



Sand in Our Shoes



FRIENDS OF SCUSSET BEACH

Volume 2, Issue 1

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Welcome to Winter at Scusset Beach



The weather has turned cold here at Scusset, no snow yet, but the Winter camping season is in full swing with the Winter camping schedule on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.

On Thanksgiving weekend, the campground was almost half full, and in spite of the wintry weather, some hearty campers did celebrated the New Year at Scusset Beach. Happy New Year to all!

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Scusset Beach Friends

What’s New...

In 2009, the Friends of Scusset Beach became a reality by forming as a non-profit organization, electing officers, approving by-laws and establishing goals for the group.

Chairman of the Board: Elise Smith

Vice Chairman: Paul Loiselle

Treasurer: Linda Porazzo

Assistant Treasurer: Edna Faria

Secretary: Pat Ridge

The Friends of Scusset Beach website is up and running and can be viewed at: <http://www.friendsofscussetbeach.org>

The Fall meeting, held on Sunday, November 29th, 2009 at 1 PM at Scusset Beach Nature Center, included planning and discussion of the following:

- Reviewing of proposed by-laws, editing and adopting the edited version.
- Report from Paul Loiselle on his attendance at the Friends Network conference.
- Fundraising plans for the coming season.
- Helping Hands plans for assistance at Scusset Beach.
- Immediate and long term goals of the Friends group.
- Plans for building a ramp to the Canal access road.

The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 28th, 2010 at Scusset Beach Nature Center at 1 PM. See you there!

Helping Hands

Scusset Beach Friends Program –

What is a Friends Group?

Friends groups are organizations dedicated to supporting specific DCR properties through volunteer work, fundraising, providing programs & events, and advocacy.

What does a Friends Group do?

Friends groups undertake a variety of activities. These can include work days at the park to help with a project, organizing fund raisers to help purchase much needed equipment or supplies, or serving as an advocate for the park when needed.

Friends groups are essential partners in protecting and enhancing DCR's parks.

More than 70 groups are working across the state to enhance our forests and parks system, including:

- Shawme-Crowell State Forest
- Nickerson State Park
- Waquoit Bay & South Cape Beach
- Myles Standish State Forest
- Forefathers Monument
- Wompatuck State Park
- Borderland State Park
- Freetown-Fall River State Forest

Massachusetts State Park Friends Groups Activities

Fundraising

- Pancake Breakfasts at Shawme-Crowell State Forest
- Recycle cans and bottles at Nickerson State Park
- Operate a food booth at Fall River Celebrates America
- Operate a gift shop at Borderland State Park

Projects & Equipment

- Pavilion and playground at Shawme-Crowell State Forest
- John Deere Gator at Freetown-Fall River State Forest

- Decoration of historic mansion at Borderland State Park

Other Activities

- Design and maintain friend's group website at Wompatuck State Park
- Plantings to maintain historic gardens at Maudslay State Park
- Maintain existing trails and create new trails at Myles Standish State Forest
- Sponsor bird walks at Willard Brook State Park

Why Now?

Given the fiscal climate and the current economy, now is the perfect time to form a friends group. A Scusset Beach Friends Group could also help us leverage funds from the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Matching Partnership grants to improve the park as well as assist with projects and fund raising.

What can I do?

Your level of involvement is up to you. Some people are very active in their friends groups; serving on the Board of Directors, attending all meetings, working on a specific committee. Other people are content to pay their membership dues knowing that they will support the park. Your level of involvement is up to each individual member.

I'm interested - So what's the plan?

Print and fill out the form on the last page of the Newsletter and mail, fax or email it to us at:

Scusset Beach State Reservation
140 Scusset Beach Rd.
Sagamore Beach, MA 02562-2815

Telephone: 500-888-0859
Fax: 508-888-1183
email: scussetfriends@live.com

And get some sand in your shoes!

A Few Words from John....

I want to thank everyone for their involvement in the Friends of Scusset Beach. I am amazed by how much we have already done. We have a website up and running, an application going for a Partnership grant, a small bank account, and a set of bylaws by which to work. I could not be happier with the start we have made.

A few news items from here at Scusset:

I recently attended the annual campground meeting at West Boylston. At the meeting the hot topics were seasonal staffing in light of the budget situation and the ban on firewood in our campgrounds.

The good news was it appears that the seasonal budget will be level funded. The bad news is that with so many year round people being laid off or taking early retirement, the seasonal staff will be spread out to help fill in some of the holes. I am not sure at this point what this exactly means for Scusset. It depends on the approach taken by the department. Only time will tell. Whatever the result, the staff here will do its best to keep Scusset moving forward.

The Commonwealth is banning the importation of firewood to all State parks this summer, due to the Asian long horned beetle. This will present many problems for the staff around the state. Luckily, we are not a big "firewood park" so it will be somewhat easier for us, but we will be a part of the program.

The last news item is that we have met with the Army Corps to negotiate a lease renewal. A meeting was held in early December at which the Corps asked for a 5-year improvement plan with a variety of items listed. One item, the replacement of broken showers in the beach bathrooms has already been funded. Another request was for additional boardwalks, so the one we are undertaking goes to help fill part of that need. Other items requested include: a huge boardwalk project to the beach; demolition of the old well house at Sagamore Hill; upgrades to the electrical system; work on the campground bathroom; and clearing out the power line easement. The Department is in the process now of trying to schedule funding for as many of these as possible in the next 5 years, but of course it all depends on money available.



**John DeCosta, Supervisor
Scusset Beach State Reservation**

In closing, I hope 2010 is a good year for all of you, and for that place where we love to get sand in our shoes, Scusset Beach.

John DeCosta, Park Supervisor

Scusset Beach State Reservation

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/southeast/scus.htm>

Reserve America – campground reservations

<http://www.reserveamerica.com/mapHome.do?topTabIndex=1> or call - 1-877-422-6762

Campground map

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/images/pdf/ScussetCamp.pdf>

Department of Conservation and Recreation

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/>

Friends of Scusset Beach

<http://www.friendsofscussetbeach.org>

Friends Network

Massachusetts Forest and Park Friends Network

www.networkingfriends.net

Department of Conservation and Recreation Friends Groups

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/friends.htm>



**The Friends Group hard at work at the November 29th meeting at Scusset Beach.
Photo courtesy of David Harris**

The Chairman's Corner

Happy New Year! Our Friends group was formed in September 2009. We have a website set up now. www.friendsofscussetbeach.org Check it out.

And there will be a quarterly newsletter to keep everyone up to date on what's happening at Scusset Beach.

Projects done this fall were the re-painting of all of the campground site numbers and completion of about half of the traffic arrows in the roads.

Projects planned for 2010 are the boardwalk to go from the jetty parking lot up to the canal access road; a storage shed by the campground office; completion of the painting of the road arrows; painting of the campground bathhouse; and possibly having stickers and clothing available with the Scusset logo on them.

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, March 28th, 2010, in the Nature Center at the Scusset Beach campground at 1 PM. Anyone is welcome, and we encourage anyone whose heart is part of Scusset Beach to come and join us.

Elise Smith, Chairman, Friends of Scusset Beach

Welcome Deb Martin as a new member of the Friends of Scusset Beach.
We look forward to seeing you at the meeting in March.

Report on the Massachusetts Forest and Parks Friends Network Conference

I had the great privilege and honor to represent the "Friends of Scusset Beach Reservation" at the "2nd Annual Massachusetts Forest and Parks Network Conference" held in Worcester on Saturday, October 24th, 2009.

The "Massachusetts Forest and Park Friends Network" is an independent grassroots organization of volunteer "friends groups" such as ours, working together to better protect and enhance Massachusetts' state forests and urban parks. The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) oversees 259 properties in Massachusetts. Currently, only 34 friends' groups serve particular forests and parks. The goal is to see a strong friends group in every forest and park in the Commonwealth. Forty people attended the conference representing 26 friends groups.

The list of speakers was impressive.

- Robert T. Leverett, Keynote Speaker, Executive Director Eastern Native Tree Society and Executive Director Friends of Mohawk Trail State Park
- Conrad Crawford, Director Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Partnerships
- Alexander (Alec) Gillman, DCR Interpretive Services and Coordinator, DCR Civilian Conservation Corps Program Committee
- Patrice Kish, Director, DCR Office of Cultural Resources
- Curt Rudge, Bureau Chief, DCR Bureau of Ranger Services
- Eleanor Fort, Preservation Associate, Environment Massachusetts
- Brian Shanahan, Regional Director, Southeast Massachusetts Division of State Parks and Recreation

Many of the presentations touched upon the destruction of the fragile environment, noise and law enforcement due to "Off Highway Vehicles" (OHV's) (motorized vehicles such as dirt bikes, snowmobiles, etc.)

Another theme in many presentations focused on forest preservation. Until recently, the DCR allowed clear cut logging in some parks. Through the work of a Friends Group, this policy has been changed to only allow forest management cutting, except for a few managed parcels. Excellent presentations were made on these issues by very knowledgeable people.

Conrad Crawford made a presentation about DCR's matching grant partnerships. They have 1.2 million allocated for next year's grants. The DCR should make a formal announcement by the end of the year.

This conference was informative and very well done. It was open to anyone with an interest in preserving our state forests and parks. For more information on the "Massachusetts Forest and Park Friends Network", please visit their website: www.networkingfriends.net

Paul Loiselle, Vice Chairman, Friends of Scusset Beach

If you are interested in becoming a friend to Scusset Beach State Reservation, please print and fill out the following form and fax, mail or email it to us – or drop it off at our office. Better yet, come to the next meeting. We encourage everyone to become a friend.

Scusset Beach State Reservation
140 Scusset Beach Rd.
Sagamore Beach, MA 02562-2815
Fax: 508-888-1183 email: scussetfriends@live.com



Friends of Scusset Beach

As we begin to create a contact list of friends, your information is very important. This fall, we will contact you with information about the meeting to establish the *Friends of Scusset Beach* and send you our Fall Newsletter to keep you informed and aware of the progress made in establishing this group.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

My Special Interests & Talents: _____

I am interested in- (Please check all that apply):

- becoming a member of a Scusset Beach Friends Group
- attending meetings
- serving on the Board of Directors
- participating in work days to maintain and clean areas of the park
- assisting in fundraising efforts

Other: _____

"Get a little sand in your shoes!"

