

# Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park

# newsletter

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Editor- John Placko

**The Bike Barn  
IS OPEN**  
for Details & Latest Hours

↓ Click-the-Link ↓  
[Borrow-a-Bike](#)

## ➤ **NEW** 2025 Events Calendar **NEW** ◀

- **Cape Henlopen Trail Days:** *USUALLY* Second Saturday Monthly  
(THIS MONTH'S MEET ▶ January 11<sup>th</sup> 8:45 AM at Seaside Nature Center Parking Lot)
- **Annual Meeting:** March 8<sup>th</sup> 9 AM to 11 AM at the Biden Environmental Center
- **Indoor Flea Market:** March 15<sup>th</sup> 9 AM to 2 PM venue TBD
- **Wine, Beer & Cheese Tasting:** April 5<sup>th</sup> 4 PM to 6 PM venue TBD
- **Earth Day:** April 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting Time & Place TBD
- **National Trails Day:** June 7<sup>th</sup> 9 AM to 1 PM Meeting Time & Place TBD
- **Birdseed Sale:** Order September 1<sup>st</sup> thru 30<sup>th</sup> / Pick Up on Oct 18<sup>th</sup> at Park Maintenance Garage
- **Youth Fishing Tournament:** September 6<sup>th</sup> (Rain Date Sep. 7<sup>th</sup>) CHSP Fishing Pier 8 to 11 AM
- **Chocolate Tasting:** September 6<sup>th</sup> 1 PM to 4 PM venue TBD
- **Coastal Clean Up:** September 20<sup>th</sup> 9 AM to Noon Meeting Time & Place TBD
- **Hawk Watch:** Everyday September 1<sup>st</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup> (Hawk Watch Pavilion Lot)
- **Holiday Boutique & Book Sale:** November 15<sup>th</sup> 9 AM to 2 PM venue TBD

**PLEASE NOTE: Park Entrance Fees are in Effect March 1 to November 30**

## Letter from the Editor

Hey everybody. Hope your holidays were invigorating. I'm John Placko the editor of the FOCHSP Newsletter. Being editor of this publication, for almost four years, has provided me a much-needed opportunity to serve the Friends members. I believe however, it is time to get a fresh perspective on the organization's activities, hopes and aspirations. To assist us in continuing to provide this much needed service to our members we are looking for one or two Friends volunteers to take over the reins of this most important communications vehicle. The newsletter is created in Microsoft Word and usually takes about 4 to 10 hours each month to complete. The editor is required to attend our monthly board meeting and usually takes many, but not all, of the pictures featured in the newsletter. Articles and event descriptions are usually provided by our event coordinators or guest authors. I will, of course, work with the new editor(s) to ensure that a smooth transition occurs. My last issue will be April 2025.

### INTERESTED?

Please email, call or text me at

[john.placko@friendsofcapehenlopen.org](mailto:john.placko@friendsofcapehenlopen.org) / 302-827-7809

## FOCHSP Event Support Rehoboth Beach Marathon December 7, 2024

This annual event brought more than 3,000 runners into Cape Henlopen State Park for the Rehoboth Beach Marathon. The Friends provided volunteers to staff water stops at Gordons Pond Beach and Herring Point. More than 160 hours of volunteer time were accrued by the 31 Friends members who braved a rather chilly morning. Photos of the crews at both water stops attached – Herring Point courtesy of John Bracco; Gordons Pond courtesy of Ian Friedland.



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# FOCHSP Annual Members Appreciation Holiday Party December 8, 2024

The Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park held its annual Member Appreciation Holiday Party on Sunday Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>. We're hoping you all had a great time. We sure did. It was nice to get together and spend some quality time without a rake or trash bag in our hands. Thanks to all that joined us. It is only with your volunteer efforts that the Friends can provide the services our park needs. A special thank you goes to our Vice President, Polly White, as well as her team, for all they did to make this event a success.



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# FOCHSP Trail Days December 14, 2024

This month's FOCHSP Trail Days had 29 volunteers in attendance working for a total of 58 hours. The group met at the Main Beach parking lot on a sunny but blustery morning and split-up into 3 groups. One group worked on the parking lot and Hawk Watch pavilion areas while the other two headed north and south on the beach. We also did some work on the bike loop toward Ft. Miles. Our focus was on picking up trash to the tune of over 100 pounds including a beach chair and an ocean buoy.



## PARK PUZZLE by Carl Frey

1	2	3	4	5		
6						
7						
8				9	10	11
		12	13			
		14				
		15				

Across	Down
1 Pants named for an Italian island	1 Summertime Lewes celebrity: 'The ___ Man'
6 One Cape Henlopen border	2 LSD
7 Landform not typical of Delaware	3 Bike Barn customer
8 Document designed to protect IP	4 Cloth scrap, old clothing
9 Dine	5 You gotta give that to me!
12 Soup or punch server	10 Sax played by Dexter Gordon and Cannonball Adderly
14 Modern event announcement	11 1957 Michael Landon flick "I Was a ___age Werewolf"
15 Be a stinker	13 Actress: ___ Lavinia Gardner

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# Become a Cape Henlopen State Park Champion!

Are you passionate about Cape Henlopen State Park? Do you find joy in its beaches, fishing spots, trails, and wildlife? Are you ready to take an active role in improving and maintaining this beloved treasure?

The Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park (FOCHSP) Board of Directors is looking for enthusiastic individuals to join our team! We have three board vacancies starting in 2025 and are seeking dedicated people to help preserve and enhance Delaware's exceptional park.

## Why Join the FOCHSP Board?

- **Make a Difference:** Be part of preserving Delaware's premier natural treasure and ensuring its beauty and accessibility for generations.
- **Build Connections:** Work with like-minded individuals who share your love for the Park.
- **Enhance Natural Resources:** Help maintain and improve the vibrant coastal habitats within the Park.

## What We Do:

- **Organize Events:** Plan family-friendly activities like guided hikes, trail maintenance days, beach cleanups, and more.
- **Fundraise:** Support Park improvements and educational programs through community-driven initiatives.
- **Volunteer:** Engage in hands-on projects like pruning trails, litter removal, and habitat preservation.
- **Advocate:** Promote the Park's value and champion its protection.

## What We're Looking For:

We welcome individuals with experience or interest in:

- Nonprofit operations
- Project development
- Event planning
- Fundraising and finance management
- Grant proposals

## Board Meetings and Responsibilities:

Our Board has a maximum of 11 members, meeting monthly at 2 PM. We have plans to hold a few evening meetings to encourage broader participation. As a board member, your responsibilities include:

- Attending board meetings
- Actively participating in decision-making and organizational business
- Supporting fundraising efforts and special events
- Collaborating with park staff on projects and initiatives
- Advocating for the Park's preservation

## How to Apply:

If you're ready to make an impact, submit a **letter of interest** and **brief resume** to

[fochspresident@friendsofcapehenlopen.org](mailto:fochspresident@friendsofcapehenlopen.org) by **Friday, January 10, 2025**.

## Our Mission:

Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park is a non-profit 501(c)(3) volunteer organization that works with the Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation staff to support and advocate for Delaware's premier state Park. Working with Park staff we promote the protection, preservation, restoration and wise management of the diverse natural resources and activities within Cape Henlopen State Park for the benefit of all.

**Join us in making a difference for Cape Henlopen State Park and its future.  
Together, we can protect this extraordinary coastal gem!**

## Special Thanks

The FOCHSP Board of Directors would like to offer a special thank you to our departing webmaster, Rod Parsons. Rod has served as webmaster for more than eight years. His experience, dedication and creativity has moved the Friends into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Rod of course, will not be leaving the Friends. We're sure you'll be seeing him often as he continues his volunteering at our fund-raising events, cleaning up on trail days as well as helping at the bike barn. Thanks, Rod, for showing us what being a member of the Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park is all about.

## FOCHSP Administration News

- Friends member Mary Jane (MJ) Candaux has volunteered to be the Friends *new* webmaster.

## 2025 Membership Renewal Available TODAY!

Just wanted to remind our members that it is time to renew your membership with the **Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park.**

If you are a new member that joined after July 2024, don't worry your membership is good until the end of 2025. We appreciate your support and cannot accomplish what we've got planned without your help.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW! JUST **Click-the-Link** →

**Membership**  
**RENEWAL**

Have a GREAT NEW YEAR!

Jeff Underwood

President- Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park

## Remembering Friends November 18, 2024

FOCHSP are saddened by the passing of member, Mike Baines. Mike, along with his wife Trish, volunteered for most of our monthly trail days. He was also an active bike barn ambassador, as well as working at Cape Henlopen State Park's Nature Center Store.



A Celebration of Life in remembrance of Mike is set for 1:00 pm, Saturday, January 4th at St. Peter's Church in Lewes.

The official obituary for Mike Baines is available by clicking the link below;

**[Mike Baines Testimonial](#)**

## Park Puzzle Answers

C	A	P	R	I		
O	C	E	A	N		
R	I	D	G	E		
N	D	A		E	A	T
		L	A	D	L	E
		E	V	I	T	E
		R	A	T	O	N