



Island Beach State Park

Visitor  
Guide

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Visit the Interpretive  
and Nature Centers  
7 miles from the front gate.



Cover Photo courtesy of Ray Hallgreen

# Welcome...

On behalf of the park service, park staff, and our partner organizations, I want to welcome you to Island Beach State Park.

I also want to thank the Friends of Island Beach State Park for all the work they do for the park, including making this very Visitor Guide available.

It has been a trying off-season in the wake of Superstorm Sandy. However, through dedication, commitment and hard work on every level, the park is open. The park, like most barrier islands on the Mid-Atlantic coast, sustained damage to its infrastructure and natural resources. But with extraordinary

effort, we have made great strides in restoring the park. Of course, all healing takes time. The appearance of our dunes or our services may seem a little “different” for a while. But the sand is returning all the time and the birds, fish and animals are back and thriving.

The desire of the park’s staff and our partners is to provide you with the opportunity to best enjoy the area, while also protecting its precious natural resources.

Thousands of people are attracted to the natural beauty of our unspoiled beaches during the summer months. Please reach out to park staff or the Friends of Island Beach to learn about volunteer opportunities.

Island Beach State Park also features amenities like the concession areas and showers to rinse off, all of which our tireless maintenance staff manages all year long. And, of course, bathers are protected by one of the best lifeguard crews on the east coast.

Kids of all ages can take advantage of our daily bay seining (conditions permitting) and fish tank talks. If you prefer some solitude or just want a break from the surf and sand, take a stroll on one of the numerous trails on the island to absorb the unaltered beauty of this barrier island.

Once you’ve had a taste of the natural environment, I encourage you to join our park naturalists and partners for some interpretive programming. Our staff has partnered with The Friends of Island Beach and Conserve Wildlife Foundation to create an array of programs that are focused on FUN.

And of course, there’s fishing – one of my own personal passions! It is common to catch stripers, fluke, bluefish, kingfish, and blackfish, maybe even the occasional drum, false albacore or cobia!

Don’t forget the bay-side fishing, where it’s a blast to catch bluefish, weakfish, and bass on the shallow flats of Barnegat Bay.

There is much to do here and we hope you enjoy your time with us. We are here to make your visit enjoyable, educational, safe and especially relaxing. If you have any questions, comments, concerns or suggestions I am always happy to hear them.

**Ray Bukowski, Park Manager**

## Vehicle Entrance Fees

### Autos – 20’ and under:

#### Summer Season

(Memorial Day weekend – Labor Day)

Weekends/Holidays

\$10.00/auto (NJ Resident)

\$20.00/auto (Non-Resident)

Weekdays

\$6.00/auto (NJ Resident)

\$12.00/auto (Non-Resident)

#### Off Season

(Labor Day weekend – Memorial Day)

\$5.00/auto (NJ Resident)

\$10.00/ auto (Non-Resident)

### Motorcycles:

#### Year Round

\$5.00 (NJ Resident)

\$7.00 (Non-Resident)

### Bus (advanced registration required)

Bus reservations require a \$25 deposit paid in advance.

\$65.00 In-state groups

\$120.00 Out-of-state groups

For more information on Oversized-vehicles and Weekend/holiday restrictions call the Park Office (732) 793-0506

## NJ State Park Pass

Frequent visitors may be interested in annual park passes that allow entrance to all NJ State Parks.

\$50 NJ resident

\$75 Non-resident

NJ Residents Senior Citizen Pass (62+) – Free

NJ Residents Disability Pass – Free

For more information call NJDEP at 1-800-843-6420 or 609-984-0370



Photo Credit: Mark Gleason

# Visitor Information

## Hours of Operation

Daily 8:00 a.m. to dusk. Weekends & holidays during the summer season 7:00 a.m. to dusk.

## Island Beach is a carry-in carry-out facility.

Please be kind to the environment.

## Picnicking

Picnicking is allowed on the ocean beach in the Recreation and Southern Natural Areas. Open fires are permitted 50 feet east of the dune line from parking area 3 south only. No fires or cooking devices of any kind are permitted on the beach in the lifeguard areas during the summer season.

## Ocean Swimming

Lifeguards are on duty 10:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. on weekends beginning May 25, 26, 27 and daily during the summer season from June 15 - September 2, as well as September 7 and 8. No swimming permitted after 6:00 p.m.

## Scuba Diving, Surfing, Windboarding

Scuba divers must provide valid certification and register at the park office. Surfing and wind boarding are permitted at the south end of the lifeguard area. Surfing is also permitted from parking area 2 south.

## Kayaking

Opportunities abound along the Sedge Island Marine Conservation Zone. Launch along the bay shore at A-15 or A-21. Beware of tide conditions and potential strong wind in the afternoon.

## Bicycles

Cycling is permitted in the bike lanes running parallel to the road. All children under 14 must wear helmets.

## Horseback Riding

Riding is permitted on the southern six miles of ocean beach from October to April. Advance registration is required.

## Prohibited

Alcoholic Beverages, Camping, ATVs.

## Mark Your Calendar

|                                      |                   |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Youth Fishing Tournament.....        | Saturday, Sept. 7 |
| Beach Plum Festival.....             | Sunday, Sept. 8   |
| Governor's Surf Fishing Contest..... | Sunday, Oct. 6    |

## Interpretive Center and Nature Center

The Forked River Interpretive Center and the newly renovated Nature Center are both located at Historic Coast Guard Station #112. They are both open weekends starting June 1, 2, 8 and 9 and daily during the summer season from June 15 - September 2.

## Pets

Pets are permitted in the park, but must be on a leash (maximum length six feet.) They are NOT allowed on the lifeguard beaches during the summer season and NOT allowed on the Spizzle Creek Bird Blind Trail. (Pets can frighten wildlife.)

## Beach Access Vehicles

Vehicle use is restricted to the purpose of sport fishing only and a Mobile Sportfishing Permit must be obtained at the Main Gate (Visitor Contact Station). For information about permit requirements call 732-793-0506.  
*Annual \$195/3-Day \$75 (In State Vehicles)*  
*Annual \$225/3-Day \$90 (Out of State vehicles)*  
*\$25 Replacement Fee*

## Safety/State Park Police

State Park Police are here to insure that your visit is safe and enjoyable, and are trained in first aid and emergency procedures.

**To contact State Park Police, call  
 1-877-WARNDEP (927-6337)  
 For emergencies call 911.**

## Park Awareness

It is very important to us that your visit is safe and enjoyable. Please follow posted speed limits and be aware of joggers, skaters, bikers, walkers and the animals that share the park. **Please do not feed the native fox! Please do not walk on the dunes!** This is your park. Help to maintain its integrity by keeping it a safe place to visit. The wildlife will surely appreciate it.

This Visitor Guide is published by *Friends of Island Beach State Park*, a non-profit volunteer organization. To become a member of Friends of Island Beach visit our website at [www.thefriendsofislandbeach.org](http://www.thefriendsofislandbeach.org)

[facebook.com/friendsofislandbeach](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofislandbeach)  
[Twitter.com/#!/FOIBSP](https://twitter.com/#!/FOIBSP)



# Kayak Raffle

By Friends of Island Beach State Park

**Tickets \$5 each 5 for \$20.00**

Drawing to be held at the  
**Beach Plum Festival Sept. 8**



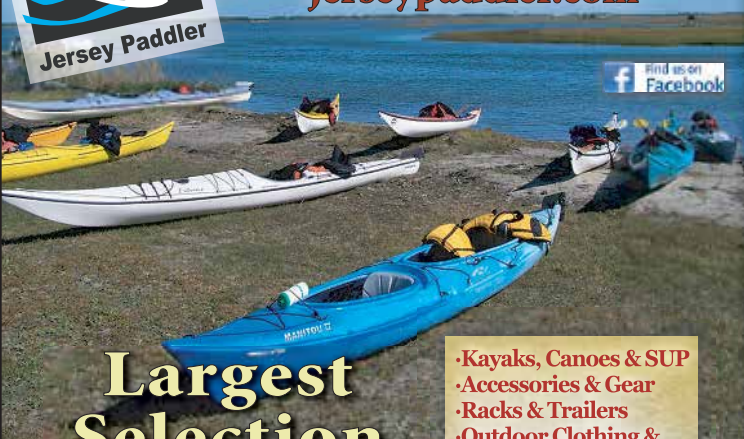
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**16th Annual**  
**Island Beach State Park**

# **Beach Plum Festival**

**Beach Plum Picking & Beach Plum Jelly  
Crafters**

**Children's Games**

**Kayak Raffle**

**Food & Music**

**Beach Plum Ice Cream**

**Environmental & Non-Profit Exhibits**

**Sunday, September 8, 2013**

**9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**Ocean Beach Bathing Area #1**

**No entrance fee at gate**

**\$5 parking donation to support festival**



## Swimming Beaches

### Ocean Swimming

**Lifeguards are on duty at Ocean Swimming Areas**

**#1 and #2, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. weekends beginning Memorial Day weekend (May 25) Daily, June 15 – September 2.**

**They will also be on duty September 7 and 8.**

**No swimming permitted after 6:00 p.m.**

Approximately three miles of designated ocean swimming beach is located in the central portion of the park. From mid-June through Labor Day, this beach is staffed with lifeguards. Nearby are parking areas and facilities with showers, changing areas, first-aid stations, food and beach supply concessions, and the interpretive station at Ocean Swimming Area 1.

For the safety of swimmers, inner tubes, rafts and other flotation devices are not permitted.



**Persons with disabilities may obtain specially designed beach wheelchairs for ocean swimming or surf fishing at the bathing pavilion during the swimming season and by calling 732-793-0506 off-season.**

## The Island Beach State Park Lifeguard Beach Patrol

would like to welcome you to Island Beach State Park. For the protection of the visitors, Island Beach lifeguards guard the swimming areas and respond to emergencies throughout the Park. The Beach Patrol comprises men and women who are dedicated and highly trained water safety professionals. It is the purpose of the Island Beach State Park Beach Patrol to provide patrons with the highest degree of professional service and safety.

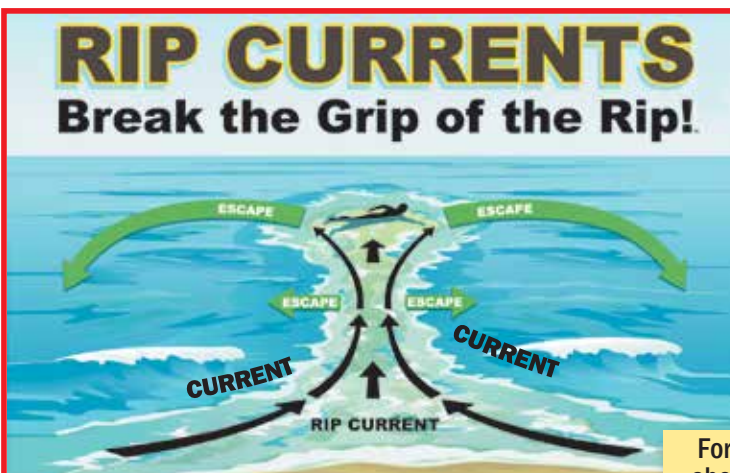
The philosophy of the Beach Patrol is one of preventive life guarding. Because of changing

ocean, surf and weather conditions and large crowds (over 1 million a year), the guards are taught to be proactive to prevent dangerous situations from occurring.

Water safety signs are posted throughout the Park. These signs include safety tips and rip current education.

*For your enjoyment and safety, please follow these simple safety measures:*

1. ALWAYS SWIM IN GUARDED AREAS
2. NEVER SWIM ALONE
3. DON'T DIVE IN HEAD FIRST
4. READ AND OBEY ALL BEACH SAFETY SIGNS
5. KNOW YOUR LIMITATIONS... IF IN DOUBT, STAY OUT!



Rip currents are powerful currents of water moving away from shore. They can sweep even the strongest swimmer out to sea.

#### IF CAUGHT IN A RIP CURRENT:

- Don't fight the current
- Swim out of the current, then to shore
- If you can't escape, float or tread water
- If you need help, call or wave for assistance

For more information about rip currents visit [www.ripcurrents.nozz.gov](http://www.ripcurrents.nozz.gov) and [www.usiz.org](http://www.usiz.org)



## Help ReClam the Bay

If you want to see and help raise live baby clams and oysters, come to the Island Beach State Park Marina on 24th and Bay View Avenues (on the Bay just before the entrance to Island Beach State Park). Every Monday afternoon from June through October, ReClam the Bay volunteers work at the shellfish nursery in the marina. You can help us measure and count the tiny clams

and oysters. You can watch as we test water quality to make sure the water is healthy for shellfish. Learn about the importance of shellfish in Barnegat Bay and what you can do to help improve the quality of water, not just in Barnegat Bay, but also in the watershed where you live. Come join us on Mondays at 1:00 PM at the IBSP Marina.

-Jim Merritt

## Sedge Island Natural Resource Education Center

At the extreme northwestern end of the Sedge Island Marine Conservation zone, just barely visible from the kayak launch at A-21 is a ten-acre island with several buildings. This is Sedge Island Natural Resource Education Center, operated by the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife. Staff at the Center teaches visitors about the plants and animals that live in the area. Program participants generally live for three days in the fourteen-bed McLain Center. The center is completely off the grid using solar power for electric-

ity and disposing of waste in a Clivus Multrum composting toilet. They use kayaks to explore narrow channels cut through the salt marsh. They catch fish and harvest clams and crabs that become part of their evening meal.

The Sedge Island Natural Resource Education Center is open to organized groups who are serious about studying the natural resources of the salt marsh. For more information, log onto [njfishandwildlife.com](http://njfishandwildlife.com), click on "education" and then "Sedge Island".

Jim Merritt

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# 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament

Photo Credit: Norah English

Sunday, October 6  
Island Beach State Park

## Enjoy the Beach...the Fresh Air...the Outdoors!

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament kicks off 6:30 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 6 and you're invited! The family-friendly event is held each year at Island Beach State Park. Anglers hooking the biggest striped bass, weakfish, kingfish, blackfish, bluefish, red drum, or albacore can win prizes, including rod and reel combinations, tackle, and gift certificates.

Last year's winner, Bob Sheppard of Seaside Park, took the grand prize by catching a 20 3/8-inch Bluefish. He receive two rod and reel combinations, a \$100 gift card to Orvis (courtesy of World Fishing Network), and a plaque. And, his name is engraved on the Governor's Cup that is permanently displayed at Island Beach State Park. Overall fish length determines the grand prize winner, as well as place winner for each of the species categories and there are categories for children, teens and adults, as well as sub-categories for male and female anglers.

The event is sponsored by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife and Division of Parks and Forestry,

the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, the Jersey Coast Anglers Association, and the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association. More than \$130,000 has been raised since the inception of the tournament for conservation and education projects and improved beach access. The funds go towards marine education, marine restoration efforts, surf fishing access, construction of access ramps for disabled saltwater anglers, surf fishing instruction programs equipment and purchase of specialized wheelchairs that provide the disabled and elderly beach access.

Entry to the park is free to individuals who register for the surf fishing tournament. However, all anglers age 16 and older must be signed on the NJ Saltwater Recreational Registry to fish in the event.

For more information visit:

[www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com)

or [www.saltwaterregistry.NJ.org](http://www.saltwaterregistry.NJ.org)

For registration information visit the Park Office or contact Karen Leskie at 609-748-4347 or [karen.leskie@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:karen.leskie@dep.state.nj.us)

For more information and application visit  
[NJFishandWildlife.com/gsft.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/gsft.htm)

**NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife 609-748-4347**

Registration materials will be available at the park  
and in local tackle shops in August.

20<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**Youth Fishing  
Tournament**

Saturday, Sept. 7

Ages 16 years and under  
Ocean Swimming Area # 1  
Registration 8:00 a.m.

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## IBSP Environmental Hero

More than half a century ago Pete McLain began doing volunteer work to help improve the natural resources of Island Beach State Park. During much of that time Pete was Assistant Deputy Director of the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife. In that role he helped develop the state's first endangered species protection law. The fruits of Pete's labor resulted in the rebuilding of the Osprey population in New Jersey. Island Beach State Park now has the largest Osprey population in the state. Pete was also responsible for the return of the Peregrine Falcon, still considered an endangered species in the state.

Now in his late 80's, Pete continues to visit the Park several times a week to "check on things." During the summer he and his black Labrador Retriever Mary, will travel in his old wooden garvey through shallow channels in the salt marsh to his "shack", one of the last remaining private houses in the Sedge Island Marine Conservation Zone in Barnegat Bay.

Although this boat trip is less than half a mile, it takes Pete several hours to reach his shack. He is inevitably pleasantly distracted by fish swirling on the surface and crabs scuttling along the bottom. Stopping in several places to note the health of the eel grass, he trains his binoculars on a young Osprey being fed by a parent. These birds are in a nest on one of thirty high platforms, many of which Pete helped to install. He takes satisfaction in the knowledge this species of bird is doing so well that its status has been downgraded from endangered to threatened, that he helped establish decades ago.

After tying up at his dock, Pete is not content to sit in a rocking chair on the deck to watch the sun set. Instead, he points his spotting scope southwest toward the hacking tower where he observes a family of Peregrine Falcons. These birds are distant relatives of the ones he brought from Alaska in 1970 when he reintroduced this endangered species to the eastern United States.

*To learn more about this environmental hero and others who have had an incredible impact on the natural resources of Barnegat Bay, sign up for a guided kayak tour run by Island Beach State Park naturalists. If your timing is right, you might even catch Pete at home as you paddle past his shack.*

*Jim Merritt*

## The Nature & Interpretive Centers

Located approximately seven miles from the main gate, just past a curve in the road, is a pair of white buildings known as 112. Originally built as a lifesaving station the buildings have been renovated and now house the Interpretive & Nature Centers. The taller of the two buildings is the Nature Center while the lower building with the garage door façade is the Interpretive Center. The Interpretive Center houses several historical and natural displays, as well as the Herbarium Collection. This collection is a series of plant specimens found at Island Beach that are mounted on glass plates. Last year an Osprey Cam donated by the Friends was installed and can be viewed online or at the Interpretive Center.

The Nature Center has an assortment of natural beachcombs found at Island Beach, as well as several tanks of live animals on display. Located on the first floor is the Friends of Island Beach State Park office. On the top floor is a science laboratory, a classroom, and an education display. The

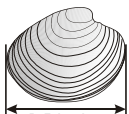
view from the second floor windows hosts one of the best vistas of the landscape at Island Beach. Come take a look at the many different opportunities a day at Island Beach affords. Please check the Friends website at [www.thefriendsofislandbeach.org](http://www.thefriendsofislandbeach.org) for hours and schedules of the Nature Programs held there and elsewhere in the park.

Just past the two buildings is a nature trail that meanders eastward to the beach. It is a rough trail that goes through a thicket of windswept shadbushes and blueberry bushes that dwarf the hiker. If you listen you can hear several types of birds that call the thicket as theirs. As you change elevation you begin to hear the sound of the surf reminding you that you are near the ocean. When you come out from under the canopy of vegetation walk a little further and you have reached the beach. There is so much more to this park than the bathing beaches at Area 1 & 2.

*By Patricia McCarty*

## ATTENTION ANGLERS

### 2013 NJ Recreational Minimum Size, Possession Limits & Seasons



**Hard Clam**  
 Recreational limit - 150 clams  
 No harvest on Sunday  
 Shellfish license required

<sup>o</sup>Fish are measured from tip of snout to tip of tail (except Black Sea Bass and Sharks).

<sup>o</sup>Cleaning or filleting of fish with a minimum size limit while at sea is prohibited. See the Marine Fishing Issue of the NJ Fish & Wildlife Digest or New Jersey Fish & Wildlife website for exceptions.

\* Anticipated changes in 2013. Please check the Division of Fish and Wildlife website for the most up to date information.



**Tautog 15 inches**  
 Open seasons:  
 4 fish Jan.1-Feb.28  
 4 fish Apr.1-Apr.30  
 1 fish Jul.17-Nov.15  
 6 fish Nov.16-Dec.31



**Summer Flounder (Fluke)\***  
 5 Fish at 17.5 inches  
 Open season: May 5 - Sept. 28



**Striped Bass or Hybrid Striped Bass**  
 2 fish at 28" or greater

Del. River & tribs. (Calhoun St. Bridge); Trenton, to Salem River & tribs.  
 Open Mar.1 - Mar. 31 & June 1 - Dec. 31  
 Atlantic Ocean (0-3 miles from shore), no closed season  
 (Greater than 3 miles from shore), closed  
 All other marine waters, open Mar. 1 - Dec. 31



**Winter Flounder**  
 2 fish at 12 inches  
 Open season: March 23 - May 21



**Weakfish**  
 1 fish at 13 inches  
 Open season: Jan 1 - Dec 31



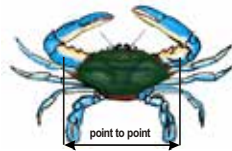
**Shark**  
 1 fish per vessel at 54 inches  
 Seasons: see Marine Digest

**PROHIBITED SPECIES**  
 See the Marine edition of the NJ Fish & Wildlife Digest or Fish & Wildlife's website for a complete list.



**Black Sea Bass\***  
 25 Fish at 12.5 inches  
 Open season: May 19 - Sept. 3  
 Sept.23 - Oct.14  
 Nov.1 - Dec.31

| OTHER SPECIES         | POSSESSION LIMIT | TOTAL LENGTH   |
|-----------------------|------------------|--|
| AMERICAN EEL.....     | 50               | 6"   |
| BLACK DRUM.....       | 3                | 16"  |
| COD.....              | NO LIMIT         | 21"  |
| HADDOCK.....          | NO LIMIT         | 21"  |
| POLLOCK.....          | NO LIMIT         | 19"  |
| KING MACKEREL.....    | 3                | 23"  |
| SPANISH MACKEREL..... | 10               | 14"  |
| SCUP (PORGY).....     | 50               | 9" (Jan.1-Feb.28<br>July 1-Dec.31)   |
| SHAD.....             | 6                | NO LIMIT<br>*Not more than 3 American Shad in Delaware Bay, River & tributaries<br>*No American Shad all other waters. |
| RIVER HERRING.....    | CLOSED           | N/A  |



**Blue Crab**  
 peeler or shedder - 3 inches  
 soft - 3 1/2 inches  
 hard - 4 1/2 inches  
 recreational limit - one bushel  
 Crab pot/trawl seasons:  
 Delaware Bay & tributaries  
 April 6 - Dec. 4  
 All other waters  
 March 15 - Nov. 30



**Bluefish**  
 15 fish no minimum size  
 Open season: Jan. 1 - Dec. 31



New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
 Division of Fish and Wildlife  
[www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com)



Did you know that you are able to contribute to the Endangered and Nongame Species Program by a simple Check-Off on your New Jersey State Income Tax form or by buying Conserve Wildlife License Plates?

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# Be a VIP!

## Volunteer at Island Beach State Park

The New Jersey Volunteers in Park (VIP) program was created to offer citizens a unique opportunity to participate in the stewardship of our precious natural resources. In the wake of hurricane Sandy, this year, more than ever, your time and skills are needed and welcomed at Island Beach State Park! IBSP volunteers contribute numerous hours every year assisting with educational programs, guiding tours, gardening, trail maintenance, habitat restoration and beach clean-up. IBSP has opportunities for you to volunteer your time

no matter where your interests lie. Volunteer opportunities are available to individuals, as well as groups. Scouts, corporate groups, faith-based groups, school groups, senior groups, and YOUR group are pivotal in making Island Beach State Park "the gem of the Jersey Shore"! Make friends, share your skills, and support the Park by volunteering your time this summer. Call to become a VIP and offer your time and expertise as a volunteer!

Contact Becky Laboy at the Park Office:  
732-793-0506.

**For an online application, visit**

**[www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/individual\\_volunteer\\_2007.pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/individual_volunteer_2007.pdf)**



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First Saturday: 1:00 ~ 4:00 PM  
Research Center:  
Tuesday & Wednesday  
1:00 PM ~ 4: PM  
First Saturday: 1:00 ~ 4:00 PM  
[www.oceancountyhistory.org](http://www.oceancountyhistory.org)

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## The Dunes

Gently flowing westward away from the crashing waves of the Atlantic are the wind sculpted rolling hills of white quartz sand that comprise the dune system of Island Beach State Park. The park is a barrier island situated between the Atlantic Ocean and the mainland of Berkeley Township. Its creation is a result of the plentiful sand of the Atlantic coastal plain having been sorted, piled up and moved around by the winds and waves of time. The dunes are iconic representations of the barrier island that define Island Beach State Park's place as a jewel within New Jersey's park system.

The beauty of the dunes can be appreciated by the numerous maintained marked trails within the park. It is critical for the health and future of the park that when visiting your exploration keeps you on these marked trails. The ecosystem here is extremely fragile. The species of plants that are able to survive on the forefront of the dunes are uniquely adapted to a seasonally dry climate, low nutrient salty soil and frequent strong easterly winds. Those inhabiting the primary dunes of the park are generally slow growers and show signs of being sculpted by the strong salty winds coming off the Atlantic Ocean. The environment here is harsh and the plants that are able to take hold are in a constant struggle to survive.

Unhealthy dunes in the park are primarily a result of human disturbance. Trampling on the dunes causes a die back of the American Beach Grass and other species that are critical to holding down the sand and limiting erosion. The roots of these plants act like an underground anchoring system, a network that strengthens the dune and helps to provide protection from the frequent strong coastal winds and less frequent tidal surges and wave action. Without the vegetation the beauty of the dune is lost along with its ability to protect people and property from Nor'easters and hurricanes that frequent the coastal waters of New Jersey.

Since Super Storm Sandy the role of dunes to protect life and property has never been more prevalent in the conversations of public officials, homeowners and the media. New Jersey Governor Chris Christie has pledged to protect the people and property of the barrier islands by constructing dunes and waging a battle against those who feel their views of the ocean are more important than the benefit dunes provide to the community they live in. When visiting the park this year be sure to visit the interpretive center or ask park officials where you can find further information about dunes and what you can do to help protect them.

*Dominick Solazzo*

## Sedge Islands "Then & Now" Kayak Tour

One of the best ways to explore the waters along the bay side of Island Beach State Park is by kayak. The 1,900 acre Sedge Island Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) with its many salt marsh islands, is a perfect place to paddle. The water is warm and shallow in most places. More than thirty osprey platforms provide nesting sites for this magnificent bird of prey. (Do not approach closer than 200' especially in spring and early summer when they are nesting.) Long legged wading birds such as herons and egrets are also easy to spot as you paddle silently through the narrow channels. Fish and crabs may be caught from your boat or by wading along the shore. Clamming is legal in the MCZ as long as you have a license and follow NJ Fish and Wildlife regulations.

There are two kayak access points. The southern most launch site is across the road from parking lot A-21. A 200 yd drive down the road will bring you to a sandy beach where you can

launch your boat. Because space is limited, you must park your car in the A-21 lot and walk back to your boat before beginning your trip. The launch area at A-15 is less heavily used and it is possible to park your car right where you put your boat in the water.

Although the waters of the MCZ are not as hazardous as the open bay, all boaters should be aware of potentially dangerous conditions. Use plenty of sunscreen, wear a hat, and cover up to avoid being sun burned by light reflected off the water. Carry water and drink often to stay hydrated. The wind is often difficult to paddle against, especially as it increases in strength during the afternoon. Because of the proximity to Barnegat Inlet, the current can be strong (up to 5 kts) especially in the narrow passages in the south and western parts of the MCZ. Be safe and always wear your life jacket.

*Jim Merritt*



## A Brief History of Island Beach State Park

Between 1850 and the early 1900s there were several hotels and a tavern on Island Beach. There was transportation from Toms River by fast-sailing sloops and large cat boats until the railroad bridge was built across Barnegat Bay to Seaside Park in 1881.

The guests at these family-run hotels were mainly bathers, sport fishermen, sports hunters and artists.

After the mid 1870's during the fall, winter and spring, the three Life Saving Stations on the island were manned by surf men of the United States Life Saving Service.

In the mid 1920's, Henry C. Phipps, a partner of Andrew Carnegie, started buying land on

Island Beach planning to build a luxurious seaside development. He purchased the last fifty acres in 1930 but was unable to develop the island because of the Depression. After his death in 1931, his company, Barnegat Bay and Beach Co., built three homes; the present Governor's house on the ocean, the superintendent's house on the bay front, and a guest house on the bay where Pearl Buck, the author, spent her summers writing.

The State of New Jersey purchased Island Beach for \$2,750,000 from Mr. Phipps' heirs in 1953. It was opened as a state park in 1959.

– Ferd Klebold



### The Bumblebee Project

*In 1944 the U.S. Navy chose Island Beach for a special top secret war research project to be supervised by Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. It was given the code name "BUMBLEBEE."*

On June 3, 1945, after many tests and disappointments, the first supersonic ramjet missile in the world was launched. It took off traveling at an approximate speed of 1300 miles per hour in a southeasterly direction out over the ocean. The sonic boom was heard by pound fishermen in the area. The site of this event was between where the two ocean bathing beaches are today. The 80 foot by 40 foot concrete pad is still under the sand dunes. This was a big advancement in the war effort against Japan.



Photos courtesy of Johns Hopkins University, Island Beach State Park Archives.

A model of the ramjet can be seen at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. Shortly after the war was over the U.S. Navy shut down the operation at Island

Beach and moved the missile scientists to the White Sands Proving Grounds in New Mexico. This was a very important occurrence in the history of Island Beach.

– Ferd Klebold

## Compliments of Southern Service



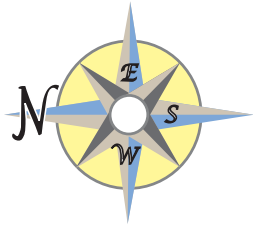
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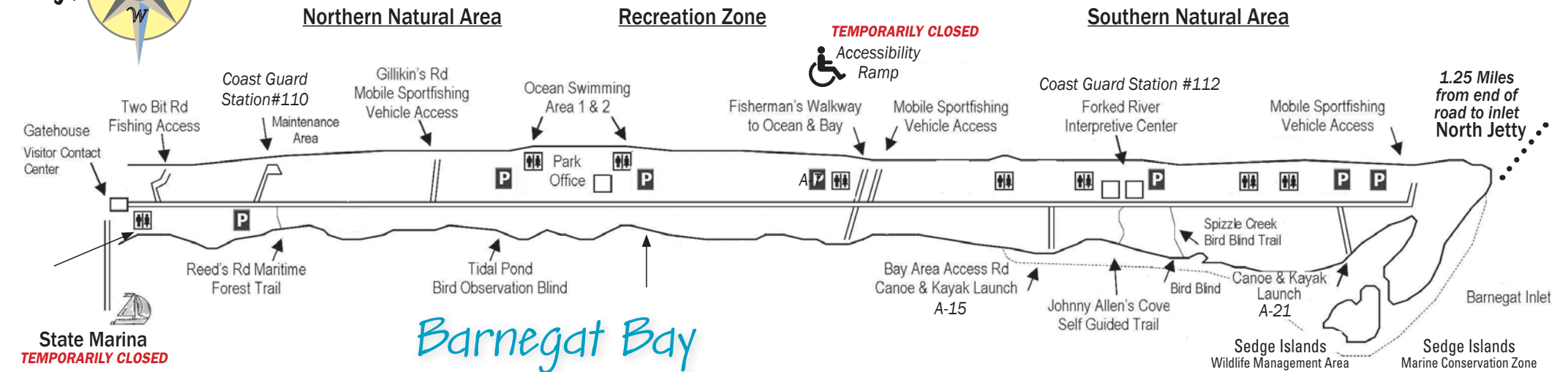
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Map not to scale



# Atlantic Ocean

Island Beach State Park maps and trail guides are available at the Gate House, Pavilion at Ocean Swimming Area #1, Park Office and Forked River Interpretive Center.



**State Marina**  
**TEMPORARILY CLOSED**  
and ReClam the Bay  
End of 24th Ave.  
For Marina Information  
call 732-793-0506

**Reed's Road Maritime Forest Trail**  
.4 mile/.5 miles from the Gate House  
Walk past the former site of the historical Reed's Hotel where 19th century sportsmen stayed while hunting waterfowl on Barnegat Bay. Sensitive vegetation exists in this area. Please stay on the trail.

**Tidal Pond Bird Blind Observation Trail**  
3.6 miles from the Gate House  
Bird blind is situated along a tidal cove. Across from Ocean Swimming Beach Pavilion #1

**Tice's Shoal Coastal Heritage Trail**  
.1 mile/.4.9 miles from the Gate House  
A short walk from the road to the bay, this handicapped accessible boardwalk brings you through the Maritime Forest to a viewing platform over the bay.

**Forked River Interpretive Center, Johnny Allen's Cove and Janet's Garden**  
7.1 miles from the Gate House  
Ocean trail .1 miles, Bay trail .3 miles  
Exhibits include dune formation, plant communities, animal life, tools, sneakbox, a Model A Beach Buggy, a history of Barnegat Bay, and "The Herbarium," a collection of native plants. A collection of native plants, and Janet's Garden are located here. Walk this trail after visiting the interpretive center. The ocean trail leads you through a break or blowout in the primary dunes while the bay trail cuts through the thicket and freshwater wetland before it reaches Barnegat Bay.

**Ocean Swimming Beach Pavilions**  
**Ocean Swimming Area #1 & 2**  
3 1/2 miles from the Gate House  
Daily programs are conducted at this site. Join us for a beach walk or enjoy helping us catch fish in a seine net. A 200-gallon aquarium provides visitors with a close-up view of Barnegat Bay marine life, horseshoe crabs, sea stars, hermit crabs, mud snails and the many species of fish that live in the surrounding waters.

**A-13 Trail**  
.1 miles/.6.3 miles from the Gate House  
This ocean path contains a small boardwalk that takes you through a freshwater wetland where cranberries grow. After that is a dramatic view of the dune community.

**Fisherman's Walkway Coastal Heritage**  
**TEMPORARILY CLOSED**  
.1 miles/.4.9 miles from the Gate House  
This trail provides a cross section of a barrier beach. The handicapped accessible boardwalks include Coastal Heritage Trail interpretive signs.

**Spizzle Creek Bird Blind Trail**  
7.7 miles from Gate House  
Left fork trail .5 miles, Right fork trail .3 miles  
Located between parking lots 19 or 20, this trail walks you through the thicket community to Barnegat Bay. Excellent birding opportunities are in this area. View the ospreys and wading birds from a bird blind.

**Bay trails require bug spray all season and long sleeve clothing and pants in June through September.**

**Please be aware of Ticks and Poison Ivy**

Ticks are not found on the swimming beaches, but in vegetated areas such as trails. Blacklegged (Deer) Ticks, Dog Ticks and Lone Star ticks can be found. Blacklegged Ticks transmit Lyme Disease. Always do a tick-check after walking in vegetated areas.

Poison Ivy, a three-leaved plant, with white berries in late summer, grows abundantly and contains urushiol oil that can cause an irritating rash. Poison Ivy has variable growth forms, from a small plant, to a vine or shrub.

For information about ticks or the poison ivy plant, please see any of the park's Interpretive Naturalists at the Nature Center or the first Swimming Pavilion.

**An audio enhanced display at the Interpretive Center features a model of the Reed Hotel, built in 1876.**

## Island Beach State Park Summer Programs

Provided in Partnership by FOIBSP and CWF

One of the last remaining undeveloped barrier islands on the east coast, Island Beach State Park offers beachgoers pristine surroundings for their summertime enjoyment. Encompassing 10 miles of coastal beach and marshland habitat, the Park supports a broad diversity of wildlife. Island Beach State Park's Interpretive Program offers educational opportunities to explore and discover the 'wild side' of this unique barrier island ecosystem! Visit the Nature Center and Interpretive Center, located 7 miles into the Park, past the entrance gate.

Contact [ibspnaturalist@gmail.com](mailto:ibspnaturalist@gmail.com) or call **732-793-0506** for more details.



The Friends of Island Beach State Park is happy to once again be a part of the summer programs and activities at Island Beach State Park. We are a non-profit, all volunteer organization whose mission is to enhance the interpretive, educational, recreational and research programs and events at IBSP, and to encourage protection of the barrier island ecosystem.

For more information, visit our website [www.thefriendsofislandbeach.org](http://www.thefriendsofislandbeach.org)

Conserve Wildlife Foundation's partnership with Island Beach State Park enhances visitors experiences and connects more people to the outdoors. Conserve Wildlife Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting New Jersey's endangered and threatened wildlife through research, education, conservation, management, and citizen engagement.

For more information, please visit [www.conservewildlifenj.org](http://www.conservewildlifenj.org)



## Island Beach Daily Programs – FREE FUN for the Whole Family!

Join Park Natural Educators and have some fun as you explore the natural wonders of Island Beach State Park! Visit the Fish Tanks inside the Pavilion at Bathing Beach #1 to sign up for one of our free DAILY PROGRAMS! Children must be accompanied by an adult. DAILY PROGRAMS are free with paid admission to the Park. Please call the Park Office for additional details: 732-793-0506.



Scan to learn more about our Programs!

### Seine the Barnegat Bay

Pull a seine net through the Barnegat Bay and discover the amazing creatures who live there! Scoop up some silversides, the 'french fries of the bay', and learn about the importance of this abundant fish in the Barnegat Bay food chain. Sheepshead Minnows, Pipe Fish, Blue Claw Crabs – what's today's catch of the day? Free daily tours at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.. Please pre-register at the Pavilion at Bathing Beach #1.

### Meet the Locals!

Can you scare away a hungry predator by growing twice your size in less than 6 seconds? A pufferfish can! Be tickled by a mud snail, count the legs on a spider crab, caress a jellyfish and examine a sea star. Meet the creatures of the barrier island ecosystem and discover who lives in these unique estuarine and ocean habitats. Free daily shows at 2 p.m., at the Fish Tanks, under the Pavilion at Bathing Beach #1.

### Ospreys of Island Beach!

Conserve Wildlife Foundation scientist, Ben Wurst, is hard at work monitoring the Ospreys that nest at Island Beach State Park. In 1974, the Osprey was listed as "endangered" in the state of New Jersey, with only 50 nests statewide. Through intensive recovery efforts initiated by legendary naturalist, Pete McLain, the New Jersey Osprey population is now approaching 500 nesting pairs! Join IBSP Natural Educators to learn about the amazing lives of these majestic raptors. Explore a 400lb nest, investigate real Osprey eggs, and discover the unique adaptations that allow Osprey to be such successful hunters! View "our" nesting pair and their young through a spotting scope, and see live footage streamed through our Osprey-cam. Pre-registration required. Free daily programs at 10 a.m., at the Nature Center, located 7 miles past the Park's Entrance Gate.

### Beach Walk

Island Beach State Park hosts a large dune system that protects the mainland west of the Barnegat Bay. Join a Park Natural Educator and explore the plants and animals that live in this harsh environment. Learn how Superstorm Sandy impacted the ecology of this unique barrier island. Free daily walks at 12 p.m. Pre-register at the Fish Tanks at the Pavilion at Bathing Beach #1.

## Island Beach FUN Guided Programs *(Pre-registration Required for all Guided)*

Programs Explore the “wild side” of Island Beach State Park! Pre-register for these fun, interactive and educational programs led by our team of Park Natural Educators. For a complete list of dates, times, fees, age restrictions, and to pre-register, go to [www.conservewildlifenj.org/education/programs/islandbeach](http://www.conservewildlifenj.org/education/programs/islandbeach). Please call the Park Office for additional details: 732-793-0506, or contact [ibspnaturalist@gmail.com](mailto:ibspnaturalist@gmail.com). All proceeds support IBSP’s Interpretive Program!

### WILDCHILD Programs for Kids!

Go wild and enjoy the crazy days of summer! Sign-up for fun, interactive, and educational programs designed just for kids. Our expert team of Park Natural Educators are ready to take you on an adventure of a lifetime! Pre-registration required.

#### WILDCHILD Nature Toddlers

Age-appropriate hands-on activities, stories, crafts and hikes guide your child’s natural curiosity as we explore the animals and plants of Island Beach State Park. Natural Educators provide an educational hour of fun for you and your young child. **Ages 3 to 5 yrs., with caregiver. Pre-registration required.**

#### WILDCHILD Island Explorers

If you like exploring the outdoors, discovering animals, investigating the ecosystem and getting sandy, then you’re an Island Explorer! Join us for 2 hours of catching fish, spying on birds, or caring for turtles. A different topic is explored each week. Drop off your child for two hours of FUN! **Ages 6 to 12 yrs. Pre-registration required.**

#### WILDCHILD Surfing Safari

Surf’s Up Dude! What are waves? How are waves made? Where do waves come from? Paddle out with expert Natural Educators and IBSP Lifeguards and maybe you’ll be hangin’ 10 by the end of the summer! Drop off your child for two hours of FUN! **Ages 8 to 17 yrs. Pre-registration required.**

### Kayak Tours

Enjoy Kayak Tours of the Barnegat Bay, for ages 14 yrs and older, minors must be accompanied by an adult. All equipment, including tandem kayaks, paddles and personal flotation devices are provided. **Pre-registration required.**

#### Birding by Kayak

Expert Park Natural Educators will guide you on a peaceful paddle through the fragile Barnegat Bay estuarine ecosystem. Discover the diversity of birds that nest at Island Beach State Park in the summer. This very popular tour is designed for bird enthusiasts.

#### Sedge Islands: Then and Now, Kayak Tour

Did you know Babe Ruth used to duck hunt in the Sedge Islands? Barnegat Bay was once a commercial hub for “market gunners”, baymen, and salt hay farmers. Several structures remain in the Sedge Islands today, remnants of the bay’s rich history. Learn about the people who lived here long ago, and how they utilized the natural resources of the bay. Park Natural Educators will highlight how some things have changed and some things remain the same.

#### Sunset Paddle

Join Park Natural Educators for a peaceful evening paddle through the Sedge Islands, while watching the sunset over Barnegat Bay. Dusk is peak time for viewing wildlife!

### Surf Fishing Clinics

Oceanside fishing for ages 10 yrs and older, minors must be accompanied by an adult.

#### Beginner’s Surf Fishing Clinic

No fish tales told here! Come learn the techniques for successful surf fishing and try your hand at catching Striped Bass or Fluke. All you need to bring is your enthusiasm, all fishing equipment and bait is supplied. **Pre-registration required.**

### Trail Hikes and Guided Walks

Explore the wild side of Island Beach State Park. For all ages, minors must be accompanied by an adult. Enjoy an ‘easy’ hike through marshy, sandy, or wooded trails. **Pre-registration required.**

#### Moonlight Hikes

Join us on an adventurous night hike to discover “whoooo” is awake when the sun goes down at Island Beach State Park! Down at the beach enjoy a bonfire, roast marshmallows, and listen to ghost stories about shipwrecks off the Jersey shore — the “graveyard of the Atlantic”! Bring a flashlight and blanket or chair.

### Time-travel Trail Hikes

Imagine traveling down a sandy trail in the Park before the turn of the century, on your way to stay at Reed's Hotel. Join us on a hike down Reed's Road or one of our historic trails, and take a trip down memory lane. We'll explore and discover the unique history of Island Beach State Park and remember the people who visited and appreciated this Island over 100 years ago!

### Island Eco-Hikes

Bring your curiosity and keen senses as we take you through the Dunes, Scrub, Thicket, Maritime Forest, and Salt Marsh habitats on a quest to catch a glimpse of creatures big and small. Fiddler crabs, terrapins, elusive otters, fox, and a variety of birds and insects are just some of the creatures that call this unique barrier beach ecosystem home.

### Discover the Birds of Island Beach – Guided Bird Walks

Birding is one of America's most popular outdoor hobbies. Come join us on a hike to find our feathered friends and discover why this past-time is so enjoyable! Osprey, Great Blue Heron, Snowy Egret and Double-crested Cormorants are only a handful of species we are likely to see on our hike through the diverse habitats of Island Beach State Park.



**ISLAND BEACH STATE PARK introduces**

## Harvest the Bay!

**FUN Educational Programs and Events**

### HARVEST THE BAY Educational Programs

*Clamming, Crabbing and Fishing are popular Jersey shore pastimes that offer recreational enjoyment, support commercial industry, and provide local food resources. Join IBSP Natural Educators to explore clams, crabs and fish, discover their role in the Barnegat Bay ecosystem, and learn how they are impacted by the health of the bay. All ages welcome, minors must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration required. Please call the Park Office for additional details about fees, dates and times: 732-793-0506. To pre-register, log on to: [www.conservewildlifenj.org/education/programs/islandbeach/](http://www.conservewildlifenj.org/education/programs/islandbeach/)*

#### Clamming

Clams are a bottom feeding shellfish, and important environmental indicators, informing scientists about the health of the bay. Learn how to harvest these delicious soft-bodied gastropods by digging your toes into the sandy bottom of the bay or by using a clamming rake.

#### Crabbing

One of the most widely recognized Barnegat Bay food resources is the Blue Claw Crab. The delicate flavor of its meat keeps anglers coming back for more each season. This program will teach you about the life cycle of the Blue Claw Crab, its role in the ecosystem, when and how to harvest them, and what you can do to assure that their populations remain at a healthy level.

#### Fishing

Striper, Bluefish, Fluke, Bass – the Barnegat Bay is host to a variety of local fish commonly harvested for food. Explore the role of finfish in the bay's ecosystem and discover techniques for successful fishing. Determine how you can make a difference in the health of the bay's fish population. Join Natural Educators as you cast into the bay and reel in your catch of the day!

### HARVEST THE BAY DAY!

**A Celebration of Barnegat Bay's Natural Resources**

**July 23, August 20, and October 12, from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

*Bring the entire family to Harvest the Bay Day to explore the natural resources of Barnegat Bay. Enjoy hands-on activities, nature programs, and fresh seafood at this fun, educational "celebration". Learn from IBSP Natural Educators how to conserve our coastal resources, including clams, crabs, and fish. For dates and times, call the Park Office: 732-793-0506.*

**Harvest the Bay educational programs and Harvest the Bay Days are made possible through a generous grant from Barnegat Bay Partnership, and are provided in collaboration with our supporting partners: Conserve Wildlife Foundation, ReClam the Bay, New Jersey Beach Bug-gy Association, Division of Fish & Wildlife, MATES, OCVTS, DEP Bureau of Shellfisheries, and Friends of Island Beach State Park.**





Photo Credit: Howard Height



ISLAND BEACH STATE PARK presenta su nuevo programa

## Cosecha La Bahía!

Programas Educativos y Eventos

### COSECHA LA BAHÍA! Programas Educativos y Eventos

Cosechar almejas, cangrejos, y pescar, son actividades recreativas comunes en el Jersey Shore, las cuales ayudan a la industria pesquera comercial, y además proveen una fuente local de alimentos. Únete a los Educadores Naturales del IBSP y descubre de recursos locales, como almejas, cangrejos, y peces de la bahía de Barnegat y su ecosistema, y a la vez aprende acerca de su impacto ecológico. Se aceptan a todas las personas de todas edades, solamente que los menores de edad tendrán que estar acompañados por un adulto. Para asistir, es necesario llenar un pequeño formulario de pre-registro. Para más información acerca de tarifas, fechas y horarios, llame a la oficina del parque al: 732-793-0506. [Para llenar el formulario vaya a la siguiente liga:](http://www.conservewildlifenj.org/education/programs/islandbeach/)

#### Cosecha de Almejas

Las almejas son moluscos que se alimentan en el fondo del océano, y son un buen indicador para los científicos de la salud de la bahía, las aguas, y el subsuelo. Aprenda a cosechar estos deliciosos moluscos—gasterópodos—enterrando sus pies en el fondo arenoso de la bahía o bien, utilizando un rastrillo.

#### Cosecha de Cangrejos

El cangrejo azul, o bien el Blue Claw Crab, es uno de los recursos alimenticios más conocidos en la bahía de Barnegat. Este tiene un sabor bastante sutil y succulento, el cual mantiene a muchas personas regresando cada año. Este programa le enseñará acerca del ciclo de reproducción de esta especie de cangrejo, al igual que el papel que juega dentro del ecosistema de la bahía, pues le enseñará cuando y como cosecharlos con el fin de preservar una población saludable de esta especie.

#### Pesca

En la bahía de Barnegat existen muchas especies de peces locales como el Striper, el Bluefish, Lenguado, y Robalo o Lubina, los cuales se pescan con el fin de proveer alimento a la población. Aquí usted explorará el papel que juegan los peces—pescados—en el ecosistema de la bahía, y descubrirá también técnicas para pescar más eficazmente. Asimismo, aprenderá como usted puede marcar la diferencia en la salud de la bahía y la población de peces. ¡Únase a los “Educadores Naturales” de IBSP mientras se aventura a la bahía y trae de vuelta la pesca del día!

## EL DÍA DE LA COSECHA DE LA BAHÍA

Un evento de los recursos de la bahía de Barnegat

Julio 23, Agosto 20, y Octubre 12. 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Venga con toda su familia al Día de la Cosecha de la Bahía y descubra todos los recursos naturales que ofrece la bahía de Barnegat. El evento llevará a cabo divertidas actividades prácticas y educativas relacionadas con los programas naturales, donde habrá pescados y mariscos frescos. Aprenda como los Educadores Naturales, o bien “Natural Educators” del IBSP conservan nuestros recursos de la costa, los cuales incluyen almejas, cangrejos, y peces. [Para más información sobre las fechas y horarios llame al 732-793-0506.](http://www.conservewildlifenj.org/education/programs/islandbeach/)

**Los programas educativos de IBSP, y el Día de la Cosecha la Bahía son posibles gracias a los fondos que provee el Barnegat Bay Partnership, y traídos a usted por medio de la colaboración conjunta de todos los asociados: Conserve Wildlife Foundation, ReClam the Bay, New Jersey Beach Buggy Association, Division of Fish & Wildlife, MATES, OCVTS, DEP Bureau of Shellfisheries, and Friends of Island Beach State Park.**



# Nature Notes

Article photographs courtesy of Ray Hallgreen



## The Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*

Rita Carey

“Look, did you see that bird? It’s an osprey carrying a fish. How do they do that?”

These are often heard comments from park visitors who never tire of watching this fascinating site. How indeed do they catch that fish? Osprey are remarkably well adapted for fishing. They can see a swimming fish from up to 100 feet above water, have rounded talons with backward-facing scales for grasping the fish, barbed pads on their feet, and can rotate their outside toes to grasp fish with 2 toes on each side of the fish. As they take a meal to the nest they generally turn it head first for an aerodynamic approach. We are fortunate to have about 30 nesting pairs of osprey at Island Beach State Park (IBSP). These birds mate for life and generally return to the same nest year after year. Since their diet is almost exclusively fish, one of the major attractions for these birds to our park is the plentiful supply of fish in the bay.

Considering the attraction of these remarkable birds and the desire for the Friends of Island Beach State Park (FOIBSP) to enhance the educational and recreational experiences for park visitors, the FOIBSP embarked upon an ambitious project to place a camera near an osprey nest and show the live pictures in the Interpretive Center. Over the years the FOIBSP has contributed to the maintenance and displays in the Interpretive Center and this is yet another addition to this important feature of IBSP.

The nest on a 40 foot tall pole just beyond the Interpretive Center was chosen. We purchased a state-of-the-art outdoor camera that can zoom in for a close view of the nest and out for a broader view. We also have night vision capability for view of how active these birds are after dark. This is especially exciting because we have one of the few night vision cameras on an osprey nest and their night time activity is not well studied. Consistent with the desire for use of alternative energy whenever feasible, the camera is powered by solar panels. In addition to showing the live images in the Interpretive Center, we are broadcasting over the internet 24 hours a day for the entire spring, summer and fall seasons. Anyone with computer access to the FOIBSP web site—schools, libraries, or other facilities can avail themselves of our live images at [www.thefriendsofislandbeach.org](http://www.thefriendsofislandbeach.org). Watch the egg incubation, chicks hatch, birds feeding on local fish, and chicks develop into adult birds ready to migrate south in early fall. Many viewers on [Facebook.com/friendsofislandbeach](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofislandbeach) followed activities on the nest day and night.

As you visit IBSP remember that all of us need to be respectful of our wildlife. Don’t get too close to the nests as this will disturb the birds and may cause the adult to fly off leaving the eggs or young chicks vulnerable to predators. The dependence of osprey on Barnegat Bay reminds us to help improve our bay to ensure a healthy feeding ground for the osprey and all our wild creatures.

## Birding On The Beach Quiz

Jim Merritt

1. What group of commonly seen and heard birds change color for the first three years of their lives?
2. What large birds glide just above the waves hunting for fish with their scoop-like bill?
3. What small gull-like birds hover, then dive head first and catch fish in their beaks?
4. What large birds (raptors) dive and catch fish with their sharp talons?
5. What small shore birds run quickly up and down the beach just ahead of the waves?

Answers  
1. Gulls 2. Pelicans 3. Terns.  
4. Osprey. 5. Sandpipers



## Turtle Crossing

Jim Merritt

Three types of turtles are commonly seen crossing the road in Island Beach State Park. Sea turtles swim and migrate through the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of New Jersey, but they do not come in to nest on Island Beach.

The Eastern Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina*) is a land turtle easily recognized by its high domed back and black, yellow and orange pattern on its top shell (carapace). It is called a box turtle because it can close its hinged bottom shell (plastron) allowing it to completely enclose its body in its shell - like a box. This keeps it safe from predators.

Northern Diamondback Terrapins (*Malaclemys terrapin*) spend most of their lives in the brackish water of Barnegat Bay. Adults range between 5" - 8" with females growing slightly larger than males. They are mostly gray or brown and have wiggly black lines in a roughly diamond shaped pattern on each section (scute) of their shell. Their webbed feet make them good swimmers, adept at escaping from predators, and their sharp claws help them dig into the sand.

Snapping turtles (*Chelydra serpentina*) can also live in brackish water but they prefer

shallow fresh water ponds found in pockets throughout Island Beach State Park. These are large turtles, with adults measuring two feet long and weighing thirty-five pounds. Pronounced ridges on their greenish black back and a long tail make them easy to identify from a distance. These turtles have a fierce disposition. Their powerful jaws and sharp beak make them very dangerous to humans. A large snapping turtle can bite through the handle of a crab net. But these adaptations have allowed Snapping Turtles to survive in their natural habitat, and they remain an important part of the ecosystem.

Turtles, like all wild animals, are a pleasure to see in their natural habitat but they are best observed from a distance. When humans get close, animals feel threatened and will defend themselves in any way possible. If you encounter a turtle crossing the road slow down and put your flashers on to alert other drivers. You do not need to help the turtle cross the road. Please be patient as you watch the turtle slowly cross the road and make its way into the vegetation without undue stress from a close human encounter.

## How Did The Fox Survive Super Storm Sandy?

Jim Merritt



I have lived several blocks from Island Beach State Park entrance for most of my life. For years I have observed Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) not only in the park, but in my neighborhood and on the beach as far north as Seaside Heights. As an employee of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, I am especially interested in the behavior of wildlife in the Park and the Sedge Island Marine Conservation Zone. Although I have not done any formal study of these animals, I have noticed fluctuations in the numbers of fox during the past twelve years. In the early 2,000's I would see one or two fox every time I drove to the Park kayak launch area. It was not uncommon to see a fox far out on the salt marsh islands stalking birds. Then, there was an out-break of mange and for several years I saw hardly any fox. During the past three years the fox population has rebounded. Last summer a pair of fox raised three juveniles in the backyard of a house in South Seaside Park neighborhood. How many fox live on the barrier island? The truth is no one knows exactly.

Many people were concerned that fox could not survive Super Storm Sandy. Almost any of the local residents who were able to return to their homes this winter can verify that the fox are thriving on the barrier island. Their coats are shiny and beautifully colored. They are sleek but not skinny. They slip quietly and gracefully through the roadside vegetation, conserving energy by running only when necessary. At least two fox have been seen together in the Northern Natural Area. Park employees feel that there may be several times this number.

Although I evacuated with my family before the storm hit, several of my South Seaside Park neighbors did not. From their second floor bedrooms they watched a wall of water push their car down the street and then flood the lower floor of their house. For the first week after the storm those who stayed used their propane grills to cook quickly thawing steaks and other meat from their non working freezers. Soon they had to completely clean out their refrigerators as food began to spoil. Fox took advantage of this opportunity for free



meals and began foraging in garbage cans. On many Fall nights Seaside Park Police on duty at the check-point just over the bridge had a visit from at least one fox. One officer reported that he had seen a fox burying a donut in the grassy median between lanes of cars stopped at the checkpoint.

Easy access to food often has negative unintended consequences for the fox and other wild animals. A sign at the Island Beach State Park entrance gate reminds visitors that it is illegal to feed wild animals. Feeding a fox or other wildlife encourages them to become dependent on easy-to-get human food that

often has poor nutritional value. Fox hang out on the road because they get handouts from well meaning but uninformed park visitors and soon the fox associate cars with food. Last year several young fox were accidentally hit and killed by cars because they ran into the road expecting to be fed. It is much easier to pick up a peanut butter sandwich thrown from a car window than it is to chase down a rabbit.

Please remember **DO NOT NOT FEED WILD-LIFE**. Many fox made it through Sandy but they may not survive on your peanut butter sandwich.

## Marine Mammals

*Halley Martinez, Educational Coordinator,  
Marine Mammal Stranding Center*

It is not uncommon for seals to venture onto Island Beach State Park between the months of November and June. The seal species that frequent New Jersey are: Harp Seals, Harbor Seals, Grey Seals, and an occasional Hooded Seal. They may appear on beaches because they are sick or injured, or they may just need to rest after their long journey from their normal range in northern waters.

The Marine Mammal Stranding Center responds to all marine mammals and sea turtles strandings in New Jersey. In 2010 the MMSC responded to three seals that stranded on Island Beach, including a 322-pound adult Grey

Seal that was found sick and emaciated in late June. The Park Staff assisted MMSC in catching the animal, and it was taken to the Center's rehabilitation center. The seal weighed well over 400 pounds upon release in August.

If you are lucky enough to see one of these seals, please call the Island Beach State Park office at (732)793-0506 to report the location. Park staff will contact the MMSC.

Please be sure to stay at least 50 feet away from the animal. These seals are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and like any wild animal, should be enjoyed from a distance.



## Beach Plums

*Rita Carey*

Bees love the delicate white flowers, birds and small rodents eat the fruit, many small animals make their home in the foliage, people savor the tart fruit in jam, jelly, syrup, ice cream, wine, and liquors. Our fall festival features this bush and you can pick this seasonal local favorite at the festival. This of course is *Prunus maritime* commonly known as Beach Plum. Beach Plums are found along the many paths in the park but are not available in the supermarket. The Friends newsletter bears its name. A member of the rose family, Beach Plum is found on the back dunes, in the thicket, and roadside edge plant communities of Island Beach State Park.

This species of plum is native to the Atlantic Coastal region from Maine south to Maryland. It can be grown on inland sites as well. The plant is very hardy; tolerant of low- to moderate-nutrient soil, hot sun, salt air, drought, and cold win-

ters. It requires well-drained soil. On the dunes, beach plums will reach heights of 4 to 7 feet and widths of 10 feet or more. The leaves are glossy, egg shaped, 1 ½ to 2 ½ inches long, dull green, and attached to branches with a stalk. The leaf edges are finely serrated. The root system penetrates deep into the soil and lower branches are often covered with shifting sands. New roots develop from these covered branches. Colonies are formed from this layering effect.

Beach Plum has a place in the early history of North America. The first recorded mention was by Giovanni da Verrazano in 1524, who noted them growing in southern New York state. He called them "damson trees". In 1609 Henry Hudson reported seeing an abundance of "blue plums" on the banks of the river that bears his name. The plant was named "*Prunus maritime*" in 1785.

Propagation is a challenge to the amateur gardener. New plants can be grown from a cut-

ting. Or, the stone from the fruit can be exposed to cold (put in the freezer) for a month to break the seed dormancy and then planted. Plants prefer sandy, acidic soil. One can not expect 100% success with either method. The seedlings require mulching and weeding but no fertilizer for the first year or two. Once the shrub is established it requires little or no maintenance.

There have been sporadic attempts to develop beach plum commercially. In 1992 Cape May Plant Materials Center in Cape May Court House, NJ developed a cultivar they named "Ocean View". The Cape May County Beach Plum Association is dedicated to the promotion and cultivation of the beach plum as a sustainable industry. In addition to fruit production, the bush has conservation application to provide dune stabilization and is of horticulture interest as an ornamental shrub.

Park patrons are allowed to pick the plums but not to walk on the dunes. Some people claim that the Nor' Easter winds that blow across the park affect the fruit. The Plums on the windward

side (north and east) are smaller than those on the lee side (south and west). One must compete with birds and small mammals for the ripe fruit. Also, remember that poison ivy thrives in and around beach plum bushes. For those who persevere, wonderful treats can be prepared. A Beach Plum recipe book is available (\$2.00 donation) from the Friends of Island Beach State Park.

Superstorm Sandy flooded the Beach Plum plants in the park. Salt water flooding pulls water out of plant roots and if enough roots dry severely, the plant can die. Root damage on surviving plants weakens the plant making it less tolerant of adverse environmental conditions during the coming summer. Some good news is that flooding took place after plants had gone dormant for winter so that there would be less damage than if plants were actively growing. We can hope that most Beach Plum plants survive and produce hardy foliage to help recover from salt water induced damage. We also hope for a good crop of plums.

## Diamondback Terrapins

*John Wnek, Ph.D., Supervisor*

*Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science*

Diamondback terrapins (*Malaclemys terrapin*) are a species of turtles that reside exclusively in estuaries, areas where freshwater and salt water mix. They range from Massachusetts to Texas, found in estuarine habitats along the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coasts. In New Jersey, terrapins are considered species of "special concern", indicating that populations may be in decline. Island Beach State Park (IBSP) is home to terrapins where studies have been conducted since 2002 by Project Terrapin and Drexel University to determine population estimates and nesting aspects of this species. Terrapin are captured, marked, and released back to the marsh system where caught, which gives researchers a better indication on the population size and terrapin health. It is estimated that the southern region of Island Beach State Park, within the Marine Conservation Zone, may be habitat for over 2000 terrapins. On land areas within IBSP,

female terrapins can lay an average of 12 to 13 eggs per clutch (group of eggs) and may come back to nest up to three times during the nesting season that runs from May through July. There are many predators that feed on terrapin nests including: crows, fox, raccoons, and mink. Eggs incubate for at least 60 days and the temperature of the nest determines the gender (warmer nests produce females). Please keep an eye out for nesting female terrapins crossing the roadway in the Park during the summer. Terrapins are an important indicator species for the health of a marsh system and Project Terrapin will continue to learn more about terrapins at IBSP, especially possible impacts caused by storms such as extra tropical cyclone Sandy. Natural areas, such as those that IBSP provide, may be a key for the survival of this species. Project Terrapin is working closely with Island Beach State Park to learn more about this species.



A clutch of eggs.



A hatchling being released as part of a head start hatchling program



Adult terrapin (on land)

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**New Jersey Beach Buggy Association**, one of the largest volunteer organizations in the state of New Jersey has been involved at Island Beach State Park since 1953. We help keep the beach the way all barrier islands should be, by putting up snow fence to preserve the dunes. The NJBBA members are active with Adopt-a-Beach and Clean Ocean Action during their beach clean-ups. We participate in National Trails Day in the park to keep all the hiking trails open and clear.

NJBBA members are judges for the annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament. A free Youth

Fishing Tournament for ages 16 years and under takes place in early September. On National Hunting & Fishing Day we spend time on the beach with special needs children, fishing and having lunch; every child receives a gift from the Beach Buggy Association. This event has been taking place for 41 years. Our members volunteer their time to teach fishing skills in July and August at the Surf Fishing Clinics offered in the park. We also have our own courtesy patrols, to look for infractions in the park.

For more information, please visit our website, [www.njbba.org](http://www.njbba.org). -Paul Harris, President, NJBBA



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## Friends and Organizations



**Save Barnegat Bay**  
732-830-3600  
[www.savebarnegatbay.org](http://www.savebarnegatbay.org)



**Barnegat Bay Partnership**  
732-255-0472  
[bbp.ocean.edu](http://bbp.ocean.edu)



**The Jersey Coast Anglers Association**  
[www.jcaa.org](http://www.jcaa.org)



**Nitrogen Free**  
[www.nitrogenfree.com](http://www.nitrogenfree.com)



**Conserve Wildlife Foundation**  
609-292-1276  
[www.ConserveWildlifeNJ.org](http://www.ConserveWildlifeNJ.org)



**New Jersey Beach Buggy Association**  
[www.njbba.org](http://www.njbba.org)

**Clean Ocean Action**  
[www.cleanoceanaction.org](http://www.cleanoceanaction.org) 732-872-0111

**The American Littoral Society**  
[www.littoralsociety.org](http://www.littoralsociety.org)  
732-291-0055

**New Jersey Audubon Society**  
[www.njaudubon.org](http://www.njaudubon.org) 908-204-8998

**Berkeley Striper Club**  
[www.berkeleystriperclub.org](http://www.berkeleystriperclub.org)

**New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs**  
[www.njsfsc.org](http://www.njsfsc.org)

**N.J. Division of Fish and Wildlife**  
[www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw) 609-292-2965

**The Jersey Shore Sea Kayak Association**  
[www.jsska.org](http://www.jsska.org)

## Thank You!

Special thanks to the members of the Friends of Island Beach State Park Visitor Guide Committee – Bill Gwyer, Bonnie Delaney, Howard Height, Ferd Klebold, and Pat McCarty who volunteered their time and talent to work on this project.

Through your efforts to collect pictures, update text and secure funding you have made it possible to add more pages and content to our 2013 Visitor Guide.

To everyone who gave of their time to write informative and timely articles your additions to the Visitor Guide are greatly appreciated.

A special thanks to all of our advertisers, some whom were not even sure they would be ready to open after devastating damages suffered by the visit from Sandy who continued to support us so that we could get the word out – Island Beach State Park would be ready to open for Memorial Day and they would be ready to welcome you back for another fun filled summer and to Jenny Wassel from Urner Barry Printing who shared her expertise in getting this Visitor Guide published.

— **Patricia M. Vargo**, *President*  
Friends of Island Beach State Park

# PROTECT OUR BAY. PROTECT OUR FUTURE.



The Barnegat Bay Partnership (one of 28 National Estuary Programs) wishes everyone a fun and safe summer season. Please enjoy the beautiful and unique natural wonders of the Barnegat Bay ecosystem with care and respect. Visit our website to find out more about the bay and how you and your family can help protect it.



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This message has been funded by the USEPA under a Clean Water Act grant agreement to Ocean County College and has not undergone USEPA review.



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# Stinging Jellyfish

**Sea nettles** (*Chrysaora quinquecirrha*) are a type of stinging jellyfish present in the waters of the Barnegat Bay and other coastal waterways of New Jersey.



Sea nettles are bell-shaped; the bell is white and often

has reddish markings along its surface. They have long thin tentacles around the edge of the bell. Sea nettles may be present in large numbers during the summer months, and have a painful sting.

## Moon jellies

(*Aurelia aurita*) have a flattened disk shape; the disk is translucent in appearance. Moon jellies have numerous small tentacles around the edge and a horseshoeshaped white or pinkish body in the center of the disk. They are abundant during the summer months, but have a mild sting and do not pose a threat to swimmers.



**Lion's mane jellyfish** (*Cyanea capillata*) are yellowishbrown or reddish in color and are saucer-shaped with fairly thick jelly. This species does pose a threat to swimmers because of its painful sting, but lion's mane are more common in the ocean than in the bay.



For more information about sea nettles in Barnegat Bay, contact the Barnegat Bay Partnership at (732) 255-0472, or visit <http://bbp.ocean.edu>.

For more information about the Sea Nettle Warning System, visit the Ocean County Health Department's seasonal Jellyfish Warning

## What should I do if I'm stung?

Clean the affected area with salt water (using fresh water may cause more stings) to help remove any remaining tentacles. Apply shaving cream, or a paste of baking soda and salt water, and scrape it off to help remove any remaining stingers. Ice may help with pain and itching. Seek medical attention for any serious reactions. Please notify the lifeguard on duty about your sting.

## Sea Nettle Warning System

**LOW**

No jellyfish observed.  
Low probability of encountering jellyfish.

**ELEVATED**

Few jellyfish observed.  
Elevated probability of encountering jellyfish.

**MODERATE**

Many jellyfish observed.  
Moderate probability of encountering jellyfish.

**HIGH**

Abundant jellyfish.  
High probability of encountering jellyfish.

This warning system is for information purposes only. The Ocean County Health Dept. and the Barnegat Bay Partnership are NOT responsible for injury caused by jellyfish stings.

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# Horseshoe Crab

*Limulus Polyphemus*

Horseshoe crab - The horseshoe crab is a living relic from the past having remained nearly unchanged for the past 250 million years. With an articulated body, they are in the same class with insects, spiders and crustaceans. They are believed to pre date the dinosaurs by 100 million years!

The Horseshoe Crab is an important component ecologically to the Barnegat Bay system. Every year they return to the bay and other estuary systems along the Atlantic coast to spawn and lay their eggs. The peak for their return is between May and June. During this period it is a common sight to see pairs attached to one another mating. Afterwards the female comes ashore and lays her fertilized eggs in the sand between the high and low tide marks. Many of the local and seasonal species of birds, crustaceans, fish and turtles partially depend on this deluge of eggs for sustenance.

There are 11 species of migratory birds that have been identified foraging on horseshoe crab eggs to replenish their fat supply during their long migration from South American wintering areas to their Arctic breeding grounds (Myers, 1986). Familiar species like the Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Semipalmated Sandpiper and Sanderling may par-

tially owe their recent declines to the decline of the Horseshoe Crab. Finfish species also depend

on the eggs. The shallow waters of Barnegat Bay with its beds of eel grass make a perfect nursery for the spawned young of our common game fish. These young of the Striped Bass, The Flounders, Weakfish, Silversides, White Perch, American Eel and the Killifish species all feed on the soft high protein Horseshoe eggs. This abundant predation does not significantly affect the population of Horseshoe Crabs in the bay.

Human impact has been the most significant cause of the Horseshoe Crab's decline. Prior to the 1930s when chemical fertilizers were becoming a cheap source to feed crops the Horseshoe crab was harvested as a source for fertilizer. In the 1980s, due to increased demand in Asian markets, American Eels were caught using Horseshoe Crabs as bait. The American Eel fishery expanded as well did the unregulated harvest of Horseshoe Crabs. This same pattern was seen again in the 1990s. As fish stocks continued their decline whelk meat expanded its market share at the expense of the Horseshoe Crab. — Courtesy of Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources and Horseshoecrab.com

*Dominick Solazzo*



## SEASIDE HEIGHTS FREE EVENTS

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**September 6 • Bed Race**

**September 8 • Seafood in Seaside Festival**

**September 8 • Vintage Automobile Club Car Show**

**September 14-15 • 32nd Annual Clownfest**

**September 20- 22 • 5th Annual Que by the Sea  
BBQ Festival & Competition**

**October 5 • F.I.S.H. Children's Fishing Tournament**

**October 11-13 • Columbus Day Italian Street Festival**

**October 13 • Columbus Day Parade**



For a complete Calendar of Events visit: [www.exit82.com](http://www.exit82.com)

# Friends of Island Beach State Park

Patricia M. Vargo, *President* – Friends of Island Beach State Park, Inc.

The Friends of Island Beach State Park, Inc. was formed in 1996. Our purpose is to serve as a volunteer group organized to enhance interpretive, educational, recreational, research programs and events at Island Beach State Park and to encourage protection of the barrier island ecosystem. Our accomplishments are many and our role is vital to the support of this beautiful natural resource. The Friends publish and distribute 30,000 copies of this very informative Visitor Guide. We are proud to say that this Guide is the only one of its kind published by a Friends organization in the New Jersey Parks System. One of the major projects for which we provide funding and volunteer support is the planting of American Beach Grass to protect and preserve the Dunes. This year we will have purchased 35,000 plants and plugs which will be planted in conjunction with park personnel and our partner NJ Beach Buggy Assn. who supplied and installed the much needed dune fencing. Other activities that we support are all of the Interpretive Programs and Activities throughout the Park. Members also participate in Outreach events such as, Ocean Fun Day, Clean Ocean Action Beach Sweeps, Barnegat Bay Festival and Barnegat Bay Blitz Cleanup. Over the years Friends

has made many donations to the Park. Last year we enhanced the state of the art, solar powered, outdoor camera w/zoom and night vision capabilities to provide the public with a live 24/7 view of the Osprey on their nest. The Osprey can not only be viewed on the Friends website but can also be seen by visitors at the Interpretive Center where we have installed a 42in television set. Funding is made possible for all of our activities through proceeds from fundraising, such as, the Beach Plum Festival, Kayak Raffle, donations, grants and membership dues. Everyone who has enjoyed reading this guide and enjoys the park is encouraged to become a member of Friends, become a Volunteer or make a donation. We are a 501C3 Tax Exempt organization. To our present Members, Donors and Volunteers - THANK YOU - YOU ARE APPRECIATED!

See you at the Park!



To become a member, or Volunteer fill out the application provided in this Guide, visit our web site at [www.thefriendsofislandbeach.org](http://www.thefriendsofislandbeach.org). Or call 732-792-5525.

To donate to our Organization, we are a non-profit, tax exempt corporation as defined by the Internal Revenue Code 501-C-3 and all donations are tax deductible. We accept donations by mail, on line at [www.thefriendsofislandbeach.org](http://www.thefriendsofislandbeach.org) or in our donation boxes located in the Nature and Interpretive Center in the park during the summer months. FOIBSP, Inc. POB 406, Seaside Park, NJ 08752

## Join Friends of Island Beach State Park

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POB 406, Seaside Park, NJ 08752

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer Opportunities:

Beach Plum Festival \_\_\_\_\_ Summer Programs \_\_\_\_\_

Tour guide at the Interpretive Center \_\_\_\_\_

Main areas of interest at the Park \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



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