

# The Green Oasis

Spring 2011

The Official Newsletter of Liberty State Park

## America's Great Outdoors: Our Nation's Laboratory

By Frank Gallagher

When President Theodore Roosevelt and John Muir stood atop the mountains of Yosemite and argued the merits of conservation and/or preservation, neither would have guessed that the greatest threat to the country's natural resources would not come from external pressures but rather the internal disconnect that would occur between land and people.

This disconnect is made clear to me at the start of every spring semester as the students in my environmental issues class struggle to define the term 'land ethic', and have little notion of the concept of ecological identity. This problem has been the subject of many great conservation essays over the past several decades. Wendell Berry (Life is a Miracle), David Ehrenfeld (Arrogance of Humanism) and many others have argued that our material lives have become buried within individual disciplines devoid of context and inescapably deterministic.

Such reductionism is especially evident in our educational system where science is taught from a book while the greatest laboratory, just beyond the school building, is rarely explored. In such a world, we become people who live at a location rather than in a community of place. The problem is further exasperated by the fact that more than 80 percent of the country's population now lives in cities, where opportunities to explore natural systems are easily avoidable. This fundamental change in where we live undoubtedly has changed who we are and how we come to understand natural systems. While cities are generally considered the home of the best creative and artistic talent, pioneers of groundbreaking public policy, as well as being considerable economic drivers, cities are often simultaneously the sites of abject poverty and extreme environmental degradation. If sustainability is truly a human goal, then the development of a functional land ethic must be possible within the paradoxical context of the urban environment.

The dialogue created by President Obama's America's Great Outdoors initiative has the potential to both establish an agenda for conservation in the 21st century and, more importantly, to develop public ownership of that agenda. For it is only through individual investment in the stewardship of the land that we can approach any semblance of a sustainable society. Public parks, and especially urban parks, play a significant role in these efforts to connect people to land. Please come and enjoy, the educational, interpretive, recreational and volunteer opportunities at Liberty State Park. Get connected, to the landscape and help to keep America's great outdoors great.

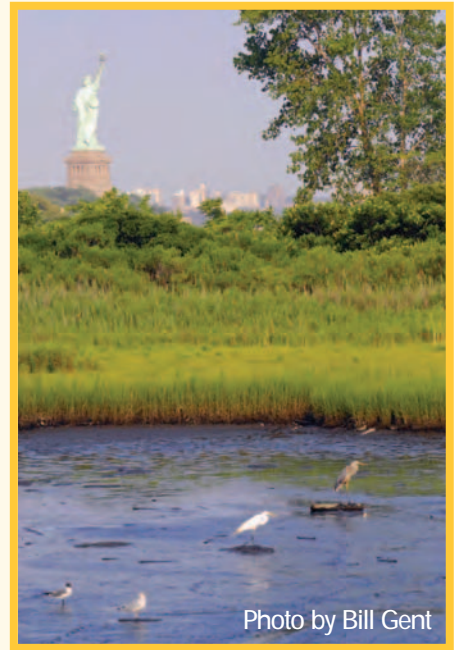


Photo by Bill Gent

Editor: Lori Garth

Contributors: Michel Cuillerier, Frank Gallagher, Pat Hilliard, Josh Osowski, Michael Timpanaro and Alex Ward  
Photos: Bill Gent and Diana Russler



# EARTH DAY

*One Billion Acts of Green.*

*Food... A Fair...  
A 5K Run!  
Celebrate  
Earth Day  
and have some  
**FUN!***

**Saturday, April 16, 2011  
10am – 4pm**

*CRRNJ Terminal and the  
North Field Liberty State Park,  
Jersey City, New Jersey*

# 2011



John L. Shinnick  
Chairman



Thomas A. Gise  
County Executive



Bob Martin  
Commissioner





## What bird is that?

by Pat Hilliard

Just imagine- You are standing near the pond at the Nature Interpretive Center in Liberty State Park. Suddenly a blue bird comes out of nowhere. It flies across the edge of the pond. It perches on a low branch of a tree. What is it? It looks like a big blue jay. Its call sounds like a baby's rattle. It is a belted kingfisher!



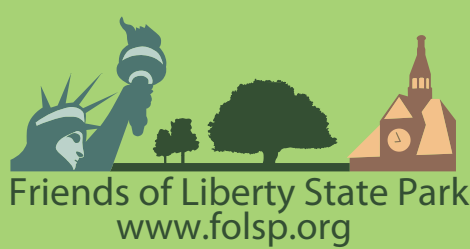
Photo by Bill Gent

Belted kingfishers can be seen year around in New Jersey. They prefer smaller bodies of water like ponds, coves or inlets along harbors and as their name indicates, kingfishers are excellent at catching fish. Their technique involves flying back and forth over the water watching for the movement of fish below. When it spots its prey, the bird hovers and dives head first, capturing the fish in its bill. The kingfisher carries the fish to a nearby tree branch or post, pounds it about and swallows it whole.

The kingfisher has a big, bushy crested, blue-grey head and a long pointy bill. Both the male and female are primarily blue-grey with a grey breast band and white belly. The female has additional rusty markings on her abdomen.

Kingfishers build their nests in long tunnels that they excavate from the banks of ponds or rivers. They usually lay 5 to 8 white eggs. These birds are very protective of their territory. You will usually only see two birds, a breeding pair, to a pond or cove. Other visiting kingfishers are invited to kindly look elsewhere. Check out the freshwater pond behind the Nature Interpretive Center or the cove at Caven Point to see how many kingfishers make Liberty State Park their home this summer.

Friends of Liberty State Park  
PO Box 3407  
Jersey City, NJ 07302



Join the Friends of Liberty State Park for our annual Walk to benefit LSP beautification efforts and to enjoy Hudson County's Earth Day Fair.

# WALK FOR LIBERTY STATE PARK



# 2011

**Fun, Scenic walk on Liberty Walk  
5K (3 miles) or less**



Pre-registration Fee is \$20.(before April 12)  
Registration on day of event \$24. If you  
collect more than \$75 in pledges you will be  
entered into a raffle for a chance to win prizes.  
12 and under are Free. Rain or Shine!

**Saturday April 16, 2011**

Registration from 7:30 to 9:30 AM  
Friends Walk and HCIA Run begin at 10 AM

## Location

North side of the historic CRRNJ Terminal

**Earth Day Fair with children's activities.**

**10 AM to 4 PM**

The annual Earth Day Fair is fun and educational for  
children and adults. Wheelchair competitors welcome.

### Please mail to:

Friends of Liberty State Park  
c/o Walk for LSP 2011  
P.O. Box 3407  
Jersey City, NJ 07302

### Please make Check

**Payable to:**  
Friends of Liberty State Park

For More Info  
[www.folsp.org](http://www.folsp.org)  
201-792-1993  
[pesinliberty@earthlink.net](mailto:pesinliberty@earthlink.net)

The Friends of LSP's Walk to benefit LSP will be held in conjunction with  
the Hudson County Improvement Authority's 5K Run. For info on the Run,  
please go to the website, [www.hcia.org](http://www.hcia.org)

### Pre-Registration Form

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address/P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Guardian if under 18 \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Size      S                      M                      L                      XL                      XXL

☐ I cannot attend but would like to contribute.      ☐ I would like to volunteer for the Walk.

## The Hudson River Waterfront Walkway

By Alex Ward



Photo by Gail Zavian

During those tumultuous days when concerned citizens were pressing diligently to create Liberty State Park (LSP), who would have thought that one day a grand promenade in the spirit of LSP would stretch from the tip of Bayonne to the George Washington Bridge? The mission of LSP was to create a space for the people and provide an oasis within the dense urban fabric. With resounding success the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway (HRWW) has been our generation's homage to those founding principles. The transformation of the space will be the cornerstone of how future residents understand Hudson County's renaissance.

As soon as people began settling the shores of the Hudson River, the waterfront became a site for economic activity. Boats unloading the day's catch, merchants trading goods, and the buzz of travelers coming and going dominated as one walked along the banks. During this time anyone could find themselves at the waterfront, but as the Industrial Revolution took hold public access dwindled as private factories and piers sprang up forming a barrier to the river. Collectively, the waterfront became a symbol of economic power, but the era of smokestacks eventually ended. We were left with a decaying waterfront unwanted by industry and impermeable to ordinary citizens. High-flying ideas about redevelopment were tossed around, but it was obvious that people wanted something more—the nostalgia for walking along the river like generations before.

As early as the late 1960s talk of a walkway along the Hudson River was buzzing, but it was not until 1980 when a Governor's Commission reported that such a pathway should be built. The construction of the waterfront walkway is a shared responsibility between both public and private entities. Anyone building within 100 feet of the waterfront must provide at least 30 feet of public walkway. This regulation has been a point of contention for some developers, but time and again the public benefit is upheld by judges, politicians, and citizens citing the huge economic benefits the HRWW provides.

The building the HRWW has been a slow, but steady process. Many sections are complete and have reinvigorated the towns they border. The wealth of new construction has created jobs and attracted new residents, all while providing a new way for Hudson County to enjoy the river. This piecemeal development has created a diverse space with a wealth of unique stretches. For example, the wide open plain of LSP removes a visitor from the congestion of the city, but the narrow path within Weehawken feels more like an intimate garden. Industrial sites remain along the walkway reminding visitors of the region's past, but towering skyscrapers buoy a sense of pride and hope about what's to come.

The legacy of our generation will be the return of the Hudson River waterfront to the people—an idea that started here in Liberty State Park. The economic boost provided by the HRWW has spurred the reinvention of many cities and towns, ushering in a new era of prosperity. We have to thank the concerned citizens who believed the waterfront could be something special. They have given us a chance to journey into Hudson County's past, present, and future by simply taking an afternoon stroll. Be on the lookout for an exhibit about the HRWW this summer here at Liberty State Park!



## **Liberty State Park History Programs**



All programs are free with no reservation required and are located in the Blue Comet Auditorium at the historic CRRNJ Terminal building. For additional information call (201) 915-3412.

### **"Tugboats on the Hudson"**

May 15, 2011 1pm – 3pm

Join us as guest presenter Mitch Dakelman talks about tugboats of the New York Harbor. This program will include an original 1954 film of tugs working the harbor and the vintage cartoon film LITTLE TOOT. Co-sponsored by the Friends of Liberty State Park.

### **"In and Around the Port of NY/NJ Waterways"**

June 12, 2011 1pm – 3pm

This presentation will features Captain Bill McKelvey and focus on the Port of New York/New Jersey waterways. Captain McKelvey will use slides to illustrate his discussion on the activity of one of the busiest ports in the world. Co-sponsored by the Friends of Liberty State Park.

### **"The Lehigh Valley Railroad"**

July 10, 2011 1pm – 3pm

In this presentation on the Lehigh Valley Railroad, Mitch Dakelman will present a slide program illustrating the Railroad operations with original period photographs including images of the railroad's operations within what is now Liberty State Park. This event is co-sponsored by the Friends of Liberty State Park.



### **"Historic Canals of New Jersey"**

August 14, 2011 1pm – 3pm

Join us as guest speaker Captain Bill McKelvey presents a program about the Canals of New Jersey. Captain McKelvey will use slides to illustrate his discussion on the operations of the canals that once crossed New Jersey. Co-sponsored by the Friends of Liberty State Park.

## Gardener's Corner - Why be a gardening volunteer?



Since 2002, the Liberty State Park gardening program has grown to include thousands of volunteers from across the state. They are students and business people, children and adults, women and men, all from diverse backgrounds but they share one thing in common-

"The volunteer work I have contributed has helped foster a sense of community with my fellow volunteers, and cleanup the environment in Jersey City. I enjoyed pulling weeds in the cool morning hours of springtime last April at Liberty State Park. It was a lot of work, and I felt proud of all the progress we made in a matter

of hours. Gardening helped me to work on letting go of perfectionism and just do my best, given the time I had. As spring progressed into summer, I could see Mother Nature reclaim her hold on that patch of land. I can't help to feel a sense of ownership and I look forward to tending to the garden again this spring." Erika DiVivio, Beta Alpha Phi (Hudson County Community College), Phi Theta Kappa

"I believe that going every Saturday to participate for the gardening and planting program helped me to grow as a person, to see a way of giving back that at the end of the task I feel I have made a difference in my community. Meeting people of different ages was amazing. They shared their own personal experiences and they were there sharing the same goal as I am- making a difference". Jacqueline Lopez, Phi Theta Kappa

"Working at Liberty State Park gives us a feeling of great accomplishment by improving our ecology. We also benefit from increasing our understanding of our collective history. We leave with an appreciation and satisfaction of making meaningful contribution to rejuvenating our national heritage. Our combined efforts, working side by side, with our coworkers to accomplish something beautiful leaves a great feeling in our hearts." Joyce Tuzzo, Human Resources, BNY Mellon

The Friends of Liberty State Park has also been generous supporter of the Liberty State Park gardening program since its inception. Their continuous volunteering of time and resources has helped to sustain and expand the program.

Volunteers are always welcome. For more information, please contact Rosemarie de Wakefield at (201) 915-3418 or [lspgardening@verizon.net](mailto:lspgardening@verizon.net)

*MA* presents the 4th  
**City of Water Day Festival**

**SATURDAY, JULY 16, 2011 • 10am to 4pm**  
**GOVERNORS ISLAND & LIBERTY STATE PARK**

**The largest family  
waterfront event  
in the region!**



***On the Water,  
for the Water***

***A FREE day of entertainment,  
education & adventure for the  
whole family celebrating the  
potential of our waterfront!***

On July 16th 15,000 people from the metropolitan region will make their way to **Governors Island & Liberty State Park**, for the **4th Annual City of Water Day Festival**.

**FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:**

- **Special on-water Launch & Press Event**
- **Fun and FREE boat tours** for thousands on historic and educational vessels.
- **A spectacular flotilla of hundreds of kayakers, canoers, and sailors**
- **Free kayaking, rowing, and fishing** activities
- **Special children's activities**
- The **Waterfront Action Fair**
- **Car-free waterfront biking**
- **Vendy-award-winning food, live music, and much more!!!**



Paul Margolis



Bernard Ente



Paul Margolis



Mark Miller



# SAVE THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW !!

## LIBERTY STATE PARK'S NATURE INTERPRETIVE CENTER PUBLIC PROGRAMS

### Earth Day Volunteer Clean Up

April 16, 2011  
9:00am – 11:00am

#### FREE Pre-Registration Required

Come celebrate Earth Day at Liberty State Park. Join our Hudson River clean up. We will remove trash from the Richard J. Sullivan Natural Area.



### Explore the Estuary

August 13, 2011  
10:00am - Noon

#### FREE Pre-Registration Required

We will don chest waders for a hands-on exploration of our estuary. You never know what you may find in and around the waters of the Hudson. Wear old shoes that can get wet and muddy. You will need your own transportation to get from the Nature Interpretive Center to our study site.



### Estuary Day Volunteer Clean Up

September 24, 2011  
9:00am – 11:00am

#### FREE Pre-Registration Required

Come celebrate National Estuaries Day at Liberty State Park. Join our Hudson River clean up. We will remove trash from the Richard J. Sullivan Natural Area.

### Get Out! - and Explore Liberty State Park

June 25, 2011  
10:00am – NOON

#### FREE Pre-Registration Required

Come to the Liberty State Park Nature Interpretive Center and discover how easy and fun it is to explore the natural world around you. Each family that pre-registers will receive a Nature Backpack stocked with tools to help you connect with nature (while supplies last). Our Park Naturalists will lead you in a series of activities designed to get you exploring nature on your own while having a fun and positive experience. For children age 5 & up accompanied by an adult.



### Butterfly Day

September 10, 2011  
10:00am – Noon

#### FREE Pre-Registration Required

Join us for an exploration of our butterfly gardens. Learn about butterfly lifecycles, the plants they need to survive and get some tips on how you can invite butterflies into your yard. We will also have free arts & crafts projects that you can complete and take home.



NJ Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Parks & Forestry  
State Park Service



If you would like to register for any of the above programs, please complete the form below. Be sure to include the program title and date. Mail your completed registration form to: Liberty State Park, Nature Interpretive Center, 200 Morris Pesin Dr., Jersey City, NJ 07305. We will send you a confirmation of your registration and directions to our location. For further information, call (201) 915-3409. You can also fax your registration to (201) 915-3442 or email us at [lsPIC@verizon.net](mailto:lsPIC@verizon.net). **Spaces are limited! Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Groups of 8 or more call for special arrangements.**

**PLEASE PRINT & INCLUDE COMPLETE ADDRESS**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Date & Title of Program: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF ATTENDEES: \_\_\_\_\_

If registering for the **Get Out!** Program; please include name and age of each child.



**Free!**   
**Kayak Eco-Tours**  
**Liberty State Park**  
**Summer 2011**

Come explore the natural beauty of the Hudson River Estuary by kayak. Tours will embark from the canoe/kayak launch located at the south side of Liberty State Park near the Park Office and will highlight the local wildlife and habitats of Caven Point. Trips will run approximately two hours and will include a brief safety and paddle instruction. No prior paddling experience is required however participants need to be comfortable navigating in relatively deep water. Life Jackets (PFDs) will be provided and are required. This program is appropriate for adults and children 16 years and older. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a legal adult. For registration and schedule information, please contact the Liberty State Park Nature Interpretive Center at (201) 915-3409 or [lsPIC@verizon.net](mailto:lsPIC@verizon.net). Space is limited and pre-registration

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New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Parks and Forestry  
State Park Service  
Chris Christie, Governor  
Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor  
Bob Martin, Commissioner



The **Green Oasis** is published by Liberty State Park  
We encourage and welcome your comments and suggestions.  
If you have any ideas for articles for upcoming issues, please  
contact us at (201) 915-3409.