



Fall 2011

ON THE SHORELINE

A publication of Friends of Hammonasset, Inc.

President's Note

Dear Friends,

The Friends of Hammonasset had a full agenda this summer and fall, and all indications are that this hectic pace will be continuing right through spring. The annual FOH Volunteer BBQ that was held at the Nature Center was again a huge success. It was well attended, and the food was wonderful. I want to extend a huge "thank you" to all who attended and brought side dishes for this event. We certainly have a great bunch of cooks in our organization. A special thank you goes to Dave and Janet Rathbun who manned the grill and kept those burgers and hot dogs coming! We could not have done it without all of you. This is an annual event now, so plan on attending again next year. We'll keep you informed as to the date.

The 12th annual Christmas Tree Sale began the week-end after Thanksgiving. Murphy Moving and Storage again transported the trees for us. I cannot thank them enough for their generosity. We have the same great variety and sizes of trees as we had last year; and of course, all are fresh cut and were purchased from Hartikka Tree Farm in Voluntown. All trees are premium stock; and as you are well aware, we have the best prices in the area. Be sure to continue to support us in this venture.

The Hammonasset Festival was a huge success this year. This festival was our biggest and best according to feedback from attendees, artisans and vendors. We had several new native crafters and dancers, and more food vendors than in prior years. All participants have indicated they are looking forward to being involved in our next festival in 2013 which will coincide with the 100th anniversary of the park. This will be a landmark event for both Hammonasset Beach State Park and the Friends of Hammonasset.

We are anxiously awaiting the go-ahead from the state for the new Meigs Point Nature Center. The state is in the final process of reviewing plans, dotting "i's" and crossing "t's" so the venture can move forward. When this happens you will all be notified, and we shall begin fund raising in earnest for this huge project. We, along with Ranger Russ Miller, Jack Hine and Henry Alves, will work closely with the state in meeting the needs of exhibits, classroom space and storage. This is a very exciting time for everyone who is involved with this project.

I am sure all of you who visit the park have taken notice of the destruction that

(Continued on page 2)



*Deanna Becker
FOH President*

Inside this issue:

<i>Find us at ...</i>	2
<i>Help Needed: Grant Writer</i>	2
<i>Hammonasset Festival Recap</i>	3
<i>Nature Note: CT Mammals in Winter</i>	3
<i>The "Flagship" Report</i>	4
<i>Calendar of Up- coming Events and Announcements</i>	5
<i>Nature Center Wish List</i>	6
<i>12th Annual Christmas Tree Sale</i>	7
<i>FOH Membership Form</i>	8

was caused by Hurricane Irene. The park employees have worked hard to get the beaches and recreational areas safe for public use and enjoyment. They are to be commended for the speed in which debris was removed, unsafe areas were cordoned off and the campground reopened. Thanks is also extended to the campers and day-trippers who assisted park personnel in their efforts to get parking lots cleared and beaches cleaned. Boardwalks and other major restorations will obviously take time to be completed. The Friends will assist the park and state in whatever way we can to help in these projects.

Just a quick reminder that the seals have started to return to Long Island Sound. Do yourself and your children a favor, and go to the beach at low tide to see them lolling on the rocks off Meigs Point. They are a pleasure to watch so bring your binoculars to get a better view.

We want to wish outgoing Park Supervisor, Bill Mattioli, the very best on his transfer to Gillette Castle State Park; and we thank him for all the help he has given to FOH as well as to Hammonasset Beach State Park. It was wonderful working with you over the past year, Bill. In addition, we welcome Henry Alves, the new Park Supervisor, and look forward to working with him on our future endeavors. Welcome aboard, Henry!

Have a wonderful holiday season, and don't forget to purchase your tree from the Friends of Hammonasset Tree Sale. All proceeds go directly back to the park and Nature Center.

Deanna Becker
President

Find us on Facebook, Twitter and Friends of Hammonasset Web site



www.hammonasset.org

Grant Writer Needed: Are you passionate about preserving and protecting Hammonasset Beach State Park and educating the public about our shared natural resources? Do you have grant writing experience and/or technical writing skills or a desire to learn? If so, then Friends of Hammonasset is looking for you! FOH seeks volunteer grant writers who can assist in researching potential funding sources, initiating new grant applications, applying for recurring grants and maintaining grant awards. If you have time and talent to offer, please contact Gay Butler at (203) 453.2943.

P.O. Box 271 Madison CT 06443

www.hammonasset.org

info@hammonasset.org

affiliated with Friends of Connecticut State Parks

Officers

President Deanna Becker
 Vice President Marcy Klattenberg
 Treasurer Jean Russman
 Secretary Maureen Egan

Committees

Environmental Education Alison Guinness
 Gardens Michelle Kiley
 Grants Vacant
 Hospitality Caryl Anderson
 Membership Landa Freeman
 Nature Center Development Don Rankin
 Newsletter Editors D. & J. Rathbun
 Media Communications Contact Anita Bennett
 Publicity Matt Lubanko
 Volunteers Gay Butler
 Website Michael Greene
 Photography..... Shannon Schiesser
 Trails S. Sperling & P. Goldberg
 Facebook Michelle Kiley

Hammonasset Beach State Park (203) 245-2785
 Park Supervisor Henry Alves

Friends of Connecticut State Parks

President Eileen Grant

On the Shoreline is published by Friends of Hammonasset Inc.

Printing by Two Ems Inc. (203) 245-8211 Madison CT

Hammonasset Festival Recap

By Dale Carson

Our Fourth bi-annual Hammonasset Festival has been called “the best ever” by everyone I have talked with, yeah! I agree, everything seemed to run like clockwork thanks to the amazing teamwork of Friends of Hammonasset volunteers. We could not have done it without you.

After the festival I sent out thank you e-mails to many of the participants and requested their input and comments. After all, that’s how we make it better. Most replied that they had a great time. They loved the setup of tents, the abundance of food vendors, the way the demonstration tent was situated and the variety of things to see and do. The parking lot was a tad soggy here and there but never reached “problem” stage. The weather seems to be our only nemesis although every time we do prevail.

Aside from thanking our super volunteers, we really must not forget the diligent preparatory work done by the maintenance crew of the park. They mowed the field close to the ground, fixed high water areas with small ditches, sprayed for our sanity during mosquito season and performed a dozen more tasks, too numerous to mention.

One thing we noticed from the public, and from participants as well, was frequent thank you’s for the experience and the educational focus. That’s the whole idea; and mixed with fun and food, it seems to make for a win-win event.



M. Pratt

Dale - Supervising the 2011 Hammonasset Festival

Nature Note: CT Mammals in Winter

By Marcy Klattenberg



The winter solstice is almost upon us and occurs on 22 December at 0530 hours. We won’t really notice the difference in day length until the end of the second week in January.

CT’s mammals will have assumed their winter survival strategies by this time. Just where they go and what do they do is an often asked question.

Actually the vast majority of our mammals are active all year long – including the cold winter months. Some are active most of the time and only go into a period of torpor for short duration. These animals, the white-footed mice, raccoons, opossums and skunks, seek shelter and lower their body temperatures, reducing their metabolic rates and enter a deep sleep during the coldest nights and days – usually for just a few hours to not more than a few days at a time. Others, including chipmunks, sleep deeply in their burrows underground but awaken periodically and eat from their food storage chambers, move around a little (remaining underground) and then go back to sleep. The black bears will have found their winter shelters comprised of a brush pile, cave or downed tree and enter into a deep sleep with lowered body temperature and metabolic rate. They do not eat, drink, urinate or defecate during their long slumber, and the females actually give birth and nurse their young while sleeping deeply. However, they may awaken quickly – so they should not be approached if found during winter.

CT has few true winter hibernators: bats (little and big brown, eastern pipistrelle and northern bats), jumping mice (both meadow and woodland) and woodchucks. These animals transition slowly into true hibernation by decreasing their heart rates and breathing – only then does the metabolic rate also decrease. In hibernation their heart beats are drastically reduced sometimes not beating for over one minute. Breathing may occur erratically – only one or two breaths/hour. They may experience periods of increased heart rate and breathing before dropping back deeply again until the warming temperatures of spring allow them to emerge from winter hibernacula for good. May we all experience a gentler winter than we had last year and an early spring!

The "Flagship" Report

By Henry Alves, Park Supervisor



I'd like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the staff at Hammonasset Beach State Park. It didn't take very long to realize how dedicated they are about their facility.

I began my career, as most of us do, as a seasonal employee. In 1988 I was a Seasonal Patrolman here at Hammonasset. In 1991 I became a full time maintainer for what was then the D.E.P.

My first Park Supervisor position was at Devil's Hopyard State Park. After a few seasons there, Devil's Hopyard and Gillette Castle were merged due to retirements. I spent the next five years managing those units.

Again because of retirements, People's State Forest became available, and I transferred there hoping to gain more experience from a management unit that was so very different from anything I had experienced to date. The next four years were very rewarding, but in my heart I knew there was still a void.

My passion for Hammonasset was always burning in the back of my mind. When the DEEP reorganized its management units again, I felt that this was an opportunity that could not be passed up.

I can't begin to tell you how personal Hammonasset is to me. Roger Kinderman was a very dear friend, and a day doesn't go by that I don't think of him.

I met my wife here some twenty years ago, and we both have such fond memories of this park.

The challenges that face us are at times daunting, but with the staff that we have and the support of the Friends of Hammonasset, there is nothing that can't be overcome.

I have never been more excited about the future and all the possibilities we have before us.

I look forward to meeting all of you.

Thanks,
Henry

Corn Pudding

By Dale Carson



I made a dish for the Thanksgiving feast that I hadn't made in years, and it was totally scooped up and won the prize for no leftovers. Easy and delicious.

Ingredients

- 2 eggs
- 1/4 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon fresh ground black pepper
- 2 cups creamed corn
- 2 tablespoons melted butter
- 1 14-1/2 ounce can evaporated milk

Preheat oven to 300 degrees. In a medium bowl, beat eggs and slowly beat in the flour, salt and pepper. Add the corn, butter and milk. Blend well and pour into a 1-1/2 quart casserole baking dish. Put the baking dish in a larger baking pan with about 1-inch of water in the outer pan.

Bake for 75 minutes (to 2-hours) until a knife inserted comes out clean.

Serve hot as a side dish.



***The FOH Board
joins in sending
best wishes to our
members and their
families as we ap-
proach the upcom-
ing holiday season***

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Friday, December 16, 2011 -- Campfire Stories. 6:00 p.m. Join us for native stories, fables and marshmallows at the Meigs Point Nature Center. Bring a blanket and marshmallow stick.

Saturday, January 21, 2012 -- Seal Search. 1:00 p.m. Meet at the Meigs Point Nature Center and search for seals and waterfowl. Learn about these creatures of Long Island Sound.

Saturdays in February 2012 -- Bauer Series. Programs start at 10:00 a.m. at St. Andrew's Church, 232 Durham Rd. (Rte 79), Madison, CT except for Guided Hike February 25th at Hammonasset Beach State Park which meets at the Meigs Point Nature Center at 10:00 a.m. Free, public invited, appropriate for all ages, refreshments provided. For information call 203-245-9192.

- ◆ **February 4th – Live bird presentation by “A Place Called Hope”**
Presented by Christine Cummings-Secki and Todd Secki.
- ◆ **February 11th – Live Amphibian Show**
Presented by Ranger Russ Miller, Director, Meigs Point Nature Center.
- ◆ **February 18 – Exotic & Tropical Creatures**
Presented by Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo.
- ◆ **February 25 – Guided Geology and Native American Land Use Hike. Note: Meet at Meigs Point Nature Center at 10:00 a.m.**
Led by Gary Nolf, World Atlatl Association, and Don Rankin, Docent , MP Nature Center.
An Archaeology Road Show will be in the Nature Center until 2:00 p.m. Bring artifacts for ID.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ The Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has chosen to honor the Friends of Hammonasset with the Green Circle Award for environmental efforts including removal of invasive plants and beach clean-up.
- ◆ The Friends of Hammonasset would like to thank and acknowledge the Murphy Moving and Storage Company for again providing a large moving van and their labor in transporting almost 600 fresh cut trees from the Hartikka Tree Farm in Voluntown, Ct to the FOH Tree Sale area on Rte. 1, Madison. The truck was unloaded in about one hour! Thanks for a great job.
- ◆ To sign up for the Electronic Newsletter, send an email to info@hammonasset.org with “FOH E-Newsletter” (without quotes) in the subject field. In the email, provide your name and address as it's shown on the mailing label of your hard copy newsletter.

Meigs Point Nature Center Wish List

By Russ Miller, Nature Center Director



Ranger Russ and the FOH Board thank you very much for your past and future contributions which serve to enhance the environmental education provided by the Nature Center Programs. The Nature Center currently has a need for:

Craft Supplies	Quality Lumber	Boating Supplies	Office Supplies
Small Refrigerator	Hand Tools	Gardening Supplies	Candle Wax & Old Candles
Air Conditioner & Fans	Printer Paper	Paint (indoor, outdoor & craft)	Microscopes
Magnifying Glasses	Binoculars & Scopes	Nature Books	Field Guides
Nets—Butterfly or Fish	Animal Mounts	Mounted Fish	20 Gal. or Larger Aquariums
Garbage & Freezer Bags	Cleaning Supplies	Pet Bedding (wood shavings)	Ceramic Heat Bulbs (75 Watts)
Fishing Supplies (poles, nets, traps)	Heated Water Bowls—Large	Sand Box Play Sand	Freeze Dried Meal Worms
Astro Turf	Bark Chips	Rope	Office Chairs
Pressure Treated 2x4's, 4x4's, 2x6's	Pressure Treated Plywood	Bead Board (wainscoting)	Plastic Greenhouse Roofing
Wall Sheets	Corrugated Roofing (blue sheets)	Merrick's Puppy Plate Dry Dog Food	Tarps
Unsweetened Apple Sauce	Frozen Vegetables (Corvid Food)	Plastic Wrap & Aluminum Foil	Heat or Drop Lamps
Light Bulbs	Bird Seed & Suet	Native Non Releasable Animals	Pet Food
Sheets & Towels	Kitchen Cabinets & Counters	Shelves	Carpet & Door Mats

Meigs Point Nature Center

The Meigs Point Nature Center offers programs and activities for park visitors on a year round basis. The Center hours are 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday – Sunday, from April through October, and 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. November through March. To visit the Nature Center, bear to the left at the park access road rotary, go halfway around the rotary and follow the signs toward Meigs Point. The Nature Center is on the left across from the Meigs Point bathhouse. Parking is available near the building. Nature Center staff can be contacted at (203) 245-8743. Please note that the staff often spend time working outside of the office. Therefore, if staff is not available, please leave a message and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Friends of Hammonasset

12th Annual Christmas Tree Sale

On November 25th the Friends of Hammonasset began conducting its 12th Annual Christmas Tree Sale on Route 1 in Madison just east of the Hammonasset Beach State Park entrance. The sale runs daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and continues to December 19th or until all trees are sold. Fresh cut Connecticut grown Fraser, Canaan, balsam and concolor firs as well as Colorado Spruce are available for purchase at prices from \$35 to \$55. In addition some extra tall trees at slightly higher prices as well as roping (25 yards) and wreaths beginning at \$10 are being offered.

Proceeds are used to support activities at Meigs Point Nature Center and other park projects.

The Friends of Hammonasset is a non-profit, 501©3, organization whose function is to provide environmental education, preserve natural resources and to be an advocate for Hammonasset Beach State Park. Membership and general information can be obtained through our website at www.hammonasset.org.

Information regarding the Christmas Tree Sale can be obtained by calling 203 245 9192.



D. Rathbun



S. Schiesser



S. Schiesser



S. Schiesser

Don Rankin and his legion of volunteers and customers at the 2011 Christmas Tree Sale

Friends of Hammonasset, Inc.
P.O. Box 271, Madison, CT 06443

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 12
Madison, CT

Friends of Hammonasset Membership Form		Renewal <input type="checkbox"/>	New Member <input type="checkbox"/>
Name: _____	Address: _____		
City: _____	State: _____ Zip: _____		
Phone: (____) _____	Email: _____		
Member Levels		<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if you want to receive FOH newsletters via email	
<input type="checkbox"/> Student \$15.00		Please indicate volunteer interests:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Friend/Family \$20.00		<input type="checkbox"/> Nature Center	<input type="checkbox"/> Beach/Trail Maintenance
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporter \$50.00		<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising	<input type="checkbox"/> Website
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor: \$100.00		<input type="checkbox"/> Photography	<input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/Legislative
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate \$500.00		<input type="checkbox"/> Events	<input type="checkbox"/> Publicity
<input type="checkbox"/> My employer will match my donation		<input type="checkbox"/> Plant/Tree Sales	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

(Employer Name)			
Additional Donation			
<input type="checkbox"/> _____ \$____.00			
Total Enclosed	\$____.00		
Please mail checks to: Friends of Hammonasset, Inc. P.O. Box 271, Madison, CT 06443		Your gift is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Thank you for your help!	