



Sand in Our Shoes



FRIENDS OF SCUSSET BEACH

Volume 3, Issue 3

Sept/Oct/Nov/Dec 2011



Campground Pathway 2011

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.

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Scusset Beach Friends

What's New...

In 2010 - 2011, the Friends of Scusset Beach obtained funding, designed, and built a pathway through the campground.... a benefit to all – especially the handicapped, as a more direct route and safer way to reach the central parking, nature center, pavilion, and bathrooms.

It became a reality on Park Serve Day 2011, with a lot of hard work from helping hands. It is a great addition to the park in usefulness & beauty. Dedication Day for the Walkway will be announced.

**What will they accomplish next year?
It's only the beginning!**

Chairman of the Board: Elise Smith

Vice Chairman: Paul Loiselle

Treasurer: Linda Porazzo

Assistant Treasurer: Edna Faria

Secretary: David Harris

The next Friends Meeting is on Saturday, November 26th, 2011 at 10 am at Scusset Beach Nature Center. Hope to see you there!

They will be planning next year's projects, fundraising events, safari campouts, and getting acquainted with new members. All are welcome – members and people wanting to know more about the Scusset Beach Friends group.

Events Scheduled for 2012:

Safari Campouts

May 10 –13

Sept. 27 – 30

Pancake Breakfast

Sept. 8th - 8:30 – 9:30 am

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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

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
- Pancake Breakfasts at Scusset Beach
- Scusset Beach stickers, buttons, and key chains available at the Scusset Beach office.

Projects

- Scusset Beach Boardwalk to the Canal Access Road.
- Scusset Beach pathway in the campground.
- 2012 – Our Friends group is still forming project plans for 2012, clean up and beautification of the beach bathhouse area, with advisement from John DeCosta, Scusset Beach Park Supervisor.

Other Activities

- Regular meetings at Scusset Beach throughout the camping season to formulate plans and organize and follow through on fundraising, projects and grants.

- Design and maintain friend's group website for Scusset Beach friends
- Participation in Park Serve Day – spring planting and preparing the park for the summer camping season.

Why Now?

Given the fiscal climate and the current economy, now is the perfect time for a Friends group to aid in making improvements to Scusset Beach possible. The Friends Group can help us leverage funds from the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Matching Partnership grants to improve the park, as well as assisting 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 page 6 of the Newsletter and mail it with your check to:

Friends of Scusset Beach
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

Visit the Scusset Friends website:

www.friendsofscussetbeach.org



And get some sand in your shoes!



A Few Words from John....

Once again autumn is upon us and, as I write this column, we have had our first weekend of off-season camping with over 50 sites taken for the weekend. It is hard to imagine where the summer went. This season went down as the second busiest season on record (last season being the first) and heavily taxed the staff and the facility.

However, there was also lots of good news. In June, the Department hired a contractor to clear the power easement, solving one of the main issues with the electrical system. The upgrades to the campground comfort station were well received by our campers, and I cannot even count the good comments on the new campground pathway the Friends installed.

I seldom like to single out people because we all contribute what we can, but I have to mention Paul Loiselle for all his hard work on the pathway. From writing the grant, to helping with the design, to construction day and beyond to finish up the small items, Paul dedicated a great deal of time to this project. His recognition by the Friends statewide network as a Volunteer of the Year is well deserved.

Speaking of the Friends network, I was pleasantly surprised at my own award and thank you all very much for voting for me. One of the first things I recognized when I came to Scusset was how many people simply love this place and wanted to help. It took a couple of seasons to get the Friends group idea to gel, and I am so proud of all we have accomplished together.

Looking ahead to this winter, there are two items that I would like to mention. The first is that over the winter, Dave and I, with some regional help, will be moving the park office to the Fish Pier building. This much needed move will allow for better parking, a more efficient operation, and actually give the staff running water and restrooms where they work. I am very excited about this move.



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

The second item is that the DCR recently bid out a study of the electrical system. An engineering company is being hired to examine the entire system from A to Z to determine all its needs. While this is a small step along the way to upgrading the electric, it is an important first step and gives us something to build on.

In closing, I again want to thank everyone who voted for Paul and myself, and I wish you all a happy and safe Holiday season.

John



October 22, 2011 –The 2011 Mass Forest and Park Networking Friends Conference Highlights



David Harris, Secretary, Friends of Scusset Beach Presentation on the projects and accomplishments at Scusset Beach and an awesome display table.



Linda Porazzo and Paul Loiselle
2011 Mass Forest and Park Friends Network
Conference Awards



Paul Loiselle, Vice President, Friend of Scusset Beach, receiving the Award for the Mass Forest and Park Friends Network Volunteer of the Year 2011



Linda Porazzo, Treasurer, Friends of Scusset Beach, accepting the 2011 Friend of the Year Award for John DeCosta at the Massachusetts Forest and Park Friends Network Conference. John was unable to attend due to prior commitments.



Linda Porazzo, Treasurer, and Edna Faria, Assistant Treasurer, Friends of Scusset Beach at the Conference,





Volunteer of the Year

Paul Loiselle, Vice President of the Friends of Scusset Beach, was nominated for the award for the many of the ways he helps the Friends.

He heads up all of the Friends of Scusset Beach grant applications and all the work involved in doing so. It's no easy task getting all your costs for a project ahead of time, anticipating what is needed to do the job, and taking the time and effort involved in doing all thisand not being paid for it.

Paul went above and beyond what was needed. He worked very closely with John DeCosta, Park Supervisor, listening to what his needs were and what would be allowed by the DCR. Congratulations, Paul, and thank you for all your help.

Friend of the Year

John DeCosta, Park Supervisor for Scusset Beach State Reservation, was voted Supervisor of the Year in 2010. It was well deserved for his all work at Scusset and with the DCR. This year he received the Friend of the Year Award.

He handles problems that arise with great knowledge, patience, and kindness, dealing with them without complaint. He just gets the job done.

John cares about the campers and his crew. All the people coming to Scusset these past few years are happy to see things are being accomplished, and the Friends are happy to help him do them, not because he is Park Supervisor, but because of his human kindness.

You get out of life what you give. John is a giver.....well deserving of the Friend of the Year Award.





The Chairman's Corner

Snow in October! What do we have to look forward to this winter? I know the hearty will still be camping. I look forward to seeing everyone at the November meeting to finalize plans for 2012. Come with lots of good ideas for making our park the best it can be and for fundraising to make it all happen.

We welcome Dave Harris as Secretary for Friends of Scusset Beach. All other officers will be remaining for another year. Thank you to past Secretary, Pat Ridge, for her service to the Friends group.

Thanks to all of you who have made a difference at the park this past year. Congratulations to John & Paul on their recent awards and to Dave Harris and all who helped him for the wonderful job at the state meeting last week. Many compliments have been received on his beautiful presentation. Great Job!

Our Friends group has a very diverse bunch of people that bring great strengths to make our park the best we can. Thank you all and keep up the wonderful jobs you do. I am honored to work with you all.

Elise Smith, Chairman, Friends of Scusset Beach

So even if you can't help out, your dues are so important to help fund these projects, and it allows us to apply for grants to help with the funding, So pass the word....*Dues for 2012 are now due.*

Welcome new members

Carolyn Hafer & Family
Bill Adams & Family
Lew Judson
Judy Northrup
Joseph Zapustas Family
David & Robbyn Jones

Donations to Friends of Scusset Beach

Joseph Zapustas Family

If you are interested in becoming a friend to Scusset Beach State Reservation, please print and fill out the following form mail 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

Scusset Beach State Reservation

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Sagamore Beach, MA 02562
email: scussetfriends@live.com website:
<http://www.friendsofscussetbeach.org>

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: _____

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!"

