



Out of the Gateway

The official internal newsletter of Gateway NRA

Volume II, Number 2

September 2012

Overnight camping begins at Sandy Hook & Fort Wadsworth

By Allison Luchnick, Kathy Garofalo and John Warren

For years, visitors have been asking if the park allowed public camping. As of last month, the answer is finally yes—not only at Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn but also at two new campsites, Sandy Hook's Horseshoe Cove and at Camp Hudson (formerly Seabee Park) in Fort Wadsworth. Both of the new campgrounds will be open through next month.

At Sandy Hook, camping is off to an amazing start. The campground regularly books six out of the eight sites, which are available Monday through Thursday. Next season the campground at Sandy Hook will expand to 20 sites. Walk-in visitors will probably not be able to book a campsite.

Campers are drawn to Sandy Hook by the recreational experiences offered at the park. Some campers arrived by kayak, coming from as far away as New York City. Others arrived by car, bringing their kayaks with them, or by ferry. This season campers took advantage of evening concerts, the multi-use pathway, swimming, birding.

Since Fort Wadsworth's Camp Hudson opened on July 6, approximately half of the campsites have been occupied during the week. Weekends were completely booked, as was the entire



Seasonal employee Jason Stapleton helps camper Terri pack up her tent at Fort Wadsworth's Camp Hudson. NPS PHOTO by Kathy Garofalo.

month of August. Like campers at Sandy Hook, Staten Island campers could kayak by driving or taking the bus to Great Kills Park, where GATE offered kayaking sessions this summer.

Although more than half the visitors to Camp Hudson are local, the small site has attracted visitors from all corners of the globe, thanks in part to Reserve America, a free iPhone application, and to Frommer's travel guide, *NYC Free & Dirt Cheap*.

Terri, a camper from Brighton, England, decided to stay with us for two weeks. She has been coming to New York City since 1985 to watch the U.S. Open Tournament. After spending a lot of money staying in hotels and YWCAs, she wanted a better experience and found it here. Terri "loved the goats, the sound of the sea and looking at the moon, which was almost bright enough to read by."

Both new campsites are for tent-camping only. Each site includes a picnic table, grill and fire ring. Water, toilets and sinks are provided. Camp Hudson provides cold water showers. Reservations can be made for one night up to a maximum of two weeks by visiting www.recreation.gov.



Two **tornadoes** touched down in GATE's Jamaica Bay Unit Sept. 8. This photo was taken by Park Ranger George Tonkin from the Ryan Visitor Center at Floyd Bennett Field. See *News in Brief*, page 2.



The Superintendent Speaks

by Linda Canzanelli

Our past and our future

Next month, GATE begins a yearlong celebration of 40 fabulous years as a national park. We are still a great experiment as America's first urban national park.

Because so many changes take place a little bit at a time, we often forget just how much Gateway has changed for the better. Cleaning up Jamaica Bay took decades of work by dedicated employees. Historic areas, such as Fort Hancock in Sandy Hook, are finally getting the attention they deserve. Camping and kayaking attract new generations of visitors to GATE.

As we move into the next 40 years we will face many new challenges and the way we tackle these issues will help set our course for many birthdays to come. Some choices will be tough. We need to be creative on how we get things done. We need to forge new partnerships and strengthen old ones.

Everyone needs to be part of the solution. How can wise choices help slash utility bills--even mothballing some buildings? Do we really need all of those cars in the parking lot? Talk to each other and to your supervisors about ways the park can save money and still fulfill its mission.

While we celebrate GATE's first 40 years, let's make a promise: the park's best days are still ahead. In the next 40 years, let's use our creativity to make GATE a better park than it is today. Our predecessors left us big Rocky Walkers to fill, but we are up to the challenge. ♡

WELCOME

Hanem Abouelezz, natural resources, HQ
Amber Hagan, pro-ranger (LE), SHU
John Mahoney, maintenance worker, SIU
Al & Janie Mayton (see story above)
Cathleen Mulholland (formerly DeFilipis),
 property office, HQ **Welcome back!**
Dustin Parker, LE ranger, SHU

FAREWELL

Marge DePalma, park ranger, JBU
Steve Khrone, dispatcher, SHU
Richard Neal, dispatcher, SHU

Al & Janie Mayton's great adventure

by PA Assistant Rance Robeson

GATE welcomes its newest team members, Al and Janie Mayton. Al is the newly appointed asset program manager. His wife Janie serves as the housing management assistant. They are originally from Texas and both have seventeen years of park service experience. Their prior duty stations were Big Bend National Park (BIBE) in Texas and San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park (SAFR). Their dual careers have allowed them to travel to different parks and communities and contribute to them in positive ways. Al and Janie have now made their last career stop in New York City.

Janie said, "Al and I both look at our careers with the National Park Service as one big adventure!"

Janie's NPS career has been quite the journey, not simply because she and Al have moved around a bit, but also because of the positions she has held. While at SAFR Janie served as the Facility Security Specialist. At BIBE she worked as the park entrance fee manager and park ranger in interpretation. What led them to the Northeast was their spirit of exploration. Neither of them has ever lived on the east coast; the first time Al and Janie ever visited New York City was during Al's job interview this May.

Although they are now proud New Yorkers, their family, who still live out west, are very important to them. They have a son (a pastor), a daughter-in-law, and three grandchildren in Colorado.



Janie & Al Mayton. NPS PHOTO by Rance Robeson.

"Our son is always telling people he's proud of us, and that he's jealous Al and I have more adventures than he does," said Janie.

Aside from the couple's drive to see a new part of the country, Al confessed, "I came to New York for the challenge." He served in the U.S. Army and is a Vietnam veteran. Afterwards, he was a police officer for twenty years. Still, working with GATE provides a new set of challenges for Al to overcome. Now, as asset program manager for all GATE divisions and the HAPA Work Control Center, Al has already formulated his goals to improve the parks. His major goal is to enhance productivity and safety for everyone who utilizes the park and everyone who works at GATE. "We need to respect and take care of our co-workers," Al asserted. "Safety is our most important task."

Together Al and Janie are excellent examples of what a dual-career couple at the park service can experience. They show us that you can also take your career on the road, and journey through the United States one park at a time. ♡

Share your photos of "40 Fabulous Years"



Joanie Crane with local celebrity Carib at Fort Tilden. Yes, that's a parrot on her head. Why do you ask? PHOTO courtesy of Joanie Crane.

GATE's 40th Anniversary Committee seeks your memories and photographs. Part of the yearlong celebration of America's first urban national park will include the creation of a photo book showing how far GATE has come in the last four decades. If you have photos or memories to share, please contact Charles Markis at 718-354-4530, #238, or email him at Charles_Markis@nps.gov.

26,000 Acres: GATE news in brief from all units

Tornado touches down at Breezy Point Surf Club

At approximately 11:30 A.M. on Saturday, September 8, a tornado touched down at the Breezy Point Surf Club. The storm knocked out three transformers and tore the roof off a few cabanas. A tornado was also spotted near Flatbush Avenue at Floyd Bennett Field. No injuries were reported.

--reported by Eugene Kuziw, others

Lifeguards rescue SHU swimmer

Two surf-lifeguards at Sandy Hook's Beach Area D rescued a swimmer on July 22. The swimmer had suddenly gone limp about 40 yards from shore. Lifeguards Ted Anderson and Brendon McGann brought the man to safety. He had taken on water but was still breathing and had a pulse. EMTs took him to Monmouth Medical Center, where he regained consciousness.

--reported by Tom McLaughlin

Lightning strikes Fort Hancock

On June 22, a small but powerful thunderstorm parked over the northern tip of Sandy Hook for over an hour. Law enforcement personnel had a few minutes warning to clear the beaches. While the southern entrance to the park was under clear skies, about a dozen buildings in Fort Hancock were hit by lightning. The chimney for Building 66E was destroyed. One fisherman in the Horseshoe Cove area received emergency medical care after being struck as well. The victim, a volunteer fireman, made a full recovery and stopped off in August to thank LE staff.

--reported by Tim Regan

Successful concert series at the Hook

This summer the Sandy Hook Foundation held free public concerts at Beach E each Wednesday. Now in its tenth year, the concert series draws up to 100,000 visitors, up from 35,000 five to ten years ago. The July 11 and 25 concerts each attracted about 10,000 visitors. The Foundation contracted the bands, sound system and concert manager. These concerts could not have been offered without the dedication of maintenance, law enforcement and management.

--reported by Jane Preziosi, Sandy Hook Foundation.



"Guardians of the Narrows." The ever-popular goats returned to Fort Wadsworth this summer, keeping Battery Duane and the Overlook clear of weeds. This year the park took in 37 goats, up from an average of 15 per summer. NPS PHOTO by Linda Canzanelli.

Radiation survey starts at Great Kills

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducted a radiological survey of closed areas in Great Kills Park August 27-29, specifically the fishing area along Great Kills Harbor. Once results are analyzed, the park will decide what to do next. Remaining areas will be surveyed as soon as a contractor is hired.

--reported by Kathleen Cuzzolino

Visitor up to his neck in birds, muck

On Independence Day, U.S. Park Police and interpreters at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge rescued a visitor who was stuck in mud up to his neck at the north end of East Pond. Like many birders, he had come to JBWR to glimpse a rare sighting of a ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*), a bird usually found in Eurasia and Africa. USPP Sergeant Michael Beck and Officers Jeffrey Jones and Jonathan Wolek spent three hours rescuing the man, along with Supervisory Park Ranger Maria Cole and Park Ranger John Tebbetts. The visitor returned later that week to retrieve his gear, thank park staff and leave a donation.

--reported by Colleen Sorbera

Road repaving to continue at SIU

Staten Island Unit will begin road repairs at Fort Wadsworth in either mid-fall or in the spring, depending upon scheduling issues. Repairs to New York

Avenue and Battery Road, as well as residential roads near the front entrance, will take approximately four weeks.

--reported by Brian Feeney



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Gateway National Recreation Area was created by Congress in 1972 for urban residents to enjoy a national park experience in the New York metropolitan area. Gateway spans 26,000 acres, across two states and three boroughs of New York City. Visitors can hike, bicycle, kayak and enjoy organized sports, marvel at historic forts and aircraft and reflect on the tranquility of nature.

Gateway National Recreation Area
210 New York Avenue
Staten Island, New York 10305

Follow "Gateway National Recreation Area" on Facebook and check out our daily updates on Twitter (GatewayNPS).

Web: <http://www.nps.gov/gate/index.htm>

Phone: 718-354-4606

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Riis lifeguards place first, second in USLA contest

by Water Safety Coordinator Carl Martinez

Jacob Riis Park lifeguards Thomas D. O'Neill and Patrick J. Kilgallen took first and second place in the surf race (open division) on Friday, August 10, at the United States Lifesaving Association (USLA) national championships in Cape May, N.J.

Kilgallen, 17, a life-long Rockaway resident, seeks to pursue engineering studies at the Binghamton campus of the State University of New York this fall. He graduated from Xavier High School, in Manhattan, this past June. O'Neill, 22, graduated in June from Ohio State University, where he majored in finance. This fall he begins work for Abercrombie & Fitch.

Serving as inspiring rôle model for both lifeguards is O'Neill's father. Thomas



Tom O'Neill, Jr., and Pat Kilgallen. NPS PHOTO.

O'Neill, Sr., is the assistant chief lifeguard at Jacob Riis Park. The elder O'Neill, age 60, finished fourth in the surf race (masters division).

The third member of the O'Neill family to place that day was brother Brian, 20, who placed third in the board-rescue race, a team event, along with his brother Tom, Jr.

The surf race involves a short run to the ocean, a 400-meter swim around a pair of buoys set offshore and a short sprint up the beach to the finish line. The swim distance exceeds that of four regulation-size football fields in open waters.

O'Neill and Kilgallen prepared for this event daily. They practiced their entries into the surf, sighted and rounded offshore buoys, and swam thousands of yards. As part of the Ohio State swim team, O'Neill regularly logged 80,000 yards of swimming practice per week. The training continues to pay off. USLA has invited O'Neill to join an elite 12-person team (six men, six women) which will compete internationally. ♥

Environmental, safety audit coming to GATE



Making GATE GREEN

by Environmental Protection Specialist Kathleen Cuzzolino

An environmental and safety audit will be conducted at GATE from Oct. 22 through Nov. 2. This will be the park's fourth environmental audit.

The NPS Environmental Audit Program provides an objective review of facilities operations and environmental management practices. Its goal is to assist parks in complying with environmental requirements and to help them to become more environmentally sustainable through education and awareness of employees' environmental management responsibilities. The criteria for the environmental audit includes regulations, executive orders, NPS policies and best management practices for a wide variety of environmental topics (e.g. hazardous and solid waste management, fuel storage, green procurement, energy efficiency).

In addition, the audit team will also conduct a safety evaluation onsite.

The criteria for the safety evaluation includes Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) general industry and construction safety standards, relevant state and/or local regulations (e.g., asbestos and lead, but not electrical or building codes), as well as applicable DOI manuals on safety.

The audit team will inspect most of our facilities, excluding housing and concessions. On the final day, they will conduct an out-brief presentation summarizing key findings. The following is the tentative schedule:

- Jamaica Bay Unit: Oct. 22-25. Starts with an in-brief presentation (broadcast to all units)
- Sandy Hook Unit: Oct. 26, 29-30
- Staten Island Unit: Oct. 31, Nov. 1-2. Ends with out-brief presentation (broadcast to all units)

Please take this time, in advance of the audit, to inspect your work spaces for environmental/safety issues, organize/update important environmental and safety records. Please report any questions to Kathleen Cuzzolino or Eugene Kuziw. ♥

UPCOMING STAFF DEVELOPMENT EVENT:

Tenement Museum, lower Manhattan, October 22 and 25. For reservations, email Steve_Salgo@nps.gov.



Park, Hindu community share beaches, dialogue



Hindu worshippers perform the *Ganga Puja* ritual at North Channel Beach in Jamaica Bay. PHOTO by Federica Corinto, Fondazione CRT.

by Park Ranger Colleen Sorbera

At 6:30 A.M. on a summer Sunday morning, Jamaica Bay beaches see few visitors besides gulls, terns, and sandpipers searching the waves for an early meal. On July 8, 2012, at Congressman Joseph P. Addabbo/ North Channel Bridge, part of Gateway National Recreation Area, the birds had company. About twenty Hindu men, women and children sat on blankets spread in the sand, as Hindu priests performed the ritual of Ganga Puja. The ritual involves making ceremonial offerings to Ganga Ma, a Hindu goddess associated with water.

The shores of Jamaica Bay have become settings for many similar rituals, not merely by Hindus but by other religions as well. However, this day was different. Hindu priests, known as *pandits*, invited National Park Service staff to attend. Since 2007 the National Park Service has been actively engaged with the local Indo-Caribbean Hindu community to address concerns surrounding the ritual use of the area.

Puja offerings consist of food, flowers, cloth and ceramic or resin statues, among other items. In the past, worshippers often left offerings in the water, which caused problems for humans and wildlife alike. Offerings of cloth can damage boat propellers and

smother new shoots of marsh grass in the spring. Marsh grasses are the basis of the salt marsh ecosystem, which acts as a nursery for many recreationally and commercially important fish, crabs and other marine life. The statues offered during the rituals can be a hindrance to barefoot beachgoers.

The policy of the NPS is to “Leave No Trace.” No items can be left on our shores, period. Although food and flowers are biodegradable, they attract rodents and contribute to the overloading of nitrogen in the bay. Nitrogen acts as a fertilizer and causes overgrowths of algae in a process

known as eutrophication. When the algal blooms decompose, oxygen is removed from the water, which can cause fish and other marine life to die.

This summer, park rangers were joined by intern Laura Seepaul, a college student at Stonybrook University who is herself Hindu of Indo-Caribbean descent. The internship was one of 14 positions that were granted as part of the Cultural Resource Diversity Intern Program (CRDIP) in the NPS Washington Support Office (WASO). The program requires a 50/50 investment between the park and WASO. The internship allowed Gateway to deepen the ongoing dialogue with the local Indo-Caribbean Hindu community while creating a young ambassador for park goals.

Seepaul connected directly with scientists working in Gateway to enhance her understanding of the ecology of Jamaica Bay. Then, along with park rangers, she visited local *mandirs* (Hindu temples) in the borough of Queens throughout the summer, speaking before community members, pandits and other leaders during their worship services. The team shared the message of “Leave No Trace” while inviting community members to visit the park and take advantage of its programs and facilities. Mandir leaders and participants responded warmly. Several pandits
(continued on page 7)

NY units: Meet your AFGE local representative

Electrician Robert Viscardi is the new union representative for the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) Local 3432, which covers employees in the Jamaica Bay and Staten Island Units. Viscardi works at Building 98 in Floyd Bennett Field but travels for union issues.

Any labor related issues can be brought to the union, including, pay discrepancies and health benefits. “I’m here to protect and preserve workers’ rights,” said Viscardi. “Any safety-related questions or complaints can come to me as well and they will remain confidential.” He can be reached by email at robert_viscardi@nps.gov and also at robviscardi@gmail.com.



AFGE Local 3432 Representative Robert Viscardi. NPS PHOTO by John Harlan Warren.

GATE to celebrate “40 Fabulous Years” all year long

by Park Ranger Charles Markis

On October 27, GATE will celebrate its 40th anniversary, marking the day legislation was signed into law creating the park. For a park this vast, one day of celebration is not enough. The park plans a year-long series of programs at all units.

We are celebrating GATE’s “40 Fabulous Years” with a bang at not one but two locations: Sandy Hook and Floyd Bennett Field. Sandy Hook will again host “Fort Hancock Days,” marking its 1895 establishment and its role in the defense of our nation.

World War II Harbor Defense Lantern Tour

Fort Hancock Museum, Sandy Hook

Friday, October 26, 6:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M.

Volunteer living historians from the Army Ground Forces Association (AGFA) will be uniformed as World War II era coast artillery soldiers and will take you for a walk that includes several seacoast gun batteries of Fort Hancock and ends at Battery Gunnison. Bring a flashlight!

Fort Hancock Day

Battery Gunnison/New Peck in World War II, Sandy Hook
Sunday, October 28, 12 P.M. - 4 P.M.

Volunteers from the Army Ground Forces Association in World War Two uniform bring Battery Gunnison/New Peck and its 6-inch guns to life. Participate in loading and pointing the guns, tracking ships and see how soldiers lived and worked at Fort Hancock in October 1943.

Fort Hancock History House, Sandy Hook

October 27 & 28, 1 P.M. - 5 P.M.

This 1898 lieutenant’s residence along “Officers Row” is furnished as it was at its peak years in the 1940s.



The Army Ground Forces Association brings Battery Gunnison’s guns back to life during Fort Hancock Days 2010. NPS PHOTO by Dan Meharg.

MillionTreesNYC Helps 7,000 Trees Grown in Brooklyn

“Back 40” near Return-a-Gift Pond

Saturday, October 27, 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.

NYC Parks and Recreation and will plant trees and shrubs at Floyd Bennett Field as part of the MillionTreesNYC initiative. In addition to 7,000 trees, volunteers will also plant 12,000 native species shrubs to help re-green Floyd Bennett Field.

Anniversary Campfire, Floyd Bennett Field

Wiley Post Campground

Saturday, October 27, 6 P.M.

Sing songs, make s’mores and roast marshmallows. Hear how GATE was created and what its future might hold.

The celebrations continue in May 2013 at Floyd Bennett Field, with a marquee event focusing on aviation history. GATE plans to exhibit aircraft from the HARP operation and to host a flyover and landings of some historic aircraft. The yearlong celebration will conclude with a family-oriented public event at Great Kills Park on Staten Island in October 2013. ♥

Artifact of the season: GATE gains 14,000 acres



GATE’s first superintendent, Joe Antosca (second from left), watches as NYC Mayor John Lindsay and NPS Director Ronald Walker sign an agreement giving the park 14,000 acres of city property. ©Katrina Thomas/Courtesy NPS Historic Photograph Collection.

by Museum Curator Felice Ciccione

Unlike past “artifacts of the season,” this artifact does not belong to GATE, nor does it show an event taking place at a GATE site. While we do have a similar photograph in the museum collection, this one belongs to Harpers Ferry Center.

It was taken in 1974 and depicts New York City Mayor John Lindsay (left) and National Park Service Director Ronald Walker (right) signing the agreement that gave the NPS 14,000 acres of NYC property for the creation of Gateway NRA. The man in the bowtie (second from the left) is not in the park-owned photo of this event. He is Joe Antosca, our first superintendent. In honor of Gateway’s 40th birthday I felt it was important to use an image that included him.

Happy birthday, GATE! ♥

Hindu community *(continued from page 5)*

imparted to their congregations the insight that obeying governmental laws and regulations is obligatory according to Hindu scripture. They suggested alternatives to the placement of pujas, such as devotees taking them back and burying them in their yards. Pandit Vishal Maraj of the Hindu Learning Federation observed that the water within the soil was an extension of the



Park Ranger Colleen Sorbera (seated) and Outreach Intern Laura Seepaul meet Hindu pandits (priests) from the area. PHOTO by Mark Woods. Used by permission.

waters of Ganga Ma, as all waters on Earth are ultimately connected.

After attending the Ganga Puja on July 8, the outreach team appeared before the USA Pandits Council, an umbrella group representing many of the local mandirs. The team spoke about the message of stewardship and discussed further ways to address the issue. A number of pandits noted that they already urge their followers to remove ritual items from the beach after previous overtures from the NPS.

NPS staff and volunteers also promoted staff awareness of Hindu practices. Other religions also use the site for ceremonies; “Leave No Trace” must be applied equally to all visitors. A clean beach is not the sole responsibility of a single community.

The next scheduled public cleanup at the bridge will be International Coastal Cleanup Day on Saturday, September 15. Previous beach cleanups have had turnouts from the Hindu community of 100 volunteers or more.

Seepaul stated, “There is a lot of misunderstanding between NPS and the Hindu community. I am so grateful for the opportunity to act as an advocate for both parties to foster a mutual understanding, respect, and communication.” ♥

Seasonal museum technician takes off the gloves

by Seasonal Museum Technician Joan Ilacqua

When I tell people I’m a museum technician, I usually have to explain myself. The simplest explanation is that I get to work with the stuff behind the glass.

This summer I worked under Felice Ciccione, GATE’s museum curator, along with another museum technician. Sometimes I did museum inventory, helped with research requests or added new items to the collection. It’s a job that combines a love of history with a tactile approach to preserving the past.

My summer projects have involved various aspects of this large collection. By completing the yearly museum inventory, I begin to see how each piece of GATE’s collection fit into the whole of the park’s diverse history and current use. I catalogued over 300 plans and architectural drawings of Fort Tilden: WPA plans for building upgrades in the 1930s, harbor defense upgrades during World War II and Nike-Hercules missile silo plans during the Cold War. I also inventoried and housed thousands of historic photographs at the museum collection space on Sandy Hook.

Not to play favorites, but I prefer to work with three-dimensional artifacts. At GATE, that means military objects: uniforms,



Museum Technician Joan Ilacqua helps Museum Curator Felice Ciccione conserve a jacket worn in the 1940s by U.S. Merchant Marine telegraphers at Hoffman Island. NPS PHOTO by John Warren.

insignia, some very intimidating helmets and gas masks, ordnance, some antique guns and even a samurai sword. Of the objects I inventoried, I was most intrigued by a retirement plaque made from the fin of a Nike missile.

The GATE museum collection is an invaluable resource. It has been a pleasure discovering the history of this place through its cultural resources this summer. ♥

Volunteers-in-Park earn respect, recognition awards



**Volunteers
for America**
by Volunteer Coordinator
Keith White

Since my arrival in March 2012, I have been amazed at the commitment and dedication of GATE's volunteers. I set out to initiate a recognition program that conveys our gratitude for their efforts.

One way we can honor our volunteers is through the presentation of the President's Volunteer Service Award. To receive a President's Volunteer Service Award the volunteer must achieve a certain standard measured by the number of hours of service over a 12-month period or cumulative hours earned over the course of a lifetime. Additional eligibility requirements vary depending upon the age of the volunteer. The awards are broken down into four levels: bronze, silver, gold and lifetime. Several volunteers received awards this summer.

Name	Age Group	Hours	Award
Evan Berman	15 - 25	168	Bronze
Rebecca Lectura	26 - 49	133	Bronze
Joan Harmon	50 +	192	Bronze
Jonathan Sperling	15 - 25	107	Bronze
Kelvin Zheng	15 - 25	121	Bronze
Brian Kempf	15 - 25	191	Silver
Jeffery Stein	26 - 49	325	Silver
Cristina Reis	15 - 25	353	Gold

Volunteers that have served 250 or more hours can also receive an Interagency Volunteer Pass..This allows free entrance into national parks for 12 months.

Point of View

Maintenance is GATE's foundation

by Maintenance Mechanic Preston Baransky

When talking with GATE staff, I have heard the phrase "from maintenance up," as if maintenance is at the bottom. As a maintenance mechanic I, personally, find this to be an uninformed view. I'd like to give my take on it.

A building is built from the foundation up and cannot stand without it. So is GATE. It is taken for granted that you can come into work, open the door, turn on the lights in a nice warm or cool office and, eureka, the garbage can is empty. The rain is not dripping on your desk. The windows can be opened and

closed. The toilet works; so does the sink. The carpet is clean. These are everyday occurrences. For all of these, thank maintenance.

Now, allow me to inform you of some of the outstanding accomplishments that have been accomplished by the maintenance crew at JBU, just in this year alone. When a leaky culvert in Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge's East Pond caused nesting areas to flood, maintenance repaired it and replaced the original back flow regulator, restoring the pond to normal water levels. We had to invent and install a device halfway under the water line while standing in frigid water. The expertise and skill of JBU maintenance recently



Audrey Dent from the Floyd Bennett Field Garden Association poses by the flower beds she and other volunteers helped restore at the William Fitz Ryan Center. NPS PHOTO by George Tonkin.

By now you might be wondering how you--or your volunteers--can get your hands on this great stuff. The secret is that park volunteer coordinators must be diligent in recording and turning in the hours worked by park volunteers. Our volunteers deserve it. Those reports must be turned in to me *no later than close of business Friday, Oct. 5.*

Sound like fun? If you'd like to know more about volunteer awards, please email me at Keith_White@nps.gov or call me at 718-354-4657. ♥



The bronze President's Volunteer Service Award (left) is given to adults with 100 to 249 service hours, or 100-174 service hours for young adults or 50-74 hours for children ages 5-14. Silver, gold and lifetime levels are also shown. NPS PHOTO.



Anthony Ricardo spackles the GATE HQ lunchroom last year. NPS PHOTO.

took benches at Jacob Riis back to their original beauty. We are also coming up with ways to save park money through lower heating bills.

The next time you find yourself or the park in need, who you gonna call? Maintenance, that's who! ♥

All-employee picnic brings GATE staff together



Nearly 200 employees, volunteers and partners attended the All-Staff Picnic at Sandy Hook on August 8. After a brief meeting, GATE staff enjoyed games, picnic fare and bringing family and work friends together. *NPS PHOTOS by Suzanne McCarthy and John Warren.*



Scout barrels ahead with NJSGC irrigation project

by Kim Kosko, NJSGC

The Sandy Hook headquarters of New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium (NJSGC) is now home to a new rain barrel installation project, coordinated by Ethan Sackett of Boy Scout Troop 201 in Rumson, New Jersey. This project helped earn Sackett fulfill the service project requirement needed to gain an Eagle Scout award, the highest honor in scouting.

Sackett, whose mother is an educator at NJSGC, incorporated rain barrels into the landscaping at NJSGC's main office in Sandy Hook's Fort Hancock to provide a greener method of irrigating several newly planted native shrubs. Sackett took the lead on the project, obtaining three barrels as a donation from NJSGC and Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program.

Additional materials for the project were donated by Twin Industries of Monmouth County, which supplied all the landscaping materials, and Home and Land Development Inc., which donated landscape edging as well as tools and equipment needed for the project. Ethan also worked closely

with NJSGC's Water Resources Agent Amy Boyajian, who assisted him in the planning of the barrel installations.

The planning process began last September and reached fruition this spring when Sackett and a 40-person volunteer team of family, friends, scouts, and NJSGC staff installed the rain barrels and made a significant number of landscape and ground improvements to the exterior of Building #22 over the course of two weekends.

"Developing the project was a great experience," Sackett noted. "I learned what it's like to be a leader. The experience taught me how to be better organized and drastically improved my communication skills, as I had to relay messages to both the volunteers and members of the Consortium."

The rain barrels, which hold approximately 50 gallons, will harvest rainwater that will be used to maintain and nourish the organization's



Eagle Scout Ethan Sackett (right) with project volunteer and fellow Scout Chris Fuschetti of Rumson Boy Scout Troop 201. PHOTO: Jody Sackett, NJSGC.

landscaping which consists of native species shrubberies donated and planted by New Jersey Natural Gas in 2010.

Sackett will receive his Eagle Scout award this fall, which also marks the 100th anniversary of the first Eagle Scout award, presented in September 1912. ♥

Report concerns to your safety officer



The GATE Way is the SAFE Way
by Safety Officer Eugene Kuziw

"If you see something, say something." This phrase has become part of our vocabulary in recent years so that we maintain our vigilance.

This also applies to workplace hazards and conditions. They should be reported to your supervisor immediately. If your supervisor is not available, you should contact the unit safety officer. See the names at the right for the best way to contact your safety officer. You may also submit an anonymous report to the safety suggestion boxes located in buildings 210, 69, and 58. Finally, you may contact your union representative, Rob Viscardi in the New York Units or Glenn Craig at Sandy Hook. They can help relay information as well. Remember that safety is everyone's responsibility, so if you see something, say something!



Salvatore Pollina of the roads and grounds crew is also Staten Island Unit safety officer. NPS PHOTO.

SAFETY OFFICERS AT GATE

Staten Island Unit Safety Officer:
Sal Pollina, salvatore_polina@nps.gov

Jamaica Bay Unit Safety Officer:
Todd Rosenhaus, 718-338-3338 x235

Sandy Hook Unit Safety Officer:
Pete McCarthy, 732-872-5913

GATE Safety Officer:
Gene Kuziw 347-850-5025 ♥

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Contributors:

- Preston Baransky, maintenance mechanic, JBU
- Linda Canzanelli, superintendent
- Felice Ciccione, museum curator
- Federica Corinto, intern, Fondazione CRT
- Kathleen Cuzzolino, environmental specialist
- Brian Feeney, unit coordinator, SIU
- Kathy Garofalo, recreation specialist, SIU
- Joan Ilacqua, museum technician
- Kim Kosko, New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium
- Eugene Kuziw, safety officer
- Allison Luchnick, park guide, SHU
- Charles Markis, park ranger
- Carl Martinez, water safety coordinator
- Suzanne McCarthy, deputy superintendent
- Tom McLaughlin, water safety, SHU
- Jane Preziosi, Sandy Hook Foundation
- Tim Regan, fire chief, SHU
- Rance Robeson, public affairs assistant
- Colleen Sorbera, park ranger, JBU
- Geroge Tonkin, park ranger, JBU
- John Harlan Warren, public affairs (editor)
- Keith White, volunteer coordinator
- Mark Woods, reporter