



*The Green Oasis*

The Green Oasis  
 Liberty State Park  
 200 Morris Pessin Drive  
 Jersey City, NJ 07305

# The Green Oasis

Fall 2007 The Official Newsletter of Liberty State Park

Photo: Gina Provenzano



Great Egrets are frequent summer visitors to Liberty State Park. This discarded tire offers an advantage as this individual stalks small aquatic vertebrates and invertebrates.

The Official Newsletter of Liberty State Park



**New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection**  
**Division of Parks & Forestry**  
**State Park Service**



**Jon S. Corzine, Governor**  
**Lisa P. Jackson, Commissioner**

The Green Oasis is published by Liberty State Park. We encourage and welcome your comments and suggestions. If you have any ideas for articles for upcoming issues, please contact us at (201)915-3409.

Editor: Lori Garth

Contributors: Katherine Craig, Gina Provenzano, Pat Hilliard and Maria DeWakefield.

Cover Photo: Gina Provenzano-Painted lady feeding on zinnia in new park butterfly garden.

Fall 2007

## Eagle Scout Project Creates New Butterfly Garden



*New butterfly garden lines the entrance to the Interpretive Center*

If you have been to the Interpretive Center lately you may have noticed our two new butterfly gardens. They were planted as part of an Eagle Scout project completed by Christopher Martin of Bayonne.

Chris contacted the park in September of 2006 to inquire about the possibility of doing an Eagle Scout project. After meeting with the interpretive staff, it was decided to transform two grassy lawn areas into a haven for butterflies and caterpillars.

Chris then spent time researching the types of butterflies native to this area and the types of host and nectar plants they rely upon. Work was set to begin in the spring.

Bright and early on Saturday April 28, 2007 the scouts arrived, led by Chris and his family. As a requirement for the Eagle Scout badge, Chris had to organize and lead the project while directing his fellow scouts. The team spent the morning turning the soil and digging out all of the grass. Then compost and topsoil were mixed in to prepare the site.

Chris worked with the Interpretive staff on plant selection and design layout. A variety of nectar-producing plants such as columbine and

salvia were selected to serve as food for adult butterflies and host species such as dill and parsley were selected to provide food for the caterpillar stage. Milkweed, which serves as a host species for monarch butterflies, was also planted. The scouts had barely completed the planting and in moved the wildlife. A variety of butterflies have been observed including, red admiral, painted lady, cabbage white, black swallowtail and monarch. Black swallowtail caterpillars have been seen feeding on the dill and parsley and monarchs have been observed laying eggs on the milkweed.

The Interpretive Center has incorporated this new wildlife area into its environmental education programs. Thanks to Chris and the participants of Boy Scout Troop 19, Hudson Liberty District, for their tremendous effort.



*Life Scout, Chris Martin (4th from left), Troop 19, volunteers and park interpretive staff*



*Dill serves as a host species for the black swallowtail caterpillars*



# The Green Oasis

The Official Newsletter of Liberty State Park

## Brant Visit Liberty State Park

by Pat Hilliard

Brant is the name given to a type of sea goose found along the Atlantic coast from Massachusetts to Delaware and across the Atlantic to Ireland and England. (There it is known as the Brent Goose.) Liberty State Park is one of the best places to see Brant in autumn and winter.

Many people confuse Brant with the Canada Goose. The differences are easy to see: Brant are smaller and have black heads with a small white swoosh on their neck. Canada Goose are large and have a big white cheek patch. In the sky, Brant fly in a long line, while the Canada Goose fly in a "V" formation. The call of Brant is a rolling "crrr-oonkkk" sound while the Canada Goose is a honking sound.

Brant are categorized as dabblers because they prefer to eat seaweed and algae which they dabble from the bottom of shallow water and from rocks on the shoreline. Brant also prefer to eat eel grass that grows along the New Jersey shore. But eel grass has been replaced by invasive grasses that Brant do not eat. So Brant and Canada Goose adapted to eating grains from farmers' fields. With the reduction of grain farming in the eastern U.S., the Canada Goose and Brant are turning to

parcs and corporate lawns for feeding. This demonstrates how human behavior affects wildlife.

Brant display the typical behavior of flocking creatures. An individual will panic if separated from the rest of the flock. While the majority of Brant in the flock are grazing, a few heads are always up in the air watching and ready to warn the others of danger. Common predators are fox and coyotes, but the population of Brant is considered stable.

Brant usually arrive in New Jersey in November and depart by the end of April. In spring, they fly to the Canadian tundra where they make their nests on the grassy sedge islands. They lay three to five eggs and raise their young throughout the summer. They then migrate back to New Jersey. Watch for Brant this winter at Liberty State Park on the lawns near the CRRNJ Terminal.



Brant



Canada Goose

# Project Learning Tree Workshop

At Liberty State Park Interpretive Center

Co-sponsored by ANJEE: Alliance for NJ Environmental Education

Project Learning Tree is a nationally recognized environmental education supplement that provides educators with tools for increasing student environmental awareness. Whether you are a formal educator, 4-H leader, Scout master, or home school instructor, Project Learning Tree activities will engage your students in interdisciplinary, hands-on experiences that develop skills in problem solving, critical thinking, evaluation, and research. While attending a PLT workshop educators participate in interactive activities, both indoors and out; expand their knowledge of trees and forest ecology; enhance their teaching skills; share ideas with colleagues and resource professionals; and receive the PLT K-8 guide, filled with over 100 lessons! You will also receive 6 Professional Development Hours!

**PLT has been correlated to the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards.**

December 5, 2007

8:30am - 3:00pm

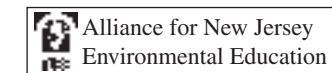
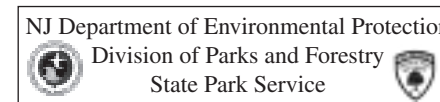
Fee: \$6.00 (ANJEE Members save 50%)

Registration Required

**To register:** Complete the form below and mail to: Liberty State Park, Interpretive Center, 200 Morris Pesin Dr., Jersey City, NJ 07305  
**Questions?? Contact Gina at the Interpretive Center (201) 915-3409, lspic@verizon.net**

**Directions:** Take exit 14B of the NJ Turnpike and follow signs for LSP Interpretive Center

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 School: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Grade /Subject You Teach: \_\_\_\_\_  
 I have enclosed a check for \$6.00 payable to ANJEE.  
 I am an ANJEE member and save 50%. ( \$3.00 check payable to ANJEE enclosed)



## SAVE THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW !!

### LIBERTY STATE PARK'S INTERPRETIVE CENTER PUBLIC PROGRAMS



#### OYSTER GARDENING

October 13, 2007 10am - Noon

**FREE, Pre-Registration Required**

Help bring back oysters to the Harbor and make a difference in the Hudson Estuary! Come learn why this bivalve is such an important species and get your hands wet with our oyster restoration project.



#### FALL BIRD WALK

November 3, 2007 10:00am - 12:00pm

**FREE, Pre-Registration Required**

Fall is the time when the birds start moving. Come along for a stroll in the park to see which birds are staying for the winter and which ones are headed south. Dress to be outside, bring binoculars if you have them, we have a limited number that can be borrowed.



#### WINTER WATERFOWL WALK

November 17 & December 1, 2007

January 12 & February 9, 2008 10:00am - 12:00pm

**FREE, Pre-Registration Required**

Join us for a leisurely stroll along Liberty Walkway in search of winter visitors to the park. Possible species sightings may include ruddy ducks, mergansers, grebes, buffleheads and many more. Dress to be outside, bring binoculars if you have them, we have a limited number that can be borrowed.



#### NATURE DISCOVERY DAY

February 2, 2008 10:00am - 12:00pm

**FREE, Pre-Registration Required**

Which tree did that leaf come from? What animal left that track behind? Which bird is that in your backyard? Our hands-on activity stations will allow you to answer these questions and more, at our nature discovery day.



#### BATS, BATS, BATS

October 20, 2007 11am - Noon

**FREE, Pre-Registration Required**

New Jersey's own Batman, Joseph D'Angeli will clear up some common myths about bats by sharing with us all the benefits these often-misunderstood animals provide. He will bring live bats to give us an up-close look at these very important creatures. **Co-sponsored by the Friends of Liberty State Park.**

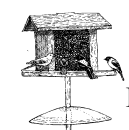


#### NEW JERSEY HISTORY PROGRAM

November 10, 2007 1:00pm

**FREE**

Join us for a discussion focusing on New Jersey's rich heritage. For more information about the topic check the Friends of Liberty State Park web site at [www.folsp.org](http://www.folsp.org). **Co-sponsored by the Friends of Liberty State Park. Spaces are limited, please call ahead to register (201) 792-3767.**



#### FOR THE BIRDS!

December 8, 2007 10:00am - 12:00pm

**FREE, Pre-Registration Required**

Come to the Interpretive Center and make some tasty treats that you will take home and put outside to help our feathered friends make it through the cold days of winter. **Co-sponsored by the Friends of Liberty State Park.**

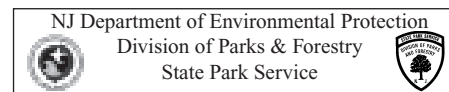


#### PAPERMAKING

March 8, 2008 10:00am - 12:00pm

**FREE, Pre-Registration Required**

Liberty State Park staff will lead you in a hands-on workshop creating your own paper from used paper and natural materials.



**Spaces are limited! Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Groups of 8 or more call for special arrangements. PLEASE PRINT & INCLUDE COMPLETE ADDRESS**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF ATTENDEES: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date & Title of Program(s): \_\_\_\_\_

## The Green Oasis

### PARK VOLUNTEER RECEIVES 2007 GOVERNOR'S VOLUNTEER AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENT

Last Spring, Liberty State Park volunteer, Agnes De Bethune was honored with the 2007 Governor's Volunteer Award for the Environment. Agnes worked tirelessly along with other volunteers to support and expand Liberty State Park's gardening program.

From pruning in the middle of winter to planting shrubs and flowers in the spring, Agnes used her creativity, energy and skills to help beautify Liberty's gardens and create wildlife habitat. She worked in conjunction with the Master Gardeners Program to research, design and construct a new plot

using native plant species. She also used her skills as a designer to create posters, brochures and publicity materials to educate Hudson County residents about the value of this natural resource and encourage stewardship.

Liberty State Park would not be what it is today without the commitment and dedication of volunteers like Agnes. We commend her efforts and congratulate her on her achievement.



Agnes's Master Garden Plot hosts native plant species

### NATIONAL ESTUARIES DAY COME CELEBRATE NATIONAL ESTUARIES DAY AT LIBERTY STATE PARK CAVEN POINT BEACH CLEAN-UP SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2007 9AM-NOON

Estuaries are dynamic ecosystems where the river meets the sea. Come explore this unique resource and do something positive for the environment. Volunteers will meet at Liberty State Park Interpretive Center at 9AM. You will need to have a vehicle to travel to clean-up site. Carpooling is encouraged as parking is limited.

Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear and bring water, hat and sunscreen. Gloves will be provided. You may want to bring snacks. Your efforts will help us to revitalize and increase local wildlife habitat. To register or for more information, please contact the Interpretive Center at (201) 915-3409.



**GOING BACK IN TIME**

During the weekend of October 22-23, 2007, the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs will again sponsor the "Four Centuries in a Weekend" Heritage Festival. For those two days, all 23 historic house museums in Union County will be open for visitation.

Many of the sites have limited year round hours, but once a year all open together. Visitors can explore a sixteenth century doctor's farmstead, an early twentieth century mansion modeled on the White House, and homes of various economic levels built between those times. Some sites offer special events or special exhibits for this weekend.

Boxwood Hall State Historic Site, 1073 E. Jersey St., Elizabeth is a satellite site of Liberty State Park and a regular participant in "Four Centuries". This year, the featured exhibit will focus on General Winfield Scott, a former Elizabeth resident, and his Aide, William DeHart, who once owned Boxwood Hall. As a special addition to the exhibit, students from the Winfield Scott School (Elizabeth PS #2) are contributing projects about Winfield Scott and their school.

For further information or to be put on a mailing list for the "Four Centuries" brochure, telephone the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs at 908-558-2550.



Photo: Bette Huligan

Boxwood Hall State Historic Site in Elizabeth

Would you rather receive the Green Oasis by e-mail?  
 Just send us your e-mail address to [lspic@verizon.net](mailto:lspic@verizon.net) and put "Green Oasis" in the subject line. You will receive the next edition electronically.  
 As always, if you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please send us an email to the above address with "Remove From Mailing List" in the subject line or call us at (201) 915-3409.  
 Please include your name and address.

**OYSTER GARDENING AT LIBERTY STATE PARK**

October 13, 2007 10am - Noon  
 FREE, Pre-Registration Required

*Help bring back oysters to the Harbor and make a difference in the Hudson Estuary! Come learn why this bivalve is such an important species and get your hands wet with our oyster restoration project.*

Spaces are limited! Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Groups of 8 or more call for special arrangements.



**NY/NJ Baykeeper Oyster Gardening Program**

When Henry Hudson first explored our region in 1609, oyster reefs covered 350 square miles of Estuary, from Sandy Hook north to Ossining on the Hudson, to Raritan Bay, the Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers, the Arthur Kill and Newark Bay. Up until 1900, these tasty bivalves also supported an extensive commercial fishery that kept much of the New York and New Jersey metro area populace fed with oysters. Unfortunately, the oyster population fell dramatically after 1900, due to overharvesting, pollution, disease, and siltation.

Oysters are vital to the ecological wellbeing of our Estuary. That's

why NY/NJ Baykeeper has been working to restore oyster beds in the Hudson-Raritan Estuary since 1997. As the thousands of oysters placed by Baykeeper on newly created beds begin to naturally reproduce, it is hoped that the Hudson-Raritan Estuary will see this keystone species fully restored, allowing Estuary health to dramatically improve. Our volunteer-driven oyster gardening program, combined with an Aquaculture Program has resulted in the restoration of hundreds-of-thousands of oysters to the Estuary ecosystem – allowing this keystone species to begin playing its natural role in cleansing our waterways.

**Benefits of Restoring Oyster Reefs:**

- Oysters purify the Estuary as they filter water to get their food. An adult oyster can filter up to 50 gallons of water per day.
- Hundreds of animals use oyster reefs as their homes including fish, grass shrimp, anemones, and crabs.

For more information on oyster gardening and how you can participate, please contact the NY/NJ Baykeeper at (732) 888-9870 or by email at [meredithoysters@nynjbaykeeper.org](mailto:meredithoysters@nynjbaykeeper.org) or visit their website at [www.nynjbaykeeper.org](http://www.nynjbaykeeper.org).