

Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park

newsletter

FEBRUARY 2024

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The Bike Barn IS OPEN

↓ Click-the-Link ↓

[Borrow-a-Bike](#)

*for Details &
New Winter Hours*

➤ **NEW 2024 Events Calendar** **NEW** ◀

- **Cape Henlopen Trail Days:** Second Saturday Monthly
(**THIS MONTH'S MEET** ▶ February 10th 8:45 AM at the Seaside Nature Center)
- **Annual Meeting:** March 9th 9 AM to 11 AM at Officer's Club
- **Indoor Flea Market:** March 16th 9 AM to 2 PM at Officer's Club
- **Wine, Beer & Cheese Tasting:** April 13th 4 PM to 6 PM at Officer's Club
- **2024 Earth Day:** April 22nd Meeting Time & Place To-Be-Determined
- **National Trails Day:** June 1st 9 AM to Noon at the Hawk Watch pavilion
- **Youth Fishing Tournament:** September 7th (Rain Date Sep. 8th) CHSP Fishing Pier 8 to 11 AM
- **Chocolate Tasting:** September 7th 1 PM to 4 PM at Officer's Club
- **Coastal Clean Up:** September 21st 9 AM to Noon Meeting Time & Place To-Be-Determined
- **Hawk Watch:** Every day September 1 to November 30 (Hawk Watch Pavilion Lot)
- **Birdseed Sale:** Order by September 30th / Pick Up on Oct 19th at Park Maintenance Garage
- **Holiday Boutique & Book Sale:** November 16th 9 AM to 2 PM at Officer's Club

PLEASE NOTE: Park Entrance Fees are in Effect March 1 to November 30

Call for FOCHSP Board of Directors Candidates

The Friends is governed by a Board of Directors dedicated to promoting the enjoyment, enhancement, preservation, maintenance, and improved safety of Cape Henlopen State Park. There will be three director positions opening for two-year terms starting in the spring of 2024. Nominations to the board are now being accepted via email at fochsp@gmail.com. Be Part of The Leadership!

Voting by the membership will take place at our annual meeting on March 9th.

FOCHSP Annual Indoor Flea Market March 16, 2024

The time is finally here again when the southern Delaware community comes together to pick through each other's "treasures".

The Friends Annual Indoor Flea Market needs your donations of slightly used, in good working order, items to raise money for our beautiful park.

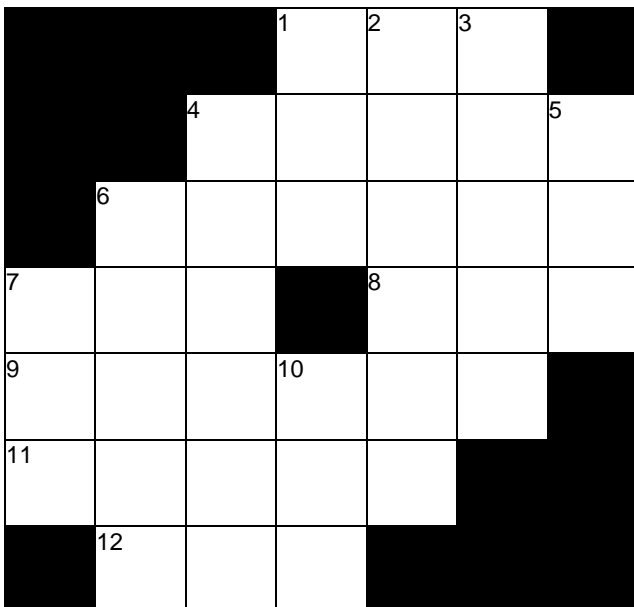
Bring your "treasures" to the CHSP Officers Club Friday March 15th 10 AM 'til 1 PM.

NOTE: We CANNOT accept clothing items (e.g. shoes), furniture, any textbooks (e.g. computer software guides), dictionaries or encyclopedias.

This year's event is sure to provide exciting bargains and loads of fun, so mark down the date:

FOCHSP ANNUAL Indoor Flea Market Saturday March 16th from 9 AM to 2 PM

PARK PUZZLE by Carl Frey



Across		Down	
1	What a female turtle may leave on a Cape Henlopen beach	1	Airline best guess
4	Save for a rainy day	2	Batman's home: '___ City'
6	Resistance or random noise	3	In need of a cleaning
7	Place for me-time	4	Parts of rockets and theaters
8	Health insurance plan option	5	'Green' prefix
9	2/2: 'Ground ___'	6	Potentially rare commodities at Cape Henlopen in the summer: parking ___
11	Starting squad	7	Woodstock performers: '___ Na Na'
12	Former sound barrier breaker	10	New Orleans Saints cheer: 'Who ___?'

FOCHSP Annual Membership Meeting UPDATE

March 9, 2024

This year's annual membership meeting is expected to be highlighted by the election of three new board members.

Welcome coffee and donuts will be served from 9:00 to 9:30 AM. We plan on the meeting lasting until 11 AM.

The annual meeting is a free event, which is open to the public, however, **PLEASE NOTE** that Park entrance fees will be in effect.

The program includes:

- John Bracco, Friends President, reviewing Friends programs, and accomplishments for 2023 as well our planned events and volunteer opportunities for 2024.
- Sean Cain, Assistant Superintendent CHSP, reporting on park activities through the past year.
- Bob Callahan, Friends Treasurer, will present the organization's 2023 annual report.
- Election for our three open Board Member positions.
- Guest speaker, Gary Liska of the [Monarch Butterfly Food and Fuel Garden](#). Gary will speak to us about the annual migration of monarch butterflies and outline the monarch butterfly feeding station that the Friends are planning to build at the Biden Center later this year. He will also show us how we can each build a monarch butterfly feeding station around our own homes.

For more information

Click-the-Link → [2024 FOCHSP Annual Membership Meeting](#) ←

CHSP First Day Hikes

January 1, 2024

Members of FOCHSP provided guidance to 68 park visitors that took part in the national State Parks 1st Day Hike at Cape Henlopen State Park. It was a great way to start the new year.



L to R: Bob Callahan (Treas.), John Bracco (Pres.), Suzanne Langwell (Soc. Media), Barry Snyder (Board) and Tom Blakeley (Membership)

The Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park (FOCHSP) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) volunteer organization that works with the Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation, and staff, to support and advocate for one of the county's most unique public parks. Join now!

Eric Lowe Memorial Bike Ride

Sunday, March 24, 2024
Cape Henlopen State Park



sponsored by
Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park
and Sussex Cyclists



Eric Lowe, co-owner of Seagreen Bicycles and an enthusiastic supporter of our local biking community, passed away on December 13, 2023. Come join a memorial bike ride in his honor starting at noon in the Park. We ask that you register ahead of time at:

Click-the-Link → [Sussex Cyclists](#)



Eric leaves behind his wife Lauren and son James. A go-fund-me site has been created to support James' future education. Please consider donating in Eric's memory:

↓Click-the-Link↓

[Gofund.me/65bfedb0](https://gofund.me/65bfedb0)

or via this QR code:



A follow-up gathering to honor Eric's memory will be held at Big Oyster Brewery, starting at 2 p.m. on March 24th.

FOCHSP Trail Days

January 13, 2024

On a very cold and windy Saturday morning, eighteen Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park volunteers came to the park for our monthly cleanup. A total of 29.5 hours of volunteer time was provided. Led by Trail Days coordinator Fran Giacom, the team cleaned along the popular Seaside Nature Trail as well as the bay beach. They continued on to the fishing pier parking lot and paved areas along the bike trail loop before returning to the Seaside Nature Center. Approximately, 25 lbs. of trash were collected plus the bonus of a damaged drone which will be “recycled”.



2023 Volunteer Review

272 members volunteered for the Friends in 2023. That’s about 65% of our membership.

As is usual, the Bike Barn came out as the top volunteering spot followed by our highly attended events. Top three volunteered events include Xmas Boutique- 537 hrs., Choco. Tasting- 253 hrs., & B, W & Cheese Tasting- 178 hrs. Many members only contribute for a single event or for a few hours but as the annual summary shows, volunteerism IS a hallmark of our organization.

History of Volunteer Hours:

2023- 8,105.5 **Equivalent Value to a Cash Grant = \$239,598 (DE = \$29.56/hr. x 8,105.5 hrs.)**
 2022- 8,652.5
 2021- 5,749.5
 2020- 3,060

Categories of Activities	2023*	2022
Bike Barn	37%	33%
Events	27%	30%
Trail Days/ Beach Cleanup	16%	11%
Administration (e.g. Treasury, Board Meetgs, etc)	<u>16%</u>	<u>16%</u>
Subtotals	96%	90%

* = Events were categorized for exacting measurement

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2024 Membership Renewal Available TODAY!

Just wanted to remind our members that it is time to renew your membership with the Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park. Please renew by using the link below. If you are a new member that joined after July 2023, don't worry your membership is good until the end of 2024. We appreciate your support and cannot accomplish what we've got planned without your help.

Have a GREAT NEW YEAR!

John Bracco

President- Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park

[Membership RENEWAL](#)

Get to Know Our Members – Linda Hardin

Linda Hardin was born and raised in Maple Glen, Pennsylvania, a suburb of Philadelphia. As one of seven kids, she camped every summer and always loved being in nature, on the water and riding her bicycle. After completing a College Student Personnel Administration graduate degree in Colorado, Linda's first job was with Semester at Sea, a global floating university. They sailed around the world as students completed a semester's worth of course work while using the world as their classroom. It was a once in a lifetime adventure! Her next career move was to the University of Delaware, where she worked for 15 years before moving to Massachusetts, raised a family and eventually retired from Bentley University. While at UD Linda especially loved spending most summer weekends with friends at our beautiful Sussex County beaches and was fortunate enough to move back to Delaware after retirement. With quite a few very active FOCHSP members in their neighborhood she and her husband, Dave, joined the Friends after moving to Lewes in the fall 2022. Linda began volunteering at the Bike Barn. This year she hopes to learn more about FOCHSP by becoming the volunteer coordinator. Linda especially loves meeting people from all around the world while volunteering at the Bike Barn. As a lifelong lover of cycling, she gets a kick out of the joy people experience when exploring the park on our loaner bikes. When Linda rolls over in the morning one of the first things, she sees is a print on her wall that says, "A walk on the beach is good for the soul." It reminds her to head on out and walk around the Point, her favorite place in the park. Running a very close second though is riding the Gordon's Pond trail.



FOCHSP Contributions- Thatcher Education Fund January 2024

The Friends board approved three Thatcher Grant requests.

- \$1,000 to Skyline Middle School for 70 7th & 8th graders attending REECH Program in April.
- \$500 to Seaford Central Elementary School for 140 3rd graders attending Seashore Safari in May.
- \$500 to West Seaford Elementary School for 150 2nd graders attending Beach Combing in March.

Park Puzzle Answers

			E	G	G	
		S	T	O	R	E
	S	T	A	T	I	C
S	P	A		H	M	O
H	O	G	D	A	Y	
A	T	E	A	M		
	S	S	T			