendsofcapehenlopen.org/hawkwatch.html>

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Getting to know our FOCHSP Members: Tony Baldino

Tony has been a member of FOCHSP since 2016. He had seen a notice in the Cape Gazette for the annual meeting saying it was open to the public and it seemed like the perfect opportunity so he attended and joined. He had just moved to a community on the Junction Breakwater Trail from Northern New Jersey the previous year and was enjoying the park. When he was a young person living in the city he remembered seeing retirees doing thoughtful things for parks out “in the country” under the auspices of friends groups. He thought when he got old it would be a cool thing to do. And he says, “Well, I got old and it is a cool thing to do!” Tony is the Treasurer for the FOCHSP which consists of paying the bills, receiving monies, keeping the books and balancing accounts, trips to the bank, managing the Friends PayPal account, handling the finances at events, reporting to the Board, doing financial analysis and comparisons to prior years to assist the Board in decision-making, ensuring our insurances are adequate and doing tax reporting to the State and the IRS. Tony has also volunteered at the Bike Barn and has wonderful stories of his experiences meeting people from all over the world. And he loves to volunteer at Friends events (like the Chocolate Tasting). For Tony the best thing about Cape Henlopen State Park is the diversity of outdoor experiences. “Where else can you experience the ocean, bike paths, forest, paddling, cabin, RV and tent camping, history and farmland bordering some of our trails. It is a place to enjoy in all seasons whether you relish the vibrancy of the summer crowds, or the reflective solitude of the winter months when a brisk walk on the Point or an extended quiet bike around the loop and into Gordon’s Pond lifts the spirits.”



Getting to know our Park employees: Angel Burns

Angel is the Chief of Interpretation at the Park. She started her career with Delaware State Parks in the mid-1990s and has worked as an Interpretive and Nature Center Manager, Park Superintendent, Park Naturalist, Camp Director, and Children in Nature Coordinator. She also serves on the Board of Delaware Association for Environmental Education and has worked at the Brandywine Zoo and Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research. Angel is from Newark, Delaware where she resides with her husband and daughters. Her love of the rich natural and cultural resources

of Cape Henlopen State Park goes back a long way. A native Delawarean, she grew up visiting the park’s beach, and Cape Henlopen was the first place she ever camped! She has attended many programs at Cape through the years including nature hikes, seining programs, dolphin watches and Battery 519 Tours. Currently, Angel serves on the Fort Miles Museum Interpretation Committee on programs, exhibits, and other interpretive matters. She loves bringing her family out for hikes and visits to the nature center.

PARK PUZZLER by Carl Frey (answers on last page)

1	2	3	4	5	6
7			8		
9				10	
		11		12	
13	14		15	16	17
18		19			
20			21		

ACROSS

- 1 Fitting, suitable
- 4 e.g. Dogfish Head 60 min
- 7 Park volunteer group
- 9 Cape High school pupil
- 10 Dentist’s request: Say ‘--’
- 11 EPA banned pesticide
- 13 3.1417....
- 15 ---- Go Bragh !
- 18 Park’s ----- Pond Trail
- 20 --- Margret of *Bye Bye Birdie*
- 21 genetic material

DOWN

- 1 Back end of a boat
- 2 ---fix or ---view
- 3 What a secure knot is
- 4 Sign on some doors
- 5 Pre-smartphone device
- 6 Park campfire residue
- 8 What we wish the pandemic was
- 12 Walked trails with a heavy step
- 13 Links organization
- 14 Charged particle
- 16 Holiday --- or no room at the ---
- 17 US gov’t codebreakers
- 19 Beebe ER staffer

Women sponsored by the Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition spent the day at Cape Henlopen State Park as part of a "Nurture with Nature" event. FOCHSP provided bikes from the Bike Barn and tour guides to the group so they could explore the trails throughout the Park, with a focus on the Gordon Pond Trail. FOCHSP members John Dean, Paul Herman, and Denny Shook acted as tour guides for the group.



Delmarva Search and Rescue Teams at the Park for training.



Answers to PARK Puzzler

A	P	T		I	P	A
F	R	I	E	N	D	S
T	E	E	N		A	H
		D	D	T		
P	I		E	R	I	N
G	O	R	D	O	N	S
A	N	N		D	N	A