



# Sand in Our Shoes



## FRIENDS OF SCUSSET BEACH

Volume 2, Issue 2

Apr/May/June 2010

### Spring is here at Scusset – .....At last!



Makes us all want to get out and make Scusset blossom. Keep April 24th open on your calendar - it's Park Serve Day!

For details, see the Chairman's column on page 5

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### Scusset Beach Friends

Meeting - March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – 1PM  
at the Scusset Beach Nature Center

#### Meeting Notes

The Best News... The DCR Partnership Grant has been approved. At the meeting, plans were made to begin the boardwalk construction project to allow better and safer access to the canal access road for the public and for campers.

Boardwalk Construction Day is starting Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome to join us.

Park Serve Day, April 24th, includes a wonderful day at Scusset with good friends painting, cleaning up, planting and mulching the park in preparation of the coming season. The park islands seem a bit bare, and any donations of plants and/or shrubs would be gratefully accepted.

A project "wish list" was discussed and a committee appointed to sift through the many project suggestions, and one in on the ones needing immediate attention. Among them are: beautification of the beach bathhouse exterior, with planting, if possible; exterior painting and possibly a mural; a playground area; a walk way between the campground roads for access to the restrooms; and other things, as well.

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# 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?

Over the course of the 2009 summer recreational season, we spread the word and gauged the interest in forming a Scusset Beach Friends Group. In the fall of 2009, we will held a meeting to make plans for establishing the group as a non-profit organization, determining the bylaws, and electing officers. All of this was accomplished, and we are the Friends of Scusset Beach Corporation.

Interested in joining us to help make Scusset Beach even better, fill out the form on page 6, 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 a little sand in your shoes!**

## Spring at last! (Continued from page 1)

Getting ready for the summer season – and how the Friends group is helping

Grants & Grant writing:

- DCR Partnership grant applied for and granted. This is a yearly grant and other projects may be approved for similar funding yearly.

Projects:

Park Serve Day

- Painting
- Planting, pruning and cleaning up
- Preparing the Park for the summer season
- Painting the road and campground number markers and arrows
- Safari fencepainting

Boardwalk Construction Day

- Ramp construction to Canal access road

Fundraisers:

- Pancake breakfast
- And much more to come

***Thanks again!  
We need more friends like you.***



## Meeting Notes (continued from page 1)

Unfortunately, funds are necessary to maintain even a non-profit group. Annual Membership dues for the Friends of Scusset Beach were discussed, and very affordable rates agreed on:

- \$5 for an individual;
- \$10 for a couple or family; and
- \$25 for a business.

Many fundraising possibilities were also discussed for the coming season, too, with Pancake breakfasts topping the list, and craft and bake sales being mentioned, too.

The next meeting will be on June 27th at 1 PM at Scusset Beach Nature Center, if you'd like to attend.

However, the group is also getting together on April 24th, which is Park Serve Day, to do some planting, clean up, and painting to beautify the park for the coming season. All are welcome to attend and help us out.



Photo by Matthew Dyer - March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010

## A Few Words from John....

Happy Spring everyone!

Winter is hopefully on its way out. Although winter camping has been steady all season ... with some real hardy souls camping in all kinds of weather, it is now time to start looking ahead to the busy season.

Scusset did not escape the recent budget cuts as I lost one staff position this season. In the three and half seasons I have been here, we have now lost two summer positions. My discretionary spending was cut this season as well, and next year does not look a whole lot better at this point.

However, it is not all bad news as I secured funding to replace the showers in the beach bathrooms as well as funding to demo the old pump house in the woods as requested by the army corps in our lease renewal process. We also have gained a year round staff member. Dirk MacEachern, a 3 year member of the Department, has transferred to Scusset to fill our empty Maintenance position.

On Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, I attended our regional recall meeting where long term union staff chooses their assignments for the summer. News from the meeting is that there are several staff changes for the upcoming summer.

Joe Casey will return as night supervisor, and Marlene Clark is returning as a daytime laborer. Long time laborer Chris Minichiello has moved to Shawme Crowell and is replaced by Danny Linhares. Danny has been with the department for over 20 years, working at Myles Standish and Horseneck Beach. I have no doubt he will fit in well here at Scusset.

Also Jim Simon will be returning as the daytime supervisor this season after spending a year at Shawme. Those of you who know Jim know what an asset he is to Scusset, I am excited to have him back.



John DeCosta, Supervisor  
Scusset Beach State Reservation

This year, Park Serve Day is Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, statewide, and my plan is to use this date as a park cleanup and flower planting day. Some financial support should be coming from the department for this activity, and Park Serve Day has been successful here for the past 2 years.

Other potential work days will have been discussed at the meeting so look in this news letter for those dates and projects.

As I have stated in the past, we are off to a wonderful start, and I look forward to a very productive year for the Friends of Scusset Beach.



Photo by TJ Ashley 2009



### ***Scusset needs your help!***

#### **The Chairman's Corner**

We are gearing up for the 2010 season. April 24<sup>th</sup>, Park Serve Day, will be a work and beautification day at the park in preparation for that.

Anyone who wants to come out and help us at the park is welcome to join us. There will be planting, trimming, painting, etc to be done. We welcome the helping hands.

We are all looking forward to a sunny warm season at Scusset Beach.

**If you'd like to attend, the next meeting will be in June on the 27th at 1 PM  
at Scusset Beach Nature Center,**

**However, the group is also getting together on April 24th, which is Park Serve Day, to do some  
planting, clean up, and painting to beautify the park for the coming season.**

**All are welcome to attend and help us out.**



Photos on this page  
by  
Matthew Dyer  
March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010



## Friends of Scusset Beach

Scusset Beach State Reservation  
140 Scusset Beach Rd.  
Sagamore Beach, MA 02562-2815  
email: [scussetfriends@live.com](mailto:scussetfriends@live.com)  
website: <http://www.friendsofscussetbeach.org>

As we begin to grow as a group, we are getting together an email and address contact list of friends; your information is very important to us. We will contact you with information about the meeting dates for *Friends of Scusset Beach* and email our current newsletter to keep you informed and aware of the progress the group is making. Without email?... Please request another means of contact - telephone or mail.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

### Annual Membership Dues are:

- \$5.00 for an individual
- \$10.00 for a couple or family
- \$25.00 for a business

Checks can be made payable to:  
Friends of Scusset Beach Reservation Corporation

Type of membership wanted: \_\_\_\_\_

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!"*

