

# Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park

# newsletter

## OCTOBER 2024

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## The Bike Barn IS OPEN

*for Details & Latest Hours*

↓ Click-the-Link ↓

[Borrow-a-Bike](#)

## REMINDER- Birdseed Sale Pickup

Now that you've participated in our annual birdseed sale, please pick up your order on **Saturday October 19<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to NOON**. For the newbies, your order will be waiting for you at the park's maintenance garage which is situated behind the park office; make a right just before the park entrance kiosks, pass the park office, continue straight and follow the road left then straight through the gates. We'll be more than happy to load up your car for you.

## CALLING ALL CRAFTERS & BOOK WORMS

YES, its that time again!! The annual FOCHSP Holiday Boutique and Book Fair is coming up faster than a hurricane. Which means you can finally get down to creating those very special holiday trinkets, decorations & fun stuff as well as giving away those hardcovers and paperbacks littering your shelves to make room for some more reading materials. So, start crafting and collecting your reading collections.

**Please NO Encyclopedias, Cookbooks, Magazines, Computer manuals or Textbooks.**

**Drop off will be from 10 AM to 1 PM on November 15<sup>th</sup> at the CHSP Offices Club**

## ➤ 2024 Events Calendar ◀

- **Cape Henlopen Trail Days:** *USUALLY* Second Saturday Monthly  
(**THIS MONTH'S MEET** ➤ October 12<sup>th</sup> 8:45 AM at Gordons Pond Pavilion)
- **Birdseed Sale:** Pick Up Oct 19<sup>th</sup> at Park Maintenance Garage 10 AM TO Noon
- **Hawk Watch:** Every day September 1 to November 30 (Hawk Watch Pavilion Lot)
- **Holiday Boutique & Book Fair:** November 16<sup>th</sup> 9 AM to 2 PM [at the Officers Club](#)

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

### FOCHSP Youth Fishing Tournament September 7, 2024

The weather on Saturday morning was perfect for our 2024 youth fishing tournament. The day provided the FRIENDS another successful event with 59 entrants. That was more than our record setting event last year. A big shout out to Dave and Ellie Frazier for spearheading this event and making it even more successful. They, along with the assistance of dedicated volunteers, helped put a smile on many young anglers' faces. Trophies and prizes were handed out to category winners, but no participant left without some new fishing gear.

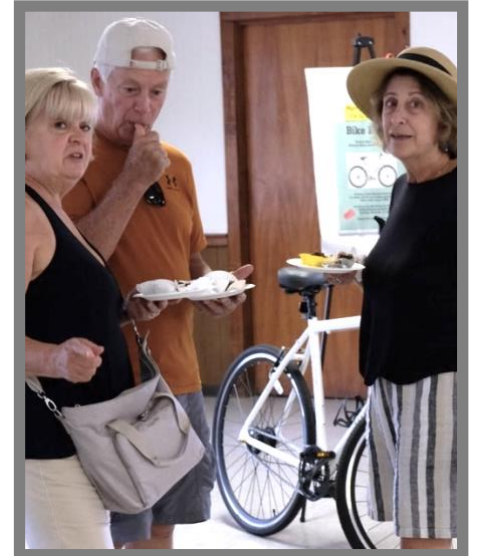


The Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park (FOCHSP) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) volunteer organization that works with the Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation, and staff, to support and advocate for one of the county's most unique public parks. Join now!



# FOCHSP Annual Chocolate Tasting in the Park September 7, 2024

The Friends Annual Chocolate Tasting in the Park was a huge success and enjoyed by many. We sold more tickets than last year and had a 50/50 cash drawing nearly twice as large as previous years. A huge shout out to FOCHSP VP and event coordinator Polly White and ALL the outstanding volunteers that made this event a continuing success while again raising the performance bar even higher. There was nearly an endless assortment of incredible chocolate delights created by the fantastic FOCHSP chocolatiers. It was deliciously "over-the-top." As participants left with big chocolatey satisfied smiles on their faces, many told us they thoroughly enjoyed the event and have marked their calendars for next year.



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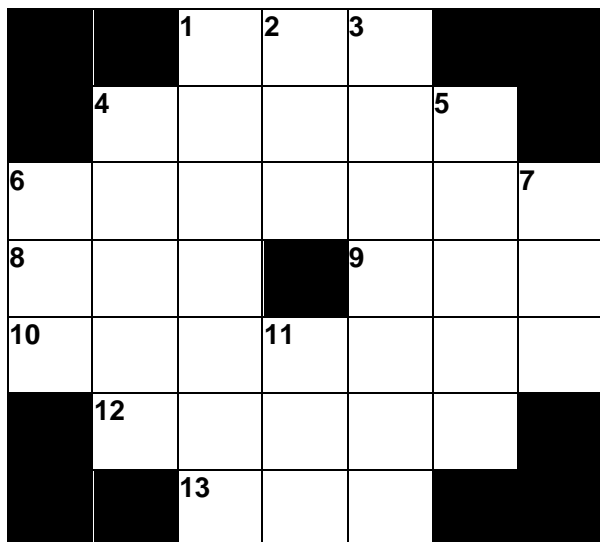


## Monarch Butterfly Garden News

The monarch butterfly garden at the Biden Environmental Center is taking shape! The area is a no-mow garden that presently includes grasses but will eventually include a variety of native plants that are particularly enticing to butterflies. Planting efforts so far have concentrated on seaside goldenrods in the hopes that they will bloom in late September and early October to provide migrating monarchs a source of refueling nectar after their long journey across Delaware Bay. Monarch expert Gary Liska built two planters on the site, and one already contains butterfly weed that has nourished at least five monarch caterpillars! All indications are that it will be an engaging site to visit. Current residents include at least three Fowler's toads. Monarch butterflies, cloudless sulfurs, and common wood-nymphs have traversed the site. Within the grasses, the deep pink flower of the woolly bean plant and a light pink rough buttonweed flower have appeared. There have been challenges and unexpected remnants as we began work. One challenge has been a layer of very densely packed soil that even defies a pickaxe at times. Another challenge has been the lack of rain that has extended for weeks and required near-daily manual watering. Hopefully, the transition into fall will bring rain and alleviate both challenges. Creating a perennial garden and flowering meadow is a multi-year endeavor; the spring of 2025 promises to be exciting when even more flowering plants emerge. As the project evolves, Friends volunteers can assist with maintaining plants or by telling visitors about the extraordinary life and journey of the monarch butterfly. What potential and opportunity!



### PARK PUZZLE by Carl Frey



| Across  | Down  |
|---|---|
| 1 Make a boo boo                                      | 1 Stoats with white fur in winter and brown in summer |
| 4 Quest for Linus Van Pelt: 'The ___' (with 6 ACROSS) | 2 Street cred   |
| 6 See 4 ACROSS  | 3 What a big winner does with poker chips             |
| 8 Childhood name of Luke Skywalker's father           | 4 Really step on the gas                              |
| 9 Earthbound big bird                                 | 5 Shy, unconfident                                    |
| 10 Finally gets through                               | 6 Dance for 2: '___ de deux'                          |
| 12 Like pool water at the height of the summer        | 7 Creature of habit, once                             |
| 13 IRS ID   | 11 GI potato peeling sessions                         |

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## FOCHSP Coastal Cleanup September 14, 2024

The Friends took part in the 37<sup>th</sup> annual Delaware Coastal Cleanup. Our job, once again, was to clean up the northern beaches. Three teams were organized to cover The Point bayside beach and ocean side beach as well as the main beach. We wish to thank the 58 dedicated volunteers who collected an impressive 171 lbs. of trash. Our volunteers were rewarded with a light lunch provided by our friends and FOCHSP supporter Arena Deli of Five Points Lewes, DE.



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*Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park  
present*

# **HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE AND BOOK FAIR**

**November 16, 2024  
9am-2pm**

*at the Officers Club  
at Cape Henlopen State Park*

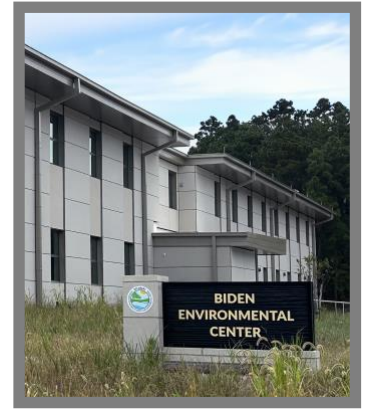
[friendsofcapehenlopen.org](http://friendsofcapehenlopen.org)





# Get to Know Your Park – Biden Environmental Center

The building that currently houses the Biden Environmental Center was originally the Naval Facility Lewes (NAVFAC), a headquarters for anti-submarine warfare, from 1962-1981. It then became a Naval Reserve Center and training facility until 1996 when it was transferred to the state of Delaware as an addition to Cape Henlopen State Park. This transfer was made possible by then DE Senator Joe Biden who had already successfully negotiated with the US Army to secure several parcels of land which became what we know today as Cape Henlopen State Park. The former Naval building was rededicated in 1998 as the Biden Environmental Center to honor Biden for his contributions to the park. Over the years the building served various purposes including office space for park staff. Unfortunately, time had taken its toll, and a complete renovation of the building became necessary. In 2022 DNREC unveiled a \$11.5 million plan to renovate the building and return it to its original purpose as a conservation/environmental training facility. The work has finally just been completed with only a few bits needing finalizing. The building is now ADA compliant with an elevator, eighteen bedrooms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and three VIP suites on the first floor. All bedrooms have an en-suite with shower. There are three meeting/conference rooms that have smart TVs, and intelligent lighting to assist with presentations. The first floor also houses the main meeting room which can accommodate 90 people, while a second room, that holds 98, which can also be split in half. The first floor also includes a catering/warming kitchen to facilitate food distribution for events. It is hoped that the new Biden Environmental Center will be a gathering space for conservationists, ecologists & environmentalists to come to the park to study its environment and for conferences, retreats or recognition events. Though not yet fully opened, a test phase is planned to accommodate inter-state departments which will make sure all systems perform as expected before “paying” customers are brought in.



## FOCHSP Event Support 5K Walk 4 Prostate Cancer September 29, 2024



FOCHSP Volunteers “Stepped Up” to assist with the inaugural 5K Walk 4 Prostate Cancer, hosted by Coast TV Meteorologist Paul Williams. Our experienced volunteers provided organizational set-up, course marshals, water station assistance, and clean-up. Thanks to all that gave their time for this event which highlighted the need and benefits for early prostate screening.



## Park Puzzle Answers

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   | E | R | R |   |   |
|   | G | R | E | A | T |
| P | U | M | P | K | I |
| A | N | I |   | E | M |
| S | I | N | K | S | I |
|   | T | E | P | I | D |
|   | S | S | N |   |   |