

# Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park

# newsletter

## MARCH 2024

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## The Bike Barn IS OPEN

↓ Click-the-Link ↓

[Borrow-a-Bike](#)

*for Details &  
New Winter Hours*

## ➤ 2024 Events Calendar ◀

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

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

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!

## 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 STILL 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 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **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.

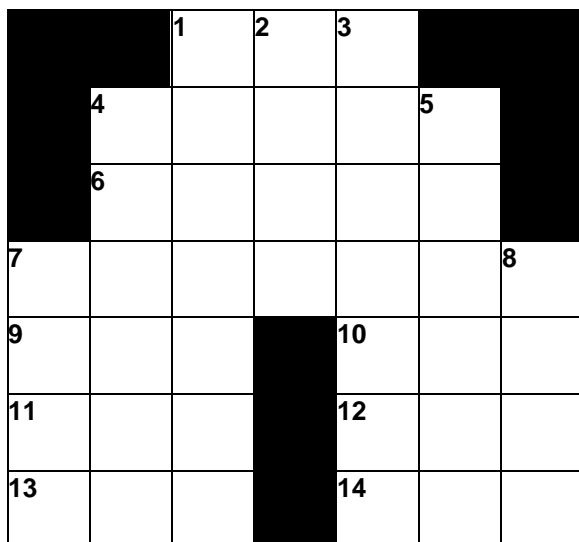
The program includes:

- 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 as well as activity at some other Delaware state parks.
- 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](#) ←

#### **PARK PUZZLE** by Carl Frey



Across		Down	
1	Long lines in the ER	1	Not sure
4	Bad moods	2	You get a good one from the top of a Cape Henlopen observation tower
6	Skillful	3	Pearly gates guardian
7	April showers bring them in May	4	Nacho chip go-withs
9	Home of the Buckeyes	5	Rock or sediment layers
10	Quest for some beachgoers	7	Sometime hazards for Cape Henlopen mariners
11	Talk nonstop	8	Fast reflex card game
12	Notation on a BWI screen		
13	Grounded fast flyer		
14	Genre for 50 Cent and Drake		

# FOCHSP Trail Days February 10, 2024

This month the Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park saw a whopping 69 volunteers for our monthly Trail Days cleanup. Due to reports of significant trash along the park's beaches, we assembled at the David McBride Bathhouse parking lot. In order to put our volunteers to best use, we split up into five groups: Bay beach, The Point from Bay to Ocean, The Point parking lot to The Point, The Point Comfort access to the Main Beach and the Main Beach to Herring Point. Together, our volunteers provided 148 hours of service and collected a total of about 150 lbs. of trash. Thanks to members, Gavin Braithwaite, Fran Giacomina and Scott Wilkinson for organizing the cleanup. While cleaning along the Ocean Point beach, we encountered a baby grey seal which was reported to the Seaside Nature Center and MERR who quickly responded and cordoned off the area for the seal's protection.



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## **Fund Raising Opportunity- DO MORE DELAWARE 24**

### **March 7<sup>th</sup> 6 pm to March 8<sup>th</sup> 6pm, 2024**

Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park (FOCHSP) is an independent, non-profit volunteer organization that works with park staff in promoting the enjoyment, enhancement, preservation, maintenance, and improved safety of Cape Henlopen State Park. DO MORE 24 DELAWARE is the Delaware specific 24-hour Giving Day that highlights the work of nonprofit organizations. The event runs from Thursday, March 7<sup>TH</sup> 6 pm until Friday, March 8, 6 pm, 2024. Participating organizations that raise over \$5.00 on DO MORE 24 DELAWARE Delaware's Giving Day will receive matching donation dollars.

The Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park are excited to be part of DO MORE 24 DELAWARE this year and kindly ask that you consider making a donation to the Friends.

↓ Click-the-Link ↓

**[DO MORE 24 DELAWARE](#)**

Your donated dollars are greatly appreciated and allow us to continue to support our various park programs and enhancements including:

- Our Borrow-a-Bike program which allows visitors to borrow a bike, for free, and tour our beautiful park.
- The Richard & Mirth Thatcher Education Fund which provides moneys to bring Title One school children to take part in the educational programs provided by the Seaside Nature Center.
- The Youth Education Support (YES) Grant provides funding to bring youth groups to the park to experience nature and take part in the educational programs provided by the park.
- FOCHSP have also funded the purchasing of:
  - beach access mats for dune crossings
  - renovation of the park's Disc Golf course
  - construction of the new Primitive Youth camp pavilion
  - beach accessible wheel chairs
  - construction and maintenance of the park's playground
  - water fountains
  - restrooms
  - signage
- FOCHSP helped secured grant monies for the refurbishment of the boardwalk/walkway at the McBride Bathhouse.

Plans for the future include funding for improvements such as shade structures at the picnic area, eco-friendly groundcover for the children's playground as well as a Monarch Butterfly feeding station, near the Biden Center, featuring Monarch-centric native Delaware plants.

So, please consider donating to the Friends during **[DO MORE 24 DELAWARE](#)**

# 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 24<sup>th</sup>.

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> 10 AM 'til 1 PM.*

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

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

↓ Click-the-Link ↓

**[FOCHSP ANNUAL Indoor Flea Market Saturday March 16<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM to 2 PM](#)**

## Bike Barn News February 20, 2024

We applauded our Friends Bike Barn ambassadors at Iron Hill Brewery on Tuesday February 20<sup>th</sup>. Their unwavering dedication and support last season was, as usual, appreciated by all the visitors who used this FREE service. Thanks to their efforts, 2023 was another banner year, with sales & donations exceeding **\$17,000**. Thank you for your service.



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## 2024 Membership Renewal Available TODAY!

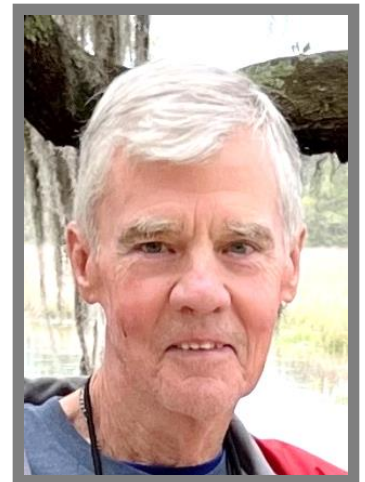
Just wanted to remind our members that it is time to renew your membership with the Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park. Please renew by using the link below. If you are a new member that joined after July 2023, don't worry your membership is good until the end of 2024. We appreciate your support and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

John Bracco  
President- Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park

[Membership RENEWAL](#)

## Get to Know Our Members – John Dean

John Dean was born in Washington, DC but spent most of his adult life in Alexandria, VA. After graduating college, he began to work at one of the, then, big eight accounting firms. John spent 4 years there before moving on to a position at a large bank holding company in Northern Virginia. From there he eventually was appointed Chief Administrative Officer of what became, over his 33 years there, a billion-dollar retail financial institution in Washington, DC. John and his family lived in the same house in Alexandria for 33 years and had no intention of moving. Until in 2016, when they visited their son, who had purchased a house in Rehoboth Beach, and John's sister who was living in Lewes. Touring CHSP was one of the features that sold them on the idea of moving to Delaware. Subsequently they made the decision to purchase their current home in Lewes. John was introduced to the Friends organization by his brother-in-law and then to John Bracco. They became members of Friends in 2018 and since then John has volunteered mostly at the Bike Barn.



Their favorite place in the park is The Point where they look for unusual shells and occasionally sea glass as well as doing a little clamming. One of John's favorite activities is at the Bike Barn where he can provide bikes to families to tour the park together. They always come back with smiles on their faces, particularly the young kids. John finds this to be a very satisfying experience.

## FOCHSP Contributions- Thatcher Education Fund February 2024

The Friends board approved one Thatcher Grant request & one YES Grant request.

- \$920 to N. Georgetown Elementary School for 125 2<sup>nd</sup> graders attending Bug Out! Program in May.
- \$650 to Lower Sussex NAACP Youth Council for 25 K-12<sup>th</sup> graders learning about environmental and climate issues by visiting the park.

## Park Puzzle Answers

	I	V	S			
S	N	I	T	S		
A	D	E	P	T		
F	L	O	W	E	R	S
O	S	U		T	A	N
G	A	B		E	T	A
S	S	T		R	A	P