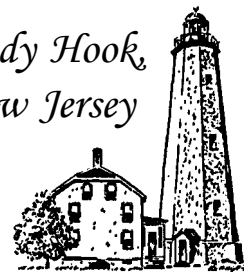


The Sand Paper

Sandy Hook,
New Jersey



A Newsletter published by The Sandy Hook Foundation, Inc.
Lighthouse Keeper's Quarters • 84 Mercer Road • Fort Hancock, NJ 07732

Vol. IV, No. 2

To Preserve and Enrich a National Treasure

Summer 2011

A Message from Foundation President Betsy Barrett

IT'S SUMMERTIME! Enjoy Sandy Hook ~ It's here for you . . .

- ▶ Join us for free beach concerts beginning JUNE 15 (see complete schedule inside).
- ▶ Ride a bicycle on Sandy Hook and take the 7 mile Multi Use Path throughout the park.
- ▶ Stroll around historic Fort Hancock and visit History House and the Lighthouse Keepers' Quarters.
- ▶ Climb to the top of the nation's oldest operating lighthouse.

And for those of you who want to end the season with a smile on your face, plan on attending the **End of Summer Party on Friday, September 9th at North Beach.**

Best wishes for a happy and healthy summer on Sandy Hook!

Betsy Barrett

Harbor Seals Visit Sandy Hook

Harbor seals were abundant this past winter and spring at Sandy Hook. Visitors were able to view them on the bay side of Sandy Hook, sunning themselves on rocks and sand bars just off the shore line. They come down to Sandy Hook Bay from New England and Canada in the winter, and are attracted to these waters for the same reasons that people are: secluded beaches to rest and relax, plentiful seafood to feed on, and clean water to swim in.

Harbor seals need secluded beaches in the winter to relax and warm up their bodies. Even though they have a blubber layer that provides



Photo by Bob Hillmann

insulation in ice cold water, the seals still lack massive body fat like a whale. They need to come out of the cold water on sunny days to warm up their bodies. If not, the seals could tire or suffer from fatigue or sickness.

Of great concern is human disturbance of the seal's environment. Seals won't come back to a specific area if they are spooked. In Sandy Hook Bay this past winter, close to 40 Harbor Seals came out of the bay shortly before low tide to rest and relax after a night of foraging for food. During some low tides, more than 80 seals were seen here. Please help keep the seals at Sandy Hook year after year by not getting too close!

Some information thanks to an article by Joe Reynolds in the Atlantic Highlands Herald, March 2011.



Dancing at the beach concert 2010



Bicycles for Rent This Summer on Sandy Hook!

Ray's Bike Rental is back with an expanded operation this summer on Sandy Hook. Beginning Saturday, May 14 at a new location at Lot E (with a satellite operation on weekends located near the ferry landing in Fort Hancock), Ray's rents adult and children's beach cruisers, tandems, tag-a-longs, baby seats and accessories for a few hours or a full day. Or, stop by with your own bike and they'll do a free safety check. Ray's also provides light bike maintenance, oil and lube, adjustments and flat fixes. Visit www.raysbikerentals.com or call 732-754-5731 for more information.



2011 Lighthouse Keeper's Quarters Art Exhibit Schedule

The Sandy Hook Foundation is pleased to present another season of fine art on display at the Lighthouse Keeper's Quarters on Sandy Hook. The following is the schedule and information about each artist:

May 7 - June 25 Judy Stach and Students

Judy Stach and her students present *Life on Sandy Hook*. The paintings, many of which were done "Plein Air", are available for viewing during this delightful show. Sandy Hook is a favorite spot for the Plein Air painter as there is no shortage of wonderful subjects.

June 25 – July 30 Robert Hillmann

Robert Hillmann is a local photographer who captures the treasures of Sandy Hook and Fort Hancock through the photographer's eye. Bob's interest in photography developed while in the Army, stationed in Hawaii, and Sandy Hook seemed like the perfect place to continue his love of photography. Hillmann is a carpenter with the National Park Service on Sandy Hook, and was involved with the restoration of the Lighthouse and the Lighthouse Keeper's Quarters.

July 30 – September 3 Deborah Redden

Deborah Redden, a lifetime resident of the Jersey Shore and avid sailor, likes to paint on location. She works to capture the emotion of the scene in a spontaneous burst of color and brush work that results in a unique expression of artistic energy. Redden is a Past President of the Board of Trustees of the Guild of Creative Art, Shrewsbury where she teaches Drawing and Painting in Watercolor.

September 3 – October 29 Robert Grunke and Vicky Culver

Explore the splendor of Monmouth County, as well as environs beyond, in this edgy exhibit by fine art photographer Robert Grunke and photo collagist Vicky Culver. This award-winning duo will share images of the places and subjects that they are passionate about.

DON'T MISS!

FORT HANCOCK DAY

Sunday, October 23rd

LIGHTHOUSE CHALLENGE OF NEW JERSEY 2011

Saturday and Sunday, October 15th & 16th



February, March, April Draw Record Crowds to Sandy Hook Lighthouse

Thanks to a grant from the Sandy Hook Foundation to fund a staff position to keep the Lighthouse and Keeper's Quarters open afternoons Monday – Friday from February through April, a record number of people have been able to visit the historic landmark this year. In addition, the Interpretation Division of the National Park Service at the Sandy Hook Unit has opened the lighthouse during the weekends all year. Dan Meharg, Acting Supervisory Park Ranger, Interpretation, says "We have been working hard to keep these National treasures open to the public and are delighted so many people have taken the opportunity to visit. Many thanks to the Sandy Hook Foundation for their support of the National Park at Sandy Hook."



View from the Lighthouse on a snowy day this winter.

Photo by Bob Hillmann

	2010-Visitors	2011-Visitors	2010-Days Open	2011-Days Open
January	382	230	12	10
February	358	653	7	18
March	812	1,127	8	31
April	1,051	1,816	21	31

**statistics provided by the National Park Service.*

TOTAL January – April 2010: 2,603 visitors; 48 days open

TOTAL January – April 2011: 3,826 visitors; 90 days open

Family Fun on Sandy Hook

All Photos by Laurie Bratone

Sunday, May 22 brought together Sandy Hook park cooperators and the local community during Ocean Fun and Coastal Defense Day. Hundreds of families attended a variety of activities happening both within Fort Hancock and just outside the perimeter of this historic area. The NJ Sea Grant Consortium hosted Ocean Fun Day with many hands-on activities for children including touch tanks, fiddler crab races, face painting, sand castle workshops, a seining program, giveaways, and more. Down the road the Army Ground Forces Association (AGFA) was busy creating living history vignettes for over 300 visitors to Battery Gunnison. AGFA members brought guests back to 1943 and showed how the army plotted, aimed, and loaded the 6-inch guns on top of the battery.



Park Rangers Brian (L) and Conrad (R) prepare shell castings

AGFA members brought guests back to 1943 and showed how the army plotted, aimed, and loaded the 6-inch guns on top of the battery.



Young guests crafted boats and sailed them.

Outside the Sandy Hook Lighthouse, the Roseland Amateur Radio club conducted shortwave radio broadcasts and while an American Loyalist for the American Revolution talked to visitors. Congressman Frank Pallone made an appearance and addressed the crowd in front of the newly renovated barracks building housing the NJ Sea Grant Consortium, and Avian Wildlife performed a live show and presented several owl and raptor species to enthralled audiences inside the Post Theater.

Earlier in the morning a group of people gathered for a ceremony in Guardian Park honoring the six soldiers and four U.S. Army technicians killed on the same day in 1958 at the Leonardo NIKE Missile Base.



An American loyalist for the American Revolution rests with his trusty friend.



Honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice during Guardian Park Ceremony.



Trustees Rich Phillips (L) and Jim Lizotte (R) at the Foundation's table

The Sandy Hook Foundation was pleased to sponsor a jolly red trolley, free to visitors, that transported people around the park. It was a wonderful day and a great opportunity for park partners to work together to provide educational opportunities and enjoyment of Sandy Hook to the public.



Visitors wait to board the Red Trolley

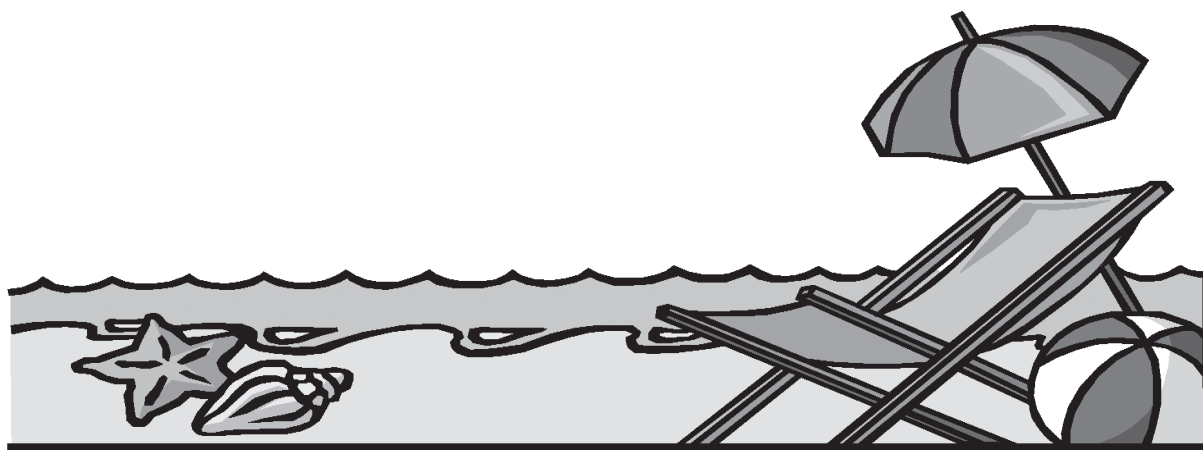
2011

**SANDY HOOK BEACH CONCERTS
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 6:00 PM
BEACH E**

FREE

FREE

- June 15 Rip Tide (Classic & Jam Rock)**
- June 22 The Shots (Party Rock with a Celtic Flair)**
- June 29 Tim McLoone & The Shirleys (Rock/Americana)**
- July 6 Pat Guadagno and the Candle Brothers (Folk Rock)**
- July 13 Brian Kirk & The Jirks (Rock & Roll)**
- July 20 BethAnne Clayton Band (Country Rock)**
- July 27 British Invasion Tribute**
- August 3 Tim McLoone & The Shirleys (Rock/Americana)**
- August 10 Quincy Mumford (Rock n' Reggae)**
- August 17 Rain Date**
- August 24 Jobonanno & The Godsons of Soul (Rock & Roll)**



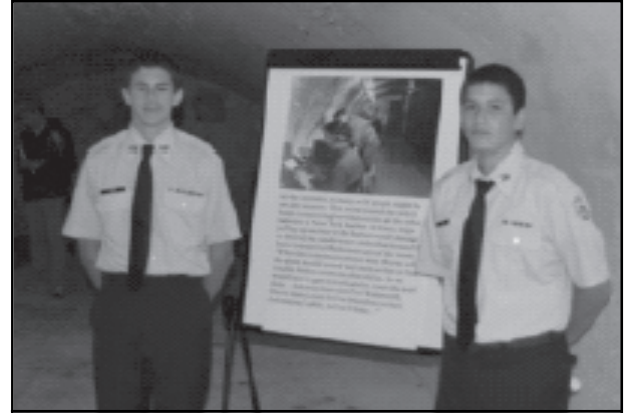
Brought to you by The Sandy Hook Foundation

In case of rain, the decision to cancel is made by 2:00 p.m. on the day of the concert.
Call 732-291-7733 for a recording or check our website:

WWW.SANDYHOOKFOUNDATION.ORG

Mortar Battery Interior Tunnels Open to the Public for the First Time

For years visitors to Sandy Hook have been able to enter the 1890 Mortar Battery grounds but have only been able to venture as far as the first of its four mortar pits where four 12-inch guns were once located. Now, thanks to a massive cleaning effort by the National Park Service, visitors may explore a tunnel system through guided, organized tours, accompanied by a park ranger. What many people don't know is that the four pits (see aerial photo) are connected by a tunnel system where shells and ammunition were stored. Later, in the 1930s when the guns became obsolete and were removed, the tunnel system took on a new role as it was converted to the Command Center for all of New York Harbor defenses. Its rooms contained communication, plotting and telephone rooms, a map room, and emergency shipping and office spaces for military commanders. It was here that harbor defense was directed throughout World War II. It is here, now, that you may tour the very heart of command central and see how Army personnel lived and worked to protect our freedom. Tours of the interior tunnels must be arranged in advance. Call 732-872-5970 to find out tour times and dates.



Members of the Junior R.O.T.C. program staffed the interior tunnels at Coastal Defense Day on May 22.



Please detach along dotted lines and mail back with your contribution. Thank you.

Your Contribution Will Help Make a Difference!

Donations to The Foundation help us fulfill our role as the Official Friends Group of the National Park Service at Sandy Hook, and it will ensure that you remain on our mailing list to receive newsletters, schedules and invitations.

___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$75 ___ \$100 ___ \$250

Please charge my credit card: ___ Visa ___ MC ___ AMEX

ACCT. #: _____ Expiration date: _____

Please make your **check** payable to: **The Sandy Hook Foundation,**
and mail to:

THE SANDY HOOK FOUNDATION
84 MERCER ROAD • FORT HANCOCK, NJ 07732

The Sandy Hook Foundation is a 501c-3 organization and gifts are tax-deductible



___ My company will **match my gift**
___ My gift is given ___ **in honor of** OR
___ **in memory of** (please fill out below)

Name _____

Please notify:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Leaving a Legacy for Sandy Hook

There are many ways to establish a legacy at Sandy Hook and many of them provide significant estate tax savings. These include gifts designated as endowments, bequests in your will, life income trusts and charitable lead trusts. A representative of The Foundation is available to work with your attorney on your proposed legacy. Please contact The Foundation at 732-291-7733.

\$\$\$ You Can Now Donate Online \$\$\$

Instead of taking time to write out a check and paying for postage, Sandy Hook Foundation supporters now have the option to make a donation or purchase Sandy Hook Foundation event tickets on-line through the NY Charities web site. Visitors can get to the site through the Foundation's home page at www.sandyhookfoundation.org where a link will direct them to the NY Charities site. "We are delighted that our donors now have the option to give on-line, saving time, paper and postage costs," says Betsy Barrett, Foundation president. Visit our site today!

Unilever Awards Sandy Hook Foundation \$10,000 for Outdoor Exercise Equipment on MUP Trail

Unilever has awarded the Sandy Hook Foundation \$10,000 towards the purchase and installation of outdoor exercise equipment to be located along the 7.2 mile stretch of the park's Multi Use Path (M.U.P). The grant is part of Unilever's Health and Well-being initiative for America's National Parks. The Foundation's board voted to allocate an additional \$5,000 towards the equipment. According to park statistics, approximately 15,000 people annually use the paved M.U.P. to walk, bike, run and rollerblade the length of the trail, which winds through each ecological section of the park as well as Fort Hancock, a National Historic Landmark area. "It is our hope that by locating equipment easily accessible along the path, visitors will take the opportunity to stretch, improve balance, gain strength and flexibility, and generally enhance their experience on the M.U.P." says Betsy Barrett, Foundation president.

The Sandy Hook Foundation working with the National Park Service had contracted with TriActive America for the purchase and installation of the new equipment, which includes a back extension, a pull up and dip station, and a seated chest press. Equipment should be installed by mid-summer for the many users of the MUP to enjoy. Visitors can expect to find the equipment in the Fort Hancock section of the park, on Knox Road.

The grant is made possible through the Unilever United States Foundation. It enhances the visitors' experience by promoting physical activity while enjoying America's National Parks. The Sandy Hook Foundation thanks Unilever for its continued commitment to Sandy Hook, and national parks in general!



2011 Board of Trustees and Friends

2011

The Sandy Hook Foundation Board of Trustees

Elizabeth Barrett, *President*

David Hoder, *Vice President*

Lucy Matchett, *VP Finance*

Patricia Alcaro, *Treasurer*

Richard Eittreim, *Secretary*

Ellen Bollinger • Gerard Glaser

Richard Lilleston • James Lizotte

Richard Phillips • Douglas Rossbach

Laurie Bratone, *Director*



SAVE THE DATE!

for the annual End of Summer Party!

Friday, September 9, 2011

6:30 PM

North Beach Pavilion

Live Music by

Brian Kirk and The Jirks



VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

www.sandyhookfoundation.org



Contributors to the SandPaper are: Pat Alcaro, Laurie Bratone & Lucy Matchett

The Sandy Hook Foundation

Lighthouse Keeper's Quarters

84 Mercer Road

Fort Hancock, NJ 07732

NON-PROFIT ORG.
PRESRT STD
US POSTAGE PAID
RED BANK, NJ 07701
PERMIT #229

Phone: 732-291-7733 • Fax: 732-291-2665 • Email: shfinc@monmouth.com