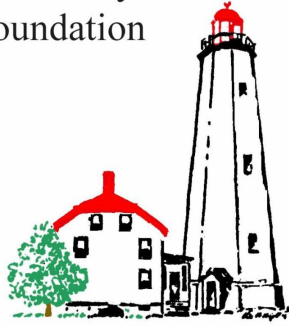


The Sandy Hook Foundation



May 2021

The Sand Paper A Newsletter from The Sandy Hook Foundation

Summer is almost here! Exciting things are happening at Sandy Hook this month, including the reopening of Camp Gateway over Memorial Day!



To find out more about camping at Sandy Hook, join the **NPS Facebook Live: Sandy Hook Campgrounds** presentation on Sunday, May 16 from 10:00am – 11:30am where you will find out season dates, where and how to make a reservation, prices, park places, things to do and precautions the park is taking to keep everyone safe. [Join the live chat HERE.](#)

The Sandy Hook Foundation will be launching our Summer Appeal later this month. As The Foundation works to rebound from the pandemic and building closures remain in place for the foreseeable future, please consider making The Sandy Hook Foundation your charity of choice this season with **a tax deductible gift.** Help us support the 2.3 million visitors who use our park each year!

What a blast we had during our scavenger hunt, **Hunt the Hook**, during National Park Week! Close to 700 individuals explored Sandy Hook hoping to find and identify natural and cultural places of interest. Congratulations to **Team Tanasy** (pictured above) for winning the contest! [Please view the fun video featuring all our creative and energetic teams HERE.](#) Enjoy this beautiful month of May!

The Staff and Board of Trustees of the Sandy Hook Foundation



Pictured above is the popular Sandy Hook Observation Deck, recently rebuilt by the Sandy Hook Foundation. Its location is near Lot M and the climb is well worth the view! On your way up the path to the deck you might notice small red flags, which are indicators of newly planted grasses to restore habitat, thanks to the **Rumson Garden Club (RGC).**

According to project administrator, Sarah Fleming, the project called the **Sandy Hook Native Plant Preserve** was made possible by a three-year grant to RGC totaling \$6,000 from the Garden Club of America (GCA). It is part of GCA's **Partners4Plants** where member clubs propose a project to take place on public lands. The funds paid for the plant material which NPS Biologist George Frame selected. In this third and final year, RGC planted along the trail, filling in bald spots. This week the club planted 500 plants including *Carex silicea* and *Cyperus grayi* which are sedges, and *Schizachyrium littorale*. These



North Beach

Thank you to all our sponsors, including Team 360 Painting Monmouth County pictured at North Beach. Other sponsors include: Monmouth Building Center, Betsy and Bob Barrett, McKeever/Alcaro Family, Lilleston Family, Lusty Lobster, Benjamin Moore, World Vegan Vision, Oano Family, Tanasy Family, eMediaNation, Louro Family, Twin Lights, 1st Constitution Bank, Ann and Jeff Hartmann, Descendants of John F. Dalton Sr. of Fort Hancock, Macaroni Kid Calendar

three species were selected to add some diversity to the restoration site. In the past, RGC planted Rosa carolina, beach plum, bayberry and other grasses. Thank you to former SHF President, Betsy Barrett, for working with the RGC on this project. Thank you **Rumson Garden Club** for maintaining the special and fragile environment that is Sandy Hook!



Rumson Garden Club members with Pete McCarthy, unit coordinator, and George Frame, senior biologist with GNRA.



**Sing, Fly, Soar — Like a Bird!
May 8 is International Migratory Bird Day**

"Sing, Fly, Soar — Like a Bird!" is the theme of the 2021 World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD), the only international education program that celebrates the migration of hundreds of bird species between their nesting habitats in North America and wintering grounds in Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean.

Celebrate bird migration with a park ranger and commit to protecting birds today and in the future. Participants will look for osprey, herons, egrets, songbirds, and other migrants. Bring binoculars and wear comfortable shoes. A spotting scope will be set up on the observation deck. Facial covering required. Visit [WMBD](#) for educational resources, or [Audubon](#) to learn more about birds of Sandy Hook.

A NPS Program
Saturday, May 8, 10am – 12pm
Parking Lot M
Reservations Required: 732-872-5970

Next Time You See a Park Ranger ...

Say "thanks." Last week the entire workforce of the Sandy Hook Unit, whether Law Enforcement, Interpretation, Maintenance or Management, stopped what they were doing to spend an afternoon picking up trash left by visitors or washed up on Sandy Hook's shores. Remember, Sandy Hook is a *Carry In/Carry Out* park, with a *Leave No Trace Behind* policy. With such high visitation numbers, we all need to do our part to keep this jewel of a National Park clean! Thank You, National Park Service!

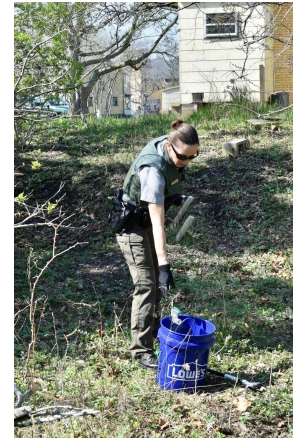




Photo: Shark River Cleanup Coalition

Horseshoe Crabs and Your Health

Horseshoe crabs are an important part of the ecology of coastal communities. Their eggs are the major food source for shorebirds migrating north, including the federally-threatened red knot. These shorebirds have evolved to time their migrations to coincide with peak horseshoe crab spawning activity, especially in the Delaware and Chesapeake Bay areas, using these horseshoe crab beaches as a gas station to fuel up and continue their journey.

Horseshoe crabs are also extremely important to the biomedical industry because their unique, copper-based blue blood contains a substance called "Limulus Amebocyte Lysate", or "LAL". This compound coagulates or clumps up in the presence of small amounts of bacterial toxins and is used to test for sterility of medical equipment and virtually all injectable drugs. This way, when you get a vaccine you know it hasn't been contaminated by any bacteria. Anyone who has had an injection, vaccination, or surgery has benefited from horseshoe crabs! Additionally, research on the amazing and complex compound eyes of horseshoe crabs has led to a better understanding of human vision.

Get up close and personal with this living fossil. Take an evening walk with a park ranger along Plum Island to look for spawning horseshoe crabs. Wear foot gear that can get wet. Facial covering required.

A NPS Program

Thursday May 27, 4pm – 6pm

Parking Lot B

Reservations Required: 732-872-5970



Food at Fort Hancock!

It may not seem like a big deal to most, but to those of us who have worked, lived, or spent a lot of time on Sandy Hook, the opening of McFly's in Fort Hancock is a really, big, deal.



Barney Sheridan of Summit Hill, PA, a restaurateur, has obtained a lease from the NPS in order to open and operate McFly's, the new lunch/dining spot in the former Post Exchange (building #53) situated next to the former gas station (Bldg #60) in the parking lot near the Sandy Hook Lighthouse.

It took three and a half years for Sheridan to secure all the necessary permits, review all the requirements for a lease, contract with all the approved builders who could rehabilitate the building to the NPS's stringent historic regulations, and build an ADA accessible ramp for the facility. Barney said, "This is a piece of history and I am able to help keep it here. I know all those visitors who walk through Fort Hancock and appreciate the beauty here will also appreciate a place to stop for a snack, a soda, or a sandwich as well." Visit McFly's on Facebook [here](#), or even better, visit McFly's in person!

For more information on Gateway National Recreation Area's leasing program, click [here](#).

Pete McCarthy

Unit Coordinator, Sandy Hook



What's Happening on the Hook?

The Sandy Hook Foundation had a chance to catch up with Unit Coordinator Pete McCarthy this week to get an update on construction projects at Sandy Hook.

Three major projects are nearing completion thanks to the Sandy Recovery Act, a source of funds dedicated to National Parks hardest hit from the super storm. A new dormitory in Fort Hancock has been completed and will be in full use this summer for seasonal staff and in use during winter months for park interns. Adjacent to this building, two older dorms were razed to make room for a new parking lot for the dormitory.



Another project is the Spermaceti Cove Life Saving Station (former Sandy Hook Visitor Center) as the NPS repairs the building and relocates utilities to the 2nd floor. The park predicts it will be another year before the building is open to the public, and its future use is still to be determined.

DONATE TODAY

The Sandy Hook Foundation is the Official Friends Group of the National Park Service at Sandy Hook, a designated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. We rely on your support and every donation is meaningful. Please, consider your contribution today.

The third major Sandy Recovery Project is the Post Theater, where the NPS has replaced the roof and performed extensive brick repair work. The next step is to clean out the interior space in preparation for rehabilitation. Gateway National Recreation Area is looking at future uses which could include short term leasing for educational programs. Stay tuned!



The Sandy Hook Foundation has achieved the Platinum Seal of Transparency from Guidestar, the highest level of transparency. Guidestar's mission is to revolutionize philanthropy by providing information that advances transparency, enables users to make better decisions, and encourages charitable giving. Please consider your support of SHF today!



May 9 is Mothers Day! Shop [AmazonSmile](#) and choose the Sandy Hook Foundation as your charity of choice as you prepare the mom in your life for the perfect summer at the beach, and support The Sandy Hook Foundation!

amazon smile
You shop. Amazon gives.



Contact Us!

The Sandy Hook Foundation
84 Mercer Road

Lighthouse Keepers' Quarters
Fort Hancock, NJ 07732
732-291-7733
www.sandyhooknj.org
info@sandyhooknj.org

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