ISLAND BEACH STATE PARK

VISITOR'S GUIDE 2020

EXPLORE
THE PARK
YEAR ROUND

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- ✔ FISH
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- ✔ CLAM
- ✔ HIKE
- ✔ VOLUNTEER

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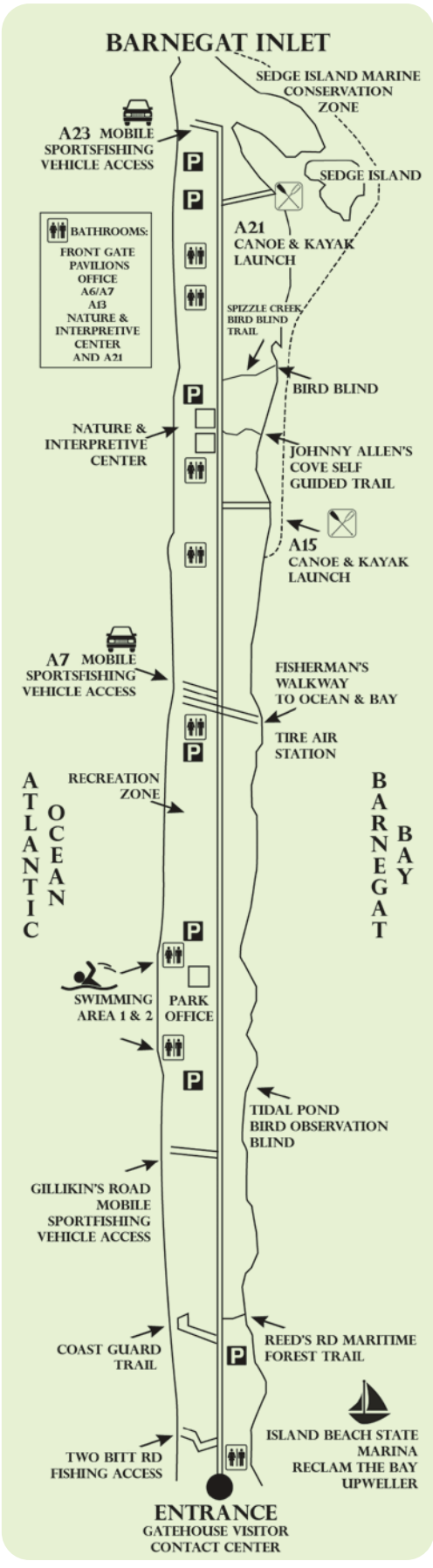

Calendar at a Glance

June

6th National Trails Day

13th Conservation Zone Celebration

July

9th Friends of IBSP Member and Volunteer Meeting

16th Thursday in the Park (free events and activities)

23rd Thursday in the Park (free events and activities)

August

6th Thursday in the Park (free events and activities)

13th Thursday in the Park (free events and activities)

20th Thursday in the Park (free events and activities)

September

12th Youth Fishing Tournament

12th Chrysler Car Show

13th Beach Plum Festival

October

3rd Barktoberfest Fall Festival and Pet Expo

10th Ocean Fun Day

24th Clean Ocean Action Beach Sweep

25th Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament

November

11th Friends of IBSP Member Meeting

22nd Beachgrass Planting

Additional events are listed on www.friendsofislandbeach.org and www.islandbeachnatureprograms.org

▸ *Cover Photo - Jesse Knecht*

WELCOME

We are glad you chose Island Beach State Park for your island getaway! This guide will give you a sneak peek at some of the secrets of IBSP. Whether you're here to fish, enjoy a family hike or simply unwind, IBSP has more to offer than you know.

IBSP staff and volunteers have been hard at work this winter to make sure the park is ready for you to enjoy. Some changes you may see include a rehab at the gatehouse, trailhead improvements at the A6/7 air-hose station as well as A21, additional water bottle filling stations, and updated exhibits at the Nature and Interpretive Centers including a new enclosure for Ellie the terrapin.

While there is plenty to do and see at IBSP, it is also a place for conservation and research. As you will see later in this guide, while we had record numbers of visitors in 2019, we also had high populations of threatened plant and bird species. We pride ourselves on finding that balance between visitor use and conservation. While you may see nicely manicured parking and trail areas, everything beyond is left to the wild!

Please help us in our mission of conservation and recreation, by not disturbing wildlife (their survival depends on it), staying on the marked trail and leaving no trace behind you. Garbage dumpsters are located throughout the park for your convenience.

Thank you to park staff, volunteers and of course our everyday visitors, who all contributed to IBSP being voted the best park in Ocean County by the Asbury Park Press for 2019, the 2nd year in a row! And a special thank you to the Friends of Island Beach State Park for their support and contributions to the park and for providing this guide to enhance your park experience. We hope you enjoy all nature has have to offer!

IBSP – The way life should be

Jen Clayton, Superintendent
Charlie Welch, Asst. Superintendent

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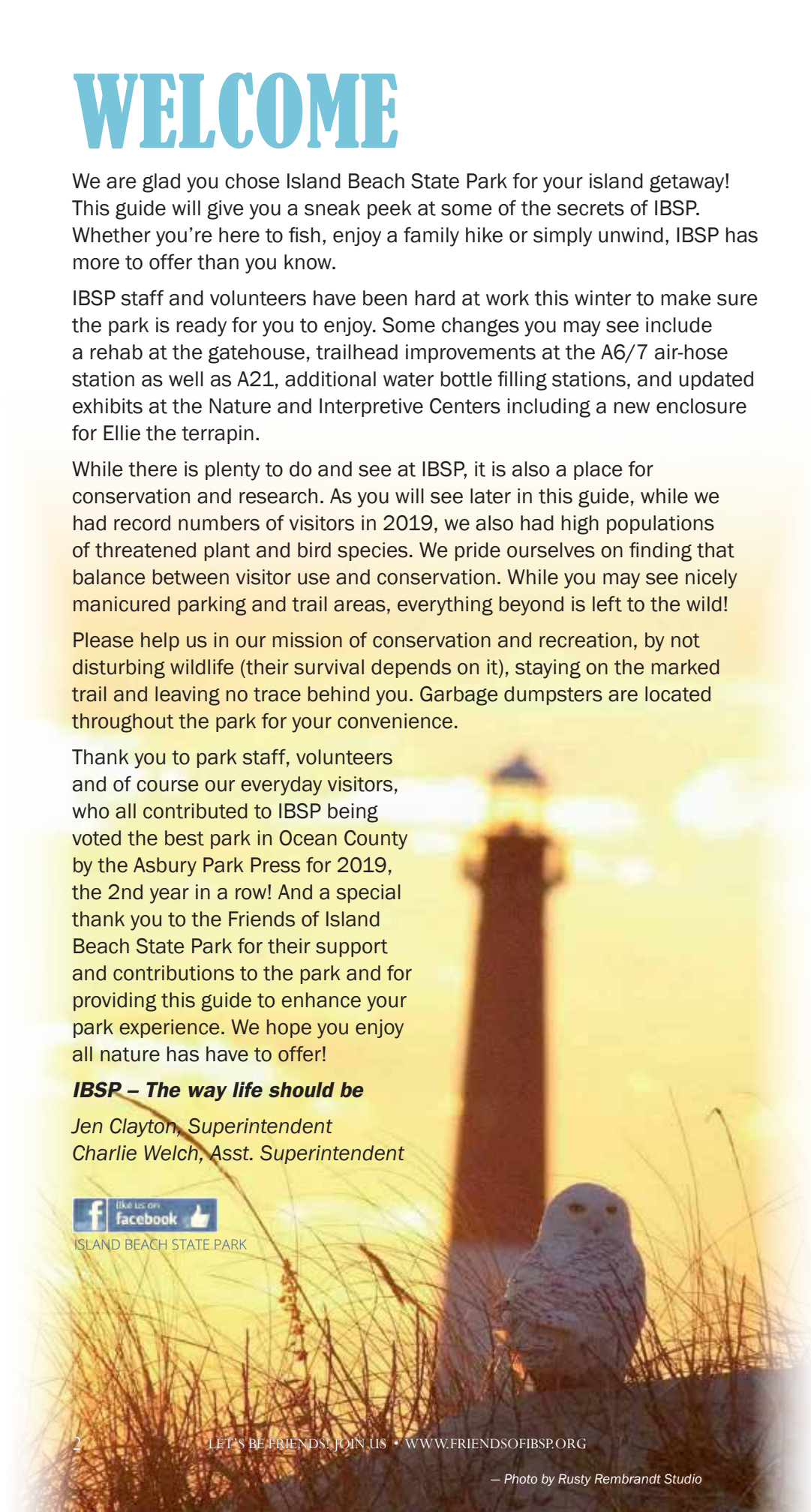
ISLAND BEACH STATE PARK



— Photo by Rusty Rembrandt Studio

PLAN YOUR VISIT

SUMMER SEASON	OFF SEASON
(MEMORIAL DAY - LABOR DAY)	(LABOR DAY - MEMORIAL DAY)
Weekdays ..... 8am - 8pm	Everyday ..... 8am - Sunset
Weekend & Holidays ..... 7am - 8pm	

NJ State Park Pass*
Frequent visitors may be interested in purchasing an annual park pass, valid for entrance to all NJ State Parks.

NJ Resident $50
Non-Resident $75

NJ Residents Senior Citizen Pass (62+) FREE

NJ Residents Disability Pass FREE

Pets are permitted in the park, but must be on a leash (maximum length six feet.) They are NOT allowed on the lifeguard beaches during the summer season and NOT allowed on the Spizzle Creek Bird Blind Trail. (Pets can frighten wildlife.)

Entrance Fees

20' & UNDER

SUMMER SEASON
(MEMORIAL DAY - LABOR DAY)

Weekdays
NJ Resident $6
Non-Resident $12

Weekend | Holidays
NJ Resident $10
Non-Resident $20

OFF SEASON
(LABOR DAY - MEMORIAL DAY)
NJ Resident $5
Non-Resident $10

Motorcycles
NJ Resident $5
Non-Resident $7

Bus**
NJ Group $65
Non-NJ Group $120

***Buses require registration in advance, accompanied by $25 deposit.*

Walk in at Tice's Shoal
$3 per person

Ocean Swimming
Lifeguards are on duty 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Weekends beginning Memorial Day weekend (May 25) and daily from June 15 through Labor Day (September 2). After Labor Day, lifeguards will be on duty Saturdays and Sundays in September. **No swimming permitted after 6 p.m.**

Cycling is permitted in the bike lanes running parallel to the road. All children under 14 must wear helmets.

OUR AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

winter	spring	summer	fall
43° | 23°	62° | 39°	84° | 62°	68° | 45°

**For more information call NJDEP at 1-800-843-6420 or 609-984-0370*
*** For more information on Oversized-vehicles and Weekend/Holiday restrictions call the Park Office (732) 793-0506*

Picnicking
Picnicking is allowed on the ocean beach in the Recreation and Southern Natural Areas. Open fires are permitted 50 feet east of the dune line from parking area 3 south only. No fires or cooking devices of any kind are permitted on the beach in the lifeguard areas during the summer season.

Scuba Diving, Surfing, Wind boarding

Scuba divers must provide valid certification and register at the park office. Surfing and wind boarding are permitted at the south end of the lifeguard area.

Beach Access Vehicles
Vehicle use is restricted to the purpose of sport fishing only. A Mobile Sportfishing Permit must be obtained at the Main Gate (Visitor Contact Station). For information about permit requirements call 732-793-0506.

Air is available at the park office and Area A7.

NJ Resident $195
NJ 3-Day $75

Non-Resident .. $225
Non-NJ 3-Day $90

Island Beach is a carry-in carry-out facility.

Please be kind to the environment

Prohibited
Unauthorized alcoholic beverages, camping, ATVs.

Kayaking
Kayaking opportunities abound along the Sedge Islands Marine Conservation Zone. Launch along the bay shore at A15 or A21. Beware of tide conditions and potential strong wind in the afternoon. Kayaking is not permitted on the ocean side.

Visitors can park at A15 launch site. At A21 visitors can drive down to the launch to unload kayaks but cannot park there. Visitors must park their car in the oceanside lot by the bathroom/windmill and walk back to launch site.

Bathroom
Bathrooms are located at the gatehouse, park office, both swimming areas, A6, A13, the Nature Center, A19 and A21.

Horseback Riding
Riding is permitted on the southern six miles of ocean beach from October to April. Advance registration is required.

Lost and Found
Lost and Found is located at the Park Office.

Persons with disabilities may obtain specially designed beach wheelchairs for ocean swimming or surf fishing at the bathing pavilion during the swimming season.

To contact State Park Police, call 1-877-WARNDEP (927-6337)
For emergencies call 911.

Questions? Call the Park office at 732-793-0506

Naturalist Led Programs

Explore the natural wonders of IBSP on one of our interactive programs led by an expert park naturalist! For a complete list of dates, times, fees, age restrictions and to register, please visit:

www.islandbeachnatureprograms.org

Sedge Islands Kayak Ecotour

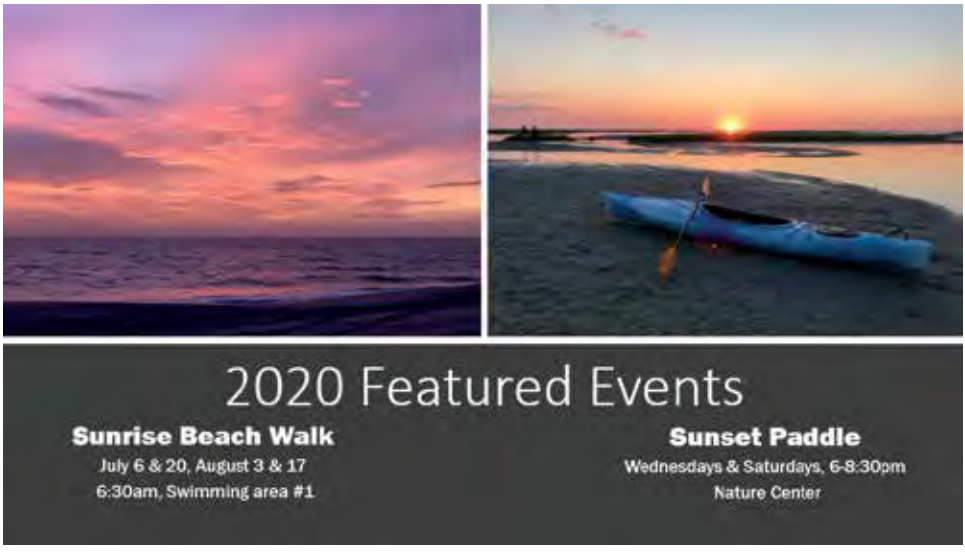
IBSP After Dark

Island Explorers Summer Camp

Daily Free Programs

Join park naturalists for some free family fun as you explore the natural wonders of IBSP. Meet at the fish tanks in the pavilion at Swimming Area #1. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Free with paid park admission.

- Seining the Barnegat Bay – 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.
- Touch Tank Talk – 12 p.m. & 3 p.m.
- Shellfish Gardening 101 – Mondays, 12 p.m., IBSP Marina



EVENT

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Volunteering in the Park

Love Island Beach State Park? Want to get more involved? Consider becoming a volunteer! Island Beach State Park relies heavily on it's dedicated team of volunteers throughout the year. Park volunteers come from a wide range of backgrounds and occupations, but have in common a love for this beautiful State Park. Volunteering in the Park is a truly rewarding experience for all - individuals, families, scouts, students, and corporate groups.

Volunteer Needs Include:

- Trail Maintenance
- Beach Cleanups
- Planting Beach Grass
- Collecting Donations
- Festival/Event Setup and Planning
- Staffing the Nature and Interpretive centers
- Assisting with Educational Programs

If you would like to join our team of volunteers, contact the Friends of ISBP Volunteer Coordinator, Stevie Thorsen - stevie.thorsen@friendsofislandbeach.org.

Selling Ice Cream at the Beach Plum Festival

See you in the Park!

Planting Beach Grass

Collecting Donations for Friends of IBSP

Maintaining Trails

42nd Annual National Meet Car Show

September 12, 2020 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
(rain or shine)

Island Beach State Park

Swimming Area 2

This year the **National Chrysler Products Club** is holding the **42nd Annual National Meet** in the Toms River area. The public is invited to attend our judged car show of vehicles manufactured by Chrysler Corporation, from the 1920s to present.

- No extra fee for park visitors to view show cars
- Special area for Spectators to display ***non-Chrysler*** collector vehicles
- Special display area for ***antique*** trucks, buses and military vehicles
- Historical Society exhibits of Ocean County, transportation and other items of interest

Visit our website,

www.nationalchryslerproductsclub.org/meets

for additional information, updates and to register a Chrysler vehicle of any year for the judged car show.

Pep Boys

Your beach buggy headquarters.

301 NJ-37
Toms River, NJ 08753
732.286.1040

EVENT

27th YOUTH FISHING TOURNAMENT

SEPTEMBER 12, 2020

Swimming Area #1 • Registration begins at 8 a.m.

Sponsored by New Jersey Beach Buggy Association

The fishing tournament is FREE to all youngsters up to the age of 16. We generally have between 100 to 150 participants. The Tournament activities begin with the children moving from the registration table to instructional tables where they learn knot tying, lure use, and beach safety. Upon completion, each child receives a colorful tee-shirt with our sponsor's advertisement, assorted fishing tackle and bait for a fun day of fishing and family bonding.

After fishing, the children are treated to food and refreshments while waiting for the Award Ceremony to begin. In addition, there is a FREE drawing where children can choose from tables full of prizes to take home as part of a memorable day at the beach. THANKS TO OUR DONORS, NO CHILD GOES HOME EMPTY HANDED.

The event is hosted by the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association, which has been involved at Island Beach State Park for more than 60 years and is a recognized Park Stakeholder. Additional information about the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association's activities and membership can be found on our website: www.njbba.org.

New Jersey
Beach Buggy Association

P.O. Box 511, Seaside Park, NJ 08752

www.NJBBA.org

Fighting for
Beach Access & Conservation
Since 1954

WATCH LIVE!

Two Cameras Live Stream Island Beach State Park to the World

Photo: Sandra Bonagura Photography

Join the thousands of people who tune in for a virtual look at Island Beach State Park. The beach camera, mounted at Swimming Area 1, shows viewers current beach conditions. It is used daily by surfers, fisherman, and beach goers. The Pete McLain Osprey Camera provides a live stream of the osprey nest located near the Interpretive Center. Viewers love to watch Bandit and Bay, our resident osprey, go through their life cycle each year. The osprey return to their nest in March from their wintering grounds in South America and the Caribbean. Osprey mate for life and return to the same nest year after year. Viewers watch the osprey fix up their nest, lay their eggs, and raise their nestlings who eventually fly off in the fall.

The cameras require regular maintenance and can be quite costly. Please consider making a tax deductible donation to the Friends of IBSP to help keep the camera running.

VIEW OUR CAMERAS

Beach Camera:
https://www.friendsofibsp.org/live-cams/oba1-beach-cam/
Osprey Camera:
https://www.friendsofibsp.org/live-cams/osprey-cam/

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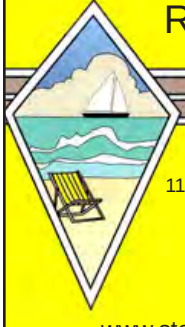

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Birds and Fishing Line

Fishing line for birds can be deadly. Always dispose of line properly—put monofilament in recycling containers, braided line in trash. It is best to cut all line into short segments, less than six inches long. Thank you for picking up line and hooks left by others.

Rescuing a Bird Caught in Line

Shorebirds and anglers are pursuing different fish, but can be found fishing in common areas. If a bird is hooked or tangled in line, DO NO CUT THE LINE. Slowly real in the bird. Cover the whole bird with a towel, hold the wings folded to the body. Gently hold the head with fingers loosely circling around the neck just underneath the skull. If the bird is weak, injured, or cannot be safely controlled, contact the Park Office (732-793-0506) or find a wildlife rehabilitator from the NJ Fish and Wildlife website. If the bird seems healthy, look to see if there is a hook.

- Push the hook through to cut off the barb, then back the hook out.
- Remove all line, checking under feathers and around legs. If line is imbedded in skin, it will need medical treatment.
- If the bird appears unharmed (feathers and body), release it. If unsure contact the Park Office.

Jim Abels

Brian Peterson

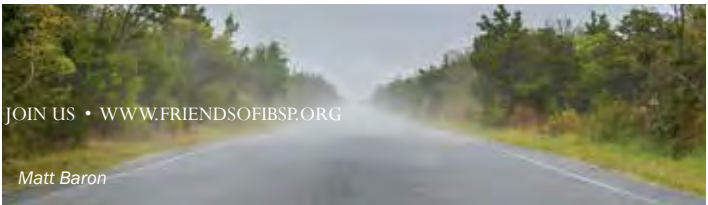
COME RELAX AND ENJOY THE BEAUTY THAT IS

Sandra Martin

Carol Manger

Cristian San Martin

Christy Burns

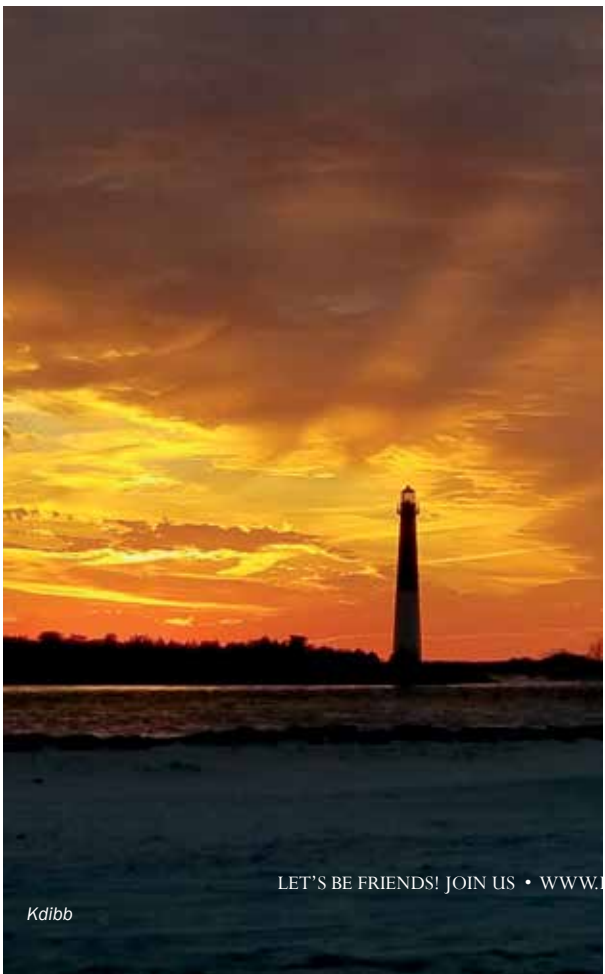

Matt Baron

Richard Opiekun

JoAnn Bevacqua

Richard Opiekun

Island Beach State Park


Kdibb

Harry Kokinos

@spidurmichl

▶ Sedge Islands Marine Conservation Zone Map can be picked up at the Front Gate, Main Office, Nature Center or by logging on to www.savebarnegatbay.org

KAYAKING

The Sedges

GPS Points:

1. East entrance to Horsefoot Slough:
   N 39° 47' 08.5", W 74° 06' 27.1"
2. Horsefoot Slough Beach:
   N 39° 47'05.8", W74° 07'00.3"
3. Entrance to Marsh Elder Thoroughfare:
   N 39° 47' 10.7", W 74° 06' 52.1"
4. North entrance to Snake Ditch:
   N 39° 47' 02.9", W 74° 06' 06.5"
5. South entrance to Sea Dog Island:
   N 39° 46' 37.8", W 74° 06' 09.7"

Trails:

- Spizzle Creek Bird Blind Trail (1-2 hours; 1.5 miles)
- Little Bay Trail (2-3 hours; 3 miles)
- Marsh Elder Trail (2-3 hours; 2.5 miles)
- Buster Island Trail (2-3 hours; 3 miles)

Most visitors to Island Beach State Park are unaware that the 1,900 acre Sedge Islands Marine Conservation Zone (SIMCZ) is located along the southwestern end of the park. This pristine natural area has a variety of shallow, narrow channels carving the saltmarsh into a series of islands that make the area perfect for exploring by kayak. Osprey, Peregrine Falcons and a variety of wading birds make this area an incredible place to view wildlife. While activities such as fishing, crabbing and clamming are permitted, personal watercraft are prohibited in the area.

The SIMCZ is best accessed from launch areas at parking lots A15 and A21. The kayak launch at A21 is an unloading/loading zone only. No vehicles are permitted to park in this area. Paddlers should be aware that strong winds, swift tidal currents and exposed sand bars at low tide can make paddling in some parts of the SIMCZ challenging. Maps showing kayak trails are available at the park office, nature center or by logging on to savebarnegatbay.org. Don't forget to apply sunscreen before you launch and drink plenty of water while you are paddling.

- Jim Merritt,
Sedge Island Program Director

Conservation Efforts at IBSP

Along with providing one of the best beaches in NJ, IBSP staff works tirelessly throughout the year to preserve and protect wildlife, threatened and endangered species, and their habitats. To do so, IBSP partners with State, local and nonprofit organizations that provide tools, resources, research and technical assistance to the park. Our current areas of focus include: Red Fox, Piping Plover, and Seabeach Amaranth.

Seabeach Amaranth

2018 – 307 plants **2019 – 1,591 plants**

IBSP and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP) Land Management Office, Pinelands Preservation Alliance and Raritan Valley Community College work together to manage conservation efforts for the threatened plant Seabeach Amaranth. This species grows along the upper beach along with other federally and state endangered species. Intense human activity in this area degrades the habitat and results in the death of many plants. Management strategies are in place to enhance this habitat while supporting recreational use of our beaches. Strategies include installing post and rope fencing, which you will see along most of IBSP's 10-mile shoreline. Look for the "Protecting our Shoreline" brochure or visit ProtectNJDunes.com for more information.

Piping Plover

2018 – 4 pairs, 4 chicks fledged **2019 – 4 pairs, 6 chicks fledged**

IBSP partners with the NJDEP Endangered & Non-game species Program to manage beach nesting birds within the park. Piping plovers are a federally threatened beach nesting bird that also use the upper beach habitat to nest and rear young. Hatchlings are very small, cannot fly and must begin to forage on their own within the first 24 hours of life. Consequently, Federal law mandates that an area around a piping plover nest be closed to vehicle traffic, giving the hatchlings a better chance of survival. I fully believe that the seabeach amaranth conservation efforts had positive impact on piping plover nesting at IBSP.

Red Fox

Population: unknown

In 2016, IBSP had a stable population of red fox. Red fox are opportunistic omnivores, which means they will eat virtually anything they can find. At first glance they resemble a domesticated dog in terms of size and stature but differ greatly in their nutritional needs. Sadly, recent IBSP visitors were feeding the fox. Feeding wild animals encourages them to approach and rely on humans for food. This decreases their ability to hunt and forage on their own and weakens their ability to fight off disease and predators. Over time, the unnatural diet, compromised immune system, and reduced fear of humans caused our stable population to significantly decline.

Starting in 2019, as part of a statewide research project, Rutgers University selected IBSP to study the presence and distribution of beach carnivores. The study confirmed that IBSP still has a fox population, however, since no official population survey has been conducted, the total of fox at IBSP is still unknown. We do know that park Staff and visitors have observed healthy, curious foxes, which appear to still have their natural fear of humans. If you are lucky enough to see them, please observe from a distance and do not feed the fox!

Jen Clayton, Superintendent
Kelly Scott, Resource Interpretive Specialist

Photo by Melissa Carbone

Photo by Matt Baron

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4TH ANNUAL

Conservation Celebration:

SEDGE ISLANDS

Explore the Wonders of Sedge Islands Marine Conservation Zone at Island Beach State Park.

FEATURING:

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SAVE THE DATE!

photo by Ray Hennessy

Saturday, June 13, 2020
Island Beach State Park

For more info: islandbeachnatureprograms.org

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FRIENDS OF ISLAND BEACH STATE PARK

"WE ARE NOT GUESTS OF THE ISLE, WE ARE FRIENDS OF THE ISLE, AND AS SUCH WE ARE THE KEEPERS OF THE ISLE."
ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

The Friends of Island Beach State Park have been serving as a volunteer organization to enhance interpretive, educational, recreational and research programs at the park for over 20 years. So much was accomplished in 2019:

- 60,000 beach grass culms planted
- The May Day and Beach Plum Festivals had record turnouts
- We sponsored the Lifeguard Tournament
- Partnered with POAC to offer a day of fun and surf to the autism community
- Park trails were restored and new split rail fence was added
- Donated equipment and assisted in maintaining the Park's Nature and Interpretive Centers
- Over 5000 volunteer hours in the books!

This year is shaping up to be even more active with events and projects! Come on out and join us for fun in the park.

- Bill Gwyer - Friends of Island Beach State Park

Partners

Save Barnegat Bay
732-830-3600 • www.savebarnegatbay.org

Barnegat Bay Partnership
732-255-0472 • bbp.ocean.edu

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association
www.jcaa.org

Clean Ocean Action
732-872-0111 • www.cleanoceanaction.org

The American Littoral Society
732-291-0055 • www.littoralsociety.org

New Jersey Audubon Society
732-291-0055 • www.njaudubon.org

Berkeley Striper Club
www.berkeleystriperclub.org

Conserve Wildlife Foundation
609-292-1276
www.ConserveWildlifeNJ.org

New Jersey Beach Buggy Association
www.njbba.org

ReClam the Bay
www.reclamthebay.org

New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs
www.njsfsc.org

N.J. Division of Fish and Wildlife
609-292-2965 • www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw

The Jersey Shore Sea Kayak Association
www.jsska.org

The Seals of Island Beach State Park

The waters surrounding Island Beach State Park (IBSP) are frequented by many species of marine mammals throughout the year. From the pods of bottlenose dolphins that can be spotted from the comfort of the beach during the warmer months, to the large whales that can be viewed feeding just offshore, the park provides much-needed pristine habitat for the marine mammals that inhabit the New Jersey Coastline.

The most abundant and perhaps most iconic marine mammals to call IBSP home are the seals. From the fall through late spring, the Park becomes an important haul-out location for the several species of seals that inhabit New Jersey. Harbor seals are the most commonly seen species in the park, oftentimes hauling out in large groups on sand bars. Grey seals and harp seals also frequent IBSP, and hooded seals are occasional visitors to New Jersey waters.

Island Beach State Park provides some of the best viewing opportunities of seals in their natural environment in the state of New Jersey. While it is exciting to see a seal in the wild, it is important that visitors remember to be responsible viewers by giving them plenty of space. Seals are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, making it against the law to approach, touch, feed or otherwise harass them. If your presence causes the seal to change its behavior, that would be considered harassment. If you are lucky enough to spot a seal, please stay at least 150 feet away and keep your dog leashed. Although seals may look cute, they have very sharp teeth and can deliver a painful bite.

Although they are semi-aquatic animals, is normal behavior for seals to spend time on land. Seals expend a lot of energy foraging for food and avoiding predation, so it is critical for them to be able to haul out on land and rest undisturbed. By using tools such as binoculars, spotting scopes and a telephoto lens, visitors can enjoy viewing opportunities at a distance without disturbing these beautiful animals.

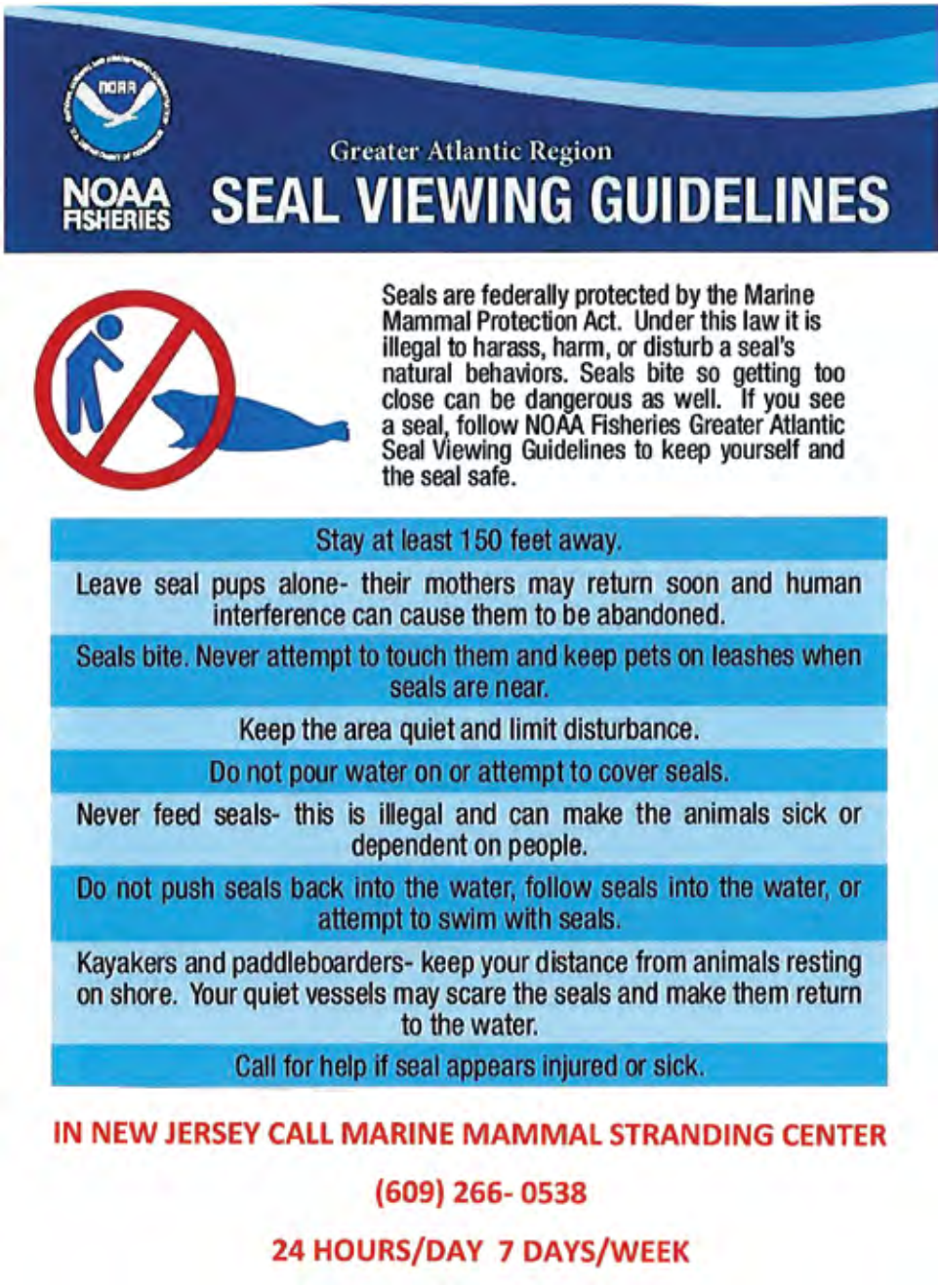
Photos by Scott Longfield

If you are concerned about a seal you think may be sick or injured, or spot any stranded marine mammal or sea turtle, please contact the Marine Mammal Stranding Center directly at (609) 266-0538. The MMSC is the only Federally Authorized Facility in the State of New Jersey that handles strandings of marine mammals and sea turtles.

The Marine Mammal Stranding Center (MMSC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization formed in 1978 for the purpose of rescue, rehabilitation and release of sick and injured marine mammals and sea turtles, and has responded to over 5400 animals in distress in its 42 year history.

For more information please visit www.mmsc.org.

Michele Pagel
Education Coordinator, Marine Mammal Stranding Center



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Park Bakery	1031, 1047 SE Central Ave, Seaside Park
White Oak Market	206 SE Central Ave, Seaside Park
Dock Outfitters	5 NJ-35, Seaside Heights

Bar & Restaurants

Klee's Bar & Grill	101 Boulevard, Seaside Heights
Pisces	3400 Hwy 37 East, Toms River
Windjammer	1 st & Central Ave, Seaside Park
Surf Taco	212 NE Central, Seaside Park
Chef Mike's	10 24th, Central Ave, Seaside Park
Bum Rogers Crabhouse	2207 SW Central Ave, Seaside Park

Bait and Tackle

Betty & Nick's	807 SW Central Ave, Seaside Park
Dock Outfitters	5 Route 35 South, Seaside Heights
Grumpy's	906 NE Central Ave, Seaside Park

General Store

Shore and More	5th Ave and Central Ave, Seaside Park
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Windjammer	100 SE Central Ave, Seaside Park
Island Beach Motor Lodge	24th & Central Ave, South Seaside Park
Tradewinds	2000 Grand Central Ave, Lavallette

LET'S BE FRIENDS

To become a member of **Friends of Island Beach**
visit our website **www.FriendsOfIslandBeach.org**
email at **info@friendsofislandbeach.org**

- Photo by Ray Yeager

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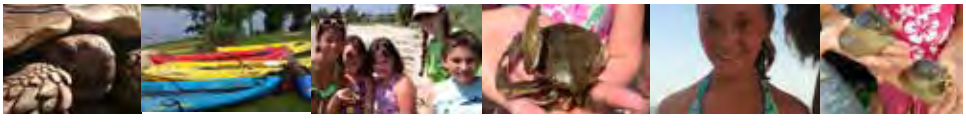

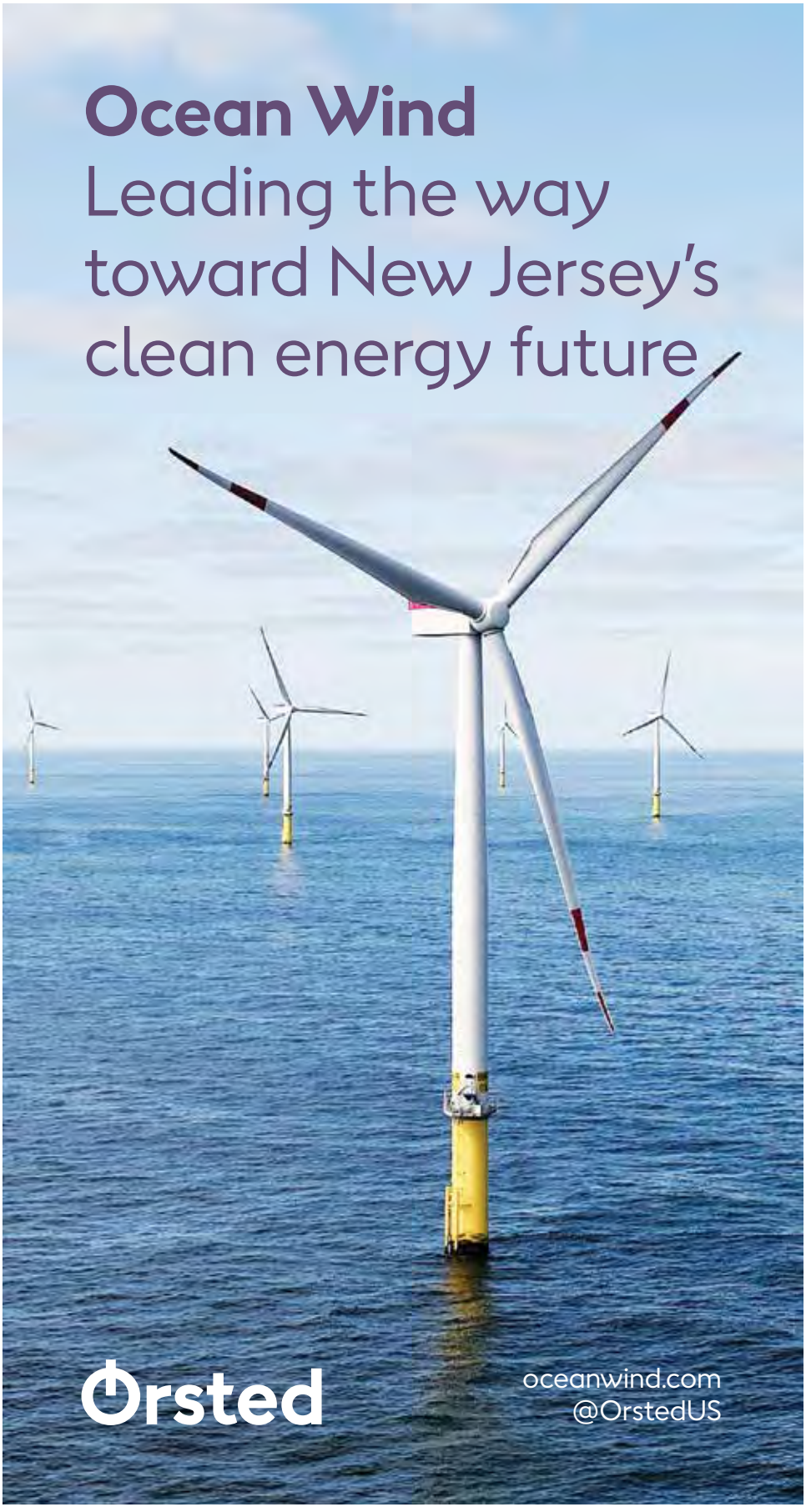
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