

Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park

newsletter

FEBRUARY 2025

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Editor- John Placko

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

↓ Click-the-Link ↓

[Borrow-a-Bike](#)

➤ 2025 Events Calendar ◀

- **Cape Henlopen Trail Days:** *USUALLY* Second Saturday Monthly
(**THIS MONTH'S MEET** ▶ February 8th 8:45 AM at Seaside Nature Center Parking Lot)
- **Annual Meeting:** March 8th **10 AM** to Noon at **Biden Environmental Center**
- **Indoor Flea Market:** March 15th 9 AM to 2 PM at **CHSP Officers Club**
- **Wine, Beer & Cheese Tasting:** April 5th 4 PM to 6 PM at **CHSP Officers Club**
- **Earth Day:** April 22nd **Meeting Time & Place TBD**
- **National Trails Day:** June 7th 9 AM to 1 PM **Meeting Time & Place TBD**
- **Birdseed Sale:** Order September 1st thru 30th / Pick Up on Oct 18th at Park Maintenance Garage
- **Youth Fishing Tournament:** September 6th (Rain Date Sep. 7th) CHSP Fishing Pier 8 to 11 AM
- **Chocolate Tasting:** September 6th 1 PM to 4 PM **venue TBD**
- **Coastal Clean Up:** September 20th 9 AM to Noon **Meeting Time & Place TBD**
- **Hawk Watch:** Everyday September 1st to November 30th (Hawk Watch Pavilion Lot)
- **Holiday Boutique & Book Sale:** November 15th 9 AM to 2 PM **venue TBD**

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

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

FOCHSP Annual Membership Meeting **UPDATE**

March 8, 2025

This year's annual membership meeting takes place in the newly renovated **Biden Environmental Center**. This is a great opportunity for members to meet each other, review our 2024 accomplishments and join in on planning for the future. The annual meeting is a free event, which is open to the public, however, **PLEASE NOTE** that Park entrance fees will be in effect.

Welcome coffee and donuts will be served from 10:00 to 10:30 AM. Presentations begin at 10:30 AM and we plan on the meeting lasting until about noon.

The program includes:

- Jeff Underwood, Friends President, reviewing Friends programs, and accomplishments for 2024 as well as our planned events and volunteer opportunities for 2025.
- Sean Cain, Assistant Superintendent CHSP, reporting on park activities through the past year.
- Bob Callahan, Friends Treasurer, will present the organization's 2024 annual report.
- Guest speaker, Suellen Blackwood chairwoman of the local **DarkSky** committee. Suellen will speak to us about the various initiatives taking place in Delmarva to help reduce light pollution and preserve stary skies through the use of proper outdoor lighting.

PARK PUZZLE by Carl Frey

		1	2	3		
		4				
		5				
6	7			8	9	10
11				12		
13				14		
15				16		

Across	Down
1 ___ of the land	1 Crush, squeeze
4 Hello Mary ___ goodbye heart	2 Big ISP
5 Dogfish Head SeaQuench ___	3 ___ Weld or Ruby ___
6 Portable sun protection apparel	6 Uriah of 'David Copperfield'
8 It rises in trees in early spring	7 ___diluvian or ___bellum
11 'Lord of the Rings' tree creature	9 Opera of ancient Egypt
12 Cube decorated with 21 dots	10 And not another ___ out of you!
13 A hot time in Paris	
14 Gator___	
15 Sometimes sword defeater	
16 Babble, prattle	

Bike Barn News

January 28, 2025

We applauded our Bike Barn Ambassadors at Iron Hill Brewery on Tuesday January 28th. Their constant dedication and support last season was appreciated by all the visitors of the park who used this FREE service. Thanks to their efforts, 2024 was another banner year. Sales & donations came close to **\$25,000**. Thank you for your service.



The Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park (FOCHSP) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) volunteer organization that works with the Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation, and staff, to support and advocate for one of the county's most unique public parks. Join now!

FOCHSP Annual Indoor Flea Market

March 15, 2025

Hey FRIENDS, it's almost time for our southern Delaware community to get together and pick through each other's "treasures." The Friends Annual Indoor Flea Market needs you to start collecting your donations of slightly used, in good working condition, items to raise money for our beautiful park.

Bring your "treasures" to the CHSP Officers Club Friday March 14th 10 AM 'til 1 PM.

NOTE: We CANNOT accept clothing items (e.g. shoes), furniture, any textbooks (e.g. computer software guides), dictionaries or encyclopedias.

↓ Click-the-Link ↓

[FOCHSP ANNUAL Indoor Flea Market Saturday March 15th from 9 AM to 2 PM](#)

2024 Volunteer Review

340 volunteers contributed 10,333.75 volunteer hours to Cape Henlopen State Park in 2024.

As usual, the Bike Barn came out as the top volunteering category followed by our highly attended events. The top three events, by volunteer hours, include the Holiday Boutique and Book Fair- 559 hrs., the Indoor Flea Market- 533 hrs. & Chocolate Tasting in the Park- 395 hrs. There were 32 volunteers that exceeded the 100 hours needed to receive a free Annual Park Pass. Many members contribute for a single event or even a few hours but every one of those important hours adds up. As the annual summary shows, volunteerism is in our DNA.

History of Volunteer Hours:

2024- 10,333.75 **Equivalent Value to a Cash Grant = \$321,999 (DE = \$31.16/hr.)**
2023- 8,105.5
2022- 8,652.5

Categories of Activities	2024	2023
Bike Barn	33%	37%
Events	24%	27%
Administration (e.g. Treasury, Board Meetings, etc.)	22%	16%
Trail Days/ Beach Cleanup	19%	16%
Subtotals	98%	90%

Letter from the Editor

Hey everybody. John Placko here, editor of the FOCHSP Newsletter. I am again asking for someone to PLEASE step-up and provide a fresh perspective on the FRIENDS' activities. My departure as editor of this publication is **March 31st**. That's less than two months away!

The newsletter is created in Microsoft Word and usually takes about 4 to 10 hours a month to complete. The editor needs 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 to ensure a smooth transition.

Become part of the FRIENDS communications team

PLEASE email, call or text me at

johnplacko@friendsofcapehenlopen.org / 302-827-7809

Get to Know Our Members – Randy Gabel

Randy Gabel grew up in Hatfield, PA, a suburb of Philadelphia, and attended Penn State. After college he moved to northern Virginia where he lived for over 30 years. Randy spent his career working in the defense and intelligence community. He started as a civilian at the Department of Navy but after about 8 years he left for a series of private industry jobs. Randy spent over 20 years supporting the National Reconnaissance Office and the Director of National Intelligence on the building of reconnaissance spacecraft systems. So how did Randy end up here? For many years he and his wife Amy had a condo in Ocean City, MD. When they decided it was time to leave northern Virginia, the Delaware beaches and the charm of Lewes seemed like a logical next step. In the spring of 2021, the Gabels moved to the Lewes area. Right after unpacking, Randy, who was already familiar with the bike barn program, stopped in one day to see how he could help. The couple joined the Friends shortly after. Randy primarily works at the bike barn now, but he also attends some trail days and beach cleanups. He likes being outside, so if a call goes out for volunteers, he participates, if he can. The bike barn has given Randy a chance to meet many wonderful people who care deeply about the park and share stories of their time in the area. He likes the variation that the park offers. The bay, the ocean, Gordons Pond and the many trails through the woods of this unique and wonderful environment. Randy's favorite places in the park are the Point in the fall & winter and biking along Gordons Pond year-round.



FOCHSP Administration News

We're excited to announce the upcoming launch of a brand-new website for the Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park! Many of our members have already visited the site to renew their 2025 membership, but there's more to explore, and more on the way!

Get a sneak peek of the site. **Click-the-Link** → fochsp.org.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our community!

Park Puzzle Answers



		F	A	T		
		L	O	U		
		A	L	E		
H	A	T		S	A	P
E	N	T		D	I	E
E	T	E		A	D	E
P	E	N		Y	A	P