

Island Beach State Park

2014



Visitor Guide

Brought to you by
Friends of Island Beach State Park



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

*Photos courtesy of Raymond Hallgreen
unless otherwise noted.*

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 Visitor Guide available.

Island Beach, like much of the East Coast and particularly our neighboring communities, is still recovering from Superstorm Sandy. Of particular interest is the repair of the Barnegat Inlet jetty at the Park's extreme south end. The jetty is closed to all access for the 2014 season while repairs are made under the direction of the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. While closing the area for the season is a difficult decision, the safety of our park-goers is paramount and the project is an absolute necessity to assure the integrity of the jetty, surrounding beach, and the

inlet. The inlet is vital to the ecologic health of Barnegat Bay and the regional economy.

I am proud to report that Island Beach operated exceptionally well during the 2013 summer season, despite the setbacks suffered from storm damage. In fact, on a month-to-month basis, park usage was higher in 2013 than in 2012, which was a record year for Island Beach. However, as most visitors were aware, some amenities were altered or absent in 2013. We continue to restore all services and infrastructure at this time, not simply to pre-storm conditions, but to surpass and improve upon the conditions present prior to the storm. The desire of the Park Service, our staff and our partners is to provide you 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. Island Beach State Park also features amenities like the concession areas and showers to rinse off, all of which our tireless staff maintains all year long. And, of course, swimmers are protected by one of the best lifeguard crews on the East Coast.

Children 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 interpretive education 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 by 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 24, 25, 26 and daily during the summer season from June 16 - September 1, as well as September 6 and 7. 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.

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.

Mark Your Calendar

Youth Fishing Tournament..... **Saturday, Sept. 6**

Beach Plum Festival**Sunday, Sept. 7**

Governor's Surf Fishing Contest**Sunday, May 18**

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

facebook.com/friendsofislandbeach

Follow us on Twitter! @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. 7

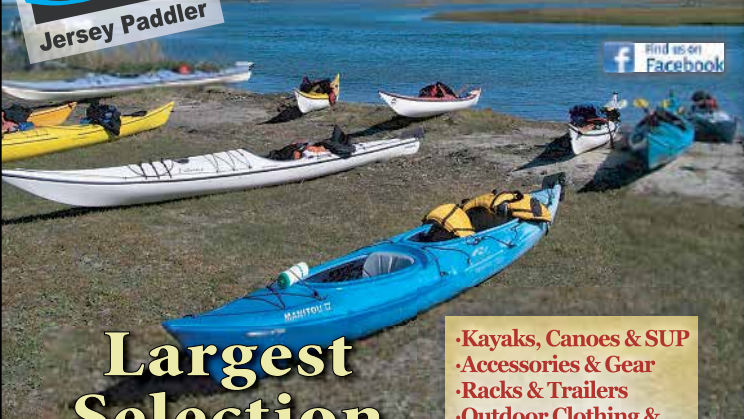


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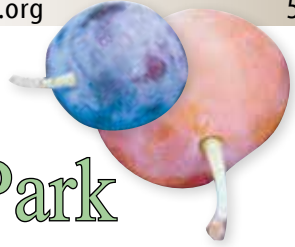


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17th Annual Island Beach State Park Beach Plum Festival

Beach Plum Jelly

Crafters

Children's Games

Kayak Raffle

Food & Music

Beach Plum Ice Cream

Environmental & Non-Profit Exhibits

Sunday, September 7, 2014

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

Ocean Beach Bathing Area #1

Rain or Shine

No entrance fee at gate

\$5 parking donation to support festival



Sponsored by
The Friends of Island Beach State Park, Inc.

For more information:
thefriendsofislandbeach.org
info@friendsofibsp.org

Swimming Beaches

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.

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 24) Daily, June 14 – September 1.

They will also be on duty September 6 and 7.

No swimming permitted after 6:00 p.m.



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

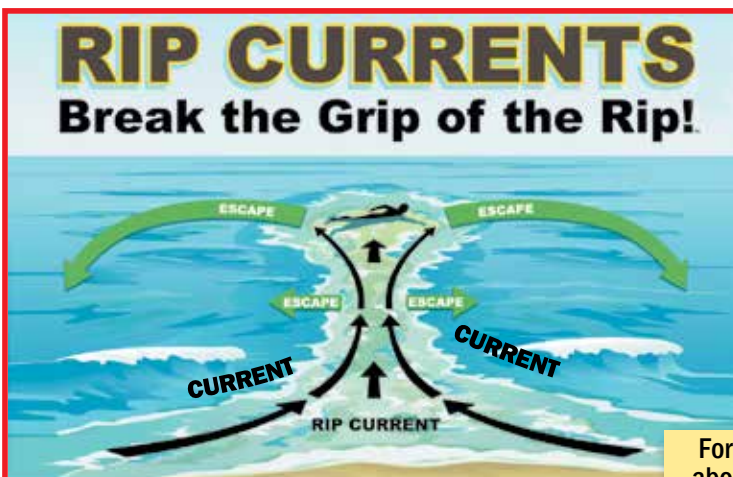
would like to welcome you to Island Beach State Park. For the protection of the visitors, Island Beach lifeguards guard the swimming areas and respond to emergencies throughout the Park. The Beach Patrol comprises men and women who are dedicated and highly trained water safety professionals. It is the 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 pre-

ventive 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!

For more information about rip currents visit www.ripcurrents.nozz.gov and www.usiz.org



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

Help ReClam the Bay

If you want to see and help raise live baby clams and oysters, come to the Seaside Park Marina, J Street and the Bay. 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 center. The center is completely off the grid using solar power for electricity and disposing of human 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, click on "education" and then "Sedge Island".

- Jim Merritt

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Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament

Photo by Norah English

Sunday, May 18
Island Beach State Park

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

The Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament date has changed from the fall to the spring! This year the 23rd Annual Tournament was held on Sunday, May 18, 2014. The new date for the tournament was proposed in an effort to increase participation in the event. Moving the date to the spring will hopefully allow for better fishing, less competition from competing interests in October such as fall festivals, sports, and bow hunting season, and provide a great way to kick off New Jersey's summer shore season. The tournament aims to encourage youngsters and adults to learn more about surf fishing while taking advantage of a great family activity. Funds raised by the tournament go toward marine resource conservation and education. Recently tournament funds were allocated to purchase new beach wheel chairs for use at Island Beach State Park.

Last year's 22nd Annual Tournament had a foggy start to the day of fishing for 560 anglers who were hoping to catch the overall largest fish. Eventually the sun burned through the fog and twenty-one fish were entered in the bluefish, kingfish and blackfish categories. NJ DEP Assistant Commissioner of Natural and Historic Resources Richard Boornazian was on site to greet tournament participants and to take part in the awards ceremony. A total of thirteen prizes were awarded in categories for children, teen and adults. However, the grand prize went to Barry South of Morrisville, Pennsylvania, for catching an 18 1/2" bluefish. Mr. South received two rod-and-reel combinations, a plaque, and will have his name engraved on the Governor's Cup, which is permanently on display at Island Beach State Park.



Trophy winners and Participants of the 23rd Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament

For more information about the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament visit

NJFishandWildlife.com/gsft.htm

For registration information, visit the Park Office or contact Karen Byrne at (609) 748-4347 or karen.byrne@dep.state.nj.us

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry, New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Jersey Coast Anglers Association and New Jersey Beach Buggy Association would like to thank the following organizations for contributing to the success of the 22nd Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament in 2013:

Canyon Gear	Surf Rocket
Grumpy's Bait & Tackle	Tru-Turn, Inc.
Legal Limits Company	TTI-Blakemore Fishing Group
Manns Bait Company	Wright & McGill Company
O Mustad & Son, Inc.	
Sportsman's Center	

For more information and application visit
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 March.

21st Annual Youth Fishing Tournament

Saturday, Sept.6

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





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Protect Barnegat Bay:

“Go Native” with the Jersey Shore Chapter of the Native Plant Society

People eager to help protect and restore Barnegat Bay have been asking, “What can we do to make a difference?” One very important way is to incorporate native plants into our landscaping, since natives help yards absorb stormwater and filter out pollutants before they reach the bay.

Both beautiful and hardy, native plants have evolved over thousands of years to be adapted to conditions in our area and to the other plants and animals around them. They thrive in our local climate and soil and have natural defenses to plant diseases, harmful insects, and other pests. Because they are so well-adapted to our region, natives require less water and fertilizer than nonnatives, and are less likely to need pesticides. They also provide essential food, shelter, and nesting sites for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife.

Planting natives is a great way to help improve water quality in the Barnegat Bay. Native plant roots hold soil in place, increase infiltration of rainwater into the ground, and filter pollutants from our water. Since natives need less fertilizer than lawns or non-native plants, they also help reduce

the amount of pollution that stormwater can carry into our rivers and the bay.

For more information about the plants native to our watershed, check out the Barnegat Bay Partnership’s publication, *Going Native: A Guide to Landscaping with Native Plants in the Barnegat Bay Watershed*. *Going Native* includes a color chart of native shrubs and trees, flowering perennials, and grasses, plus two sample garden designs. Visit <http://bbp.ocean.edu/pages/362.asp> to download the guide and see a list of local native plant suppliers.

Another great resource is the Native Plant Society of New Jersey, a statewide, non-profit organization dedicated to the appreciation, protection, and study of New Jersey’s native plants. Our local Jersey Shore chapter hosts guest speakers, tours of native plant gardens, seed and plant exchanges, and other events, and we welcome new members. Log on to www.npsnj.org and join on-line or download their membership form (don’t forget to check off the “Jersey Shore Chapter”).

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 life-saving 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. 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 beachcombing found at Island Beach, as well as several tanks of live animals on display, including Newton the Corn snake. Located on the first floor is the Friends of Island Beach State Park office. On the second floor is a science laboratory, a classroom, and an education display. The view from the

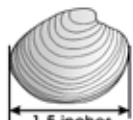
second floor windows hosts one of the best vistas of the landscape at Island Beach. Come have a look at the many different opportunities a day at Island Beach affords. Please check the Friends website at www.thefriendsofislandbeach.org for hours and schedules of the Nature Programs held there and elsewhere in the park.

Just past the two buildings is a self guided nature trail that meanders eastward to the beach. It begins in 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 their home. 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 secondary dune. There is so much more to this park than the bathing beaches at Area 1 & 2.

– Patricia McCarty

ATTENTION ANGLERS

2014 NJ Recreational Minimum Size, Possession Limits & Seasons



1.5 inches
Hard Clam

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

*Fish are measured from tip of snout to tip of tail (except Black Sea Bass and Sharks).

*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.



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 18 inches
Open season: May 23 - Sept 27



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

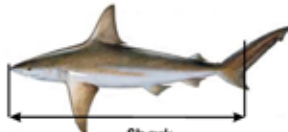
Del. River & tribs. (Calhoun St. Bridge): Trenton, to Salem River & tribs.
Open Mar.1 - Mar. 31 & June 1 - Dec. 31
Atlantic Ocean (0-3 miles from shore), no closed season
(Greater than 3 miles from shore), closed
All other marine waters, open Mar. 1 - Dec. 31



Winter Flounder
2 fish at 12 inches
Open season: March 1 - Dec 31



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



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



Black Sea Bass 12.5 inches
15 fish May 19 - June 30
3 fish July 1 - August 31
15 fish Sept 1 - Sept 6
15 fish Oct 18 - Dec 31



Blue Crab
peeler or shedder - 3 inches
soft - 3 1/2 inches
hard - 4 1/2 inches
recreational limit - one bushel
Crab pot/trawl line 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

OTHER SPECIES	POSSESSION LIMIT	TOTAL LENGTH
AMERICAN EEL	25	9"
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 July 1-Dec.31)
SHAD	6	NO LIMIT
*Not more than 3 American Shad in Delaware Bay, River & tributaries		
*No American Shad all other waters.		
RIVER HERRING	CLOSED	N/A
AMERICAN LOBSTER	6	3 3/8" to 5 1/4" Carapace Length



New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Fish and Wildlife
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, 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 the Park Office: 732-793-0506.

For an online application, visit

www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/individual_volunteer_2007.pdf



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Toms River, NJ 08753
732 341-1880

Tours: Tuesday & Thursday
1:00 PM ~ 3:00 PM

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

28th Annual Antiques &
Collectibles Faire
August 30th
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Monofilament Fishing Line Recycling at Island Beach State Park

Discarded monofilament fishing line can wreak havoc on the marine environment by entangling, injuring and killing marine birds and aquatic wildlife. It can also cost boaters thousands of dollars when it gets caught in boat propellers and other gear.

You can help keep fishing line out of the marine environment by placing it in collection bins located on the Island.

Bins are located at Area 7, 23, the Park Office, Gilligan's Rd, and 2 Bit Rd just inside the Park entrance.

Remember! These bins are for fishing line ONLY. Please DO NOT place other trash items in the bins!

For more information visit: http://www.nj-cleanmarina.org/fishing_line_recycling.html

Has your day at Island Beach made you hungry? Stop by SurfTaco on your way out of the Park.

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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

Kayaking in the Sedge Islands

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

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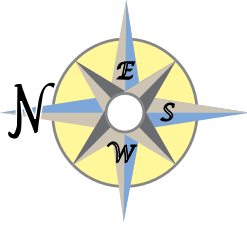
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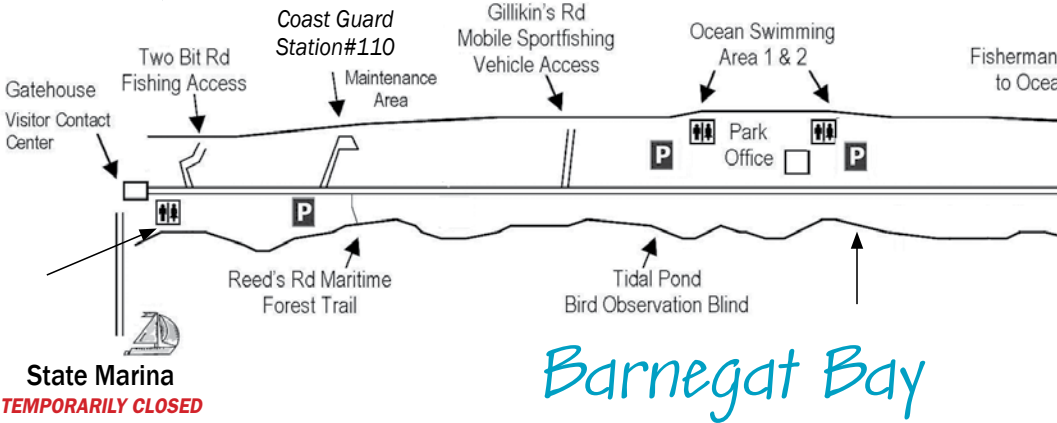
Map not to scale



Atlantic Ocean

Northern Natural Area

Recreation Zone



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

**Ocean Swimming Beach Pavilions
Ocean Swimming Area #1 & 2**

3½ 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.

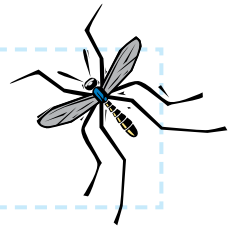
A-13 Trail

.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.



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



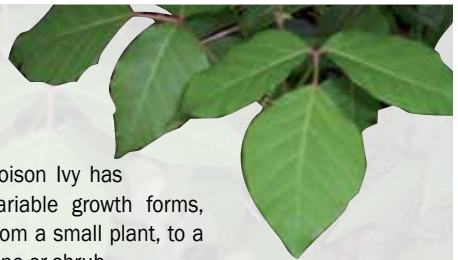
**Please be aware of
Ticks and Poison Ivy**

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.

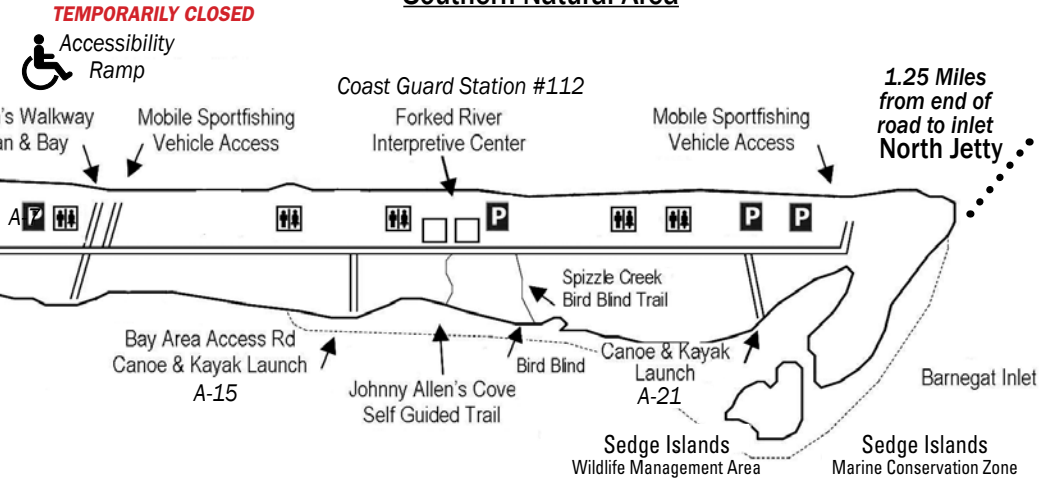
Poison Ivy has variable growth forms, from a small plant, to a vine or shrub.

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.



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.

Southern Natural Area



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.

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.

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.

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.



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

Island Beach State Park offers sunbathers pristine surroundings for their summertime enjoyment. But there's more to explore at Island Beach State Park. Join IBSP Natural Educators and discover this unique barrier island ecosystem! Pre-registration required for all Guided Programs. For details and information regarding individual programs, please call the park office: 732-793-0506, or log on to:



www.conservewildlifenj.org/education/programs/islandbeach/



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

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

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. Please call the Park Office for additional details: 732-793-0506, or contact ibspnaturalist@gmail.com. All proceeds support IBSP's Interpretive Program!

WILDCHILD Programs for Kids!

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 a wild adventure! Pre-registration required for all WILDCHILD Programs. See descriptions for age restrictions, times, and fees.

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. Bring sunscreen, drinking water, bug spray. Ages 3-5 yrs. with caregiver. Cost: \$5 per child. Wednesdays: July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Aug 6, 13, 20, 27. (10:30-11:30am). Meet at the Nature Center.

WILDCHILD Island Explorers

If you like exploring the outdoors, learning about animals, and investigating the ecosystem, then you're an Island Explorer! Join us for 2 hours of catching fish, spying on birds, or learning about turtles, and more. A different topic is explored each week. Drop off your child for two hours of fun! Bring sunscreen, drinking water, bug spray. Ages 6 to 12 yrs. Cost: \$10 per child. Alternating Fridays and Saturdays: July 5, 11, 19, 25, August 2, 16, 22, 30. (10am-12pm). Meet at the Nature Center.

WILDCHILD Surfing Safari

Surf's Up Dude! What are waves? How are waves made? Where do waves come from? Paddle out Surf's Up Dude! Learn about waves, what they are, where they come from, and why the waves break. Paddle out with expert Natural Educators and IBSP Lifeguards, and maybe you'll be hangin' 10 by the end of the summer! Bring sunscreen, towel, drinking water, wear bathing suit. Ages 8 to 17 yrs. Cost: \$25 per child. Meet at the Park Office. (Times based on low tide) July 1 (10am-12pm), July 3 (10am-12pm), July 8 (10am-12pm), July 10 (4-6pm), July 15 (9-11am), July 17 (10am-12pm), Jul 24 (4-6pm), Jul 29 (9-11am), Jul 31 (9-11am), Aug 5 (12-2pm), Aug 7 (2-4pm), Aug 12 (9-11am), Aug 14 (9-11am), Aug 21 (2-4pm), Aug 26 (9-11am), Aug 28 (9-11am).

Coastal Cooking at IBSP

Join Park Naturalists and Professional Culinary Instructor Joe Jakositz to learn how to harvest, clean, prepare, and cook your local catch. We will provide you with the necessary tools/tips to handle your culinary development. We will supply all of the food necessary to have a delicious meal. After learning how to prepare and cook, participants will get to enjoy a private dinner. Please be aware that shellfish and finfish will be on the menu. Cost: \$25 per person. Friday, July 18 (5:30-8pm). Saturday, August 2 (5:30-8pm). Meet at the Ocean Bathing Pavilion 1.

Kayak Tours

Enjoy kayak tours of the Barnegat Bay and Sedge Island Marine Conservation Zone. All equipment, including tandem kayaks, paddles, and personal floatation devices are provided. Ages 14 yrs. and older. Cost: \$25 per person. For all kayak programs meet at the A-21 Kayak Launch.

Birding by Kayak

Expert Park Natural Educators will guide you on a peaceful paddle through the dynamic Barnegat Bay estuarine ecosystem. Discover the diversity of birds that inhabit Island Beach State Park in the summer. We will discuss migration patterns and birds that reside year round. Bring sunscreen, drinking water, and bug spray. (Binoculars suggested for best viewing of birds). Thursdays: July 3, August 7. (9am-12pm).

Sedge Islands “Then and Now” Kayak Tour

Barnegat Bay was once a commercial hub for market gunners, baymen, and salt hay farmers. Learn about the people who lived here long ago and how they utilized the natural resources of the bay. Today, the Sedge Islands is a Marine Conservation Zone. Come join Park Natural Educators to learn more in depth about this unique ecosystem. Bring sunscreen, drinking water, and bug spray. (Binoculars are optional). Sundays and Wednesdays: June 29, July 2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27, 30, August 3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27, 31. (9am-12pm).

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 including herons, egrets and foxes! Bring sunscreen, drinking water, and bug spray. (Binoculars are optional). Saturdays: June 28, July 12, 26, August 23. (4-7pm).

Kayak Eco-Tour

Let's get lost in nature! Park Natural Educators will provide an aquatic ecological experience for those interested in learning more about one of the largest estuaries in New Jersey. Learn all about the many functions of the bay, including the marine life, plants, birds, and geology of the area. Bring sunscreen, drinking water, and bug spray. (Binoculars are optional). Thursdays: July 10, 17, 24, 31, August 14, 21, 28. (9am-12pm).

Snorkeling Barnegat Bay & Kayak Tour

Join Park Natural Educators for an exciting snorkel adventure in the Barnegat Bay! Learn about an overview of the estuary, followed by diving into the shallow waters to explore both plant and marine life through total aquatic immersion. We will identify fish, crabs and other aquatic organisms. Bring sunscreen, drinking water, and bug spray. Mondays: June 30, July 7, 14, 21, 28, August 4, 11, 18, 25. (9am-12pm).

Trail Hikes and Guided Walks

Explore the 'wild side' of Island Beach State Park. All ages welcome. Minors must be accompanied by a registered adult. Pre-registration required: www.conservewildlifenj.org/education/programs/islandbeach/

Moonlight Hikes

Join us on an adventurous night hike to discover “whoooooo” is awake when the sun goes down at Island Beach State Park. When we arrive at the beach enjoy a bonfire, roast marshmallows, and listen to stories. Bring a flashlight, blanket or chair, sunscreen, drinking water, and bug spray. Cost: \$5 per person. Saturdays July 12, August 30 (7-10 pm). Meet at the Interpretive Center.

Island History & Eco-Hikes

Bring your curiosity and keen senses as you join Park Natural Educators on a hike to learn all about the history and ecology Island Beach State Park. A variety of different topics of the park will be explored, including its diverse history, wildlife, and habitats. Bring sunscreen, drinking water, and bug spray. (Binoculars are optional). Cost: \$5 per person. (10-11am).

Wednesday, July 2. Meet at the Interpretive Center.

Saturday, July 5. Meet at the Interpretive Center.

Sunday, July 13. Meet at the Reed's Road Trail.

Saturday, August 2. Meet at the Interpretive Center.

Saturday, August 23. Meet at the Interpretive Center.

Beginner's Surf Fishing Clinic

No fish tales told here! Come learn the basic techniques for successful surf fishing. All fishing equipment and bait provided. Bring sunscreen, drinking water, bug spray, snack/lunch. Minors must be accompanied by a pre-registered adult. Minimum age: 10 yrs. Cost: \$10 per person. Fridays: July 4, 11, 18, 25, Aug. 1, 15, 22, 29. (9am-2pm). Meet at the Interpretive Center.

Photography Seminar

Come listen to local professionals talk about trade secrets. Topics will include ethical photography, the methodology behind capturing images (lighting angles, camera selection, etc.), a review of some of the professional photographers work, with an open dialogue throughout the program. Prints will be available to purchase at each event, with a contribution made to the Interpretive Program with each purchase. Minimum age: 10 yrs. Cost: \$5 per person. Wednesdays (1-2:30pm). Meet at the Interpretive Center.

July 2: Mark Schwall; Ethics of Wildlife Photography, The Snowy Owl Paradigm

July 9: Michael Pierson

July 16: Harry Collins; Nature/Wildlife Photography, Tricks of the Professionals

July 23: Donna Gryjel

July 30: Richard King; Barnegat Bay Ecology

August 6: Russ Horn; Animals/Portraits

August 13: David Nilsen; Aquatic Action

August 20: Thomas Lozinski; Night Photography, Aerials, Long Exposure, Wide Angle Landscape



ISLAND BEACH STATE PARK introduces *Harvest the Bay!* FUN Educational Programs and Events

HARVEST THE BAY Educational Programs

Clamming, Crabbing and Fishing are popular New 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, while learning about their role in the Barnegat Bay ecosystem. Discover how these animals are impacted by the health of the bay, and learn proper techniques for harvesting. All ages welcome, minors must be accompanied by an adult. Cost: \$10 per person.

Clamming

Shellfish are an important link within the Barnegat Bay food-chain and ecosystem. 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. Bring sunscreen, drinking water, bug spray, wear water-shoes. July 3, 8, 17, 21, 29, 31, August 7, 11, 19, 25, 28. (10am-12pm). Meet at the A-21 Kayak Launch.

Crabbing

Discover the fascinating life cycle of the Blue Claw Crab, its role in the coastal ecosystem, when and how to harvest them, and what you can do to assure their populations remain at a healthy level. Bring sunscreen, drinking water, bug spray, wear water-shoes. July 10, 14, 22, August 4, 12, 21. (10am-12pm). Meet at the Marina on W. 24th Street just before the park entrance.

Fishing

Bluefish, Fluke, Black Drum – the bay is host to a variety of local fish. Explore the role of finfish in the bay's ecosystem and discover techniques for successful fishing. Cast a line into the bay and reel in your catch of the day! Bring sunscreen, drinking water, bug spray, wear water-shoes. July 7, 15, 24, 28, August 5, 14, 18, 26. (10am-12pm). Meet at the Marina on W. 24th Street just before the park entrance.

HARVEST THE BAY DAY!

A Celebration of Barnegat Bay's Natural Resources

Saturday August 9th, 3-8 p.m.; Rain Date: Saturday, August 16th, 3-8 p.m.

Bring the entire family to Harvest the Bay Day to explore the natural resources of Barnegat Bay. Enjoy exhibitors' hands-on activities, nature programs, fresh local seafood, and live music. Free with park admission. Call 732-739-0506 for more information.

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 Buggy Association, Division of Fish & Wildlife, MATES, OCVTS, DEP Bureau of Shellfisheries, and Friends of Island Beach State Park.





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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! Children must be accompanied by an adult. IBSP Daily Programs are free with paid admission to the Park.



Scan to learn more about our Programs!

Seine Barnegat Bay

Pull a seine net through the Barnegat Bay and discover the amazing creatures who live in the bay. Sheepshead Minnows, Pipe Fish, Blue Claw Crabs – what’s today’s catch of the day? **Free daily programs at 11am and 1pm. Pre-register at the Fish Tanks in the Pavilion at Bathing Beach No. 1.**

Tank Talk

Meet the creatures of the Park’s barrier island ecosystem. Discover who lives in our unique estuarine and coastal habitats. Be tickled by a mud snail, count the legs on a spider crab, see a pufferfish puff, and examine a sea star. **Free daily shows at 2pm at the fish tanks in the Pavilion at Bathing Beach No. 1.**

MOVIE NIGHT at the Park

Come join park naturalists as we watch, “The Blue Planet: Seas of Life” at the Interpretive Center. Natural Educators will briefly discuss how important coastal ecosystems are to the environment including Barnegat Bay before playing the movie. Guests are asked to bring pillow/blanket. Popcorn and water will be provided. All ages welcome, minors must be accompanied by an adult. Cost: \$5 per person. Saturdays June 21, July 19, September 6 (6-8pm). Meet at the Interpretive Center.

For more Information



Follow us on Facebook



Nature Notes

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 its 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



Photo by Carol Craig

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. 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 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.

Photo by Ray Yeager, RTY Photographer

Aquatic Diversity at Island Beach State Park

Dr. Ed Hale

Many different types of habitats exist at Island Beach State Park with unique plants and animals that reside here. Island Beach is one of the last undeveloped stretches of barrier island ecosystems along the eastern United States. Here, you can travel from the primary dune all the way to the salt marsh next to the bay, while crossing shrub thickets, freshwater wetlands and maritime forest communities as you go. In addition to the terrestrial habitat provided for coastal land dwelling animals like the red fox, Island Beach has a great degree of aquatic diversity present under the water's surface. Barnegat Bay is a tremendously

important location for small forage fishes and juvenile fishes that are popular game species. Striped bass, bluefish, summer flounder, Atlantic croaker, Northern kingfish, tautog, and black sea bass all utilize estuaries as nursery grounds during some point in their development. The bay has submerged aquatic vegetation, like eelgrass that provides refuge from predators, and prey items in the form of smaller fish like Atlantic silversides and mummichogs. Additionally, these aquatic species are preyed upon by coastal birds including herons, egrets and gulls.

Turtle Crossing

Jim Merritt

Three types of turtles are commonly seen crossing the road in Island Beach State Park.

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. Their sharp claws help them dig into the sand to lay their eggs.

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.

Red Fox in the Park

Jim Merritt

Almost everyone who visited the park this past winter had the opportunity to see one or more red fox (*Vulpes Vulpes*.) Rather than being wiped out by Super Storm Sandy the fox population rebounded in the summer of 2013. In spite of very cold weather and lots of snow, the 2014 population of fox seems higher than ever.

Red fox are sleek but not skinny. They slip quietly in and out of vegetation conserving energy by running only when necessary. Because they are more comfortable around humans than most other wild animals they are frequently seen along the road. Fox in Island Beach State Park have learned that they can often get food from Park visitors. Unfortunately for the fox, this behavior often leads to trouble.

Easy access to food from humans often has negative, unintended consequences for fox and other wild animals. A sign at the Park entrance gate reminds visitors that it is illegal to feed wild animals. Feeding fox or other wildlife encourages them to

become dependent on easy to get human food that often has poor nutritional value. Fox hang out along the road because they associate cars with food. Every year fox are hit by cars and are injured or killed as they run into the road expecting to be fed. Please remember, DO NOT FEED WILDLIFE. You are literally killing them with kindness.



Photo by Ray Yeager, RTY Photographer

Did you know?

Ferd Klebold

Did you know that during the 1930's and 40's Island Beach was the summer home of three famous authors?

Pearl Buck who wrote novels that mostly were set in China and Linwood Righter wrote books about the adventures of young boys on Island Beach. The

third author, Augusta Huiell Seaman Freeman, resided year around in a house on the bay front. She wrote over 20 children's mystery books that took place on Island Beach.

Sharks at the Jersey Shore

Dr. Ed Hale

There are many different species of sharks ranging from inches to feet in length. They cross a number of habitat types from shallow coastal estuaries all the way out to open ocean areas. For a complete list of shark species that inhabit New Jersey waters, visit: <http://www.nj.gov/dep/fgw/chkfishmarine.htm>. Some of the more common coastal species include smooth and spiny dogfish, sandbar, bull, blacktips, spinners, and dusky sharks. As you move into deeper water, you begin to see sand tigers, bigeye thresher, common thresher, and basking sharks. Offshore along the Mid-Atlantic, we have tigers, blues, white, short-fin mako, porbeagle, oceanic whitetips and hammerhead sharks. However, most of these species represent little to no threat to beachgoers at all.

Different sharks do approach the shoreline in order to engage in feeding and breeding activities along the New Jersey coast. Species that feed along the coast include dogfish which are commonly caught while fishing for summer flounder or fluke (see picture below). From personal experience, smooth dogfish are quite enjoyable to fish for and provide for a tasty meal when properly prepared. Sandbar sharks are also frequently spotted in shallower areas feeding on smaller coastal finfishes. Other species like white sharks and bull



Dr. Ed Hale, Island Beach State Park naturalist, holding a smooth dogfish caught at a sod bank along the New Jersey coast.

sharks use estuaries as juvenile nursery grounds and occasionally visit close to shore as adults. These sharks, while present, want very little to do with ocean swimmers and surfers and present very little to no risk.

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. The Beach Plum, a seasonal favorite, is also known as *Prunus maritima*. Beach Plums are found along many paths in the park but are not available in the supermarket. A member of the rose family, the 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 winters. 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 maritima*” in 1785.

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

continued on Page 25

continued from Page 24

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.

Marine Mammals

Halley Martínez, 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.

Diamondback Terrapins

John Wnek, Ph.D., Supervisor
Marine Academy of Technology and
Environmental Science



A clutch of eggs.



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



Adult terrapin (on land)

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. Terrapins 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.

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

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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 Fish-

ing 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.

- **Tim Burden**, *President* - NJBBA



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Save Barnegat Bay
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Barnegat Bay Partnership
732-255-0472 • bbp.ocean.edu



The Jersey Coast Anglers Association
www.jcaa.org



Conserve Wildlife Foundation
609-292-1276 • www.ConserveWildlifeNJ.org



New Jersey Beach Buggy Association
www.njbba.org



ReClam the Bay
www.reclamthebay.org



Clean Ocean Action
732-872-0111 • www.cleanoceanaction.org



The American Littoral Society
732-291-0055 • www.littoralsociety.org



New Jersey Audubon Society
732-291-0055 • www.njaudubon.org



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www.berkeleystriperclub.org



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www.njsfsc.org



N.J. Division of Fish and Wildlife
609-292-2965 • www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw



The Jersey Shore Sea Kayak Association
www.jsska.org

Thank You!

Special thanks to the members of the Friends of Island Beach State Park Visitor Guide Committee – Howard Height, Ferd Kelbold, Donna Kras, Ray Hallgreen, Jim Merritt, Peggy Trerotola and Marissa Scorese who volunteered their time and talent to work on this project.

Through your efforts to supply and collect pictures, update text and secure funding you have made it possible to add more content to our 2014 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 great big special thanks to all of our advertisers who continue to support us so we can get the word out that Island Beach State Park will be open for Memorial Day and ready to welcome you back for another fun filled summer and especially to Caroline Hirt, graphic designer, Urner Barry Printer, who worked her magic and helped us put this Visitor Guide together.

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

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.



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 pale 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 yellowish-brown 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.

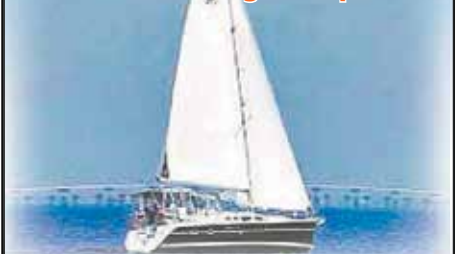
HIGH

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 Crabs

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 partially owe their re-

cent declines to the de-

cline of the Horseshoe Crab. Fin-fish 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



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October 4 - F.I.S.H. Children's Fishing Tournament

October 10-12 - Italian Street Festival

October 12 - 23rd Annual Columbus Day Parade

For a complete *Calendar of Events* visit: 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 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.

Following the ravages of Hurricane Sandy we were called upon to assist in many ways. We helped coordinate donations and raise funds including \$10,000 from our budget to replace Life guard equipment, rope for trails, gate house supplies, 12 kayaks, work garvey and barge replacement equipment, maintenance supplies, jet fuel pump and more American Beach Grass to help protect the dunes

Other activities that we support are Interpretive programs and activities throughout the Park. Members also participate in Outreach events such as Earth Day, Ocean Fun Day, Clean Ocean Action

Beach Sweeps, Barnegat Bay Festival, Barnegat Bay Blitz Cleanup and Harvest the Bay Festival. Friends contributed to enhancing the state of the art, solar powered, outdoor camera w/zoom, night vision capabilities and audio to provide the public with live 24/7 view of IBSP Osprey Nest . One of our shining accomplishments and seen by avid viewers all over the world. Their emails indicate worldwide interest in the IBSP Osprey. Osprey can also be viewed on the Friends website and also seen by visitors to the Interpretive Center where we have installed a 42in. television set. Funding is made possible for many of our activities through proceeds from fundraising, such as, Beach Plum Festival, Kayak Raffle, Donations, Grants and membership dues.

Everyone who has enjoyed reading this Visitor 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 application provided in this guide, visit our website - thefriendsofislandbeach.org to join online or email us at info@friendsofisp.org. To donate to Friends, we are a non-profit, tax exempt corporation as defined by the Internal Revenue Code 501C3 and all donations are tax deductible. We accept donations by mail, online or in our donation box located at the Interpretive Center during summer months. FOIBSP, PO Box 406, Seaside Park, NJ 08752

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